



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2021}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## WHY WOODY DEBRIS IS GOOD FOR RIVERS

*Next spring, the Land Trust will be working with the Forest Service to place some large whole trees along the Metolius River at our Metolius River Preserve. These trees play an important role in the health of the river, and are a continuation of larger restoration efforts on the river. But what exactly do those trees do?*

For decades, removal of trees and snags (dead standing trees) in rivers and streams was seen as a helpful process; one that would clear waterways and provide more favorable navigation conditions for recreation and transport. Removal of downed logs was also considered an improvement to the beauty of a stream, and was driven by thoughts of property protection and flood control. Over time, research has shown that removal of these trees, called large woody debris, has been detrimental to fish populations and the overall health of our rivers and streams.

Large woody debris is beneficial for a variety of reasons. It can help decrease water temperature by providing shaded areas along streams and creating pockets of cooler water for cold water loving species. It helps prevent erosion of soil along banks and in floodplains, and it traps organic material like leaves and twigs that provide nutrients for insects and invertebrates (critters without spines), which in turn provide food for fish.

Finally, large woody debris is important for native fish. It helps slow the flow of water, making it easier for adult fish to move upstream and for juveniles to rear, and it captures more of the gravels that salmon and steelhead need to build redds and lay eggs. Large woody debris also creates places for fish to hide and seek refuge from predators, and the pools of water and “steps” created by woody debris can also provide habitat for fish during periods of low water flow.

We look forward to working with the Forest Service next spring to add more woody debris to the Metolius River Preserve to continue to improve habitat along the river. —



JAY MATHER



### MEET RIKA AYOTTE, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Rika Ayotte is the Land Trust's executive director. She joined the Land Trust in July of 2021, and brings a wealth of experience to lead us in conserving and caring for the lands and waters of Central Oregon. Get to know Rika and her passion for the land:*

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

KAIS KRISTOVICH



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## FABULOUS FALL COLORS TO FIND

Colorful leaves abound as Central Oregon's days get shorter, nights get colder, and winter creeps closer and closer. Sure, the biochemical process of color-changing foliage is incredible, but there is something truly magical about immersing yourself in a landscape painted with bright reds, yellows, and golds! Here are three of our favorite plants for fall colors and where you might be able to find them before the season turns.

1. **Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)**. These trees are found along shaded stream banks throughout the Pacific Northwest. In the fall, they put on a spectacular show, brightening the area with their foliage. Trees can grow up to 25 feet tall. Branches are often twisting or sprawling from the base, and their leaves change from a bright green to vibrant orange and red in the fall! Look for them near Lake Creek at the Metolius Preserve or along your other favorite waterways.

2. **Bracken fern (*P. aquilinum pubescens*)**. Walking among bracken fern can be like walking through a sea of gold during the fall! These ferns are known for their large and highly divided leaves. During the fall their once lush green leaves transition into a golden yellow covering on the forest floor. Though beautiful, be aware: all parts of the bracken fern are poisonous and can harm animals. Look for them along the Pine Trails at the Metolius Preserve.

3. **Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)**. A tall native shrub that is found in wet areas along our rivers and streams. This dogwood is known for its brilliant red stems which provide color all winter long, but did you know it also has stunning foliage? Look for its bright red to purple leaves shining against the dark bark of a conifer tree. You can find dogwood at the Metolius Preserve along one of the several branches of Lake Creek. —



### JOIN US FOR A FALL OUTING!

Each year volunteers lead free walks and hikes at Land Trust Preserves, including our Metolius Preserve.

Whether it's a geology hike, fall colors walk, or fairy houses for kids, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!

Land Trust Walks + Hikes are offered through October. Details:

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



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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