



CREG BURKE

Welcome to the Land Trust's new look!

Nearly 18 months ago, the Land Trust recognized that pursuing large, complex and time consuming land conservation projects would require a significant expansion of our capacity. To address this, we undertook a comprehensive planning process that included a strategic look at our outreach efforts. Our goal is to be more effective at protecting land by engaging a wider audience in our work. Recommendations from our grant-funded outreach plan included simplifying our name to Deschutes Land Trust and updating our materials to reflect more clearly our work conserving land in Central Oregon. The work we do—and have been doing for 13 years—has not changed: We conserve and protect land for wildlife, scenic views and local communities.

Our new logo features a Western juniper: a tough, tenacious tree. Like the Western juniper, the Land Trust is native to this region and has developed deep roots in the community. Like the long-lived juniper, we're here for the long-haul to ensure that land in Central Oregon is conserved for today and for future generations.

Enjoy this revised edition of our newsletter! We'd appreciate any feedback you might have on our new initiative.

BRAD CHALFANT

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

landscapes

THE NEWSLETTER OF DESCHUTES LAND TRUST { VOLUME TWELVE NO. 1 }



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DESCHUTES LAND TRUST

P. 541} 330 0017

F. 541} 330 0018

210 NW IRVING AVENUE
SUITE 102
BEND, OREGON 97701
DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG

ACCREDITATION

ENSURING SOUND TRANSACTIONS

Ensuring Sound Transactions is one of twelve Standards and Practices that guides the Land Trust's work. Developed by the national land trust organization, the Land Trust Alliance, the Standards and Practices cover every aspect of Land Trust work—from corporate governance to land stewardship—and provide general operating guidelines with specific practice requirements. The Deschutes Land Trust formally adopted the Standards shortly after our founding, and we now have an opportunity to become one of the first land trusts to earn the official Accreditation Seal.

The Accreditation process is rigorous and will set a performance threshold that many land trusts will not meet. An independent Accreditation Commission will examine among other things, how a land trust manages its finances, whether it has sufficient capacity to meet potential stewardship obligations, and whether it takes active steps to avoid and resolve conflicts of interest.

Although we believe we're well-prepared for the accreditation process, every member of our staff will spend a significant portion of their time over the next few months preparing for the application and evaluation. It's a big commitment, but that commitment will greatly strengthen our organization and our ability to conserve land in Central Oregon.

SKYLINE UPDATE

WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS

Speaking of large-scale conservation, many are curious about the status of our effort to conserve the 33,000 acre Skyline Forest. As you know, the owner of the property—Fidelity National Title Insurance Company—has proposed to develop a portion of the property and donate the remaining 28,000 acres to the Land Trust for use as a Community Forest. Since the time of that proposal, there has been relatively little public activity on the project, but both the Land Trust and Fidelity have been busy pursuing their respective goals for the property. The Land Trust is continuing to build its capacity to conserve and manage Skyline Forest; Fidelity is continuing to refine its development proposal.

Fidelity understands that its proposal will move forward only if our local community supports it. Because the proposal raises numerous complex issues, including protection of wildlife habitat, mitigation of traffic impacts, and protection of scenic views, weighing the pros and cons may prove challenging. To help local citizens make informed decisions about the proposal, Fidelity is developing a plan for an independent, community-based evaluation of the proposal's likely impacts and benefits. Though the exact time frame for this evaluation hasn't been determined, Fidelity will probably initiate the process within the next few months. The Land Trust hopes this evaluation process will give the community the information it needs to engage in an informed discussion about the future of Skyline Forest. Thanks for your support of our efforts to this point, and stay tuned as we continue to work with the landowner and the community to conserve this important property.

FOR UPDATES ON SKYLINE AND OTHER LAND TRUST PROJECTS, VISIT: WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG



AS PART OF THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS, THE LAND TRUST WILL SOON BE EXAMINED AS CLOSELY AS THIS LUPINE AT CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE. PHOTO: CHIP BELDEN.

ROCK OUTCROPPINGS AND PONDEROSA PINE IN SKYLINE FOREST. PHOTO: BYRON DUDLEY.

WALKS + WORK PARTIES

ENJOY PROTECTED LANDS

Join the Land Trust this spring or summer for a walk or work party. From birds, to geology, to painting outdoors, there's a little something for everyone.

April 18, 9am-4pm with Travis Thornton and Brad Nye
Hike to one of the first places the Land Trust helped protect and learn about its natural history. This is a strenuous 8 mile hike with a stream crossing.

April 19, 8:30-11:30am with Norma Funai and Steve McMasters
Celebrate Earth Day with a spring bird walk around this conserved private ranch.

April 19, 9:30am-12pm

April 25, 8:30-11:00am with Norma Funai
Learn the basics of birding while exploring one of Central Oregon's birding hot spots. Non-beginners welcome!

April 25, 9:30am-12pm

April 26, 9-11:30am with Nicole Nielsen-Pincus
Explore the habits and habitats of woodpeckers at the Metolius Preserve.

WALKS. Meant for all ages at a slower pace to learn and observe.

HIKES. A hearty adventure and mild workout at distances of 3-4 miles.

WORK PARTY. Help restore or care for protected Land Trust properties.*



BIRDING AT RIMROCK RANCH. PHOTO: LISA BAGWELL. BACKGROUND PHOTO: ANDREW MOWRY. TOP RIGHT PHOTO: BOB WOODWARD.

MAY

RIMROCK RANCH HIKE

May 1, 8:30am-12pm with Mary Crow
Explore the natural history of this conserved ranch on a challenging 4 mile hike.

BIRD WALK—INDIAN FORD MEADOW

May 3, 8:30-10:30am with Norma Funai
Explore the meadow and creek bottom in search of warblers, rails, and other feathered friends.

NATURAL HISTORY WALK—CAMP POLK MEADOW

May 3, 9-11am with Joyce Padgham
Explore this historic meadow's natural history and restoration future.

RESTORATION TOUR—CAMP POLK MEADOW

May 6, 10am-12pm with Amanda Egertson and Ryan Houston
Learn about plans for restoring Whychus Creek and how it will improve habitat for wildlife.

NATURAL HISTORY WALK—METOLIUS PRESERVE

May 10, 1-3pm with Rod Bonacker and Maret Pajutee
Plants, fish, forest and fire ecology: Get to know the entire Metolius Preserve ecosystem better with these local experts.

BIRDING BY SIGHT AND SOUND—CAMP POLK MEADOW

May 16, 7-11am with Steve Dougill of East Cascade Bird Conservancy
Learn identification clues for breeding and migrant birds by habitat, sight, and song.

BIRD WALK—CAMP POLK MEADOW

May 17, 8:30-10:30am with Steve McMasters and Norma Funai
Bird your way around the meadow and wetlands of one of Central Oregon's bird hot spots.

BIRD WALK—RIMROCK RANCH

May 24, 8:00-11:00am with Norma Funai and Steve McMasters
Explore Whychus canyon and the unique bird habitats of this conserved ranch.

BIRD CONSERVATION DAY—CAMP POLK MEADOW

May 31, 8:00am-12pm with East Cascade Bird Conservancy
Bird in the morning and then help improve habitat for our feathered friends.

JUNE

*INDIAN FORD MEADOW

ASPEN FENCING AND POTLUCK*

June 7, 9:30am-12pm
Help fence our restored aspen stand and then stay for a potluck. Or, just come for the potluck at noon. Celebrate the restoration of Indian Ford's aspens!

WILDLIFE WALK—CAMP POLK MEADOW

June 7, 8:30-10:30am with Jim Anderson and Tom Rodhouse
Join local knowledgeable naturalists to explore the wild side of this meadow.

FOOTZONE DIRTY HALF TRAIL RUN

June 8th, 8:00am
Run the race or volunteer to help with this fun Land Trust benefit.

PLANT WALK—METOLIUS PRESERVE

June 14, 10am-1pm with Paul Edgerton
Catch the summer wildflowers and learn other forest ecology on this guided walk.

PLEIN AIR PAINTING—

RIMROCK RANCH

June 20, 10am-3pm with Norma Holmes
Observe artist Norma Holmes as she demonstrates her pastel technique while painting directly from nature. Then, set up your easel and try your hand at painting in plein air. (Bring your own supplies, list provided.)

FAMILY BIRDING—

CAMP POLK MEADOW

June 21, 8:30-11:30am with Norma Funai
Children and parents will learn about birds on a tour designed especially for families.

BUTTERFLY WALK—

METOLIUS PRESERVE

June 27, 12:00-2:00pm with Amanda Egertson
Learn about the ecology and identification of all things fluttery.

***Indicates work parties. Come out and help care for protected lands.**

All walks and hikes are free, however; registration is required. Please call (541) 330-0017 to register. Visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org to learn more.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS

CARING FOR THE LAND FOREVER



THIS SUMMER, WE WILL REPLACE THIS CULVERT AT THE METOLIUS PRESERVE TO IMPROVE FISH HABITAT. PHOTO: STAFF.

In the past 13 years, the Land Trust has protected more than 7,200 acres in Central Oregon. Some is land we own and manage as wildlife preserves—our Community Preserves. Some is privately owned but protected through land preservation agreements. Regardless of the type of land protected, the Land Trust is entrusted with caring for these lands in perpetuity. This winter and spring we've been busy monitoring and restoring properties protected years ago.

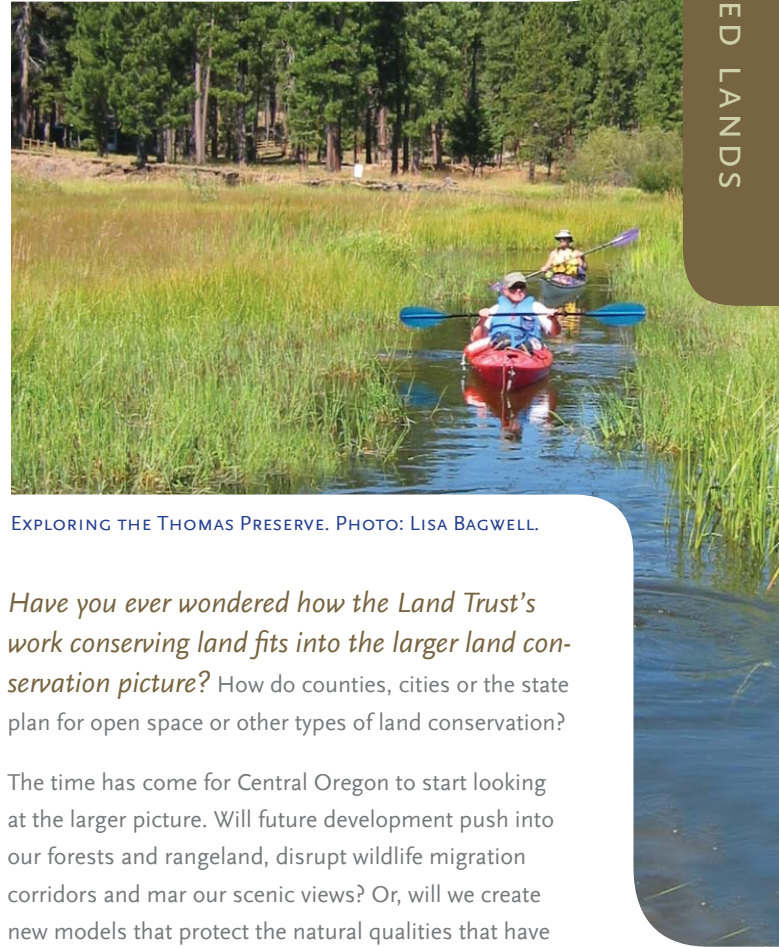
The 3,045 acre Hopkins-Young Special Management Area is a working forest near Crescent, OR. The Land Trust monitors the ecological condition of this property yearly, and this winter we worked with the owners on a timber harvesting plan. The owners are now thinning small lodgepole and ponderosa pine on 950 acres of the forest to improve forest health. The Land Trust's monitoring of thinning activities ensures the terms of the original land protection agreement are met.

At Indian Ford Meadow Preserve, we've begun restoring an aspen grove by thinning encroaching juniper and ponderosa pine. Aspen groves provide unique wildlife habitat and are limited in their range, so the Preserve's management plan calls for protection of these trees. We completed thinning in early March and we'll hold a work party in June to fence off the aspen grove to prevent deer from browsing new aspen sprouts.

At the Metolius Preserve, our restoration work this summer includes removing a culvert on Lake Creek. This will provide better fish passage and help restore the creek to more natural conditions. Since the culvert was part of the Becky Johnson Nature Trail loop, a pedestrian bridge will eventually be constructed in its place in order to maintain the loop.

LOCAL CONSERVATION

SEEING THE LARGER PICTURE



EXPLORING THE THOMAS PRESERVE. PHOTO: LISA BAGWELL.

Have you ever wondered how the Land Trust's work conserving land fits into the larger land conservation picture? How do counties, cities or the state plan for open space or other types of land conservation?

The time has come for Central Oregon to start looking at the larger picture. Will future development push into our forests and rangeland, disrupt wildlife migration corridors and mar our scenic views? Or, will we create new models that protect the natural qualities that have attracted so many?

Taking a cue from the local Bend 2030 Vision project, the Land Trust has committed to working with the community and conservation partners, like the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), to identify community priorities for land conservation. We hope to determine now the lands needed for wildlife habitat, open space, and scenic enjoyment and begin developing new approaches for their conservation. While the Land Trust's conservation efforts have always been based on protecting these types of priority lands, we believe a broader, more collaborative and coordinated effort is needed.

Though this initiative is still in its earliest stages, we're encouraged by the interest expressed by local governments, the technical expertise offered by the Trust for Public Lands, and the positive feedback we've heard from the community. Stay tuned for more on this emerging process.



In this issue

CURRENT PROJECTS

SKYLINE FOREST UPDATE

WALKS & WORK PARTIES

RESTORATION & STEWARDSHIP

LONG TERM COMMITMENTS

PROTECTED LANDS

SEEING THE LARGER PICTURE

JW VISUALS



210 NW IRVING AVENUE, SUITE 102, BEND, OREGON 97701
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