



# Landscapes

KRIS KRISTOVICH

*The Deschutes Land Trust works cooperatively with landowners to conserve land for wildlife, scenic views, and local communities.*

THE NEWSLETTER OF DESCHUTES LAND TRUST { VOL 20, SPRING 2016 }

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**DESCHUTES  
LAND  
TRUST**



## VOICES FOR WHYCHUS CREEK

GARY MILLER

Launched in the fall of 2014, the Campaign for Whychus Creek is the Land Trust's Campaign to finish conserving wildlife habitat along Whychus Creek, ensure the permanent care of those lands, and engage the community in their stewardship.

In the first year of the Campaign, the Land Trust protected two new parcels of land along Whychus Creek while caring for the 1,700 acres of previously conserved lands along the Creek. We also welcomed hundreds of individuals and families to the Campaign as donors, volunteers, and advocates. One such supporter is Mary Alice Willson.

"I first joined the Land Trust back in 1996. I really believe in the Land Trust concept of purchasing land or using a land preservation agreement to conserve sensitive lands. It is those lands that are particularly at a risk of being lost without prompt action.

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is my favorite Land Trust project. I love the idea of restoring the historic stream channel and remember the big day when the water returned to the meadow. I was lucky enough to be there photographing the project—it was very exciting!

The Land Trust is far ahead of where I might have envisioned the organization 20 years ago. Their work on Whychus Creek, for instance, has been amazing. That's why I chose to get involved with their Campaign for Whychus Creek. I gave a Campaign gift in addition to my annual gift during the first year of the Campaign, and I hope to continue for the next two years of the Campaign. Whychus Creek is important to me as a Central Oregonian for the natural wonders I get to enjoy and for the home that it provides wildlife." —

MA Willson has been a Land Trust supporter and volunteer since 1996. She lives in the Bend area and is an active hiker, skier, and photographer.

Whychus Creek IS Central Oregon. Help us make this unique resource an ecological and social centerpiece of our community now and for generations to come.



## BUTTERFLIES OF SUMMER

A butterfly flitting about in a meadow or forest is a sure sign of summer in Central Oregon. The longer, warmer days bring these colorful creatures out in the meadows of Camp Polk, the woodlands of the Metolius Preserve, and the juniper covered slopes of Whychus Canyon Preserve. Here are a few to watch for this spring:

### Dark wood nymph, *Cercyonis oetus*:

This smaller species (<1.75") displays yellow-ringed eyespots on its wing, a bright contrast to its blackish or dark brown color. Look for them in July in the grasses of deserts, canyons, mountain meadows, and marshes. They enjoy the nectar of mock orange, rabbitbrush, yarrow, and others.



DARK WOOD NYMPH

JOHN WILLIAMS

### Anna's blue, *Lycaeides anna ricei*

(<1.25"): Little blue butterflies are common sightings. To identify them, check the undersides of their wings for defining spots. Female "blues" are often brownish-copper colored, and males a cool, grainy blue color. "Blues" often gather on damp soil (a behavior called "puddling") to sip on salts and minerals.



ANNA'S BLUE

JOHN WILLIAMS

### Pale tiger swallowtail, *Papilio eurymedon*:

Look for this larger (>3") butterfly starting mid-April in open woodlands like the Metolius Preserve. Their large black and white stripes and tail spots of reddish-orange help identify them. Adults nectar on penstemon, phlox, chokecherry and others, and can also be found along streams and in canyons.



PALE TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

STEVE PEDERSEN

### Pine white, *Neophasia menapia*:

An elusive and small (<2") butterfly, the pine white loves mid-elevation forests. In the late summer, look for them in the morning or evening, drinking the nectar of yarrow, pearly everlasting, daisies, and thistles. At mid-day, they're seen in treetops, where they lay their eggs.



PINE WHITE

LAND TRUST

### Great spangled fritillary, *Speyeria cybele*

(<3"): Though not as common, this fritillary is the largest of the species and most distinctive. Find them soaring along a creek or cruising the edges of forests and meadows in July. Males in our region display a fiery orange back and females a lovely dark chocolate.



GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY

SUE ANDERSON

You can find these and other butterflies at your Land Trust Preserves! Learn more: [deschuteslandtrust.org/butters](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/butters)



# THE NEXT WHYCHUS CREEK RESTORATION

*This summer the bulldozers and planting crews will return to a Land Trust Preserve on Whychus Creek. This is a visible reminder that sometimes nature needs a little help to get back on her feet. This time our efforts will be focused on Whychus Canyon Preserve and the start of an ambitious six-mile, multi-year Whychus Creek restoration project.*

## Why restore Whychus Creek?

The 930-acre Whychus Canyon Preserve protects four miles of Whychus Creek. Like other long stretches of this creek, the portion that passes through the Preserve has been straightened, pushed to the far edge of its valley floor, 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 stretches with broad, level meadows where the creek could spill over its banks. The biological importance of these large meadows was huge, especially considering all the arid land surrounding them. They provided diverse stream and side-channel habitat for fish, robust streamside vegetation for wildlife cover, and wetlands for amphibians and songbirds.

Only a small portion of the total length of the creek can provide this critical meadow habitat. Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is one of these special sections, and the meadows at Whychus Canyon Preserve and Rimrock Ranch are another. Our goal in restoring the creek through

these valuable stretches is to return the creek to its historic, biologically diverse condition.

## How will the restoration happen?

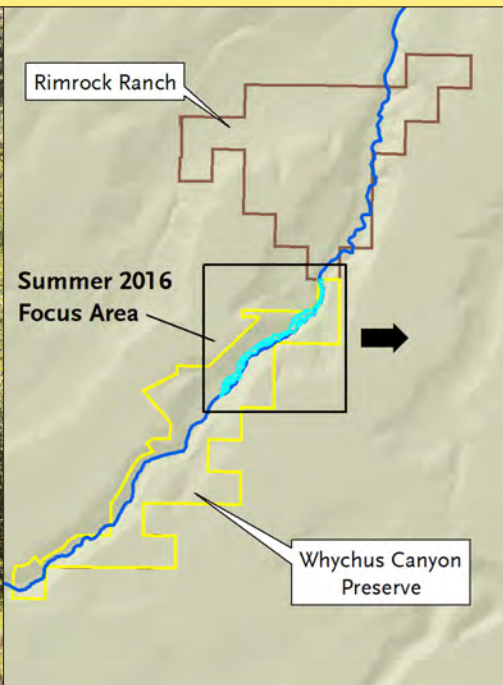
Given the size and scale of the restoration, work will occur in phases over multiple years. This first phase will focus on approximately 1.5 miles of Whychus Creek in the northernmost part of Whychus Canyon Preserve.

Much of the work will be similar to the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve restoration. Crews will remove berms that are holding the stream in its current straight alignment, they will carve out soil in some areas and fill it in in others to promote the free movement of water. Large woody debris (like whole trees) will be added to create complex habitat for fish and wildlife. Then, native trees, shrubs, and grasses will be planted and seeded to provide stream shade, bank and floodplain stability, and habitat for wildlife.

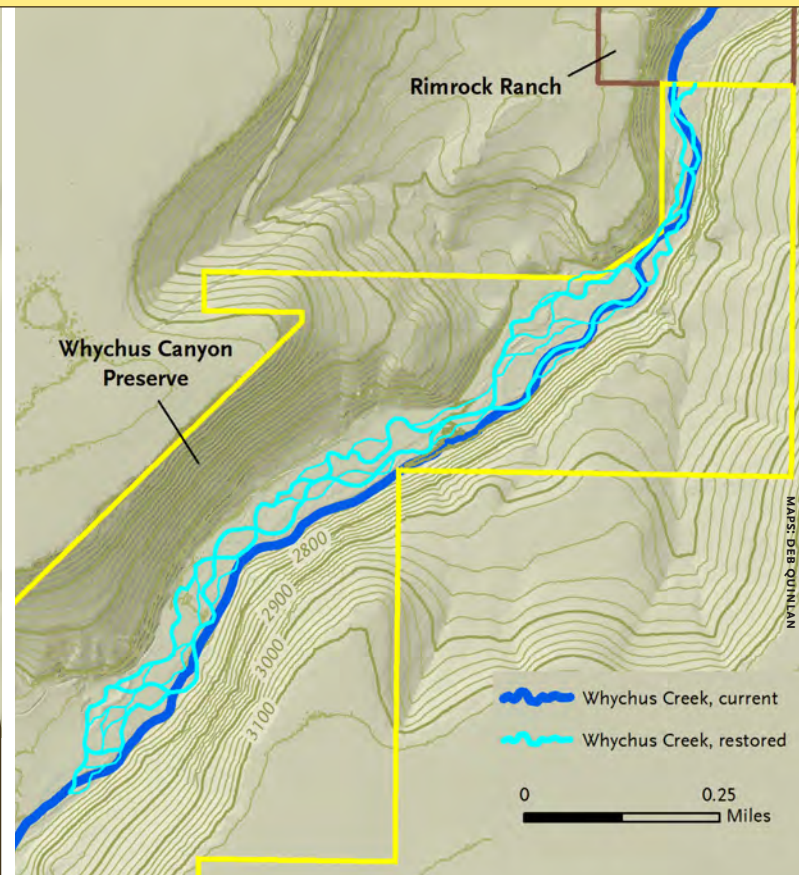
One element that will be different from the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve restoration is the planned braided stream channel design. At Camp Polk Meadow, one main restoration channel was carved with several miles of side channels. At Whychus Canyon, we'll carve multiple channels, many of them following old pathways where water once flowed and where mature vegetation still stands. This multiple-channel approach will provide a great deal of habitat diversity across the meadow.

TILER ROEMER

## > 6 MILE RESTORATION AREA



## > SUMMER 2016 FOCUS AREA



**Who is doing the restoration?** The Land Trust has partnered with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the Deschutes National Forest on this project. **Learn more:** Join restoration tours this spring, summer, or fall, and find lots more details online: [deschuteslandtrust.org/restoration](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/restoration)



## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF RIMROCK RANCH

*Back in 2006, the Land Trust proudly announced the conservation of a beautiful piece of land on Whychus Creek called Rimrock Ranch. Its owners, Bob and Gayle Baker, had just signed an agreement with the Land Trust to protect their land forever.*

*"I remember that day," said Gayle Baker. "It was so wonderful to finally know that our place would be protected forever."*

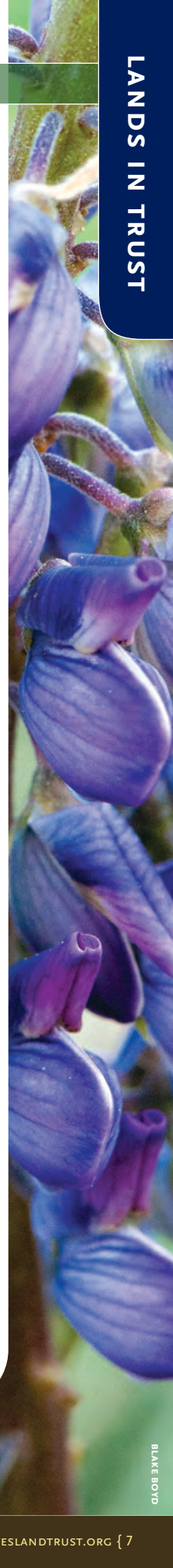
Today Rimrock remains conserved with the Land Trust and carefully cared for by its owner, Gayle Baker. But there is a part of the original vision for the ranch that is only just now coming to fruition.

"Bob and I always wanted Rimrock to eventually be owned by the Land Trust. We signed the conservation easement with the Land Trust in 2006 as the first step in that process. Now we've taken the next step by signing an agreement that gives the Land Trust the ability to one day own Rimrock," said Gayle Baker.

Rimrock Ranch is connected on its southern edge to the Land Trust's Whychus Canyon Preserve. The ranch's 1,250 acres are similar to the Preserve with rimrock canyons, pine forests, and 1.5 miles of Whychus Creek. It is prime habitat for salmon and steelhead, deer and cougars, and songbirds and golden eagles.

The Land Trust's eventual ownership of Rimrock will mean a more holistic approach to conservation for the entire creek corridor. The Whychus Creek restoration is a great example. This exciting new project will be implemented along the entire six-mile creek corridor, taking into account how one stretch affects the next. It's all about restoring the creek and its surrounding meadows so wildlife can connect and move between habitats more effectively. It's also about providing the habitat diversity that wildlife will need to adapt to our changing climate.

"Rimrock is an extraordinary place—one that I will always cherish. When the time comes for the Land Trust to purchase Rimrock, I know they will continue to cherish it, and care for it forever," said Gayle. "Let's help them get there by joining their Campaign for Whychus Creek. Together we can conserve and care for Rimrock and other important lands on Whychus Creek forever." —





# Check out our 2016 Walks + Hikes at [deschuteslandtrust.org](http://deschuteslandtrust.org) !

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JAY MATHER



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