



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2022}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

WILLOW SPRINGS PROJECT WRAPS UP

The construction phase of the multi-year stream restoration project at Willow Springs Preserve is complete! Construction crews were at the Preserve from May - July building the natural structures that are being used in the restoration. Here is what they accomplished:

- **Added 130 new log structures:** Crews built more than 130 habitat structures by hand in a 3/4 mile stretch of Whychus Creek. These included log jams in the creek that are used to shift the flow of the creek in certain directions (like the photo below), and smaller, beaver dam-like structures that were built in the dry meadow. The beaver dam-like structures will eventually help slow and spread water during high water events, and create pools as the project evolves.
- **Created instant habitat:** There was very little wood in this portion of Whychus Creek before the restoration. The addition of all the woody structures has boosted fish habitat by providing new places for fish to take cover, and will eventually provide many other habitat benefits.
- **Slowed water:** The habitat structures are helping slow water and creating deeper water levels. This improves fish habitat and helps boost the water table in the surrounding meadow.
- **Created new channel structure:** Sand is beginning to deposit on the downstream side of many of the log structures. Over time, this will create more bends in the creek as the water flows around the sand piles. The creek will also begin to scour out new pools as it moves around the log structures. Pools and meanders create habitat diversity for fish and wildlife.

What's next? We watch and wait and let Whychus Creek do the work! The goal of this kind of low-tech restoration is to let the creek and its natural processes lead. Over time, with the addition of high flows, the log structures throughout the restoration will jumpstart these processes which will change the creek and build more habitat. We anticipate returning in two years or more to fine tune and build more structures as needed. In addition, this fall, thousands of native plants will be added to the restoration area to provide stream shade, soil stability, and habitat for wildlife. **Learn more:** deschuteslandtrust.org/willow-springs



TOUR THE WILLOW SPRINGS RESTORATION

Join the Land Trust on a guided tour of Willow Springs Preserve! See the new structures that 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



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LAND TRUST

FOREST THINNING UPDATE

The Land Trust has finished a series of forest thinning projects at several of our Preserves near Sisters this year. Thanks to support from the Central Oregon Shared Stewardship Landscape Resiliency Project, we were able to thin small-diameter junipers in June at four Land Trust Preserves: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, Rimrock Ranch, Whychus Canyon Preserve, and Willow Springs Preserve.

This forest restoration work will help reduce wildfire danger at our Preserves and for our neighbors, while also helping mimic historic forest conditions and improving habitat for wildlife. Wherever possible, we use the cut juniper for upcoming stream restoration projects. Otherwise, it is piled, left to dry, then burned in the winter as weather conditions allow.

This fall we will thin more junipers at Aspen Hollow Preserve and then move into the pile burning phase of the project over the winter. We plan to complete pile burning at Aspen Hollow Preserve, Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, Rimrock Ranch, and Whychus Canyon Preserve. The Land Trust burns piles in forested areas that have steep slopes, a lack of access roads, or places where we're unable to remove trees that have been cut. We work with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) on all burn plans to acquire the required burn permits, and then during burn season to determine a safe burn window. Safe ground conditions include high moisture levels in the soil and surrounding vegetation that helps prevent the spread of fire.

During the pile burning phase, Camp Polk Meadow Preserve will likely close for 2-3 days when we have our burn window. Pile burning will not impact public use at Whychus Canyon Preserve. Watch our website and social media for more details! —

Stay up-to-date on Land Trust projects: deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news



JAY MATHEN



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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VOLUNTEER!

Fall is planting season! Join the Land Trust for a variety of volunteer planting parties this fall. We will be planting new native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs at several of our Sisters-area Preserves. Get your hands dirty and have fun while improving habitat for native plants and animals in Central Oregon!

Learn more:
deschuteslandtrust.org/volunteer