

landscapes

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

THE NEWSLETTER OF DESCHUTES LAND TRUST { VOL 18, SPRING 2014 }

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GOOD PLANNING MAKES FOR GREAT CONSERVATION

LAND TRUST

What does the future hold? Nature trails for your children and your children's children? Sparkling streams filled with healthy fish? Forests and meadows filled with elk, deer, and songbirds? You have the power to chart that future and planned giving is one way to do that.

In the nonprofit world, planned giving simply means providing support to your favorite nonprofit outside of traditional cash support. Planned gifts generally occur at some point in the future and require a certain amount of planning or forethought. For the Land Trust, planned gifts help diversify our support while providing donors with a variety of flexible giving options.

A common misunderstanding is that planned giving is giving via your will or estate after your death. In fact, planned giving can occur at any time and there are a variety of giving options available to all levels of donors. Some examples include stock transfers, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts. These gifts allow you to preserve assets during your lifetime while meeting your philanthropic goals. In short, these gifts provide benefits to you now, and for the Land Trust at some point in the near future.

Legacy (or deferred) gifts are a bit different and are distributed after your death. They allow you to make a lasting impact on the lands you love in Central Oregon for generations to come. Legacy gifts to the Land Trust provide for the permanent stewardship of the lands we protect. What better way to be remembered by family and friends?

The tools and techniques for planned giving are varied and flexible. This means you have many options and ways to tailor your plan to fit the needs of you and your family. **For more information, please contact Associate Director, Zak Boone: (541) 330-0017 or zak@deschuteslandtrust.org**

Note: The Deschutes Land Trust can provide information about how your planned gift can support the organization but cannot provide legal or tax advice. We encourage all supporters to seek independent financial planning and/or estate planning assistance.

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NEW TRAILS CONNECT

JAY MATHER

Spring has a way of bringing out the best in Whychus Canyon Preserve. You can visit the Preserve year round for spectacular mountain views, dramatic canyon overlooks, and stands of old growth juniper. But come in April or May to absorb smaller details: yellow gold stars along the forest floor, pale blue flax flowers opening to the sun, and sounds of migrating songbirds perched in aspen groves.

This spring you'll also find nearly two miles of new trails at Whychus Canyon Preserve. Crews were busy over the winter building new connector trails on the canyon rim. One section takes visitors on a brief half-mile jaunt from the kiosk to a new, easily-accessed viewpoint with stunning views of Whychus Creek, its canyon and the mountains beyond.

Another new section will link the kiosk to a northern viewpoint without descending all the way into the canyon. This trail can then be connected with the main route through the Preserve for a new three-mile loop. In fact, you can connect these new trails with your old favorites to hike a variety of loops that take in the Preserve's juniper and pine forests, scenic overlooks, and the historic Santiam Wagon Road.

If you'd like an introduction to the new trails, please join us on a guided hike! If you choose to explore the Preserve on your own, grab a map at the kiosk before you hit the trails. Regardless of how you get there, please keep the following in mind when visiting Whychus Canyon:

- **Stick to the trail.** Help us protect plants, soils, wildlife habitat.
- **Don't hike in the mud.** Footprints in muddy trails create ruts that are un-hikeable and difficult to remove. Please help us keep our trails in great condition by not hiking in the mud.
- **Leave what you find.** Leave rocks, plants, and historical artifacts where you find them so that others can experience them.
- **Pack it in, pack it out.** If you bring trash to the Preserve, please take it home with you.
- **Respect wildlife and keep dogs on leash.** Whychus Canyon is a wildlife preserve. Free-roaming pets can stress wildlife. Please keep your dogs on leash and pack their waste out with you.

We hope you'll enjoy our new trails at Whychus Canyon Preserve. We look forward to working with you to keep those trails in tip-top shape.

Want an excuse to go hiking more often?
Go the extra mile by becoming a volunteer Trail Steward. Trail Stewards visit a trail once a month to monitor its condition, do light maintenance, and report back to Land Trust staff. Visit deschuteslandtrust.org/trailstewards to learn more.

MAA WILLSON

SPRING IS FOR THE BIRDS

As spring comes to Central Oregon we all feel the itch to get outside and soak in the warmth of the sun and the green of new leaves. Migrating birds are also enticed to return to Central Oregon each spring to take advantage of freshly hatched insects, new leaves, and nesting sites. Interested in watching their arrival?

Land Trust Preserves provide excellent opportunities for new and seasoned birders to watch birds in a variety of habitats. Here are the best places to watch:



JAY MATHER

EXPLORING OUR PRESERVES



Pine Groves

The ponderosa pine groves of Camp Polk, Indian Ford, and the Metolius Preserve offer habitat for a variety of birds including woodpeckers, creepers, and nuthatches. Listen for knocking as you enter these groves. Your ear will often find the bird before your eye. Then, scan the tree trunks for sapsuckers searching for insects or nuthatches peeking out of holes.

FOREST



Snags

Dead standing trees, or snags, are important for many wildlife species for nesting and foraging. Several Land Trust Preserves were lacking natural snags, so we created more to provide much needed habitat. Once the snags fall down, they will continue to benefit the forest by helping return nutrients to the soil and as homes for other wildlife.

JAY MATHER

MEADOWS

Sage Meadows

Sage meadows can be found at Camp Polk, Indian Ford and Whychus Canyon Preserves. These meadows provide important food for deer and elk, as well as cover for California quail (listen for their “chi-ca-go”). Golden crowned sparrows, violet-green swallows, and colorful western bluebirds can also be seen. Don't forget to look up! Soaring raptors often case the meadows looking for mice and gopher snacks.



JAY MATHER

Canyon

The canyons of Whychus Canyon Preserve and privately-owned Rimrock Ranch provide excellent cliff habitat for nesting golden eagles. At the base of those soaring canyon walls you can find brilliant blue lazuli buntings—a species whose male sings only one song which is unique to him. The chipper canyon wren is also a frequent canyon denizen. Listen for its descending series of notes as you hike these canyons.

CANYON



BRIAN QUINETTE

Streamside

The creeks and wetlands at Land Trust Preserves are rich with habitat for a host of resident and migratory birds. Hummingbirds like to use the highest branches of willows to perch, and colorful warblers (orange-crowned, yellow, and yellow-rumped) can be found flitting from bush to bush. Of course, the trilling—and thrillingly colored—red-winged blackbird can also be found near the water's edge.



DEB QUINLAN

CREEK

PHOTOS: 1. Pygmy nuthatch, KRIS KRISTOVICH. 2. White-headed woodpecker, DICK TIPTON. 3. California quail, KRIS KRISTOVICH. 4. Western bluebird, KRIS KRISTOVICH. 5. Lazuli bunting, KRIS KRISTOVICH. 6. Canyon wren, BRIAN SMALL. 7. Red-winged blackbird, JAKE SCHAS. 8. Yellow warbler, JOHN WILLIAMS.

RIDING SKYLINE FOREST

MA WILSON

Last fall, Bend-native Terry Foley and writer Bob Woodward went on a 38-day binge of mountain biking in Skyline Forest. What they found was truly amazing...new trails and few other riders.

Join Bob for a virtual tour of the terrain, and then join the Land Trust for a ride of your own. Our work to protect this 33,000-acre backyard continues. Your connection and interest in the forest will ensure its eventual protection.

By Bob Woodward

Back in the early days of Central Oregon mountain bike riding, riders were motivated to get away from it all and explore. That meant piecing together rides that combined old forest roads, game trails and single track.

For those looking for this old-school road and single track experience while staying close to town and avoiding crowds, there's Skyline Forest. Last fall, Terry Foley and I rode Skyline for 38 days, and in that time we encountered only three other riders. The riding at Skyline is a mix of old lumber company access roads, single track, and hiking and equestrian trails. Linking them together to form a variety of loops takes time and an instinct for exploring.

Foley and I have identified more than a dozen routes including Grand Canyon Sweet, Skill Builder, and Slippin' and Slidin.' All routes are suitable for most skill levels except beginners and most loops take about an hour to complete.

The terrain is varied and we consider Skyline in two distinct sections: east side and west side. On the east side, there's more climbing, long descents, single track and open terrain. On the west side, you're in the forest with pleasant surprises like fresh water springs. Best of all, there's history on both sides, from the remains of an old sawmill to a now abandoned spectacular canal that used to divert water from Tumalo Creek to Tumalo Reservoir.

Riders should head to Skyline for a new riding experience. Once more people visit, they will see the importance of this land, and why it needs to be preserved for future generations. Ride Skyline with the Land Trust: deschuteslandtrust.org/events

~Bob Woodward is a writer and former mayor of Bend with a passion for all things outdoors. Bob was an early creator of biking trails in Central Oregon and he was inducted into the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame in 2012.~



PHOTOS: TERRY FOLEY

STUDENT RESEARCH

PAUL POWERS

They use clinometers, binoculars, waders, and pheromones. They stake out aspen and pine stands, blanket weeds with black plastic, and invite beetles to make the snags that woodpeckers call them home. Their dedicated research helps the Land Trust gauge restoration success and guide management decisions.

For nearly a decade the Land Trust has partnered with students from Oregon State University to complete hands-on ecological research and monitoring at Land Trust Preserves. Under the leadership of professor Matt Orr, scores of students have gone "to the field" to conduct research that provides real-world experience for the students and valuable data for the Land Trust. **Monica Welch was one of those students and had this to share about her experience:**

...It was a field course in restoration ecology that first catapulted me into the hands-on work of a major local restoration project: the Whychus Creek restoration at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Matt Orr's course put us right in the middle of the restoration. The new meanders of Whychus Creek had just been carved and my research looked at the efficacy of planting willow and dogwood clippings along the new stream banks. The hope was that these new plantings would stabilize the banks, provide habitat for wildlife, and shade and cool the creek for native fish.

Planting the clippings in the compacted, rock-strewn soil was backbreaking work, but it left me hopeful that perhaps someday salmon would spawn here once again. Little did I know that two years later I would return to Camp Polk Meadow as part of another field course, and then, again two years later on a Land Trust tour. I was delighted to see that many of the willow and dogwood clippings I planted were actually growing and the restored creek was thriving!

It was classes like Matt's that provided me with an in-depth understanding of the history of our current ecological state, relevant hands-on experience at a local preserve, and the hope that there is much we can do to restore natural systems. My hope is bolstered by the conservation efforts of groups like the Deschutes Land Trust and the opportunities future students will have to contribute to healthier streams and forests.

KRIS KRISTOVICH

The Land Trust is grateful for students like Monica who assist us with major restoration efforts, conduct experiments, and share results with us. We believe it is our common classroom—our Preserves—where we will learn how to best protect and restore the places we love.



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