



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2015}

FOCUS: INDIAN FORD MEADOW PRESERVE

SMALL MEADOW NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Deschutes Land Trust protected the 63 acre Indian Ford Meadow Preserve in 1996. The Preserve contains a unique diversity of habitats ranging from wetlands to pine forest and serves as a migratory corridor for deer and a breeding ground for songbirds. Though small, the meadow is important for wildlife and it needs your help. If you love Indian Ford Meadow, help the Land Trust keep it wild: visit responsibly and minimize your impacts.

Visiting Indian Ford Meadow Preserve: The Preserve is open to the public during daylight hours year-round. Access is from Indian Ford Road where you'll find the signed Preserve entrance gate. From there visitors can explore the meadow via the mostly flat 0.2 mile Founders Trail. Indian Ford Meadow Preserve is best for:

Watching wildlife: With songbirds nesting along Indian Ford Creek and local raptors using the ponderosa pines as hunting perches, bird watching is always interesting. More than 100 species of birds have been observed at the Preserve! Deer, bear, and coyotes have also been seen.

Enjoying scenic views: Walk the Founder's Trail to a scenic overlook with panoramic views of Central Oregon's iconic snow-capped peaks. From our viewing platform you can see from Broken Top to Mt. Jefferson, all evidence of the region's fiery volcanic history.

Remember if you visit Indian Ford Meadow Preserve, dogs must remain on leash and we ask visitors to stay on the trail. This helps the Land Trust protect this fragile meadow.

Why do I see some groups walking off-trail at Indian Ford Meadow? The Land Trust offers a series of guided walks to explore Indian Ford Meadow Preserve (details at right how to get involved). These walks are managed by the Land Trust to limit impact on the Preserve. Private, non-Land Trust use is not permitted. ➤

Thanks for helping the Deschutes Land Trust keep Indian Ford Meadow Preserve a sanctuary for wildlife.



MARY CROW

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INDIAN FORD MEADOW PRESERVE?

Join the Land Trust on a guided nature walk! Every year volunteers lead free nature walks at Land Trust Preserves including Indian Ford Meadow.

Whether it's a bird walk, general wander or fall colors hike, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard.

Land Trust Walks + Hikes will be online April 1. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org



JAY MATHER



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GIVING ASPEN A HELPING HAND

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve is home to several small stands of aspen trees. You may love these iconic trees for the brilliant colors they turn each fall, but did you know they are extremely important ecologically? The Land Trust has been working since 2007 to restore Indian Ford's aspen stands and here's why:

- **Aspen are becoming a rare species.** Since aspen most often clone themselves from a sucker system beneath the ground, they need stimulation by some sort of disturbance to regenerate. This naturally occurs through forest fires, wind blows, and deer browsing. Fire suppression is thought to be one factor in longer-term decline of aspen. If there is less than vigorous regeneration, combined with lots of deer browsing, the next generations of aspen can be stunted.
- **Aspen make wildlife habitat more diverse.** Herbivores like aspen trees better than conifers because their leaves are easier to digest and their bark is nutritious. Songbirds like to nest and rest in aspen thickets. Aspen also allow more light to reach the forest floor encouraging a greater diversity of understory plants to grow beneath them.
- **Aspen help nature recover.** Aspen's role in nature is to grow quickly after large disturbances like wildfire. The sun-loving aspen trees shoot up in openings and provide shade for other plants to grow. Over time, conifers will eventually grow taller than the aspen and begin to take hold. Aspen are considered a young tree only living 60-120 years.

Today the aspen stands of Indian Ford Meadow Preserve are much healthier. In 2008, the Land Trust thinned juniper from the aspen to provide more light and nutrients to the aspen. We also topped a few of the stand's pine trees to reduce competition and provide cavity nesting opportunities for birds and other wildlife. Then, we partnered with Oregon State University professors and students to install caging around small aspen sprouts to protect them from deer browsing. We'll eventually remove these cages after the saplings have had a chance to establish themselves. Aspen restoration efforts have now expanded to other Land Trust properties, including Camp Polk Meadow and Whychus Canyon Preserves. ➤

DID YOU KNOW?

*The Deschutes Land Trust is charting the future of Central Oregon with the **Campaign for Whychus Creek**: a three-year campaign to conserve and care for high priority lands along Whychus Creek. Make your mark on the future, get involved today: deschuteslandtrust.org/campaign*



JIM MATHER



THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST IS PROUD OF OUR GENEROUS FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS. JOIN US TODAY: DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

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