



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2020}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

EXPLORE YOUR PRESERVES SAFELY

What a spring and summer for the record books! The pandemic has changed everyone's lives and we hope that you and yours are safe and healthy. We also wanted to take a moment to say thank you . . . thank you for your patience. Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your words of encouragement.

Never in our 25 year history have we had to close all of our Land Trust Preserves to the public. At the end of March with the pandemic progressing at an alarming pace, we made the incredibly difficult decision to close our Preserves and help keep our community healthy. We knew it would be hard—and especially hard on you, our neighbors. If there is one lesson we have all learned this year, it's that nature close to home is critical. So, thank you for being patient when we closed your favorite nearby trail, thank you for your flexibility as your favorite birding spot was temporarily off limits, and most of all thank you for helping keep an eye on our Preserves as staff pivoted and learned how to work in a new normal.

As you know, we were able to reopen our Preserves in June with new COVID-19 guidelines in place. Thank you for masking up, staying 6 feet apart, and limiting your group size. We know it is a different experience than normal, but together we can protect our neighbors and help keep our community healthy. We don't know what the future will hold, but we do know the Land Trust will keep adapting and helping support community health and safety. In the meantime, we hope you visit your neighborhood Preserve to get some exercise, take a break, or soak in the solace that nature offers us all. —

Learn more about our new Preserve guidelines for the COVID era: deschuteslandtrust.org/covid



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS VIRTUALLY!

This year the Land Trust celebrates 25 years of conserving land for Central Oregon! While our anniversary events had to be canceled due to the pandemic, we are still celebrating online! Read our 25th anniversary series about our flagship Preserves—the places, the people who have helped care for them, and the power they have to create a brighter future.

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/25-years



RIMROCK RANCH PROTECTED FOREVER

We hope you heard the news: the Land Trust recently announced that we purchased and protected the 1,123 acre Rimrock Ranch! Located just downstream of the Land Trust's Whychus Canyon Preserve, Rimrock Ranch includes rugged canyons, pine and juniper forests, and almost two miles of Whychus Creek.

The owners of Rimrock Ranch began working with the Land Trust in 2003 to conserve this unique property. From the outset, our shared long-term vision for Rimrock Ranch was that the Land Trust would one day own and ensure permanent protection of its remarkable natural resources. Thanks to stalwart donors who supported our Campaign for Whychus Creek and an amazing landowner, we have now realized that vision.

Rimrock Ranch's grasslands, forests, and creek are home to a wide variety of species, including reintroduced Chinook salmon and steelhead, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, golden eagles, and numerous songbirds. The diversity of natural features at the ranch, combined with the property's connection to surrounding undeveloped lands, means it will continue to provide a refuge in the face of a changing climate.

The Land Trust is developing a management plan for Rimrock Ranch to guide future stewardship. Initial plans include working with restoration partners to restore Whychus Creek. We hope to begin this work in 2021 and ultimately return the creek to a healthy, biologically-diverse condition.

Rimrock Ranch will remain private property and is accessible to the public only through the Land Trust's guided Walk + Hike program. The Land Trust will resume tours once pandemic conditions improve. **Learn more and take a virtual tour: deschuteslandtrust.org/rimrock-ranch** —



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

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

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CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE RESTORATION

The clear plastic that has been on the ground in the Hindman Springs portion of Camp Polk Meadow Preserve will soon be gone! It will be removed this fall after killing weeds in the hot sun all summer long. In October, we will plant a variety of native shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses to continue restoring our historic native plant community.

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/hs-restoration