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BRUCE JACKSON



**DESCHUTES  
LAND  
TRUST**

*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 24, SPRING 2020 }

## WHOSE LAND ARE WE ON?

TYLER ROEMER

*For the past 25 years, the Land Trust has worked to conserve land for wildlife, scenic views, and for our community.* Day in and day out we work to protect, care for, and share the land we call home. We also carry a deep concern for the future of these lands and envision them cared for and protected for generations to come. It's important to understand we can't do this work on our own, and, in fact, we take great inspiration from our partners, particularly those who've come before us. Foremost among our partners is the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

It's likely Central Oregon has seen human habitation for nearly 14,000 years. Native peoples in this region include the Wasco, Tenino, Tyighs, Wyams, and the John Day. These tribes and bands built villages along the lower Deschutes and on the Columbia River, near its confluence with the Deschutes. To a great extent, their lives were tied to the seasonal salmon and steelhead runs of the two rivers. Southern portions of Central Oregon (primarily south of Bend) likely saw seasonal usage by the lower river tribes, along with traveling bands of Northern Paiute, Klamath, Modoc, and Mollala.

While 25 years of conservation is a real achievement, it pales in comparison to the tenure of the region's native people. It's also clear we've not done nearly enough to acknowledge the long-term leadership that indigenous people have provided in terms of land and natural resource conservation. Consequently, the Land Trust is working to better understand the history of the people who came before us, of the land before colonization, of how we came to our current place of power and privilege, of tribal sovereignty and reserved treaty rights, as well as the difficult and unappreciated sacrifices that area tribes have made to protect the land.

Over the last 25 years, our work has drawn heavily from the dream of restoring healthy, wild runs of salmon and steelhead to this arid place we call home. It's a dream that originated with and has been led by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. It's a dream for which the Tribes have heavily sacrificed, despite the endless hardships and impediments our culture has thrown and continues to throw at them. Yet, don't think of this as simply a dream about fish, important as they may be to indigenous cultures or even to recreational fishers. Instead, understand this as a dream of healthy land and water, generations connected to place, and a culture of stewardship. It's a dream shaped by people whose tenure is measured in millennia and one we'd all do well to learn from.

We've much to acknowledge and learn if we aspire to another 14,000 years of habitation here in the Central Oregon. Issues of racism, oppression, and privilege won't be easily reconciled. Yet, I hope by finding shared values and working together with humility, we'll find our path forward. —

**Brad Chalfant**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MEET ASPEN VALLEY RANCH



*The Land Trust is very pleased to introduce our newest project: Aspen Valley Ranch!*

We worked with rancher Jim Wood and his family to create a land preservation agreement that will protect 3,748 acres of high-quality wildlife habitat and agricultural land forever.

Located on lands traditionally used by the Northern Paiute, Aspen Valley Ranch is an 18,000-acre working cattle ranch near Post, OR. Its vast acreage stretches from the Ochoco Mountains, south across the Post-Paulina Valley and the Crooked River, up into the Maury Mountains. The land preservation agreement protects 3,748 acres of the larger 18,000-acre ranch.

The newly conserved property features large rolling hills with native grasslands and juniper trees. It protects significant elk and mule deer and winter range, pronghorn antelope habitat, and outstanding scenic views. A section of Pine Stub Creek and the high ridges that drain into Horse Heaven Creek are also a part of the property. This diversity of natural features combined with the property's connection to surrounding undeveloped lands means it is, and will continue to be, a critical refuge in the face of a changing climate.

The Post-Paulina Valley itself is made up of large, contiguous ranches, like Aspen Valley Ranch, lending it a rural cultural and economic character. Many of the ranches have been in the families for generations, but this bucolic picture is changing. Crook County is one of the fastest growing counties in the Oregon, and this growth pressure, coupled with generational ownership transitions, is threatening to break up ranches in the Post-Paulina Valley. The Land Trust's conservation of Aspen Valley Ranch helps ease the growth pressure Jim, his family, and his neighbors have faced for decades.

Going forward, the Land Trust will continue to work with Jim Wood and his family to graze sustainably, protect wildlife habitat, and promote connectivity with adjacent lands. Since the ranch will continue to be privately owned, it will not be accessible to the public. The Wood family has agreed, however, to allow the Land Trust to use the property for education and for wildlife enhancement projects. The Land Trust and the Wood family will continue to work together to conserve the rest of the ranch in the future. —

# 25



## YEARS OF CONSERVATION

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Deschutes Land Trust! Together we've ensured Central Oregon's meadows, forests, and canyons—all critical for wildlife and people—are protected forever.



### BY THE NUMBERS



**12,863**

Total acres conserved.

**9**

Community Preserves established.

**7**

Private properties conserved.



**286,757**

Native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees planted.

**91,650**

Birds observed at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.

**1,000**

Acres of juniper and pine forest restored.



**98,459**

Volunteer hours contributed.

**10,000**

People explored our protected lands.

**100+**

Partnerships built to be more effective in our work.

JAN MATHER

*Climate change is the conservation challenge of our era.*

Since 2017, the Land Trust has worked to account for and respond to the impact of climate change in Central Oregon through our Climate Change Strategy.

When you start diving into the topic of climate change, you'll undoubtedly find it jargon-riddled and full of confusing terms. The Land Trust is here to help! Our new blog series, *Cool Words for Hot Times*, is aimed at helping unpack some of the terms climate scientists use regularly. Visit our website to read these blog posts:

- **Resilience:** What does resilience mean in relation to climate change? The dictionary includes a couple of different definitions and it seems people use it however they see fit. Check out this blog post to better understand this often overused term.
- **Connectivity:** As climate change intensifies, most plants and animals will need to shift where they live, even beyond their normal range. Connectivity is one way of understanding how and where species might move as their habitats change. It also allows us to identify how we can use conservation to facilitate this movement. Learn more via our connectivity blog post!
- **Indicator Species:** Scientists and researchers look to certain animals to predict what the climate is doing to a certain region. How are these animals selected? What are our Central Oregon indicator species? Read more on our indicator species blog post!
- **Ecosystem Services:** We all enjoy spending time in nature, but have you ever thought about everything that nature does for us, all of the time? Ecosystem services include everything from clean air and water to the cultural value we place on natural spaces. Learn more about these crucial services on our blog!

And there is much more! Follow the link below for all the blog posts above and many other climate change related topics. ➤

*Planting native plants helps strengthen natural areas in the face of a changing climate. Photo: Jay Mather.*



JAY MATHER

JAY MATHER

JOAN AMERO

*The start of spring brings many things—warmer days, fresh green salads, and gardening.* As you prepare for gardening season, why not add some native, pollinator-friendly plants to your yard or balcony? Pollinators like butterflies and bees are struggling, and we can all help provide nourishing food. So visit a native plant nursery, look for pesticide-free plants, and then start your pollinator garden with these favorites:

**Wax currant (*Ribes cereum*):** An early spring blooming shrub that grows up to six feet tall, wax currant has white/pale pink flowers that hang in clusters at the tips of branches. It attracts a large number of native bees as well as hummingbirds. Wax currant enjoys full sun in dry to moist well-drained soil and is not tolerant of shade.



KRIS KRSTOVICH

**Lewis' flax (*Linum lewisii*):** This spring blooming blue-purple flower is a showstopper! Flax forms a mound of densely clustered, thin stems that grow 8-24 inches tall. Lewis' flax prefers sun and moist to dry, sandy or rocky soil. It makes an excellent choice for rocky gardens and containers. They will self-sow once established. Lewis' flax attracts butterflies and bees.



JOAN AMERO

**Showy Townsend daisy (*Townsendia florifera*):** Pollinators love the summer blooming showy Townsend daisy! Bees, butterflies, and other insects love this daisy. Plants have 18-30 pink, pale lavender, or white ray flowers. The stems are leafy and grow 2-8 inches. They enjoy full sun and are drought tolerant.



LAND TRUST

**Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*):** This native milkweed has showy rose-purple flowers in late summer. Leaves are widely oblong with the plant growing 18-50 inches tall. Milkweed likes sun and can handle less water. It grows via rhizomes, so be careful because it will spread! Milkweed attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, and native bees.



DARLENE ASHLEY

**Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*):** A 2-5 foot tall plant topped with a large club-shaped cluster of yellow flower heads that blooms in early fall. Goldenrod spreads via rhizomes, so plant carefully! It likes full to part shade, medium water, and tolerates a variety of soil types. Goldenrod provides nectar for bees, monarchs, hummingbirds, and other insects.



JAY MATHER

# Deschutes Land Trust

*Celebrating 25 years of conserving land for wildlife, scenic views, and local communities!*



DER QUINLAN



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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