



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2017}

NEIGHBOR NEWS: METOLIUS PRESERVE

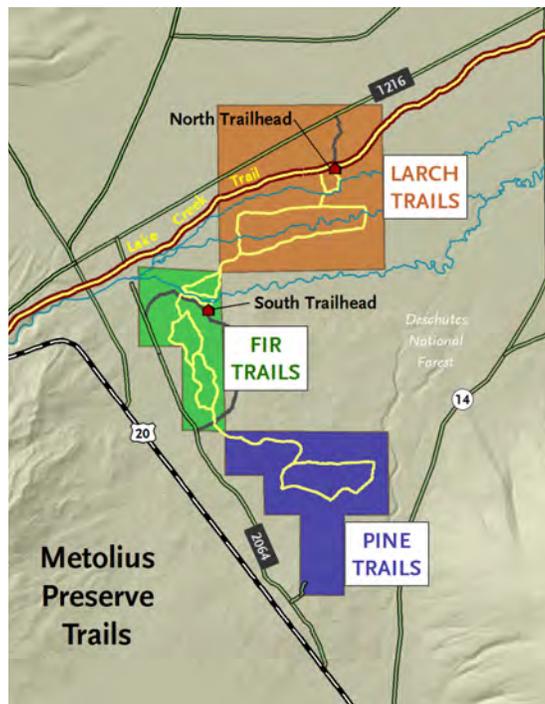
TRAILS INVITE EXPLORATION

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 forests, three forks of Lake Creek, a host of wildlife species, and more than 10 miles of trails. This fall the Land Trust's trail system underwent a major transformation and we wanted to share this exciting news with our neighbors! The Metolius Preserve is broken into three sections:

Larch Trails: Accessed via the Preserve's North Trailhead, Larch Trails take visitors through one of the most ecologically diverse sections of the Preserve. Fall is spectacular in this section of the Preserve when red and orange vine maple leaves and brilliant yellow larch shine.

Fir Trails: Accessed via the Preserve's South Trailhead, the Fir Trails include the Betsy Johnson Interpretive Area with educational signs that tell the story of native fish. Fir Trails also radiate southward through pine and fir forest loaded with beautiful golden bracken fern each fall.

Pine Trails: Also accessed via the South Trailhead, the Pine Trails take visitors on a long loop through restored pine forest. These trails are a great place to observe white-headed woodpeckers and other cavity nesting birds working on the snags.



Metolius Preserve trails are open to non-motorized activities year-round with limited access due to snow in the winter. Please keep your dogs on leash at all times.



FIND YOUR PERFECT GRAND FIR AT THE METOLIUS PRESERVE!

The Land Trust's Metolius Preserve is chock full of grand fir trees which make wonderful Christmas trees. If you want to come cut your own tree (and help restore the forests of the Preserve!), please join us for our annual Tree Hunt:

Metolius Preserve Tree Hunt
December 2nd, 10am-2pm

Bring your own hand saw and enjoy hot drinks, wreath making, and merriment! The Tree Hunt is held weather permitting, details: deschuteslandtrust.org/tree-hunt



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WINTER WILDLIFE OF THE METOLIUS PRESERVE

The Metolius Preserve is rich with habitat for native wildlife. From pine forests to lush creekside corridors, there are many places for wildlife to roam and thrive. **But what do our resident wildlife do in the winter?** Here is a taste of their winter stories:

- **Black bear:** During winter, black bears den up and sleep the days away because food is scarce. They do not eat, urinate, or defecate. Very efficient hibernators, their respiration and heart rate drop significantly, but their body temperature stays near normal. Female bears (like all mamas) remain busy during the winter. Assuming they mated the previous spring, female bears have a cool adaptation called delayed implantation. This adaptation allows the egg that was fertilized last spring to go into suspended animation and delay a pregnancy until fall when the bear has enough fat stores to sustain gestation. Only then does the egg implant. Female bears spend their winter growing and then birthing baby bears which emerge in the spring at 10lbs and ready to climb a tree. Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/wildlife
- **Sockeye salmon:** Historically, the Metolius Preserve was home to one of two sockeye salmon runs in the state! Young sockeye would spend 1-2 years in Suttle Lake growing before they migrated in the spring via Lake Creek and the Metolius River to the ocean. After 2-3 years, they returned home in the summer/fall to spawn and die. In the 1960's dams on the Deschutes River blocked passage for sockeye and other salmon. Today a massive partnership is underway to return these fish to their historic range. While 2017 returning sockeye numbers were small, 2016 was a banner year that has given us all hope for the species. In winter, sockeye salmon do one of two things: any adults that have returned have spawned and are now fertilizer, returning nutrients to the earth. Young sockeye spend winter in their rearing grounds at Suttle Lake where they are biding their time until they leave on their journey to the ocean. Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/wildlife
- **River Otters:** It's pretty much business as usual for river otters in the winter. River otters are semi-aquatic carnivores that hunt and fish all year. They do not hibernate and are well adapted to cold weather. Their fur is incredibly thick and they have special oil glands that they use to oil and waterproof their fur. Their warm coat and a layer of fat underneath allows them to spend more time in the water than on land where the air temperature is often cooler than the water temperature. Oh, and they go sledding, of course: deschuteslandtrust.org/wildlife



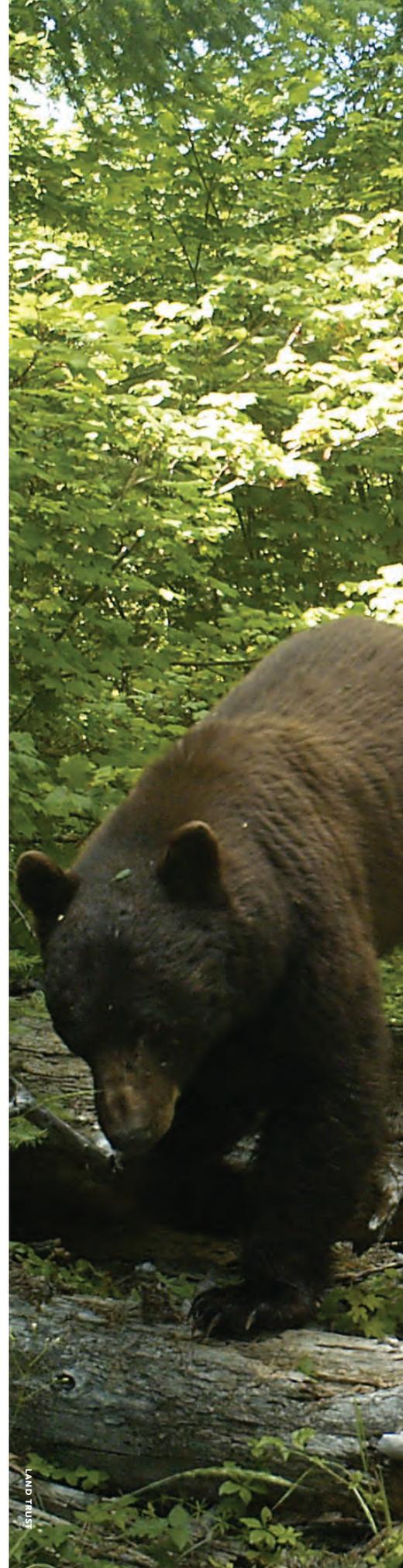
RIVER OTTER



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

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