

# LANDSCAPES

FALL 2004

## FEATURED THIS ISSUE



- Planting Seeds for the Future (2)



- Building Partnerships (3)



- Restoring Camp Polk Uplands (6)

*“One of the most significant aspects of this negotiation was fish passage over the dams.”*

## Back to Home Waters Update Pelton-Round Butte Relicensing Settlement Reached



In late July the parties involved in relicensing negotiations for the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex on the Deschutes submitted a settlement offer to the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**. This marks the conclusion (pending FERC’s final approval) of nearly ten years of negotiations over how the project applicants – the **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs** and **Portland General Electric (PGE)** – would mitigate for, or offset, the habitat and species losses caused by the project.

One of the most significant aspects of this negotiation was fish passage over the dams. Prior to construction of the dams, salmon and steelhead returned from the ocean to spawn in upper Deschutes Basin streams like Squaw Creek, the Crooked River, and the Metolius River. While the dams were built with fish passage facilities in place, attempts to provide for downstream passage of outmigrating juvenile fish (smolts) were frustrated by swirling currents created by the mixing of the colder waters of the Metolius with the warmer waters of the Deschutes and Crooked rivers.  
*cont’d on page 7*

## A Dedication to Remember

On a beautiful Saturday in June, former Board President, John Casey welcomed nearly 200 visitors to the new Metolius Preserve, for its formal dedication. The audience was treated to the anecdotes of State Senator **Ben Westlund**, who’s support in Salem was critically important to the campaign. **John Shelk**, who’s support as a former Willamette Industries Board Member and generous donor, was pivotal to the acquisition, spoke of the Willamette legacy and a vision of forest stewardship. **Bobby Brunoe**, Director of Natural Resources for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and an OWEB Board Member, spoke of his family’s traditional use of Lake Creek and the lands comprising the new Preserve. **Bill Anthony**, Sisters District Ranger, welcomed the Land Trust to the neighborhood and spoke of future partnerships in forest management.  
*cont’d on page 4*

# The Dream Takes Hold



Pat Buresh

**"...it was most significant for the consensus and partnership it represented."**

*Rod Bonacker talks about the return of anadromous fish to Lake Creek at the Dedication.*

This summer two events served to underscore that the dream of bringing salmon **back to home waters** is becoming a reality. In June, the Land Trust dedicated its newest Community Preserve, the Metolius Preserve on Lake Creek. In July, public agencies, **Portland General Electric, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs,**

and fish advocates announced a final settlement for the relicensing of the Pelton-Round Butte dams and committed to re-establishing fish passage for the first time in 40 years. Together, these events marked important milestones in the dream of bringing salmon and steelhead trout back to their historic home in the upper Deschutes Basin.

The quest to re-introduce salmon is a daunting one, with scores of people, organizations and agencies quietly working away without much notice or acknowledgement by the public. Some of those toiling away are paid professionals, others are volunteers. Some of the work is coordinated, much is not. Yet, with each passing day, the dream of returning salmon to their homewaters gains momentum.

If ever I doubted the public's interest in the monumental quest to restore these fisheries, it was dispelled by the huge turnout for the dedication of the Metolius Preserve. While the number of participants on a beautiful Saturday afternoon demonstrated the breadth of support, it was the wide-eyed excitement of the kids that confirmed a real passion for bringing these fish home.

While the signing ceremony at Warm Springs attracted a number of high ranking public officials, it was most significant for the consensus and partnership it represented. Through years of difficult and complex negotiations, representatives of PGE, the Tribes, public agencies and fish advocates managed to craft an agreement that opens the door for not only the reintroduction of a legendary fishery, but restoration of wildlife habitat for a host of other species. It also signaled the beginning of a visionary public-private partnership with the capacity of conserving the best of the Deschutes Basin.

Places such as the Metolius Preserve and the habitat we're enhancing, provides you with an opportunity to participate in this remarkable partnership and create a very special legacy for our children. I hope you'll help make the dream a reality.

**Brad Chalfant**, *Executive Director*



## Weyerhaeuser...Planting seeds for the future

Amid speeches about partnerships and the need for stewardship, the **Weyerhaeuser Company** stepped forward at the recent dedication of the **Metolius Preserve** to announce its support for the Land Trust's effort with a stewardship gift of **\$50,000**. The large gift is a big boost to the Land Trust's campaign to raise funds for long-term stewardship of the Preserve. Rich Wininger, a Weyerhaeuser official made the announcement and presented the Land Trust with an oversized check to demonstrate the company's commitment to forest stewardship. Weyerhaeuser, as successor to Willamette Industries, sold the 1,240 acres of forest to the Land Trust in July of 2003 and has continued to provide forest data and advice to the Land Trust staff. To further underscore Weyerhaeuser's support, Mr. Wininger also presented a small bag of Ponderosa pine seed previously collected from the forests of the new Preserve. Weyerhaeuser has offered to make additional seed available as the Land Trust undertakes future replanting efforts on the Preserve. The Land Trust is grateful for Weyerhaeuser's generous support.



beldenphoto.com

*Brad Chalfant receiving a \$50,000 check from Rich Wininger of Weyerhaeuser.*

# Building Community Partnerships

*Recent activities at the Metolius Preserve have given us the opportunity to continue building partnerships with local organizations and community members. We've been working together to learn more about the land and wildlife, to provide responsible recreational activities for visitors, and to offer outreach and education for various groups and individuals.*



Kyle Gorman

*Forest Ecologist, Darin Stringer gave a talk on forest management issues at the Metolius Preserve Dedication.*

## Learning more about the land

In order for us to manage our lands wisely, it is vital to learn more about what is out there. Fortunately, numerous contractors and volunteers have generously offered their time and expertise through surveys, management plans, and reports. Forest ecologists and botanists are helping us map out different tree stands, sensitive plants, and noxious weeds.

The **Archeological Society of Central Oregon** came out for several days of surveys, and the

**East Cascades Bird Conservancy** set up transects and conducted bird point counts in June and July. Bat and insect surveys have also been performed. All of these activities have resulted in stronger bonds with our local community and a wealth of biological and cultural information that will help guide us in our management activities.

## Recreation

In the planning for and creation of new trails, bridges, a kiosk, and viewing platforms, we have enjoyed the opportunity to partner with students and crew leaders from the **Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council** and the **Heart of Oregon Corps**, with creative architects and interpretive planners, artists, and numerous local volunteers. These people are really making wonderful things happen out there! It's been truly amazing to watch these teams work together – to pour time, thought, and sweat into each project – and to emerge with a closer connection to the land, and to each other.



*Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council crew members work on the new interpretive trail.*

## Outreach and Education

Teachers and students from **Central Oregon Community College**, **OSU-Cascades**, **University of Oregon**, **Willamette University**, **Wolfree**, and local school districts have facilitated projects out at the Preserve as well. It's a perfect spot for curious young naturalists, college and graduate student research, and evolving mentor programs. It's also a great place to take friends and family on tours!

*We look forward to the continued development of all of these programs and the enriching partnerships that result from such widespread community involvement.*

**Amanda Egertson**, Land Steward



## Americans Care About Saving the Special Places in their Communities

According to a report by the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance, over the past six years, American voters have approved **76% of 801** state and local conservation ballot measures, creating some **\$24 billion** for preserving important lands and natural resources.

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### Newsletter

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The Deschutes Basin Land Trust acquires land or conservation easements from willing sellers or donors. Acquired lands are managed to preserve their natural and scenic values. The Land Trust serves landowners within the Deschutes Basin, which includes lands in Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, Sherman and Wasco counties drained by the Deschutes River and its tributaries. The Trust has been recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

## A Dedication to Remember *cont'd from page 1*



Rounding out the speakers was **Rich Winger** of Weyerhaeuser, who announced a major gift to the Land Trust's ongoing stewardship of the Metolius Preserve. However, the emotional highpoint of the ceremony was undoubtedly the announcement that the Preserve's first interpretive trail was being dedicated in honor of **Elizabeth "Becky" Johnson**, who led the effort to create the Metolius Preserve.

Following the brief ceremony, the audience was invited to participate in a host of tours, including a **bike tour** led by cycling impresarios Jerry Norquist and Bob Woodward, **wildlife habitat tours** with Paul Edgerton, Tom Rodhouse,

Amanda Egertson and Brad Nye, a "**native plant walk**" with plant ecologist Maret Pajutee, a "**fish walk**" with fisheries expert Rod Bonacker and **forest ecology tour** with forester Darin Stringer. Preceding the ceremony, Steve Shunk of the East Cascades Bird Conservancy led an early morning **birding hike**. However, the most fun was undoubtedly had by the kids and families who spent the afternoon wandering the Preserve with the staff of WolfTree, Inc. on an **Insect Safari**, a **Stream Adventure** or a **Wildlife Tracking Adventure**.

Visitors also had the opportunity to see and walk the new Becky Johnson Nature Trail, which is currently under construction. Signs along the way highlighted on-going native plant restoration activities as well as indicating where new bridges, viewing platforms, benches and kiosks will be built.

The Metolius Preserve is a very special place. Your continued support will allow us to carefully enhance the Preserve's wildlife habitat in the year ahead. Please join us for a visit to see the legacy you've helped create.



## Monthly Giving... Increase the Value of Your Gift

The Monthly Giving Plan is an easy way for members to make an automatic monthly contribution throughout the year. By prior arrangement a specific amount is authorized by you and automatically deducted from your bank account, Visa or Mastercard at the end of the month, with the proceeds going to fund projects like our **Back to Home Waters** and **Community Preserves** programs.



### Your participation...

- Reduces our costs for processing donations.
- Speeds your gift to protect special lands.
- Provides the Land Trust with a reliable stream of funds so we can better plan for projects.
- Saves resources by not having to write checks or receive membership renewal letters again!

To sign up for the Monthly Program check the box in the enclosed envelope or call the office for more information at (541) 330-0017.



# Land Trust Stewardship A Year in Pictures



*Volunteers Nancy Knoble and Cheryl Foltus planting native transplants at the Metolius Preserve.*

*Sun Country Tours and the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council pulled thistle at the Thomas Preserve.*



*Elke Dortmund watering recently transplanted native plants at the Metolius Preserve.*



*Carolyn Soutter planting native plant plugs at Camp Polk Meadow as part of the Hindman Springs Upland Restoration project.*

*Heart of Oregon Corps crew members constructing boardwalks and bridges at the Metolius Preserve.*



*Volunteers, Martin Winch and Alan Tracy collect and burn brush at Indian Ford Meadow Preserve.*



***Many thanks to the countless volunteers who make our stewardship work possible!***



# Presidential Thoughts



Byron Dudley

Brad Nye tours Alder Springs with Board Member, Cal Allen.

**“...our members - our friends - are what make it all happen.”**

**F**riendship was the overall theme this year – we honored the friends that started the organization and then a whole new group of friends gathered in June (and many points around the globe) to celebrate their work by dedicating the **Metolius Preserve**.

The Trust was born in friendship. It has been strengthened and sustained by friendship, all over Oregon and beyond, for now approaching ten years. To tell the truth, when someone says the words "land trust" I don't think immediately of just the founding members... no, I think instead of old and new friends. These people have stood by, and have stood firm, as real friends do, again and again, over time.

While the Deschutes Basin Land Trust has expanded its services to ensure private, voluntary land conservation is available to landowners from the Columbia River to south of Bend, our members - **our friends – are what make it all happen**. Our five employees – each one endlessly talented and dedicated - work with all landowners whether they are conservationists or developers, to protect Central Oregon's natural features. They are building friendships around the basin – and next year there will be more landowners making plans to conserve special places and there will be more volunteers planting more trees. After all, protecting the basin's natural appeal is really in everyone's best interest.

We are very thankful for the friendships that help to ensure that in one year, 10 years, or 100 years, the natural character of the Deschutes Basin we love will still be present.

*Mary Krenowicz, Board President*



## Hindman Springs Upland Restoration

**I**f you have been a visitor to **Camp Polk Meadow Preserve** you may have noticed the lack of plant life just beyond the parking area fence. This past spring, we initiated a restoration project to protect the soil from erosion into the nearby riparian area, control weeds, and increase the connectivity of intact native habitats for the range of species that move between the upland and riparian areas.

At first glance, you will see some colorful flagging – denoting the different treatment areas developed by **Karen Allen** and **Reid Schuller**. Each of these areas was assigned to either receive seeds that were collected on site, small plant “plugs” that were grown from local seeds, or nothing at all (we scientists need our control plots!).

Upon closer inspection, you'll notice the tiny new plants. So far, over **1,700 plugs** have been planted. The collected seeds will be broadcast later this fall. The species planted and seeds collected for broadcast include **Squirreltail, Sandberg's Bluegrass, Bluebunch Wheatgrass, Thurber's**

**Needlegrass, and Desert Yellow Daisy.** It is a very rough spot for a young, thirsty plant to establish itself, and we will continue to monitor and manage the area in coming seasons.

Many labor-intensive hours went into the design and implementation of this program and we would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who helped us out there under the broiling sun. As always, we could not tackle restoration projects like this without you. If you have not been out there yet, be sure to stop by and scan the ground for signs of new life.



Volunteer Jennifer Johns planting at the Hindman Springs area.

*Amanda Egertson, Land Steward*

## Relicensing Settlement Reached *cont'd from page 1*

When relicensing efforts began in 1995, restoring fish passage at the dams was the primary topic of mitigation discussions. Over several years of negotiations, the Tribes, PGE, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and other partners worked to address the issue of downstream fish passage. The most noteworthy result of these discussions was the decision that building a **Selective Water Withdrawal (SWW)** structure in Round Butte forebay would be the best way to restore downstream passage.

The recent settlement, among other things, solidifies the decision to construct the SWW in the Round Butte Forebay by committing \$60 million to the construction of the facility. Overall, the Tribes and PGE propose to invest \$121 million in fish-related projects over the course of the 50-year license. Significantly, for the Land Trust's **Back to Home Waters** habitat protection and restoration efforts, the Tribes and PGE propose to contribute \$21.5 million to wildlife habitat protection and restoration efforts occurring throughout the Basin.

Although there are still some unanswered questions associated with re-introducing salmon and steelhead to the **upper Deschutes Basin**, settlement of the relicensing negotiations has put the re-introduction effort into high gear. The Tribes, PGE, and ODFW will begin re-introducing in 2006. In the meantime, the Land Trust will continue its effort to ensure that sufficient quality habitat is available to support self-sustaining runs of salmon and steelhead in the upper Deschutes Basin.

You can learn more about the relicensing settlement and the Back to Home Waters program by visiting our website at [www.deschuteslandtrust.org/BTHW.htm](http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/BTHW.htm)

**Brad Nye**, Project Manager



Conceptual rendering of the Selective Water Withdrawal structure.



**Raffle to Benefit Back to Home Waters Program and the Metolius Preserve**

**Dayton Lanphear**, a Sisters sculptor, has donated 'Salmon Leaping' for a raffle to benefit the Land Trust.

Sculpted from yew, the piece is 29" high and valued at \$1,400. Raffle tickets are \$5 each.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M.

Tickets are available at **Soda Creek Gallery** 183 E. Hood Street in Sisters. 541-549-0600

## A Lasting Gift through Time...

The **Deschutes Basin Legacy Society** recognizes supporters who have invested in the future of the Land Trust with a planned gift. A planned gift is the ultimate expression of commitment to private voluntary land conservation in the Deschutes Basin.

*Your planned gift can be as simple as a sentence or two in your will.*

Other ways are life income gifts which can take the form of charitable lead trusts or charitable gift annuities. Our planned giving partner, **The Oregon Community Foundation**, can now provide these services for the donors' benefit. Many other gifts can take the form of life insurance, retirement accounts, or real estate.

Please join the growing number of members who have made thoughtful gifts to the Land Trust in their will. The Land Trust has established an **endowment fund** with the Oregon Community Foundation and is a participating member of the Leave a Legacy program. For more information on planned gifts, please contact Brian Harrington at 541-330-0017.

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## Events

*Call (541) 330-0017 for details or to sign up for an event.*

### **Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Tour**

- September 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Stewardship Activities**

- Metolius Preserve - September 11<sup>th</sup>
- Camp Polk Meadow Preserve - October 6<sup>th</sup>
- Metolius Preserve - October 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Squaw Creek Gathering with the Blue D'arts**

- October 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Land Trust Alliance Rally**

- Providence, RI October 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

### **Metolius Preserve Christmas Tree Hunt**

- Date to be Announced

## Wish List

### **Volunteers**

- Bookshelves
- Benches for Preserves
- 8 ft Conference Table & Chairs
- Woodworking skills for sign creation
- Dissecting Scope for plant identification
- Welding and metal fabrication

## A note to our readers

If you received duplicates of this publication, or no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please help us conserve resources (i.e. paper and ink; printing cost) by calling us at (541) 330-0017. Thank you!

## Deschutes Basin Land Trust

760 NW Harriman Street, Suite 100 • Bend, OR 97701

Phone (541) 330-0017 • Fax (541) 330-0013 • [info@deschuteslandtrust.org](mailto:info@deschuteslandtrust.org) • [www.deschuteslandtrust.org](http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org)