



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2015}

FOCUS: WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

HIKING TRAILS PROVIDE FOR GREAT EXPLORATION

Whether you like long hikes along Whychus Creek or short ambles to canyon and mountain viewpoints, Whychus Canyon Preserve is quickly becoming a favorite place for locals. The Deschutes Land Trust worked with the local community in 2010 to raise the funds necessary to purchase and protect the 450 acre property. In 2014 the Land Trust conserved another 480 acres to the northern end of the property doubling the size of the Preserve.

As with all Land Trust properties the highest priority is to protect, and restore where necessary, fish and wildlife habitat. The new 480 acre addition to the Preserve will soon become a hotbed of activity as a major restoration of Whychus Creek is undertaken to improve wildlife habitat. (See the backside of this bulletin to learn more). The majority of the addition will remain closed to the public though visitors can explore its meadows, cottonwood forests, and two miles of Creek on guided tours starting in June.

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

The Land Trust also believes in providing low-impact recreational opportunities where appropriate. That's why we've developed nearly 8 miles of trails on the south side of Whychus Creek. The Whychus Canyon Preserve trails radiate from a trailhead at the end of Goodrich Road off of Highway 126. Visitors can hike down to Whychus Creek and along a creekside trail for a more challenging outing or stay up on the rim to enjoy scenic views and the Preserve's juniper forests and sagebrush meadows. New stone benches were installed in 2014 to provide resting places along the route.

There is also a new 2015 trail extension from the northern end of Whychus Canyon Preserve to take visitors onto the publically accessible portion of the new addition. Hikers can now continue past the "Boulders" and descend into the canyon to a creekside trail. Finally, new interpretive signs will soon guide visitors along the Preserve's portion of the historic Santiam Wagon Road.



NEVER VISITED WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE? START HERE:

From the Goodrich Road trailhead follow signs to Whychus Creek. This mostly flat 0.2 mile trail will take you out to the canyon rim. Once you pass through the red gate, you can take in the views and return as you came or turn right to head down into the canyon and creek.

A nice extension is to turn left and hike the gently rolling trail 0.3 miles to the Preserve's southernmost viewpoint with stunning canyon, mountain and creek views.

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





BARBIE KOVISH

CONSERVING HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE

With four miles of Whychus Creek, native grasslands, juniper and pine forests, meadows and wetlands, the 930-acre Whychus Canyon Preserve is home to a host of wildlife species. Redband trout, steelhead, and Chinook salmon can be found in Whychus Creek. Mule deer, rocky mountain elk, cougar, golden eagles and tiny songbirds roam its forests and meadows.

While some of the wildlife habitat at the Preserve is in excellent condition, other portions need to be restored. Since acquiring the first part of the Preserve in 2010, the Land Trust has been working to restore the Preserve's native forests.

Whychus Canyon Preserve hosts a diverse mix of forest types with juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine groves, and aspen and cottonwood stands. Over the last several years, the Land Trust has thinned juniper from pine stands and protected aspen stands from deer browse. These activities reduce the threat of wildfire while improving wildlife habitat. Thinning will continue on the new addition to the Preserve in the coming years.

A much more dramatic restoration will soon take place along Whychus Creek. The Land Trust will work with our restoration partners to improve fish habitat in the creek and wildlife habitat around the creek by returning Whychus Creek to its historic curving path through the Preserve.

Portions of the Whychus Creek restoration will be small—simply adding logs to the creek for habitat. Other portions will be dramatic with bulldozers carving new channels and grading adjacent meadows. Initial work will begin in 2016, though you will see hundreds of trees delivered to the Preserve this winter to be used in the restoration. —

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UPCOMING WHYCHUS CREEK RESTORATION:

Check out the recent restoration of the Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Though the scale will be different, portions of the restoration at Whychus Canyon Preserve will be similar. Find videos, photos, and lots of detail online at deschuteslandtrust.org/whychuscreek

DID YOU KNOW?

*The Deschutes Land Trust is charting the future of Central Oregon with the **Campaign for Whychus Creek**: a three-year campaign to conserve and care for high priority lands along Whychus Creek. Make your mark on the future, get involved today: deschuteslandtrust.org/campaign*



JAN MATHER



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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