

Neighbor News

Your Connection to Land Trust Preserves



DESCHUTES
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Metolius Preserve Prescribed Burn

In our last newsletter we shared our plans to complete our first prescribed burn at the Metolius Preserve. Unfortunately, conditions were not ideal as spring progressed and we decided to postpone the burn. Current plans call for the burn this fall, but of course, this will entirely depend on conditions being safe for fire.

The Land Trust's goal remains the same for the forests of the Metolius Preserve. We are striving to create a forest that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and provides healthy habitat for native plants and animals. Reintroducing prescribed fire to the Preserve is an important step in helping maintain and create a more diverse forest of mixed-age trees with a variety of habitats for wildlife. Reintroducing low-intensity fire also improves soil fertility, promotes vegetation growth, and helps create snags, or dead standing trees, that wildlife use for shelter.

Central Oregon's forests have benefited from fire for thousands of years. In fact, the removal of fire during the last hundred years has shown us how important fire is. Small, regular low-intensity fires have been replaced by large catastrophic ones that make it harder for our forests to recover. Prescribed burning helps reset natural cycles while also helping us reduce the threat of catastrophic fire for our neighbors.

The Land Trust have been interested in prescribed burning at the Metolius Preserve for more than a decade, and, thanks to our new collaboration with the Deschutes National Forest and The Nature Conservancy, we are hopeful we will be able to burn a small portion of the Preserve this fall. Assuming all goes well with burn conditions, we invite you to join us for a post-burn tour to see the results firsthand! Details at right.

New to the Neighbor News or want to stay up-to-date on our Metolius-area Preserves?
Visit: deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news



Post-Burn Tour

Join the Land Trust for a tour of the prescribed burn this fall! Watch our event calendar for details if the burn is successful. Our plan is to visit the recently burned section and learn why fire is so important to our ponderosa pine forests.

Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes

53
Acres

The Land Trust hopes to complete prescribed burning on 53 acres of the Metolius Preserve in fall 2024!



Woodpeckers of Central Oregon

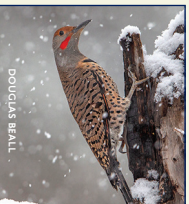
Dut-dut-dut-dut-dut-dut. The unmistakable sound of a woodpecker's bill hitting a tree. We hear it all the time in Central Oregon, but do you know your fellow forest dwellers? Here are four native woodpeckers to get you started:



Downy woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*): Smaller (6.75in long) black and white woodpecker. Downys have a noticeable white stripe running down their back, while their wings are black checkered with white. Males have a red patch on the back of their head. You can find downys in open woodlands and on the brush-filled edges of forests.



Pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*): Large (16.5in long) black woodpecker with a distinctive flaming-red triangular crest. Bold white stripes down their long neck with largely white underwings. Look for them in forests that have lots of large, standing dead trees and downed wood.



Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*): Larger (12.5in long) brown woodpecker with black spots, bars, and crescents. The underside of their wing and tail feathers are a rosy red. Males have a bright red mustache stripe. Flickers eat ants and beetles, and are often spotted on the ground as they forage. Look for them in open areas near trees.



White-headed woodpecker (*Dryobates albolarvatus*): Medium (9.25in long) woodpecker that is only found in mountainous pine forests in the Western US and Canada. Distinctive white head, black body, and white outer flight feathers. Males and juveniles have a red patch on the crown of their head. Look for them in old-growth ponderosa pine and sugar pine forests.

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/wildlife



Wildlife Crossings on Hwy 20

Did you know the section of Highway 20 between Suttle Lake and Bend sees the highest density of deer and elk wildlife-vehicle collisions in the state? That's why a coalition of local organizations and agencies have come together to help build new wildlife crossings on Hwy 20. Learn more about how you can help migrating animals cross safely, reduce danger for people, and see the proposed crossing locations:

bend2suttlelakepassage.org



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