



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2020}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

DIGGING DEEPER INTO OCHOCO PRESERVE

Welcome back to your Ochoco Preserve neighbor newsletter! Last spring we shared news about the Land Trust's future plans for Ochoco Preserve, the 160 acre property on the Madras highway just west of Prineville that the Land Trust conserved in 2017. One of our first major projects is creating a restoration plan to guide the future of the Preserve.

One of the first steps in that plan is to establish baseline scientific data about the natural resources at Ochoco Preserve. This includes everything from water quantity and quality indicators to surveys of the plants, animals, and insects that live in and around the Preserve's portion of the Crooked River, McKay Creek, and Ochoco Creek. Towards that end, we have installed groundwater monitoring wells and we are working with our partners this summer to study stream inhabitants. One of the coolest finds from our stream surveys: the California floater mussel!

A mussel? Don't you usually find those in the ocean? Indeed, but they are also native to our rivers and streams in Central Oregon. California floater mussels (see photo below) burrow themselves into the sediment under the water on the banks or at the bottom of rivers and streams and filter the water for food and oxygen. In the process they also help keep our water clean by taking impurities out of the water—even removing pharmaceuticals and E. coli! The California floater we found in the Crooked River indicates suitable slow water, soft-surface habitats are present at the Preserve. This was also the first live mussel recorded near Prineville.

As we move forward with our restoration planning at Ochoco Preserve, we will be watching for more California floater mussels in the Preserve's creeks and rivers. They can live for 10-20 years in one place, so they are great natural stable indicators that reflect changes in our streams and rivers. >

VOLUNTEER FOR THE ANNUAL OCHOCO CREEK CLEAN-UP: OCTOBER 17, 11AM-3PM

DETAILS: DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/OCHOCO-CLEANUP



THIS CALIFORNIA FLOATER MUSSEL TEMPORARILY ATTACHES TO FISH AS PART OF ITS UNIQUE LIFE CYCLE. PHOTO: LAND TRUST.



MEET JASON GRANT, OUR RESTORATION SPECIALIST

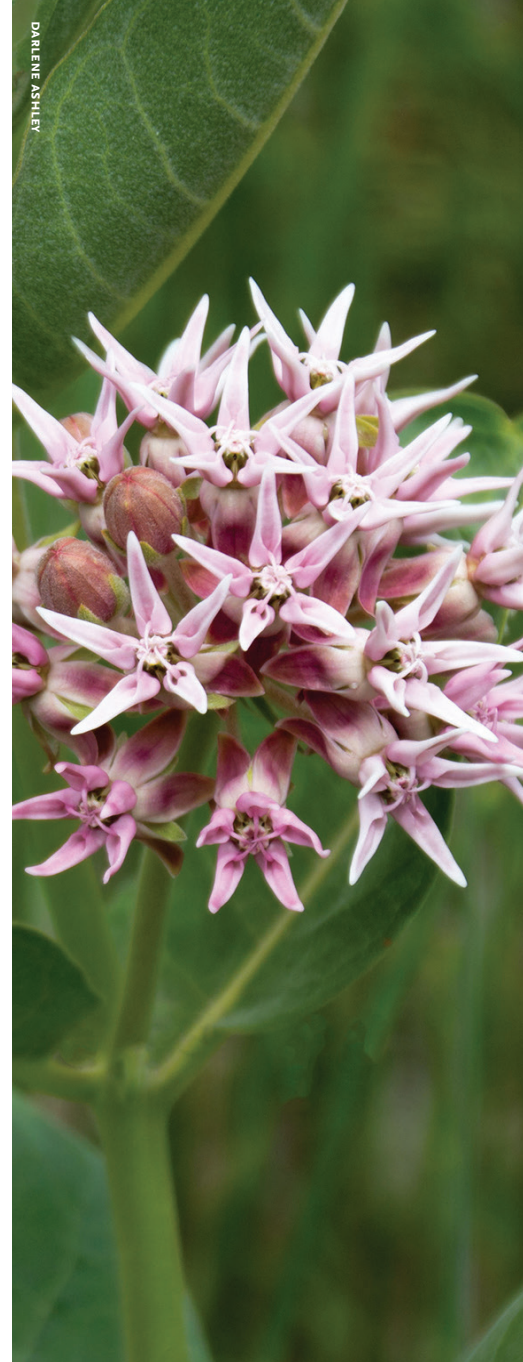
Jason Grant is the Land Trust's restoration specialist. He is leading the effort to restore Ochoco Preserve. As the restoration at the Preserve moves forward, Jason will be sending updates to neighbors on our progress. If you are interested in receiving these updates, please follow the link below to share your email address:

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/ochoco-restoration



DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS { FALL 2020 }

LAND TRUST



DARLENE ASHLEY

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIPS TAKE FLIGHT

This fall the Land Trust is partnering with a variety of organizations in Crook and Jefferson counties to help create habitat for native pollinators like butterflies, bees, and moths in and around Prineville.

What's a pollinator and why are they important? A pollinator is anything that moves pollen from the female part of a plant to a male part of a plant which then creates the plant's seeds or fruit. Butterflies (like the Western monarch), bees, wasps, moths, birds, and even bats are pollinators helping move pollen around intentionally or inadvertently in the natural world. Why are pollinators important? We all know they pollinate the food we eat and help give us vegetables, fruit, and seeds. But pollinators also help flowering plants reproduce and these plants clean our air and water, stabilize our soil, and provide food and shelter for animals. Sadly native pollinators are struggling to thrive because of habitat loss and pesticide use.

This is where pollinator gardens are a big help! Adding native plants to your garden, schoolyard, local park, or natural area is a great way to help rebuild habitat for pollinators. That's why the Land Trust is partnering with the Crooked River Wetlands Complex and schools in Madras and Warm Springs to build pollinator gardens this fall. The Land Trust is supplying the plants and our partners are providing the space and budding gardeners. Our plant mixes will include lots of native milkweed to help the Western monarch butterfly, and many other native wildflowers to give pollinators blooms all season long. We can't wait to watch them grow! ➤

Learn more about building a pollinator garden: deschuteslandtrust.org/pollinator-gardens



JOAN AMERO

**THIS YEAR THE LAND TRUST
CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION!
JOIN US! [DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/25-YEARS](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/25-years)**



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

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

GOT MILKWEED?

The Western monarch butterfly is native to Central Oregon and is sadly facing a drastic population decline. You can help by planting native showy or narrowleaf milkweed in your yard or garden! Even better, we'll send you free native milkweed seed. Simply follow the link below to request your seeds and we will mail them to you:

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/milkweed