



landscapes

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DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2019}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

SPRING + SUMMER PRESERVE UPDATES

Spring is finally here and with it comes a flurry of activity at Deschutes Land Trust Preserves.

As a neighbor of several of our Preserves, we wanted to give you an update on some upcoming projects that you may hear about this spring and summer.

Willow Springs Preserve is currently the focus of an upcoming stream restoration project. This 130-acre Preserve was established in March 2017 and is located off of Camp Polk Road, just upstream from the Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Willow Springs is home to nearly a mile of Whychus Creek, creekside meadows, and a host of wildlife species.

One of our top restoration priorities for the Preserve is to restore the meadow and creek to a more natural state. The Preserve's meadow is one of only a handful of meadows on Whychus Creek where the creek can slow down, spill its banks, and create choice wildlife habitat. The biological importance of this meadow is huge, especially considering all the arid land surrounding it. Restoration can provide diverse stream and side-channel habitat for fish, robust streamside vegetation for wildlife cover, and wetlands for amphibians and songbirds.

The Land Trust is currently working with our restoration partners to design a stream and meadow restoration project for Willow Springs Preserve. Taking a cue from nature's master engineer, we are planning to build numerous beaver dams using natural materials along the course of Whychus Creek. These dams will do what beaver dams would naturally do in a creek—back up water and help make the stream more complex. Beaver dams change how soil is eroded and deposited, they create new pools or side channels, and they can even raise groundwater levels.

Beavers are currently active at Willow Springs Preserve (and quite active downstream at Camp Polk Meadow), and our hope is that we can give them a little jump start to shape the creek the way they once would have. This restoration approach also minimizes disturbance and is more economical, while still achieving excellent fish and wildlife habitat benefits. **Learn lots more about this exciting project via a special tour; details at right!**



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WILLOW SPRINGS PRESERVE?

Join Stewardship Director Amanda Egertson on a special neighbors-only tour! Explore the Preserve and learn more about plans for stream restoration:

May 6 + May 10th, 12-1pm

Please RSVP online:
deschuteslandtrust.org/ws-tours



HINDMAN SPRINGS PRESERVATION + RESTORATION

The Land Trust's preservation and restoration project at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve continues in 2019. Here's how we're changing the face of Hindman Springs:

Historic preservation and interpretation: Hindman Springs is home to the remains of one of the oldest structures in Deschutes County: the Hindman Barn. Thanks to recent preservation work, the 150-year old barn is now stable, safe to visit, and ready for new interpretive signs! We are looking forward to installing eight new interpretive signs in and around the barn and Hindman Springs this May. These signs will tell the story of the barn's construction and use, as well as the role Camp Polk played in the history and settlement of Central Oregon. A new brochure and kiosk signs are already out at the Preserve!

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/camp-polk-history

Native plant restoration: Last fall we removed our first batch of clear plastic that was in place to kill non-native weeds at the Preserve. Then we planted more than 3,800 native grasses and wildflowers! Now our goal is to help these plants thrive. We are looking for volunteers to help keep our new plants healthy and happy by pulling weeds and giving them the space they need to flourish. Details below. In the meantime, we have begun our second phase of restoration at the Preserve. The clear plastic is back in a new part of Hindman Springs and it will be in place all summer to help remove more non-native weeds.

Learn more about soil solarization and how that plastic is helping native plants thrive: deschuteslandtrust.org/soil-solarization

Volunteer at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve! We are looking for volunteers to adopt a small plot and help our native plants flourish. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/volunteer



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

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FOREST RESTORATION AT ASPEN HOLLOW PRESERVE:

This summer or fall we hope to begin some forest restoration work at Aspen Hollow Preserve. Once our resident golden eagles have left the nest we will move in to thin some of the juniper and pine. This will mimic historic conditions and improve the health of the remaining pine and aspen. It will also benefit the native grasses and wildflowers, provide improved habitat for wildlife, and help reduce wildfire danger for our nearby neighbors.

More details coming soon!