



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2017}

NEIGHBOR NEWS: MEET WILLOW SPRINGS PRESERVE

The Deschutes Land Trust is pleased to announce we have a new Preserve: Willow Springs!

Established in March 2017, the new 130-acre Preserve is home to one mile of Whychus Creek, creekside meadows, juniper and pine woodlands, and rimrock cliffs. Willow Springs Preserve is located northeast of Sisters, just upstream from the Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. **What's special about Willow Springs Preserve?**

Meadow habitat: Willow Springs Preserve is only one of a handful of meadow properties on Whychus Creek where the creek can slow down, spill its banks, and create choice wildlife habitat. The biological importance of these meadows is huge, especially considering all the arid land surrounding them. They provide diverse stream and side-channel habitat for fish, robust streamside vegetation for wildlife cover, and wetlands for amphibians and songbirds.

Cool water refuge: Just upstream from Willow Springs Preserve are two large, cold-water springs that feed into Whychus Creek. These springs provide up to 46% of the creek's flow during the dry summer months and they drop the water temperature from around 70 degrees Fahrenheit to 57 degrees Fahrenheit! This cold water influx is extremely beneficial for steelhead and salmon, making Willow Springs Preserve a cool water refuge for these fish.

Fall colors: Willow Springs Preserve comes alive each fall with brilliant colors. Join us for a guided tour to enjoy the Preserve's aspen and cottonwoods changing from green to gold.

The Land Trust's overarching goal for the property, like all of our Preserves, is to protect and restore native wildlife habitat. As we work to develop management plans for the Preserve, we will determine future restoration activities and educational use. In the meantime, access to the Preserve will be limited to guided tours. We hope you'll join us this spring and summer to see first-hand this beautiful part of Whychus Creek that is now protected forever! Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes



JAN WATHERS

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WILLOW SPRINGS PRESERVE?

Join the Land Trust on a guided nature walk! Each year volunteers lead free walks and hikes at Land Trust Preserves, including Willow Springs Preserve.

Whether it's a bird walk, history talk, or general tour, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!

Land Trust Walks + Hikes are offered April-November. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes





NEIGHBOR NEWS: YOUR BACKYARD PRESERVES

Did you know that you are a neighbor to several Land Trust Community Preserves?

Community Preserves are natural areas owned and managed by the Deschutes Land Trust for wildlife and the local community. Just down the road you'll find Aspen Hollow Preserve, Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, Indian Ford Meadow Preserve, and Willow Springs Preserve. **Highlights of these Preserves include:**

Aspen Hollow Preserve: Can be visited on guided Land Trust hikes. Aspen Hollow Preserve is home to stunning rimrock cliffs, aspen stands that turn a brilliant yellow each fall, and a celebrated pair of nesting golden eagles. Guided hikes commence each July once the eaglets have safely left the nest.

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve: The Hindman Springs Area is open to the public during daylight hours year-round. Access is from Camp Polk Road where you'll find the signed Preserve entrance road that takes you to Hindman Springs. Here you'll find an interpretive kiosk and a short 0.4 mile trail. Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is wonderful for spring bird walks, brilliant fall colors, and learning about the history of Central Oregon.

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve: Open to the public during daylight hours year-round. Access is from Indian Ford Road where you'll find the signed Preserve entrance gate. From there visitors can explore the meadow via the Founders Trail. Indian Ford Meadow Preserve is best for birding in the spring, fall colors, and panoramic views of Central Oregon's iconic snow-capped peaks.

Willow Springs Preserve: Can be visited on guided Land Trust hikes. Willow Springs Preserve is the newest addition to the Land Trust family of Preserves! Home to creekside meadows, aspen and cottonwood stands, and a host of wildlife species. Guided hikes commence in May and run through October. ➤

Thanks for helping keep Deschutes Land Trust Preserves sanctuaries for wildlife.

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



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

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TAKE A STROLL AT INDIAN FORD MEADOW PRESERVE:

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve is the perfect place to take in the splendor of Central Oregon in one easily accessible visit! Stroll the short gravel trail to a scenic viewpoint with stunning mountain and meadow views. Sunrise and sunset are spectacular times of day to visit and watch the alpenglow light up the mountains.

Interested in a guided hike at Indian Ford Meadow Preserve? The Land Trust offers free naturalist-led hikes April-October. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes