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DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2016}

NEIGHBOR NEWS: WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

CREEK RESTORATION CHANGES FACE OF PRESERVE

It's been a busy year at Deschutes Land Trust's Whychus Canyon Preserve! We're pleased to report that the first phase of a massive creek restoration at the Preserve is officially complete. As a neighbor of the Preserve we want to keep you up-to-date on the creek restoration and ensure your questions are answered. Towards that end, you can read all about the new habitat we are creating for fish and wildlife on the backside of this news bulletin.

We also wanted to take a moment to say thank you. We recognize the impacts our restoration efforts have on our neighbors. You live in a beautiful, peaceful neighborhood and we realize that restoration activities have disturbed that tranquility. We truly thank you for bearing with us through the increased traffic, dust, noise, and general hullabaloo!

We've spoken with many of you over the past couple months and we continue to reach out to restoration contractors and partners to ensure they treat your neighborhood respectfully. We've also taken the additional

step of helping fund road improvements where restoration traffic caused degradation. If you have additional feedback or suggestions, we encourage you to get in touch with Stewardship Director, Amanda Egertson (amanda@deschuteslandtrust.org).

Finally, there are several upcoming opportunities where you can learn more about the restoration and/or speak with Land Trust staff. We hope you'll consider joining us for:

October 6th: Restoration Tour. Visit the restoration site to learn about the project.

October 8th: Restoration plantings. Help plant the banks of the newly restored Whychus Creek.

October 27th: Land Trust Open House. Our annual gathering at Five Pine Lodge in Sisters to celebrate conservation.

To register or find additional details, please visit our website: deschuteslandtrust.org/events. Thanks again for your support of the Deschutes Land Trust. —



JOHN WILLIAMS

HIKE WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE:

All public access to Whychus Canyon Preserve is via a trailhead at the end of Goodrich Road off of Highway 126.

For a great introductory hike, follow signs from the trailhead to Whychus Creek. This mostly flat trail, takes you out to the canyon rim to a viewpoint with stunning canyon, mountain, and creek views. From there you can hike down into the canyon to Whychus Creek or return as you came to the trailhead.

Interested in hiking with a group? The Land Trust offers free naturalist-led hikes April-November. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org



JAY MATHER



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WHYCHUS CREEK RESTORATION UPDATE

With four miles of Whychus Creek, grasslands, juniper and pine forests, meadows and wetlands, the 930-acre Whychus Canyon Preserve is home to many kinds of wildlife.

This summer, to improve habitat for this wildlife, the Land Trust and our restoration partners began the first phase of a major restoration of Whychus Creek. Efforts were focused on the northernmost mile of creek at the Preserve and bulldozers worked throughout the month of August to change the face of the creek. Today, what was once a straight creek and dry meadow is now a multi-channelled creek with much better habitat for fish and wildlife. **Restoration highlights include:**

A meadow full of water: Up to three feet of soil was removed from one of the large open meadows at the Preserve to bring the ground level down to the creek level. Log jams made of ~800 whole trees were built on top of the newly-leveled meadow to route water and create channels. Then, other logs were distributed to slow creek waters. Finally, the full flow of Whychus Creek was diverted into the meadow. This was the first time in 50+ years water has been in our meadow!!

A cottonwood/pine grove full of water: The cottonwood/pine grove at the Preserve now has water meandering through it. Construction work was less dramatic in this section, as crews mostly removed old berms and reconnected old channels allowing the creek to return to its historic path.

A filled-in old creek channel: To return water to the meadow and tree groves, crews had to block the old, straight Whychus Creek channel. First, a temporary coffer dam was built to divert the flow into new channels. Then, volunteers and staff from various wildlife agencies spent two full days rescuing fish and moving them to a new home. Finally, crews dumped huge amounts of soil and rocks into the old channel to block it off.

With construction complete, we turn our sights to planting. More than ~60,000 native plants will be put in the ground this fall in and around the newly restored creek. Then, we will wait and watch nature take over. While the creek and its surrounding meadows look raw now, we are confident that they will recover and flourish in the coming years. ➤

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESTORATION:

Find videos, photos, and lots of detail on our website. Then, join us for a **restoration tour on October 6th** or help plant native grasses, shrubs and trees along the restored Whychus Creek on **October 8th**. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/restoration



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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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