



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2022}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## THE FUTURE OF OCHOCO PRESERVE IS NOW

*The Land Trust's vision for the future of Ochoco Preserve is about to become a reality!* This spring we will kick off the first phase of building a new Preserve with healthy streams, flourishing native plants and wildlife, and new connections for the community. The first phase will focus on habitat restoration in and around the McKay Creek portion of the Preserve. Highlights include:

1. Creating a new meandering McKay Creek with side channels. A new meandering main channel will be moved onto the Preserve, doubling its overall length to one mile. An additional mile of side channels will also be built.
2. Building a new floodplain. Land surrounding the McKay Creek main channel will be lowered to create a new floodplain that will be up to 300-400 feet wide and give the creek more room to spread out and slow high water flows.
3. Adding more stream habitat. Woody debris will be placed within McKay Creek via log jam structures, small dams that mimic beaver dams, and other fixed wood structures. In addition, riffles (shallow parts of a stream that have rough water) and deep, calm pools will be added to the creek. This will create more habitat types that will benefit fish and wildlife.
4. Constructing an acclimation pond. Fish reintroduction efforts will receive a boost with a newly created acclimation pond. The pond will help accustom young spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead to McKay Creek, before they are released to journey to the Pacific Ocean and, hopefully, back to McKay Creek again to spawn.
5. Establishing locations for community connections. Part of the habitat restoration will also include establishing locations for the trails and educational sites to be built in future phases.

It will be a busy spring and summer at the Preserve, but the end result will be much better habitat for fish and other wildlife and a healthier McKay Creek for us all. Learn more about the restoration and future trail connections on a guided tour, or lend a hand this fall to help plant more than 35,000 native plants in the newly restored portion of the Preserve. **Please note: Ochoco Preserve will remain closed to the public during the restoration. We appreciate your patience as we work to build a new Ochoco Preserve for the future! Learn more: [deschuteslandtrust.org/ochoco-vision](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/ochoco-vision)**



JOHN AMERO

### VISIT OCHOCO PRESERVE!

*Join the Land Trust on a guided tour of Ochoco Preserve! The Land Trust will be embarking on a major project this year to shape the future of Ochoco Preserve! Learn more about the Preserve and the Land Trust's vision for healthy streams, flourishing native plants and wildlife, and new connections for the community.*

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



RICK DINDICS





## WILDFLOWERS OF THE OCHOCOS

May and June are prime time for wildflowers in the Ochoco Mountains! Whether it's balsamroot, lupine, paintbrush, Brown's peony, or another wildflower, take advantage of the season by heading out for a wildflower ramble soon. Here are five blooms to watch for:



LAND TRUST

**Blue stickseed (*Hackelia micrantha*):** Blue stickseed grows 12-40 inches tall. Stems are erect with lance-shaped leaves. The upper stem is branched with bright blue flowers that have a yellow or white eye. Flowers are up to 1/3 inch wide with five rounded lobes. Blue stickseed grows with aspen, on moist forested slopes, and near streambanks in the mountains.



LAND TRUST

**Leafy bluebells (*Mertensia longiflora*):** What little blue pops of color these bluebells provide! Flowers are in a tight nodding cluster at the top of stems. The blooms are one inch long and tubular with a bell-like mouth that spreads open slightly. Leafy bluebells can be bright blue, lavender, or pinkish. Stems are erect with broad leaves. Leafy bluebells grow in open places, often with sagebrush and ponderosa pines.



LAND TRUST

**Giant-head clover (*Trifolium macrocephalum*):** This native is exactly what it sounds like—a giant version of the clover you might find in your lawn or local grassy park. Flowers are egg-shaped, 1-2 1/2 inches long and expanding to 3-4 inches long as the flower ages. Giant-head clover is pink, white, or two-toned. It grows 3-8 inches tall and has 7-9 leaflets. This wildflower grows in rocky soils with juniper or shrubs.



LAND TRUST

**Tolmie's onion (*Allium tolmiei*):** A common wild onion in the Ochocos, Tolmie's onion grows 2-6 inches tall. It has an erect stem with 10-40 flowers on top. Petals are pink or white with darker pink, and have pointed tips and edges that roll inward. Leaves are thick, flat and curving, and are often twice the length of the flower's stem. Tolmie's onion grows in clay soils located in east-side forest and shrub-steppe.



LAND TRUST

**Spotted mountain bells (*Fritillaria atropurpurea*):** With subdued yet beautiful colors, spotted fritillary can be difficult to notice unless you're really looking. They are brown to greenish in color with yellow, red, or white markings. Flowers hang downward or facing outward (making them even more difficult to find). Between 1-3 blooms can be found per stalk. Stems are erect with long, narrow leaves. Spotted fritillary grows on the edges of forests near shrubs.



LAND TRUST

## VOLUNTEER!

The Land Trust has teamed up with the Crooked River Wetlands Complex to care for monarch butterfly pollinator gardens at the Wetlands. Volunteers are needed to help water and tend these new native plant gardens. Donate your time to help monarch butterflies and other pollinators thrive!

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



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