



# landscapes

CONSERVING LAND FOR WILDLIFE, SCENIC VIEWS, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2016}

## NEIGHBOR NEWS: METOLIUS PRESERVE

### HIKING TRAILS INVITE EXPLORATION

*The Deschutes Land Trust has owned and cared for the Metolius Preserve since 2003. Located north of Highway 20 and west of Camp Sherman, the 1,240-acre Preserve is home to pine and larch forests, three forks of Lake Creek, and a host of wildlife species.*

The Land Trust's goal for the Metolius Preserve is to conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat. That's why we've worked so hard to restore the Preserve's forests and streams. We've also dedicated time to making the Preserve more accessible: the Metolius Preserve offers more than 10 miles of hiking and biking trails that link to longer regional trails like the Lake Creek Trail and the Metolius Windigo Trail. These trails are open to non-motorized activities year-round with limited access due to snow in the winter months. The Metolius Preserve is broken into three checkerboard-type sections: the south, middle and north. Access is via one of two trailheads:

**South Trailhead:** The southern entrance to the Preserve is accessed from Highway 20 via Forest Road 2064. It offers a large, covered interpretive kiosk, creekside viewing platforms, and the 0.6 mile Becky Johnson Nature Trail. The South Trailhead provides a great introduction to the Preserve with easy hiking, quick access to Lake Creek, and interpretive signs that tell the story of native fish. Springtime brings lovely native wildflowers like mariposa lily, summertime offers cool, creekside refuge from hot sun, and fall blazes with brightly colored vine maples.

**North Trailhead:** Located off of Camp Sherman's Road 14, the northern entrance to the Preserve offers an informational kiosk, a short visitor hiking loop, and access to the Preserve trail system and the regional Lake Creek Trail. Cross Lake Creek on beautiful log bridges and hike through larch and pine forest to the southern trailhead. Fall is spectacular in this section of the Preserve when red and orange vine maple leaves and brilliant yellow larch shine.

As you explore this great trail system, please keep your dogs on leash at all times and be aware that hunting is allowed in and around the Metolius Preserve. ➤



LAND TRUST

### HIKE THE METOLIUS PRESERVE:

*The Metolius Preserve can be accessed via two main trailheads. For an easy introductory hike, start at the North Trailhead. Follow signs from the trailhead to the Lake Creek Trail and then south to a bridge over Lake Creek. Take in the lush creek views and then continue on the loop trail back to the trailhead. This short, flat 1 mile trail gives you a great glimpse into all the Preserve has to offer.*

*Interested in a guided hike at the Metolius Preserve? The Land Trust offers free naturalist-led hikes April-October. Details: [deschuteslandtrust.org](http://deschuteslandtrust.org)*



JAY MATHER



LAND TRUST

## WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS CONFIRM INHABITANTS

*The Metolius Preserve is rich with habitat for native wildlife.* From pine forests to lush creekside corridors, there are many places for deer, elk, bear, and bobcat to roam and live. While we've always known that the Preserve was home to these animals, our wildlife camera at the Preserve has confirmed our beliefs. Here are a few of the critters caught on camera:

- **Bobcat:** These elusive felines have been captured several times on our wildlife camera. Mottled brown in color, these cats are slightly larger than a house cat with tufts on their ear tips. Bobcats eat rabbits and other small mammals and are active any time of the day. Ours was caught on a snowy day shortly after some wild turkeys went by the camera.
- **Elk:** Several herds of elk have been spotted moving by the camera. Elk are the largest mammals found at the Metolius Preserve and are elusive at best. Two main subspecies of elk exist in Oregon. Roosevelt elk are usually found west of the Cascade crest and Rocky Mountain elk inhabit areas east of the Cascades. Interestingly, the Metolius Preserve's elk are likely Cascade elk, a hybrid of the Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain elk. While the only way to truly determine the species is through genetic testing, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife categorizes these as Cascade elk.
- **Cougar:** We've been extremely lucky to capture cougars several times on our wildlife cameras. Cougars are the region's largest feline predator and they specialize in hunting hoofed mammals (see elk above!). Cougars can be active at any time of the day, but are most active at dawn and dusk. They live in a variety of habitats, but usually can be found where deer and elk roam.
- **Black bear:** Frequent visitors to the wildlife camera, black bears of all shapes, colors, and sizes have been caught on camera. Not picky eaters, black bears eat everything from berries to nuts and insects to salmon. Black bears are also not just black in color; some bears display a more brown hue like their grizzly bear cousins.

To learn more about the wildlife of Central Oregon, including new sightings, ecology, and natural history, visit our website: [deschuteslandtrust.org/crittercams](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/crittercams)

### YOU'RE INVITED . . .

Join us for Deschutes Land Trust's annual Open House:

**October 27th, 2016**  
5-7pm, FivePine Lodge in Sisters

To register: [deschuteslandtrust.org/events](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/events)



TIM COTTEN



THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST IS PROUD OF OUR GENEROUS FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS. JOIN US TODAY: [DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/join)

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

210 NW IRVING AVENUE, SUITE 102, BEND, OREGON 97703  
[DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG](http://deschuteslandtrust.org) PHONE [541] 330 0017



JAN MATHER