

OUR MISSION

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



Partnering for Skyline

The Deschutes Land Trust's quest to conserve Skyline Forest continues with discussions currently including the State of Oregon. Though you may have been surprised by the State's involvement, the Land Trust actually approached the State several years ago to encourage a partnership to protect the timberlands formerly owned by Crown Pacific. From the start, the Land Trust was concerned about the future of all the timberlands, but at nearly 270,000 acres in several tracts (Gilchrist, Mazama, and Skyline), the Land Trust knew it needed to prioritize its efforts and obtain the participation of others.

With the Land Trust's primary focus on Skyline Forest, we approached the State about their possible interest in the Gilchrist Tree Farm. At the same time, we encouraged the new owner, Fidelity National Financial, to work with the State on a deal for Gilchrist and directly with the Klamath Tribes on the Mazama Tree Farm.

The conversion of private timberlands to residential use is a national trend with more than 1,000,000 acres of forest being lost every year. Fortunately, several state agencies understand the growing threat. Since the landowner is obligated to seek a return on investment, it's unlikely that we and our partners can conserve every acre. However, we're hopeful that together we can protect the vast majority of these timberlands and avoid a slow break up of these forests. With more work ahead, stay tuned!

BRAD CHALFANT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scapes

THE NEWSLETTER OF DESCHUTES LAND TRUST { VOLUME TWELVE NO. 2 }



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CHANGING THE GUARD**FAREWELL AND WELCOME**

This fall brings big changes to the Land Trust's Board of Directors. Mollie Chaudet, Judy Clinton, and Kit Korish will term-limit off the Board after eight years of service.

Amongst their many contributions, Mollie lent her expertise in natural resources to improve our conservation projects. Judy designed the Metolius Preserve's South Fork kiosk and led recent Board development work. Kit served as treasurer and was an invaluable part of the Metolius Preserve campaign. Having invested so much of themselves in this work, you can bet we'll be finding new rules for such committed individuals.

While we'll miss Mollie, Judy, and Kit, we are pleased to welcome two new Board members. Larry Weinberg is retired from Boeing and has experience as an attorney and a mathematics professor. Lauri Powers, an educator for 18 years, helped start the Westside Village Magnet School and is currently beginning a new career as an autism consultant. Welcome Larry and Lauri!

We also extend a warm welcome to the Land Trust's new development director, Nancy Hoover. Nancy's professional experience includes development work with arts and education nonprofits. She enjoys the outdoors and nearby family. Read more about Nancy, Lauri and Larry at WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG

CULVERT BE GONE**PARTNERSHIPS RESTORE LAKE CREEK**

The path that Lake Creek carves through the Metolius Preserve is unmistakable. A verdant community of vine maple, sedges, dogwood and alder marks the way—shading the creek, cooling the water, and providing habitat for native fish.

The Land Trust's Metolius Preserve was originally protected five years ago in large part because of Lake Creek. With habitat for native redband trout, threatened bull trout, and now returning spring Chinook, the creek provides some of the best spawning and rearing grounds in the Metolius basin. After an exciting winter that saw the reintroduction of Chinook fry into the Preserve's Lake Creek, the Land Trust has partnered with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council to remove a large culvert on Lake Creek near the Preserve's South Fork kiosk.

As we reported last spring, the existing culvert is a barrier to juvenile fish passage and has caused excessive channel widening and erosion. We are currently in the process of removing the culvert and its associated road, and, as the fall progresses, native vegetation will be planted in the restoration area.

This project has been a true community effort. The U.S. Forest Service gave us permission to remove the culvert from a road upon which they have a permanent easement. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Pelton Round Butte Mitigation Fund, and Trout Unlimited provided funding. And, we are very thankful for the numerous volunteers who will be assisting us with the extensive native streamside plantings in October.

FOR UPDATES ON THE CULVERT REMOVAL AND OTHER LAND TRUST PROJECTS, VISIT: WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG



NEW BOARD MEMBERS LARRY WEINBERG AND LAURI POWERS. NEW STAFF MEMBER NANCY HOOVER.

CHINOOK FRY LIKE THESE WILL SOON FIND BETTER HABITAT IN LAKE CREEK AT THE METOLIUS PRESERVE. PHOTO: JAY MATHER.

BY DARIN STRINGER

FATAL ATTRACTION

BEETLES AND THE METOLIUS PRESERVE



Pygmy nuthatches are one of the many species that benefit from the snags at the Metolius Preserve. Photo: Dan Casey.

Luring bark beetles to attack and kill pine trees may sound counterintuitive to good forest management. However, as scientists are learning, these bugs can play a positive role in the forest. At the Deschutes Land Trust's Metolius Preserve, experiments using these beetles to selectively kill targeted trees to improve wildlife habitat has shown excellent results to date.

Mountain pine beetles (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) kill trees by girdling the cambium (inner bark) of the tree, thus preventing sugar flow to the roots. In dense lodgepole pine forests (like those near Mt. Bachelor), these beetles can periodically erupt into large epidemics that can kill entire stands of trees. In second growth ponderosa pine forests (like the Metolius Preserve), these beetles more typically kill individual or small groups of trees. The resulting snags (dead standing trees) are important habitat features for woodpeckers and a host of secondary cavity nesters (species such as bats, owls, squirrels and other birds that nest in cavities created by others).

Since most snags have been removed from younger ponderosa pine forests, wildlife biologists recommend increasing this type of habitat. Recent research is showing that the way a tree dies strongly influences its usefulness to wildlife as a snag. Trees killed by bark beetles are heavily used by foraging woodpeckers as they consume the larvae and adults. This beetle feasting introduces the fungi which soften the outer wood on the snag so woodpeckers can excavate nest and roost cavities. Simply girdling or cutting the top of the tree to create a snag does not seem to provide such readily usable snags in many instances.

Darin Stringer, a forest ecologist with Integrated Resource Management, created the forest stewardship plan for the Metolius Preserve. The long-term goals of that plan call for the re-creation of old growth ponderosa pine forests with their large diameter snags. However, in the second growth stands at the Preserve, thinning to reduce fire danger and accelerate development of large trees has decreased the natural mortality of trees and therefore snags. To address this problem, Darin recommended creating snags to enhance conditions for snag-dependent wildlife species as the forests develop to old growth.

In 2006, packets of artificial beetle pheromones were attached to twenty trees at the Metolius Preserve. Female mountain pine beetles release these pheromones (chemicals) to lure in males when they have found a suitable host tree. The beetles then attack the tree and begin the snag-creation process. This technique has been used recently by the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry and has shown promise as a way to create wildlife snags from targeted trees without causing widespread mortality. The keys to using pheromones are to time the placement with the flight period of the beetles and to only use this method in areas where trees have recently been thinned and the forest is well spaced with healthy trees.

The experiment also included other methods of snag creation including topping trees and chainsaw girdling. Since 2006, the University of Oregon has been monitoring the trees to assess effectiveness of these treatments. To date, 18 of the 20 pheromone-treated trees have died and are being used by woodpeckers, while the topped trees have little evidence of woodpecker activity. None of the girdled trees have died yet. Since only a very small percentage of "non-treated" trees were killed after the first year, the spreading of beetles beyond the targeted trees is no longer a concern. Future monitoring will continue to examine wildlife use of these snags.

With the apparent success of the 2006 project, an additional 25 trees were baited in thinned second growth stands on the Preserve in July of 2008. The results of this work on the Metolius Preserve may provide another tool to help forest managers improve wildlife habitat.

THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WITH A GRANT FROM THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.

GREENPRINT

A MAP FOR THE FUTURE

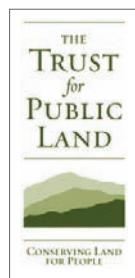


A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS WILL HOPEFULLY RESULT IN MORE LAND LIKE ALDER SPRINGS CONSERVED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. PHOTO: JW VISUALS.

The Deschutes Land Trust is pleased to announce a partnership with the Trust for Public Land to develop a Deschutes County Greenprint. A “greenprint” is a county-wide, grassroots effort to identify and map the key open space which the community values for wildlife, recreation, and scenic views. The idea is to work with the community to identify those lands that make Central Oregon special, so that the Land Trust and public agencies like the Bend Metro Park and Recreation District can be as strategic as possible in acquiring and protecting those lands.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national conservation organization that specializes in helping public agencies and, in some cases, land trusts acquire and conserve important lands for the public. TPL has extensive experience in doing this type of planning effort, which typically involves local partners like the Deschutes Land Trust and public agencies like Bend Metro Parks and Recreation District. By bringing TPL’s national experience in planning and conservation finance together with the Land Trust’s local knowledge and expertise, we’re convinced we can be far more efficient and effective than either organization alone.

In addition, the two groups have worked together in the past, most notably to protect Alder Springs in the heart of the Crooked River National Grassland. With this history of success, we’re excited about what the future holds, so stay tuned and get involved with the Greenprint later this fall and winter!



ENJOY THIS FALL + WINTER

GET OUTSIDE OR COME IN—JOIN US FOR A LAND TRUST EVENT!

SEPTEMBER

GEOLGY HIKE—

RIMROCK RANCH

September 12, 9am-3pm

with Travis Thornton

Explore Whychus canyon and the unique geology of this conserved 1,200 acre ranch.

“BIOGRAPHY OF A PLACE”—

CAMP POLK MEADOW

PRESERVE

September 13, 9am-12pm

with Martin Winch

Learn the history and ecology of one of Central Oregon’s oldest places with a local author who has recently published a book on the subject.

FAMILY BIRDING—CAMP

POLK MEADOW PRESERVE

September 20, 8:30-10:30am

with Norma Funai

Children and parents will learn about birds on a tour designed especially for families. Includes fun hands-on activities!

BIRD WALK—

RIMROCK RANCH

September 26, 9am-12pm

with Mary Crow

Explore Whychus canyon and the unique bird habitats of this conserved ranch.

STREAM HIKE—

METOLIUS PRESERVE

September 26, 10am-12pm with

Amanda Egertson and

Mathias Perle

Learn about a recent project to improve fish and wildlife habitat by removing a culvert on the Preserve’s Lake Creek. This is a 3-4 mile hike.

OCTOBER

PHOTOGRAPHING

FALL COLORS—

METOLIUS PRESERVE

October 11, 11am-2pm

with Bob Woodward

Catch the fleeting brilliant colors of fall on camera during this photography workshop.

STREAMSIDE PLANTING—

METOLIUS PRESERVE

October 11, 9:30am-1:30pm

Come help plant native vegetation on the banks of the Preserve’s Lake Creek.

BEND FILM

October 9-12, in Bend

Watch films competing for the Land Trust’s Conservation Award! Thanks to the Starview Foundation for making this award possible.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 21, 5:30-7:30pm

McMenamins in Bend

Celebrate the past year, honor volunteers, and preview the future at our second annual membership meeting.

NOVEMBER

THE NATURE OF WORDS

November 5-9, in Bend

Enjoy Central Oregon’s own literary event that this year features sponsorship by the Deschutes Land Trust. Thanks to the Starview Foundation for making this possible.

DECEMBER

METOLIUS PRESERVE

TREE HUNT

December 6, 10am-2pm

Join us for this fun, festive annual event! Search for the perfect holiday tree while helping restore the native forests of the Metolius Preserve.

ALL LAND TRUST WALKS, HIKES AND EVENTS ARE FREE, HOWEVER; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL 541] 330-0017 TO REGISTER. VISIT WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

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