



# CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE

## WHYCHUS CREEK RESTORATION

The stretch of Whychus Creek that runs through Camp Polk Meadow Preserve has changed dramatically over the years.

**Learn more about this transformation...**



# THE STORY OF WHYCHUS CREEK & CAMP POLK MEADOW

Historically, Whychus Creek meandered its way across the meadow, providing a home for salmon and steelhead and rich streamside habitat for native plants, birds, amphibians, and other wildlife.

**By the 1960's** much of the wildlife habitat on Whychus Creek was lost. Dams on the Deschutes had blocked fish passage, water had been diverted for other uses, and long stretches of Whychus Creek were straightened. In 2000, Whychus Creek was given a second chance when the Deschutes Land Trust, with funding from Portland General Electric, acquired and permanently protected Camp Polk Meadow and began restoring the meadow and creek.



JAY MATHER

**In 2012**, the Land Trust and its restoration partners, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and Deschutes National Forest, finished years of restoration work by decommissioning the straightened channel and returning Whychus Creek to its historic location in the meadow.



JAY MATHER



PAUL POWERS



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LAND TRUST

The restoration greatly improved fish and wildlife habitat. We added more meanders, pools, side channels, and logs to the creek to slow flood waters and provide diverse habitat.

The restoration added more native plants to hold soil in place, shade the creek, and provide streamside cover. It also reconnected the creek with the meadow, allowing the meadow to capture spring flows and release them into the creek as cold water in the warm summer months.



LAND TRUST

*The restoration of Whychus Creek at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve was truly a community effort. Nonprofit organizations and government agencies joined together to lead the restoration. Volunteers donated time to plant native shrubs and sedges and release native fish. Local residents watched the restoration unfold on volunteer-led tours. Thank you for helping return Whychus Creek to its historic meandering path through the meadow.*

TO SEE THE WHYCHUS CREEK RESTORATION FIRST HAND,  
PLEASE JOIN THE LAND TRUST FOR A GUIDED TOUR:  
[www.deschuteslandtrust.org](http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org) or [541] 330.0017



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FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
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UPPER DESCHUTES WATERSHED COUNCIL  
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