



# landscapes

CONSERVING AND CARING FOR THE LANDS AND WATERS THAT SUSTAIN CENTRAL OREGON.

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2021}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## GRANDVIEW FIRE IMPACTS

*This summer's Grandview Fire was a scary reminder of the impacts of climate change and how close we all live to fire-adapted natural areas. We are so grateful that firefighters were able to get the wildfire under control and prevent any further spread to our neighbor's properties. Many thanks to all of you for sharing information and helping those who needed it during a challenging time!*

The Land Trust's Rimrock Ranch was one of the main fire lines to help stop the spread of the Grandview Fire into neighborhoods along Whychus Creek. The fire burned along the northern boundary of Rimrock Ranch in sagebrush and juniper habitat, and fire lines were built on the property. Thankfully, sagebrush and grassland habitat is adapted to fire. The portions of Rimrock Ranch that burned, but were not impacted by fire lines, will hopefully recover naturally. We will monitor them to see if they need a leg up with reseeding and control of non-native weeds.

In some places, fire crews were able to contain the fire with small, hand-built lines. These lines will need to be replanted to help prevent the spread of non-native weeds. In other places, firefighters needed to build wide bulldozer lines for containment. These lines will need to be reseeded as well, and many of the compacted bulldozer lines will need to be decompacted before spreading native seed and planting new native plants.

We anticipate these restoration efforts will cost around \$20,000, and we will hopefully host some volunteer work parties this fall to help with planting. If you'd like to donate to help restore the portions of Rimrock Ranch that were impacted by the Grandview Fire, please **donate online:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/donate](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/donate)



### MEET RIKA AYOTTE, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Rika Ayotte is the Land Trust's executive director. She joined the Land Trust in July of 2021, and brings a wealth of experience to lead us in conserving and caring for the lands and waters of Central Oregon. Get to know Rika and her passion for the land:*

**Learn more:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/rika](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/rika)



BULLDOZER LINES AND FIRE RETARDANT FROM THE GRANDVIEW FIRE. PHOTO: LAND TRUST.





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RICK DINGUS

## RIMROCK RANCH RESTORATION UPDATE

*The first phase of the Whychus Creek restoration at Rimrock Ranch is now complete! After COVID-19 and Grandview Fire delays, crews finished construction work in August. Here's what was accomplished.*

As a reminder, the goal of the Whychus Creek restoration at Rimrock Ranch is to increase the variety of habitats both in and along the creek, to reconnect Whychus Creek to the surrounding valley, and to make the entire creek system stronger. Many of the initial efforts were focused on shaping the valley floor around the creek. Excavators and dump trucks removed a great deal of soil from the valley floor to help bring it to the same elevation as Whychus Creek. Equalizing these elevations will help Whychus Creek be able to move across the valley in its historic floodplain. As construction crews removed soil, they left islands of mature vegetation throughout the restoration area to provide habitat for fish and wildlife and help naturally reseed new vegetation.

Once floodplain shaping was complete, construction crews added large whole trees—many with roots intact—to the valley floor. These trees play an important role in the restoration, helping to slow the flow of water, prevent erosion, and provide habitat for plants, fish, and other animals. Finally, water from Whychus Creek was slowly moved out onto the newly leveled floodplain.

Now that active restoration work is complete, we will add thousands of new native plants to the restoration area in October. Check out our volunteer page for opportunities to help with the plantings! The restoration area will then be left alone to rest, recover, and naturally evolve and grow. **Learn more:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/wc-restoration](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/wc-restoration)



RICK DINGUS



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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### RIMROCK RESTORATION TOURS

*Join the Land Trust for Rimrock Ranch restoration tours this fall. Hike along the rim at Rimrock Ranch to a great overlook of the newly restored floodplain and creek. Learn more about the restoration project and how it is improving habitat for fish and wildlife.*

**Learn more and register:**  
[deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)