



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2020}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## RIMROCK RANCH RESTORATION

*As neighbors of Whychus Canyon Preserve, you've probably heard about the work to restore Whychus Creek in the area. This year we are turning our attention to a portion of Whychus Creek that runs through Rimrock Ranch as we launch the next phase of stream restoration.*

The Land Trust conserved Rimrock Ranch in 2006. It is a privately-owned 1,120-acre ranch that is next door to our Whychus Canyon Preserve. Like other parts of Whychus Creek, the portion of creek that passes through Rimrock Ranch has been straightened and bermed to keep it in place. This in turn diminished fish and wildlife habitat in and along the creek.

Historically, Whychus Creek was a mixture of narrow canyon stretches and sections with broad, well-vegetated meadows where the creek could spill over its banks. The biological importance of these meadows was huge, especially in an arid high desert. They provided diverse stream and side channel habitats for fish to spawn, rear, and hide. Streamside vegetation provided cover for wildlife and helped maintain cool water. Nearby wetlands and oxbows were home to amphibians and songbirds. The Rimrock Ranch restoration will focus on promoting and maintaining these conditions.

We hope to begin restoration efforts mid-summer with 4-6 weeks of active construction. Crews will use heavy equipment to remove and rearrange the soil, rocks, and vegetation from the land surrounding the creek. They will also leave some islands of native trees and shrubs that will then grow and spread naturally into the future. Then, they will slowly allow the water from Whychus Creek to choose its own path through the canyon. Thousands of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers will then be planted this fall. Over time, the creek and surrounding land will evolve and begin to build healthy habitat for fish and wildlife. ➤

**Learn more about this exciting project: [deschuteslandtrust.org/wc-restoration](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/wc-restoration)**



THE PORTION OF WHYCHUS CREEK AT RIMROCK RANCH THAT WILL BE RESTORED THIS SUMMER. PHOTO: RUSS MCMILLAN.



KRIS KRISTOVICH

## BRINGING THE OUTDOORS AND NATURE TO YOU

*Are you missing the nature of Central Oregon during this time of physical isolation? Never fear, the Land Trust is here! We are working to bring the outdoors and nature to you. Check our website, join our e-newsletter, and follow us on social media for what's blooming, flying, growing, and happening in and around Central Oregon!*

**Learn more: [deschuteslandtrust.org/nature-bytes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/nature-bytes)**

## GOLDEN EAGLES SOAR ALONG WHYCHUS CREEK

*The canyons of Whychus Creek are a perfect place to bird watch, especially when you might have a chance to see your famous golden eagle neighbors!* Each year, high in the cliffs of Land Trust protected lands along Whychus Creek, golden eagles nest and hatch their young. This year marks the 11th consecutive year the eagles have nested at Aspen Hollow Preserve, and the first year since 2014 that a pair have nested at Rimrock Ranch.

Golden eagles are one of the largest birds in North America. They are dark brown in color with golden-brown plumage on their heads and necks. Females are larger than males, with a wingspan of 6-8 feet. Golden eagles feed on small to mid-size reptiles, birds, and mammals, and will also scavenge. When diving after prey, golden eagles can reach speeds of 150-200 miles per hour!

Golden eagles nest predominately on cliffs and the tops of trees. Their nests are huge: 3-10 feet tall and 3 feet wide, weighing hundreds of pounds. They generally lay two eggs that are incubated by both parents, hatch in late March/early April, and fledge or leave the nest in early- to mid-June. Between hatching and fledging, golden eaglets depend on their parents entirely for food.

Nesting golden eagles are very sensitive to disturbance. This, combined with limited habitat availability, means that Land Trust conserved lands are increasingly important places for golden eagles to nest undisturbed. That's also why the Land Trust carefully monitors nests and avoids any activity at our Preserves during nesting season. The good news is that it's easy to safely watch them from a distance when they are soaring and hunting for food along Whychus Creek or via [goldeneaglecam.org](http://goldeneaglecam.org)! Both are guaranteed to delight! —

Learn more about golden eagles: [deschuteslandtrust.org/golden-eagles](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/golden-eagles)



JOAN AMERO



GARY MILLER

**THIS YEAR THE LAND TRUST  
CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION!  
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### VOLUNTEER FOR THE LAND!

*Once the stay home order is lifted, we hope you'll consider volunteering for the land! As the saying goes, many hands make light work and we have lots of projects where we could use a hand! Plantings, weed pulling, fence removal, envelope stuffing —there are lots of ways to help conserve and care for the land.*

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