



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2017}

## NEIGHBOR NEWS: WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

### SPRING HIKES DELIGHT

*The Deschutes Land Trust created Whychus Canyon Preserve in 2010 and expanded it in 2014.* Today the 930-acre Preserve contains four miles of Whychus Creek, native grasslands, old growth juniper, and cottonwood and aspen stands. Whychus Canyon Preserve is home to a diverse array of wildlife from salmon and steelhead to songbirds and eagles. It is also home to eight miles of hiking trails perfect for you to explore this spring and into early summer. Here's how:

**Take a wildflower hike:** Whychus Canyon Preserve is home to a host of native wildflowers. The Preserve's sagebrush plateaus are the first to warm up each spring with carpets of tiny blooms. (This year's display of gold fields was outstanding!) Come May and June, showy balsamroot, lupine, paintbrush, and other delights will take over, followed by stunning mariposa lilies in July.

**Explore our history:** The Santiam Wagon Road crosses the Preserve, providing a glimpse into one of the main paths of commerce and settlement for Central Oregon. Walk the Wagon Road trail and learn more about its history via a series of interpretive signs.

**Learn more about restoration:** The Land Trust embarked on a massive creek restoration project at Whychus Canyon Preserve last summer. Today the restoration area is recovering and guided tours give you a first-hand view into the modern science-based restoration designed to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Learn more about the restoration on the back of this newsletter, then join us for a tour.

Whychus Canyon Preserve trails radiate from a trailhead at the end of Goodrich Road off of Highway 126. Visitors can hike a variety of distances and routes, making the Preserve quite accessible. If you visit the Preserve this spring and summer, be sure to say hello to our new volunteer Trail Ambassadors! You'll find them hiking the trails of the Preserve and full of great information about the Preserve and the Land Trust. Also, if you'd like to hike with a group, the Land Trust offers free, naturalist-led hikes April-November. **Details:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)

*Please note, dogs must be on leash at Whychus Canyon Preserve. Thanks for helping keep Whychus Canyon Preserve a sanctuary for wildlife.*



CARY MILLER



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### MEET WILLOW SPRINGS PRESERVE:

*Deschutes Land Trust has a new Preserve: Willow Springs Preserve! This 130-acre Preserve includes one mile of Whychus Creek, meadows, aspen and cottonwood stands, and rimrock cliffs.*

*Willow Springs is one of only a handful of historically wet-meadows on Whychus Creek that provided important wildlife habitat in our arid high desert. The Land Trust will work to restore the Preserve for wildlife and is offering guided tours this spring and summer.*

*Willow Springs Preserve was made possible by the Land Trust's Campaign for Whychus Creek: [deschuteslandtrust.org/willow-springs](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/willow-springs)*



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## WHYCHUS CREEK RESTORATION UPDATE

*Last summer and fall, Whychus Canyon Preserve was the site of a massive creek and meadow restoration project designed to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Work focused on the northernmost mile of creek at the Preserve, dramatically changing a straight creek and dry meadow to a multi-channeled creek, a meadow full of water, and much better habitat for fish and wildlife. Today the meadow is quiet and you may wonder, what's next?*

### Restoration highlights for 2017:

**We grow plants:** More than 62,000 native plants were put in the ground in October 2016 in and around the restored creek. We planted a wide variety of trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers (including milkweed for the monarch butterflies!). The majority of those tiny plants made it through our amazing winter and are now leafing out and soaking in the spring sun. Going forward, the plants, as our ecologists are fond of saying, will sleep, creep and then leap. The first few years they will focus on root growth and establishment (sleep), then they will slowly put on new growth (creep), and finally they will explode and grow rapidly (leap). This year will be a sleepy year, but an important one for future growth!

**We monitor:** A huge part of restoration projects like this is monitoring how the site changes and grows over time. We will spend lots of time this year measuring and documenting physical and biological parameters to see how the restoration is progressing. This, in turn, will help inform the next phase of restoration.

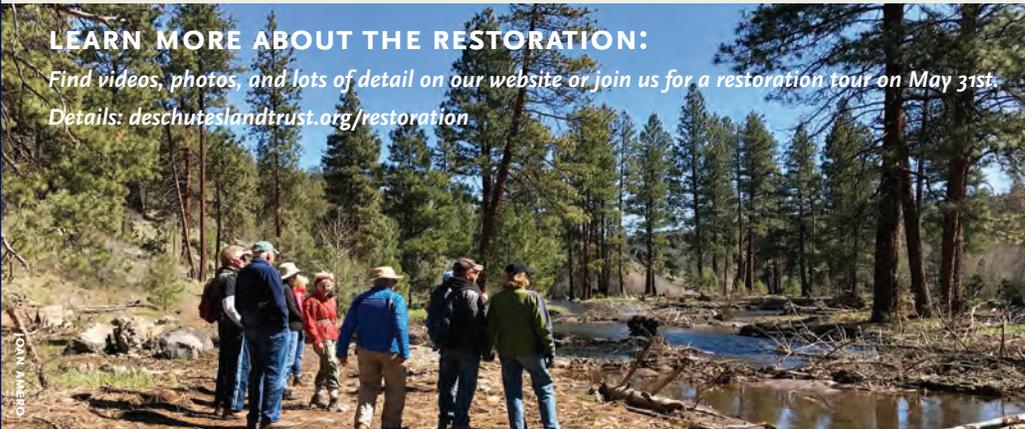
**We plan:** The Whychus Canyon Preserve restoration was just the first phase of a larger multi-year, six mile restoration project. As we watch the current restoration area grow and change, we plan for the next phase upstream where we will again return the creek to a large meadow. This phase won't begin until 2019.



JAN MATHER

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESTORATION:

*Find videos, photos, and lots of detail on our website or join us for a restoration tour on May 31st. Details: [deschuteslandtrust.org/restoration](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/restoration)*



JOAN LAWRENCE



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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