



## COFFER RANCH: AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION IN BALANCE

*At CoffeR Ranch, a 2000 acre working ranch just east of Prineville, owner Jim Bauersfeld is setting out to prove that agriculture and conservation can do more than coexist—* they can actually thrive together. In January, the Land Trust worked with Jim to finalize a land protection agreement on a 492 acre parcel of his ranch to protect important fish and wildlife habitat, springs and wetlands, and outstanding scenic views.

“The land protection agreement is really a capstone to the restoration work I’ve been doing on Mill Creek for the past 15 years” said Jim. “The agreement means CoffeR Ranch will provide a permanent home for fish and wildlife.”

CoffeR Ranch is home to a host of wildlife species including redband trout, rocky mountain elk, Columbia spotted frogs, golden eagles, mountain quail, and numerous songbirds. The conserved area includes over one mile of Mill Creek, springs and wetlands, and unique rock formations. Under the land protection agreement, CoffeR Ranch will remain in private ownership and farming and ranching operations will continue. The agreement outlines which portions of the ranch are for conservation, like the creek corridor and wetlands, and which portions are available for farming and grazing.

CoffeR Ranch is a success story on many levels, but most notably in its cooperative approach to land conservation. Jim Bauersfeld, his neighbors, wildlife, native fish, and the community at large will benefit from the conservation of CoffeR Ranch.

Though it will remain a privately-owned working ranch, the Land Trust will offer occasional educational tours. Funding for this conservation project comes from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the James H. Stanard Foundation. ➤

### OUR MISSION

The Deschutes Land Trust works cooperatively with landowners to conserve land for wildlife, scenic views, and local communities.

# landscapes

THE NEWSLETTER OF DESCHUTES LAND TRUST { VOLUME FOURTEEN NO. 1 }



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# FUNDING COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

*You've heard us say your annual gifts allow our staff to pursue new conservation projects, but have you ever wondered where we find the funding to purchase land or conservation easements?*

Our project funding comes from a variety of places, including state, federal, and private sources. Some funders are interested in protecting important wildlife habitat, others look to protect working farms, ranches, and forests, and still others are interested in outdoor education and recreational access. A common thread among all these types of projects is that competition for the relatively small amount of funds available for land conservation projects is stiff.

The highly competitive nature of fundraising for land conservation is precisely the reason the Deschutes Land Trust has partnered with the Trust for Public Land, the Bend Parks & Recreation District and other groups to develop a Greenprint for Deschutes County. Our belief is that a community-wide plan, that prioritizes the projects most important to our local communities will help the Land Trust and our partners better compete for the limited funds available from public agencies and private foundations.

With a Greenprint in hand, we'll be more successful than ever in leveraging your annual gift to protect the places, wildlife, recreational access and scenic views that are so important to our future. **To learn more about the Greenprint and how it can help us fund local land conservation, visit our website, [www.deschuteslandtrust.org](http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org).**

Over the past decade the Land Trust's largest funding partner has been the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), which utilizes Oregon lottery funds to help protect land important for fish, wildlife and local communities. However, this funding source is scheduled to disappear in 2014 unless Oregonians vote to keep it in place. **To learn more about how the lottery helps protect Oregon's waters, parks and wildlife please visit: [www.waterparkswildlife.org](http://www.waterparkswildlife.org).**

# WILDLIFE MIGRATION CORRIDORS THE IMPORTANCE OF WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE



*A decade of persistence paid off in December as the Deschutes Land Trust secured the option to purchase a spectacular 450 acre parcel of land on Whychus Creek.*

Formerly known as Whispering Star Ranch, this property contains important habitat for various bird and bat species, winter habitat for deer and elk and nearly two miles of Whychus Creek—essential habitat for the historic reintroduction of steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Whychus Canyon Preserve will be the first new Land Trust preserve in seven years. Bounded on several sides by Bureau of Land Management land, the preserve will provide low impact recreation opportunities and public access to a reach of Whychus Creek where none currently exists. It could also provide exciting trail connections with Alder Springs and the National Grasslands. Most importantly, Whychus Canyon Preserve will help link the Land Trust's existing conservation easement at Rimrock Ranch and Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, creating a steelhead and salmon refuge and securing a migration corridor along Whychus Creek for a variety of wildlife, including several sensitive bird and bat species.

The Land Trust hopes to complete the purchase of Whychus Canyon Preserve by the end of 2010, but must first acquire the funds necessary to purchase and manage the property. "With time so short, the Land Trust will have to pursue a handful of individuals and institutions committed to making large gifts for the purchase," said Brad Chalfant, Deschutes Land Trust Executive Director. "However, smaller donors have been and will continue to be essential, as their annual membership gifts have enabled staff to pursue this project for over 10 years."

**If you would like to learn more about philanthropic opportunities surrounding this project, please contact Brad Nye, Conservation Director, at 541] 330-0017.**

CONSERVATION

PHOTOS: JW VISUALS



STAFF

# WALKS + HIKES + WORK PARTIES

GET OUTSIDE THIS SPRING + SUMMER AND JOIN US FOR A WALK, HIKE, OR FAMILY EXPLORATION DAY!

Come join us as we continue to battle weeds at Rimrock Ranch and our Community Preserves. The Weed Warriors will meet the 1st Saturday of each month (locations TBD) and the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at Rimrock Ranch. Pull weeds along scenic Whychus Creek at this beautiful private ranch. This effort is key in preparing the site for a future Whychus Creek restoration project. Want to pull weeds on your own schedule? Become a Knapweed Knabber instead! Contact [sherry@deschuteslandtrust.org](mailto:sherry@deschuteslandtrust.org) for more information.

## APRIL

### RIMROCK RANCH TOUR\*

**April 3, 12:30-2:30PM**, Mary Crow  
Walk around beautiful Rimrock Ranch, a conserved private ranch outside of Sisters.

\*(Optional Weed Pull beforehand)

### KID'S EXPLORIT I, (AGES 5-12)

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**April 17, 9-11AM**, Norma Funai  
Explore a variety of habitats for plants and animals on this series of walks just for kids!

### RIMROCK RANCH HIKE

**April 22, 9AM-1PM**, Mary Crow  
Hike the canyons and rimrock of a conserved ranch on a 4 mile hike.

### EARTH DAY TRAIL CLEAN-UP

INDIAN FORD MEADOW

**April 22, 10AM-1PM**, Sherry Berrin

### EARTH DAY BIRD WALK

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**April 22, 9AM-11AM**, Damian Fagan  
Explore this beautiful meadow in search of birds.

### WOODPECKERS AND SPRING

SONGS—METOLIUS PRESERVE

**April 24, 8AM-12PM**, Steve Dougill  
Walk around listening for any of the 80+ species that call this Preserve home.

### OWL PROWL—CAMP POLK MEADOW

**April 24, 5:30-7:30PM**, Larry Berrin  
Explore the meadow at dusk in search of Great Horned owls.

### WEED PULL—CAMP POLK MEADOW

**April 28, 9:30AM-12:30PM** Sherry Berrin

### CAMP POLK MEADOW HIKE

**April 29, 10AM-1PM**, Mary Crow



Explore the flora and fauna on this hike around Camp Polk Meadow.

### BIRDING AT RIMROCK RANCH

**April 30, 8:30-11:30AM**, Norma Funai  
Explore rimrock canyon in search of birds.

## MAY

### FISH MONITORING

CAMP POLK MEADOW\*

**May 1, 1-2PM**, Megan Hill  
Learn about fish monitoring and the screw trap installed on Whychus Creek.

\*(Optional Weed Pull beforehand)

### METOLIUS SPRING TRAIL CLEAN UP

**May 5, 10AM-12PM**, Amanda Egertson  
Clear trails for spring!

### RIMROCK RANCH HIKE

**May 6, 9AM-1PM**, Mary Crow  
(See previous description).

### WEED PULL

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**May 6, 9:30AM-11:30PM**, Sherry Berrin

### SAPLING GRAPPLING AND

WEED PULL

INDIAN FORD MEADOW

**May 12, 10AM-12PM**, Sherry Berrin  
Help keep Indian Ford a meadow by clearing encroaching saplings and weeds.

### BIRDING AT INDIAN FORD MEADOW

**May 13, 8:30-10:30AM**, Carol Wall  
Explore the meadow, willows and pines, in search of birds.

### RIMROCK RANCH WILDFLOWERS

**May 14, 8:30-11:30AM**, Norma Funai  
Hike through the canyons and grasslands learning about wildflowers.

### RIMROCK RANCH STAR PARTY

**May 15, 8-11PM**, Jim Hammond  
Learn about astronomy on this beautiful private ranch outside of Sisters.

### NATURE TOUR

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**May 20, 9-11AM**, Mary Crow  
Explore the diversity of flora and fauna found in the meadow.

### PLANTING PARTY

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**May 22, 9:30AM – 12:30PM**  
Plant native vegetation along the recently restored Whychus Creek.

### PLANTING PARTY

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**May 26, 9:30AM – 12:30PM**  
See previous description.

### WHYCHUS RESTORATION TOUR

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**May 27, 10AM-12PM**, Ryan Houston.  
Learn the latest about the ongoing restoration project on Whychus Creek.

### BIRDING AT SPRING CREEK

**May 28, 8:00-10:30AM**, Carol Wall  
Bird this beautiful conservation easement in the Metolius basin.

### KID'S EXPLORIT II

INDIAN FORD MEADOW

**May 29, 9-11 AM**, Norma Funai  
See previous description.

### WILDFLOWERS OF CAMP

POLK MEADOW

**May 29, 9-11AM**, Leslie Olson  
Explore the meadow in search of spring wildflowers.

### FOREST PLANTS OF THE

METOLIUS PRESERVE

**May 29, 9:30AM-12:30PM**, Paul Egerton.  
Learn about plants and forest ecology with a local expert.

## JUNE

### WEED PULL—RIMROCK RANCH

**June 3, 9:30AM-12:30PM**, Sherry Berrin

### BULL SPRINGS HIKE

SKYLINE FOREST

**June 4, 9AM-12PM**, Carol Wall  
Get a look at the land we are working to protect on this 3 mile hike.

### RIMROCK RANCH TOUR

**June 8, 9:30-10:30AM**, Sherry Berrin  
Learn about our restoration efforts at Rimrock Ranch and stay for an optional weed pull at the end.

### SPRING CREEK TOUR

**June 12, 9-11AM**, Norma Funai  
Tour this lovely conservation easement near the Metolius River.

### FOOTZONE DIRTY HALF

TRAIL RUN

**June 13, 8:00AM**  
Run the race or volunteer to help with this fun Land Trust benefit.

### HIKE TO THREE CREEKS BUTTE

SKYLINE FOREST

**June 16, 9am-12pm**, Carol Wall  
Get a look at the land we are working to protect on this hike to Three Creeks Butte.

### WEED PULL—METOLIUS PRESERVE

**June 16, 10AM –12PM**, Amanda Egertson

### KID'S EXPLORIT III

METOLIUS PRESERVE

**June 19, 9-11AM**, Norma Funai  
See previous description.

### WILDFLOWERS AND ECOLOGY

METOLIUS PRESERVE

**June 19, 10AM-1PM**, Paul Egerton  
Explore wildflowers and forest ecology with a local expert.

### BUTTERFLY TOUR

METOLIUS PRESERVE

**June 23, 12:30-2:30PM**, Amanda Egerton.  
Learn about the ecology and identification of all things fluttery.

### RESTORATION TOUR

CAMP POLK MEADOW

**June 26, 10AM-12PM**, Paul Egerton  
Get an up-close look at the restoration of Whychus Creek.

LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH HIKE,  
WALK OR WORK PARTY AT:  
[WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG)



## RESTORATION

### WHY WEED?

The Land Trust has been working for many years to control noxious weeds on its properties. The Oregon Department of Agriculture defines noxious weeds as “any non-native plant...that is injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, or wildlife.” Ecological impacts include increased soil erosion, degraded habitat and food availability for wildlife, increased fire potential, and changes in soil chemistry. Noxious weeds cost Oregonians approximately \$100 million/year.

Noxious weeds are often low in nutritional value and can be toxic to wildlife, livestock and humans. They impact recreational lands by degrading campsites, fishing access areas, hiking trails, and scenic views. Due to their lack of native predators and other adaptive factors, noxious weeds can quickly spread out of control, creating large monocultures that provide little habitat or scenic value.

The Land Trust relies heavily on volunteers who are committed to helping us control noxious weeds and restore native landscapes. With the help of volunteers, we have nearly eradicated knapweed from our Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, removed over 600 lbs. of knapweed and mullein from Rimrock Ranch, and mapped new weed infestations at the Metolius Preserve. But the battle continues in 2010! We are looking for Knapweed Knabbers, folks who would like to enjoy the beautiful views of Rimrock Ranch while pulling knapweed along Whychus Creek, and Weed Warriors, a weekly meeting of people interested in restoring native plant communities by helping pull weeds at Land Trust properties. **To get involved contact Sherry Berrin at 541-330-0017 or email [sherry@deschuteslandtrust.org](mailto:sherry@deschuteslandtrust.org).**

## SKYLINE FOREST

### PROTECTING BEND'S BACKYARD

Spring is coming to Skyline Forest and the Deschutes Land Trust is gearing up for its most active summer tour season yet. Since 2005 the Land Trust has been working to acquire the 33,000 acres of timber land sitting at the base of the Three Sisters—in other words, Bend's backyard. Skyline Forest abounds in recreational opportunities and provides critical wildlife habitat, including mule deer winter range and migration corridors for Rocky Mountain elk. Our anticipated purchase of the forest is still several years away as the landowner, Fidelity National Timber waits for the housing market to improve and make the transaction contemplated by last year's special legislation economically viable.

In the meantime, the Land Trust is assessing the 50 square mile forest to better understand the opportunities and challenges presented by this monumental conservation project. With a property so vast, we've got our work cut out for us. Beginning in the latter part of the spring we'll be scheduling tours and other opportunities for you to become more familiar with this remarkable property. If you'd like to learn more about Skyline Forest tours, please consider signing up online for our monthly e-newsletter—always the best source for the most current conservation information and tour schedules.

The Deschutes Land Trust works to conserve and protect land in Central Oregon for wildlife, scenic views, and local communities. The support of our members allows us to pursue important conservation projects such as Skyline Forest. You can help us prepare for this significant acquisition by renewing and if possible, expanding your financial support. Help us ensure that lands such as Skyline Forest will be protected for our community today and for future generations!

**SKYLINE FOREST AND THE CASCADE RANGE FROM TUMALO RESERVOIR.**



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SPRING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

**SKYLINE FOREST UPDATE**

JAY MATHER



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