



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2022}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

OCHOCO PRESERVE PROJECT UNDERWAY

The first phase of the major Ochoco Preserve renovation is underway! This year the Land Trust is focusing on realigning McKay Creek on the Preserve to improve habitat for fish and wildlife, building a fish acclimation pond to help accustom salmon and steelhead to McKay Creek, and establishing initial locations for trails and educational sites. Since June, we have:

1. Started building a new meandering McKay Creek with side channels. Crews have been working in the westernmost portion of the Preserve since June, excavating a new floodplain and channels for McKay Creek. They started with rough cutting, filling, and grading to shape the floodplain. Now they are building the new McKay Creek channel and side channel routes with pools and habitat structures. The new channel will double McKay Creek's overall length on the Preserve to one mile.
2. Added more stream habitat. New habitat is being created by using logs and woody debris to build log jam structures, small dams that mimic beaver dams, and other wooden structures. Over time, these structures will help create a variety of habitat types for fish and wildlife: deep pools, fast flowing sections, slower ponds of water, and plenty of wood in the creek.
3. Boosted Preserve topography. Crews have been constructing new mixed topography since excavation work began. All of the fill for the raised topography along McKay Creek has come from excavation efforts. New hills and raised areas throughout the Preserve will be planted with new native plants and will boost habitat options for wildlife.

What's next? Excavation, grading, and habitat structure building will be ongoing into October. Then we will transition into decommissioning access roads and planting all the new native grasses, shrubs, and trees that will help the site recover. Learn more about the restoration and future trail connections on a guided tour, or lend a hand this fall to help plant 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**



VISIT OCHOCO PRESERVE!

Join the Land Trust on a guided tour of Ochoco Preserve! The Land Trust embarked 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



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JOAN AMERO

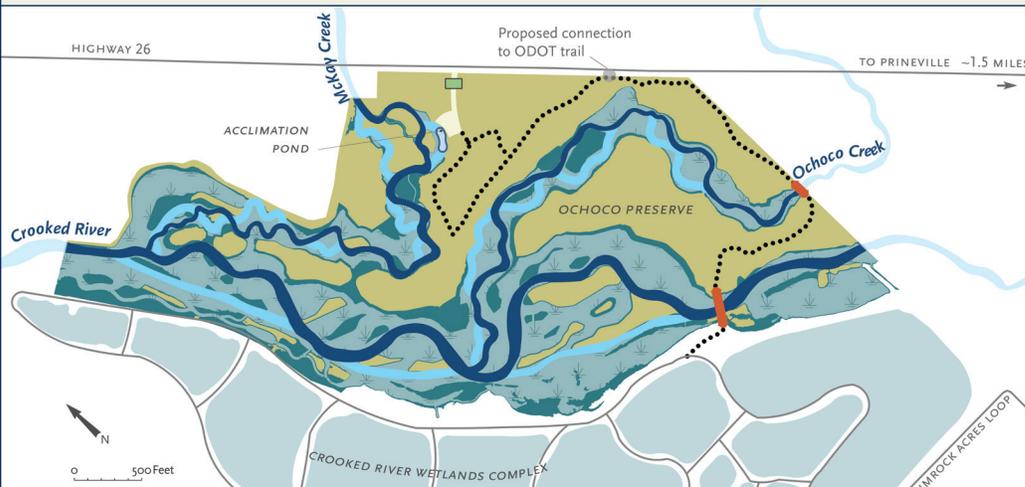
NEW COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

One of the core parts of the Ochoco Preserve Project is building new trail connections for the Prineville community. Ochoco Preserve is located just across from the amazing Crooked River Wetlands Complex which means it has significant potential for trail connections. How will we develop these trails?

First, we built trail planning into our master Ochoco Preserve Project plan. We worked with partners at the City of Prineville and Crook County Parks and Recreation to ensure our plan aligned with their master plans for the city and parks. Then, we sequenced the trail building with other Preserve renovation efforts. For example, we need to complete the initial earth moving and construction efforts around stream and floodplain restoration before we build trails and bridges.

Current plans call for a bridge over the Crooked River to connect the Preserve to the Crooked River Wetlands Complex trail system. Since the Wetlands Complex has such great visitor facilities, all parking and access to Ochoco Preserve will be from this side of the Crooked River. Another bridge will cross Ochoco Creek and lead to a new trail connection with a proposed trail along Highway 26 to be built in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Walkers, bikers, and other non-motorized users will be able to access the Preserve via this trail one day. Our hope is to develop accessible trails and educational sites at the Preserve and share the story of Ochoco Preserve and its amazing natural resources.

The Land Trust is currently working on developing funding and the necessary permits to build these trails and bridges. If we are successful, we anticipate construction of the trails and bridges in 2024 at the earliest. Stay tuned for details! **Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/ochoco-vision**



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

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210 NW IRVING AVENUE, SUITE 102, BEND, OREGON 97703

[DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG](https://deschuteslandtrust.org)

PHONE [541] 330 0017



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YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us at our fall Open House at the Crooked River Wetlands Complex on September 29, 2022 from 5-7pm! Learn more about the Land Trust's Ochoco Preserve and the current Preserve renovation. Meet Land Trust staff and pick up some free milkweed plants to help monarch butterflies!

Learn more and RSVP: deschuteslandtrust.org/prineville-open-house