

LANDSCAPES

SPRING 2004

FEATURED THIS ISSUE



- Next Steps for the Metolius Preserve (3)

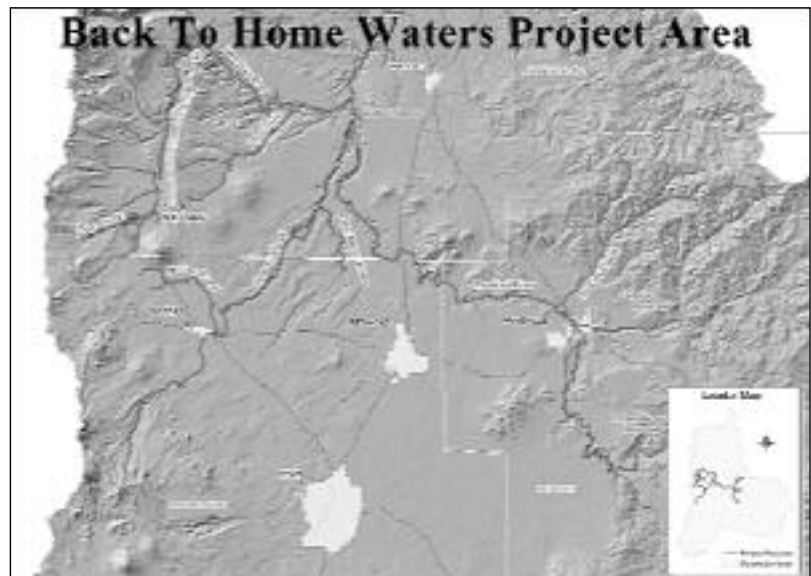


- Opportunities to Get Outside (4, 5)



- Giving Something Back (7)

Prioritizing Conservation



"We need to prioritize future conservation work in a way that achieves the greatest benefit for a given amount of available resources."

Back to Home Waters is the program we developed to leverage the conservation opportunities presented by the relicensing of the Pelton-Round Butte dams on the lower Deschutes River. **We believe relicensing – and with it the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead to upper Basin streams – presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for landscape-scale conservation.** Not only will our *Back to Home Waters* program restore fish habitat, it will greatly expand our ability to carry out our overall objective, which is to conserve the landscapes that define our communities and make Central Oregon such a special place to live.

The **Camp Polk Meadow Preserve** and **Metolius Preserve** projects are cornerstones of our *Back to Home Waters* program. As we move forward from these successes into the heart of the program, we're focusing on two main goals. First, we want to engage our local communities and our conservation partners in the project. Second, we need to prioritize future conservation work in a way that achieves the greatest benefit for a given amount of available resources.

One technique we're using to accomplish portions of both objectives is Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis. GIS allows us to look at various features of the landscape and how those features interrelate.

cont'd on page 6

2003 Annual Report

The Land Trust 2003 Annual Report is now available. You can find it on our website at www.deschuteslandtrust.org

Seasons of Change



Jessica Rawlings

"help a wide range of wildlife species, give agriculture a fighting chance, and protect an important cultural resource."

Recognizing the changing conservation needs in our community, the Land Trust recently re-examined its course and updated its Five Year Operating Plan. Though planning isn't anyone's favorite activity, it's an essential exercise and we're excited about what we see ahead.

The Land Trust has come to terms with the fact that we can't be all places at all times. Consequently, we've committed ourselves to three proactive conservation programs: **Back to Home Waters**, **Community Preserves** and **Working Landscapes**.

Back to Home Waters is our signature program to restore and conserve habitat for the imminent return of the upper basin's legendary salmon and steelhead trout runs. Conserving and restoring stream habitat will also help a wide range of wildlife species, give agriculture a fighting chance, and protect an important cultural resource. The relicensing

of the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex provides the community with an unprecedented conservation opportunity and one we can't afford to miss.

The **Community Preserves** program is important to the future livability of our communities. Community Preserves are intended to be special places where local schools, families and all members of the community can come together to learn more about this landscape we inhabit through education and active restoration efforts.

Our third program, **Working Landscapes**, is intended to help ranchers, farmers and woodland owners find ways to withstand the pressure to subdivide. We hope to sustain the productivity of rural lands and rural communities, by maintaining economic productivity as well as the wildlife habitat and scenic views. As well known tax attorney Stephen Small likes to say, **"pavement is always the last crop."**

With your help, we'll continue to expand our efforts to conserve the best of the Deschutes Basin.

Brad Chalfant, *Executive Director*



A Perfect Fit

Saying she, "couldn't have imagined a more perfect job description,"

Amanda Hetrick, 34, joins the Land Trust as our new Land Steward.

Following college, the Pennsylvania native worked as a grade school teacher, then as a wilderness instructor for several years before moving to Bozeman, Montana. It was in Bozeman when she decided that her future lay in working with a conservation organization.

On enrolling at Montana State University, she completed undergraduate courses and acquired field research experiences necessary for application to a graduate program. She was accepted at Iowa State University where she received her masters in animal ecology. Her summer fieldwork involved studies of songbirds and butterflies in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

While at Iowa State, Amanda met fellow ecologist Chris Egertson and together they began making plans to move back to the west. "We were drawn to Bend,"



Amanda says, "because of Oregon's ecological diversity, the State's tremendous recreational opportunities, and the multitude of local conservation organizations."

Upon arrival, the now engaged couple (they'll be married in July) jumped right into the local conservation community. Amanda went to work at the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory and the Central Oregon Environment Center before applying for the Land Trust Land Steward position.

On her first day on the job, Amanda's enthusiasm was palatable. "I feel like I've been working towards this job for years. I'm thrilled to be here."

Bob Woodward, *Board Member*



Planning Ahead

With a healthy blanket of snow covering the **Metolius Preserve**, winter has been a time of planning and preparation for the Land Trust. The best snowpack in a decade has meant that access to our newest Preserve has been largely limited to skiing and snow shoeing, a circumstance that has given us a chance to begin the planning for forest management, stream enhancements and the development of interpretive trails.

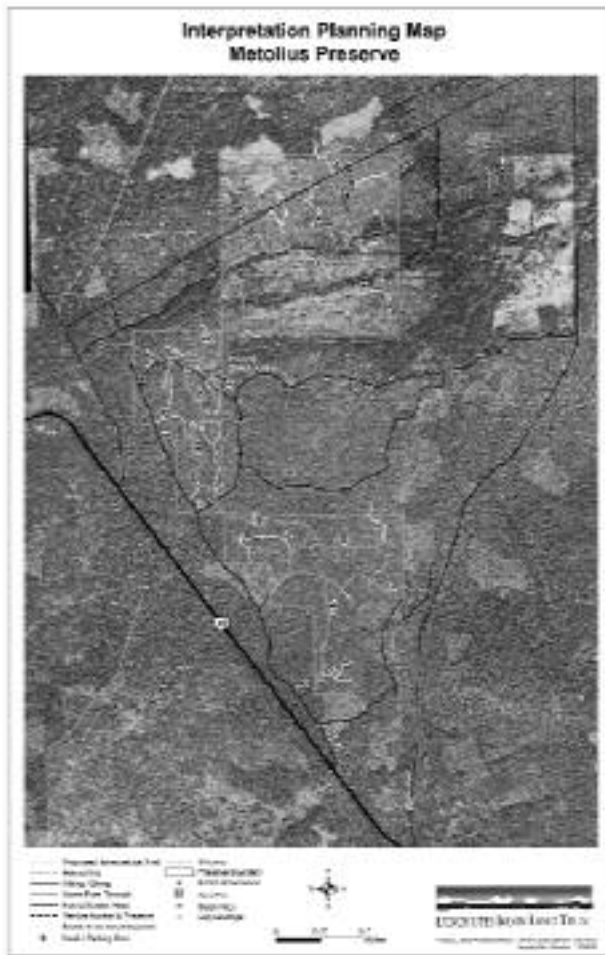
With the recent B & B Fire still fresh on our minds, our first objective has been development of a comprehensive **Forest Management Plan** to prioritize our efforts to expand stream buffers, reduce forest fuels and generally enhance habitats for forest dependent wildlife. The plan will model different management approaches over a 10, 25 and 50 year window and provide a blueprint for how we move a relatively young forest into a forest dominated by large, old trees. To get a jump on anticipated thinning and prescribed burning, we've also begun writing grants to fund our forest stewardship.

Our other big planning effort is the development of an **Interpretive Plan** for public and



Karen Allen

A great place to snowshoe and ski



Just one of the many maps created during the planning process for the Metolius Preserve.

educational use of the Preserve. With miles of healthy streams and mixed conifer forests broken by open meadows, the Metolius Preserve is a place where the community can learn much about the Basin and its wildlife. It's also a place where we hope to engage people in restoring the ecological web of the Basin, from returning salmon for the first time in 40 years to enhancing habitat for migratory songbirds on their way from Latin America to Canada. This Spring we'll work with **WolfTree** and local schools to bring students out for science field classes. Our new Land Steward, Amanda Hetrick will lead numerous work parties to restore disturbed areas, clean up logging slash and remove invasive weeds. With **Jefferson County** approval, we'll start constructing new trails, rebuilding old foot bridges and installing new kiosks and parking areas. Suffice it to say, much is happening and it promises to be a busy field season.

Hope you'll consider lending a hand.



Metolius Preserve Dedication

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 19th to join us for a dedication of the Metolius Preserve.

Tour Camp Polk Meadow Preserve

Come explore this diverse, unique area with a guide and other Land Trust supporters!



To protect wildlife and habitats, access to the Meadow portion of the Preserve is limited to fieldwork, educational activities and guided tours.

Group size is limited to 6; to reserve your spot please RSVP early to the Land Trust office at (541)330-0017. Bring water, walking shoes, and binoculars (optional). Dress in layers for all weather conditions. Please note that the Preserve contains few established trails and the ability to traverse uneven terrain is required.

April

- *Wed, April 23rd, 9:30-11:30 am (NF)
- Tues, April 27th, 9:00-11:00 am (JP)

May

- *Sat, May 1st, 9:30-11:30 am (NF)
- Thurs, May 13th, 9:00-11:00 am (JP)
- *Fri, May 21st, 9:30-11:30 am (NF)
- Thurs, May 27th, 9:00-11:00 am (JP)

June

- Thurs, June 3rd, 9:00-11:00 am (JP)
- *Fri, June 11th, 9:00-11:00 am (NF)
- Thurs, June 17th, 9:00-11:00 am (JP)
- Fri, June 25th, 9:00-11:00 am (NF)

July

- Fri, July 2nd, 9:00-11:00 am (NF)
- Thurs, July 8th, 9:00-11:00 am (JP)
- Fri, July 16th, 9:00-11:00 am (NF)
- Thurs, July 29th, 9:00-11:00 am (JP)

September

- Fri, September 3rd, 9:00-11:00 am (NF)
- Fri, September 17th, 9:00-11:00 am (NF)

Hike Leaders:

Norma Funai (NF) and Joyce Padgham (JP)

**Emphasis on Springtime Birds. Bring binoculars and bird books. Limit 8*

For further information or driving directions contact us or visit our website at: www.deschuteslandtrust.org

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.



Want to Sign Up?

Call us at
(541)330-0017
to sign up for
guided tours
and volunteer
activities.

Join Us For Our 2004 Stewardship Season

We look forward to having you join us to take care of our Preserves this 2004 field season! We'll be planting willows, collecting seed, pulling weeds, building fences and trails, monitoring our preserves, and working on other projects as needs arise.



Karen Allen

COIC volunteers help to restore log landings at the Metolius Preserve

May

Wed. May 5: Metolius Preserve Work Party

Sat. May 22: Metolius Preserve Work Party

June

Wed. June 2: Metolius Preserve Work Party

Sat. June 26: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Work Party

July

Wed. July 7: Indian Ford Meadow Preserve Work Party

Sat. July 17: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Work Party

August

Wed. Aug. 4: Metolius Preserve Work Party

Sat. Aug 21: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Work Party



Jessica Rawlings

Getting wet while completing bird surveys at the Thomas Preserve

September

Wed. Sept. 1: Indian Ford Meadow Preserve Work Party

Sat. Sept. 11: Metolius Preserve Work Party

October

Wed. Oct. 6: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Work Party

Sat. Oct. 16: Metolius Preserve Work Party



Brad Chalfant

Volunteers help band Kestrels at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve

Work parties are scheduled from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. A carpool will leave the Land Trust office in Bend at 8:00 am. Please call the Land Trust to let us know you'll be joining us and to arrange to carpool at (541) 330-0017.

Wear work clothes, walking shoes; bring gloves, water and a snack.

I Would Like To Volunteer My Time

Name: _____

Phone (day): _____

Address: _____

Phone (eve): _____

Email: _____

Activities of Interest

- Participate in Lands Projects (weed pulls, restoration, etc.)
- Lead Informational Outings
- Work in Office assisting staff
- Join a Committee

Availability

- Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
- Friday Saturday Sunday
- I Can Help in Other Ways _____

Fond Farewells



Karen Allen shares with participants during a Natural History Workshop

“Nancy has been a Land Trust stalwart since our earliest days...”

At the Land Trust, we like to focus on welcoming people to our work, but occasionally we have to bid a fond farewell. This Spring we have three departures of great note. The first is **Nancy Pope Schlagen**, a trusted friend and Board Advisor. Nancy has been a Land Trust

stalwart since our earliest days when as a Deschutes County Commissioner, she helped the fledgling land trust with technical assistance from the County and helped create the **Trout Creek Conservation Area** west of Sisters. As both an elected official and a dedicated volunteer, Nancy has been a tireless force within Central Oregon. We will greatly miss her, as she moves to be closer to her many grandchildren.

Also departing was **Karen Allen**, our first Land Steward. Those who have visited a Preserve with Karen, undoubtedly came away with both a new

appreciation of the Basin and a deep respect for the knowledge of this enormously talented naturalist. Karen brought a great deal of professionalism to our stewardship work and we're deeply indebted to her. However, with our rapidly growing stewardship needs and a desire to continue teaching winter field classes in Belize, Karen has decided to return to the consulting business as an independent environmental scientist. The Land Trust has asked Karen to continue working on specific projects as time and funding allows.

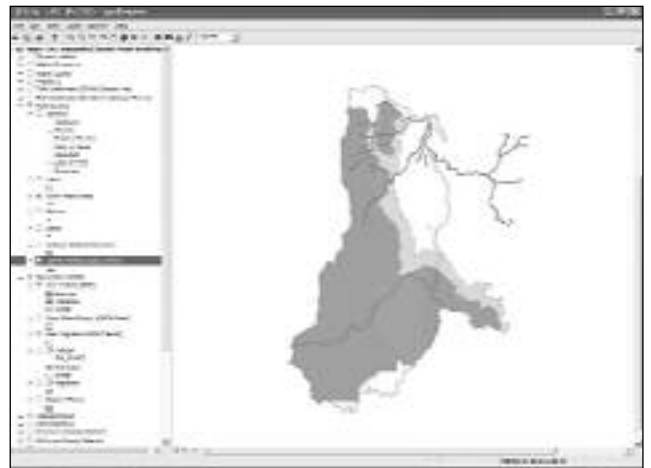
Finally, the end of 2003 saw Board Member **Rick Rupp** conclude his final term and rotate off the Board. While not technically a founder, Rick was the Land Trust 2nd President and was instrumental in building the Land Trust into what it has become. Rick's business experience and deep commitment to conservation has been immensely valuable for the fledgling organization. Rick's willingness to ask the tough questions often kept Staff and Board Members on their toes. An avid fisherman, Rick dedicated himself to making the streams and rivers of Central Oregon healthier than he found them.



Prioritizing Conservation *cont'd from page 1*

For example, one of our goals is to conserve some of the area's key agricultural areas – areas which provide not only open space and scenic views, but also are an important component of Central Oregon's cultural and historical fabric. GIS allows us to analyze multiple features such as prime soils, irrigated lands, development, and deer habitat to help assess the relative conservation value of different projects.

While GIS capability is a valuable tool for our own work, we're also sharing this capability with various **conservation partners** with the hope that they too can be more effective in identifying conservation and restoration priorities. Working together toward a common set of conservation goals will help increase the overall effectiveness of our efforts to conserve and restore the special landscapes that define the Deschutes Basin and its communities.



GIS layers show summer and winter habitat areas for deer



Giving Something Back

Three programs prioritize our conservation work: **Back to Home Waters**, **Community Preserves**, and **Working Landscapes**. While much of our current focus is on providing a suitable home for returning salmon and steelhead through the **Back to Home Waters** program, that focus is not exclusive.

Prior to our acquisition of Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, we didn't know what a Community Preserve was. But Camp Polk Meadow, with the help of the many **schoolchildren, teachers, volunteers, naturalists, birders, botanists and other visitors** that have used the site, has taught us what a Community Preserve can be. We've learned that there is a strong demand for Community Preserves, and that our local communities, given the right piece of land and the opportunity to use it, will create them.

Many Central Oregon visitors and residents, including groups of students from the **Madras, Prineville, Bend, and Sisters** school districts have visited Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Its popularity as an outdoor education center gave rise to a thought: Wouldn't it be ideal if every Basin community had a Community Preserve; if kids from Prineville didn't have to spend an hour on the school bus for every hour they spend tracking animals, planting willows, and measuring water quality at the preserve? This thought was the genesis of our **Community Preserves** program. We've built a strong foundation for this program with the Camp Polk Meadow and the Metolius Preserves, but look for us to be bringing the program closer to other basin communities in the coming years.

Brad Nye, Project Manager



Robert DuTeau

Community members collect aquatic life at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve



Many Thanks for Helping Out

As part of the **Community Rivers Program**, the **Upper Deschutes Watershed Council** and **Sun Country Tours** are donating their time, rafts, guides, and resources to pull weeds on the **Thomas Preserve**. If you would like more information about the **Upper Deschutes Watershed Council's Community Rivers Program** contact **Kolleen Yake** at **(541)382-6851**.

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.

The simplest way is through a Bequest to the Land Trust which can be a gift of cash, appreciated securities or personal property 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**.

Mary Alice Willson



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Events

See Calendar of Events on pages 4 & 5 for dates of tours and work parties.

Riverfest Activities

- Camp Polk Meadow Bird Walk - May 1st
- Camp Polk Meadow Wildlife Walk - May 5th
- Camp Polk Meadow History Tour - May 8th

Metolius Preserve Dedication

- June 19th - details to be announced

Land Trust Field Season Work Parties:

- May to September 2004

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Guided Tours

- April to September 2004

NW Land Trust Alliance Conference

- Coeur d'Alene, ID April 29th-May 1st

Metolius Bamboo Rod and Fly Fishing Fair

- Camp Sherman, July 24th from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wish List

Easels
Volunteers
Bookshelves
Color Laser Printer
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

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