



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2021}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

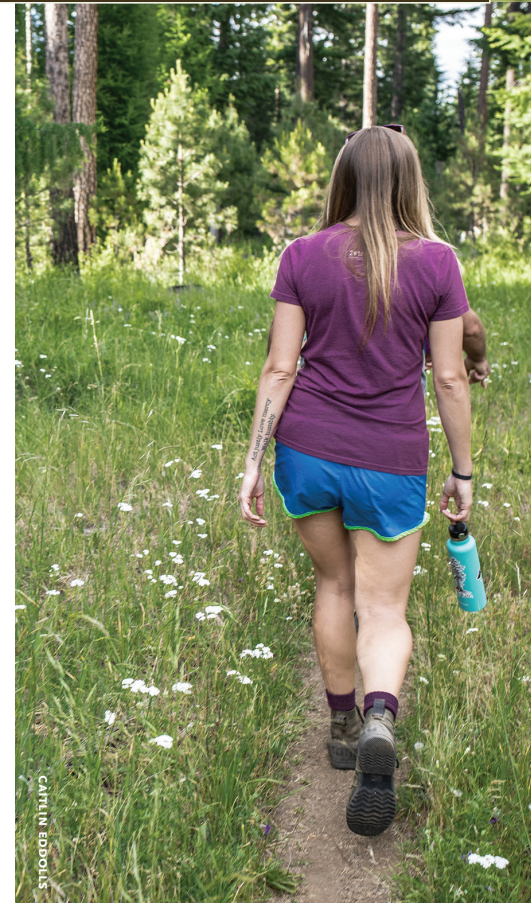
## WILD ABOUT BLACK BEARS

*With spring in full swing, the season is prime for all kinds of animals to be out and about in the forests of the Metolius.* If you're lucky, you might have a chance to spot black bears (or the signs they leave behind like scat!) as they begin to emerge from their dens in search of food.

There are approximately 25,000-30,000 black bears (*Ursus americanus*) living in Oregon today. They prefer to live in relatively undisturbed forests, where they climb trees, swim in streams, and forage for food, while taking advantage of the shelter and shade that forests provide. Black bears are omnivores, eating a combination of foods like nuts, berries, plants, insects, the occasional fish, small mammals, and carrion. Black bears build up their fat reserves in the late summer and fall so they can wait out the cold winter months in their den. During these times of gorging, black bears can eat upwards of 20,000 calories a day! Unlike true hibernating animals, black bears can be roused from their slumber during the winter, but they still experience a drop in heart rate, body temperature, and breathing. In mild winters, the hibernating season can be shorter, or even nonexistent. Black bear cubs are typically born during the denning season and will stay with their mother until the following spring at which point the cubs are expected to fend for themselves.

The Land Trust's Metolius Preserve provides important habitat for black bears and we have documented many black bear sightings over the years. But the Metolius Preserve is only a fraction of the territorial space these animals occupy and need to thrive. Black bears roam large areas (15-80 square miles!) as they look for mates and food. That's why protecting large connected areas with few roads or buildings is important for the success of these magnificent animals.

You can also help black bears thrive by keeping black bears wild. Black bears have an outstanding sense of smell and they are often drawn to the odors emanating from garbage bins, campgrounds, and pet food. Keep these wild animals wild by securing your garbage bins, not leaving your pet food outside, and never feeding them. If a black bear has success finding easy food sources, it is more likely to become a potential nuisance which can result in euthanization or relocation. Part of what makes the forests of the Metolius so wonderful is that nature is close to home. Let's all work together to keep it healthy and help it thrive. —

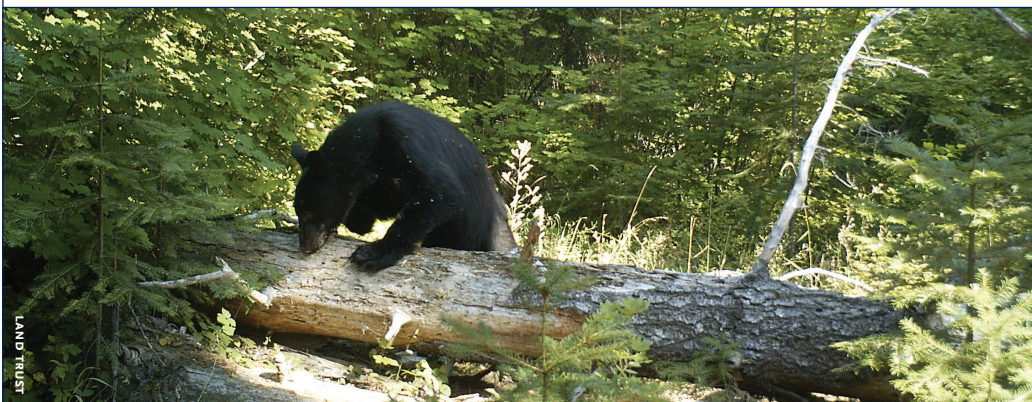


CAROLIN EDWARDS

### THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY!

*Thank you for masking up, staying 6 feet apart, and limiting your group size at the Metolius Preserve. We know it is a different experience than normal, but together we can protect our neighbors and help keep our community healthy. Keep up the good work!*

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



LAND TRUST



DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2021}

## METOLIUS RIVER PRESERVE FEN

*Did you know the Metolius River Preserve is home to a rare fen, or wetland?* A fen is a type of alkaline wetland that is fed from groundwater. Fens tend to appear on slopes, flats, or depressions. Common along the coast or in subalpine regions, mid-elevation fens, like the one at the Metolius River Preserve, are rare and found infrequently throughout Central Oregon. What's the difference between a fen and a bog? A bog is an acidic wetland that receives most of its moisture from rainfall. Bogs tend to be on dome shaped landmasses.

One defining feature of a fen is peat accumulation. Peat is a mixture of decomposed plant material that has developed over time. Fens stay wet year-round and can remain in the same location for thousands of years. The peat in fens takes a long time to form—it is estimated that peat accumulates in our region at the rate of one inch per century! Because peat accumulates over thousands of years, it preserves a record of past climate conditions and fire history. Peatlands also help combat climate change by storing carbon. In fact, they are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store, storing more than all other vegetation types in the world combined!

Fens are also biological hot spots and are home to a high percentage of rare or uncommon plant species. The fen at the Metolius River Preserve is home to buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) which has white flowers, spiky hairs, and emits a foul smell to attract flies and beetles for pollination. It's also home to the carnivorous bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*). This species floats on the surface of the fen and has bladder-like pods that have a trap door to capture its prey (tiny copepods and water fleas!). The bladder sucks in prey in less than one millisecond!

The fen at the Metolius River Preserve is best viewed from the westbank Metolius River Trail starting at Lower Bridge. All other access to the Preserve is via guided tour. Please stay on the trail to help keep wildlife and native plants (including our very cool fen) healthy and safe. —



JOAN AMERO



LAND TRUST

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!

Many thanks to our partners at Friends of the Metolius, Sisters Ranger District, and Oregon Department of Agriculture for their help treating the invasive ribbongrass at the Metolius River Preserve. This non-native plant is a major threat to healthy plant communities along the Metolius River and we are grateful for the help in removing it from our Preserve. You can help! Volunteer with Friends of the Metolius to help remove invasive plants: [www.metoliusfriends.org](http://www.metoliusfriends.org)



THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST IS PROUD OF OUR GENEROUS FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS. JOIN US TODAY: [DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN](http://DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN)

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

210 NW IRVING AVENUE, SUITE 102, BEND, OREGON 97703  
[DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG](http://DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG) PHONE [541] 330 0017