



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2022}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## THE FUTURE OF WILLOW SPRINGS IS NOW

*By the time you read this newsletter, the multi-year stream restoration project at Willow Springs Preserve should be starting! After a COVID-19 delay, we will begin the restoration this spring and summer and wanted to share more details on how it will unfold.*

The Land Trust and our restoration partners have been working for several years to plan and implement a project to return Whychus Creek to a healthy, biologically diverse condition. We are using a low-tech restoration approach to transform a single channel into a braided series of channels that spread out across the valley floor.

Starting in May, crews will be on site staging the materials needed to build the natural structures that will be used in the restoration to change creek conditions. We've been stockpiling whole trees in the meadow for several years, and now they will finally be put into action! For those of you that live on or near the rim above Willow Springs Preserve, you'll start to see small machinery transporting these whole trees to staging locations all along a ¾ mile stretch of Whychus Creek that runs through the Preserve.

In June and July, we expect crews to be on site constructing the natural structures that will be used for restoration. Most of these will look like log jams in the stream, but they are constructed with vertical wooden posts that are angled against placed logs in order to provide stability. These will be used to shift the flow of the creek in certain directions. Smaller dam-like structures will also be built on side channels to imitate beaver dams, create pools, and help connect Whychus Creek to the surrounding meadow. You may hear some post pounding during installation. Finally, this fall, thousands of native plants will be added to the restoration area to provide stream shade, soil stability, and habitat for wildlife.

While the portion of the creek being restored will not be visible for most neighbors, some may notice increased activity at the Preserve. Although Willow Springs Preserve is closed to the public, we encourage you to register for one of our guided walks to learn more about the project. We appreciate your patience as we work to make Whychus Creek healthier for us all! **Learn more:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/willow-springs](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/willow-springs)



LAND TRUST

### TOUR THE WILLOW SPRINGS RESTORATION

*Join the Land Trust on a guided tour of Willow Springs Preserve! See the new structures that will have been added to Whychus Creek, and learn more about this multi-year project to improve habitat for fish and wildlife and mitigate the impacts of climate change.*

Details: [deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)



RICK DINGUS



DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS [SPRING 2022]

LAND TRUST

## FOREST THINNING COMING SOON!

*The Land Trust will be embarking on a series of forest thinning projects at several of our Preserves near Sisters this year.* Thanks to support from the Oregon Department of Forestry, we will be thinning small diameter junipers at four Land Trust Preserves: Aspen Hollow Preserve, Rimrock Ranch, Whychus Canyon Preserve, and Willow Springs Preserve.

Last year's Grandview Fire was another stark reminder of how close wildfire can come to our homes and communities. That's why the Land Trust teamed up with Central Oregon Shared Stewardship Landscape Resiliency Project on a \$6.25 million project to reduce wildfire danger in forests on more than 52,000 acres of land in Central Oregon.

The Land Trust's portion of the project will prioritize thinning that will help reduce fire danger for our neighbors while also mimicking historic forest conditions and improving habitat for wildlife. Wherever possible, we will use the cut juniper for upcoming stream restoration projects. Otherwise, it will be piled, left to dry, and then burned when winter conditions allow.



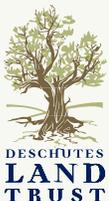
JAY MATHER

In addition, the Land Trust will be battling invasive grasses like medusahead rye and cheatgrass at Rimrock Ranch, specifically in fire-prone portions of the property. Afterwards, a native seed mix will be spread in order to give native plants a leg up on the competition.

**Stay up-to-date on Land Trust projects: [deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news)** —



JAY MATHER



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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## JOIN US FOR A HIKE!

*Join the Land Trust on a guided nature walk! Each year volunteers lead free walks and hikes at Land Trust Preserves. Whether it's fairy houses for kids, a wildflower hike, or geology walk, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!*

*Land Trust Walks + Hikes are offered through October. Learn more: [deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)*