



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2018}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## NEIGHBOR NEWS: METOLIUS PRESERVE

*Bird song, wildflowers, fresh green leaves . . . spring is indeed in the air and with it comes a flurry of activity at Deschutes Land Trust Preserves.* As a neighbor of the Metolius Preserve, we thought you might want to know what's happening at the Preserve this spring and summer. Here are a few highlights:

**Bird walks, wildflower wanders, history talks!** Spring is a great time to get out and explore your Land Trust Preserves. The Land Trust hosts more than 140 free, guided Walks + Hikes to explore the nature of our protected lands throughout Central Oregon. As a neighbor of the Metolius Preserve, you've likely seen these groups visiting our Preserve, but have you ever been on one of our outings? Whether you're a long-time resident or a newcomer, Land Trust Walks + Hikes are a great way to learn about local birds, wildflowers, geology, and more! Join us today.

**Trail tenders:** The Land Trust is so very fortunate to have a crew of awesome volunteers who help tend our trails at our Preserves. You may notice these folks at the Metolius Preserve during the spring, summer, and fall. They volunteer their time to rake debris from trails, pull weeds, and generally keep our Preserve trails in tip-top shape. Huge thanks to John Danahy, Peggy Frede, Pat Kearney, Bill Mitchell, Darla Sadler, and Carol Wall for tending our vast network of Metolius Preserve trails!

**Restoration work:** The Metolius Preserve has benefited from a great deal of restoration since the Land Trust created the Preserve in 2003. We worked with our restoration partners in 2008 to remove a culvert on Lake Creek and improve habitat for salmon. We've also worked for many years to restore the forest of the Metolius Preserve. Learn more about this work on the back of this newsletter. —



### WELCOME CAMP SHERMAN BOARD MEMBERS!

The Land Trust was pleased to welcome two new members from Camp Sherman to our Board of Directors over the winter. Inge Wells is a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Appellate and Civil Enforcement Divisions of the Oregon Department of Justice and has owned a home in Camp Sherman since 2002. Gary 'Gus' Gustafson is a retired Senior Regulatory Advisor and has owned a home in Camp Sherman since 1998. Both are avid Land Trust supporters and look forward to sharing the work of the organization with others.

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



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JOAN AMERO



## CONSERVING THE FORESTS OF THE METOLIUS PRESERVE

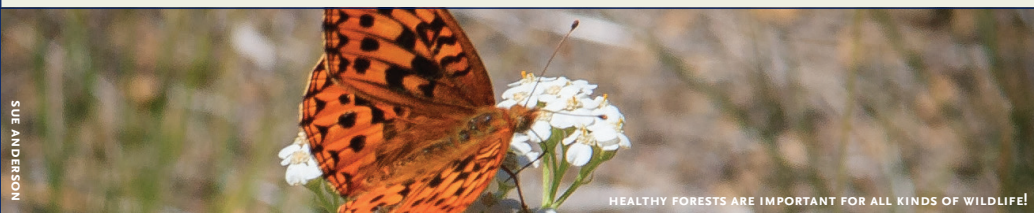
*The Metolius Preserve is home to towering ponderosa pine, three miles of Lake Creek, and a variety of wildlife.* Once a commercial forest, the Preserve is now a place of active forest restoration. Our goal: enhance the strength of the forest and improve conditions so wildlife can thrive. How did we do it?

**Restorative thinning:** Much of the Preserve was selectively thinned to create patches of widely spaced trees intermixed with denser clumps of trees and gaps with few trees. The resulting mosaic pattern mimics nature: forests of mixed-age trees with a variety of habitats for wildlife. Western larch, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, western white pine, incense cedar, and even an occasional Englemann spruce can be spotted at the Metolius Preserve. Diverse forests are an indicator of productive soils and abundant wildlife, and are more resistant to beetle outbreaks, disease, and climate change.

**Protecting and creating wildlife habitat:** While we were thinning, we made sure to protect key habitat along the Preserve's portion of Lake Creek. Dense streamside vegetation is extremely important to the health of Lake Creek. These trees and shrubs shade the creek and keep water temperatures cooler (good for fish and other critters). They keep soil from washing into the creek and help keep creek banks intact. And last, but not least, they provide hiding cover, perching locations, and homes for a variety of wildlife. We also use our thinning work to create some new habitat for wildlife--snags! Snags, or dead standing trees, are used by a variety of wildlife species for nesting, foraging, and other activities. Since the Metolius Preserve was lacking natural snags, we created more to provide much needed habitat for these animals. Once the snags fall down, they will continue to provide benefits to the forest by helping return nutrients to the soil and as homes for wildlife.

**Preparing for fire:** Fire has long been a part of the ponderosa pine forests east of the Cascades. In fact these forests would have burned every 5-10 years in low-intensity fires that cleared out the underbrush. As a commercial forest, fire was not a part of the forest for many years. To help it return, we used restorative thinning and mowing to reduce the potential fuel load and help reduce the chance of catastrophic fire. This in turn protects neighboring communities and helps us plan for the eventual return of low-intensity burns. —

SUE ANDERSON



HEALTHY FORESTS ARE IMPORTANT FOR ALL KINDS OF WILDLIFE!



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