

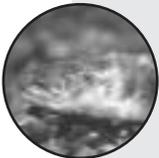
FEATURED THIS ISSUE



- "Gleaner" Volunteers Needed (2)



- Opportunities to Get Outside (4, 5)



- New Water for Indian Ford Creek (6)

"...this year marks the implementation of our long term forestry restoration plan."

Forest Stewardship at the Metolius Preserve



Darin Stringer of IRM leads a tour of the demonstration site.

The Metolius Preserve, a 1,240 acre forested property in the **Metolius River Watershed** near Camp Sherman, OR, is currently a hot spot of stewardship activity.

Last year we initiated numerous restoration projects including native vegetation transplants, soil decompaction, interpretive trail building, and slash piling and burning. This year marks the implementation of our long term forestry restoration plan.

Following the prescriptions recommended to us by our forestry consultant, Darin Stringer of Integrated Resource Management (IRM), we marked a 10 acre demonstration site in the southern section of the Preserve for variable density thinning, slash grinding, and brushing. Scott Melcher used his Harvester to cut small diameter ponderosa pine trees, then IRM followed behind with their **biodiesel-fueled Lightfoot**. The result is a much healthier stand that will not only reduce fire risk, but also promote more rapid large-diameter tree growth and enhanced habitat for wildlife species. *cont'd on page 7*

Birding Hot Spots

Since 2000, birders with the **East Cascades Bird Conservancy (ECBC)** have documented 140 species on the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. At nearly a species per acre, this bird diversity may be hard to match anywhere in the Deschutes Basin. ECBC now enters its fifth year of surveys at Camp Polk, capping off one of the boldest volunteer birding efforts in Central Oregon. **Over 70 volunteers have contributed nearly 900 hours** since the project began. *cont'd on page 3*

2004 Annual Report

The Land Trust **2004 Annual Report** is now available. You can find it on our website at www.deschuteslandtrust.org

A Vision for the Deschutes Basin



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"...it's clear that the Deschutes Basin is going to change in some truly dramatic ways..."

Measure 37 with its conversion of productive farm and forestland, shrinking state and federal budgets for conservation, and a nearly snow-less winter now threatening low streamflows and a bad fire season...not exactly

the most auspicious start to the Land Trust's 10th year of operations. That said, the challenges we face serve only to strengthen my conviction and commitment to this work.

With Central Oregon in the midst of an unprecedented boom and our state land-use system seemingly on life-support, it's clear that the Deschutes Basin is going to change in some truly dramatic ways in the next few years. Whether we like it or not, growth and change will happen. The real question is whether we can shape that growth so that it strengthens our communities. Will we have abundant fish and

wildlife, clean water and wide open views? Will we build a diverse and stable economy by maintaining family farms, ranches and timberlands to complement the high tech, retirement and recreation industries we're recruiting? Will our children and grandchildren continue to see and count the stars on a clear, high desert night? Will they glimpse a scarlet red sockeye salmon returning from the North Pacific to spawn or sandhill cranes dancing in a marsh on the Crooked River? And can they expect to find a family wage job in the community they grew up in?

When I see people throw up their hands in frustration or when asked what the Land Trust provides to the community, I'm struck by the fact that we do so much more than conserve special places...we provide people with different viewpoints a place to come together and shape a vision for a better future. I hope you'll help us with that vision.

Brad Chalfant, *Executive Director*



"Gleaner" Volunteers Needed

Nathan Rau, a 16-year old Eagle Scout, recently organized a crew for a nesting box project at the **Metolius Preserve**. The project is focused on a Gleaner Study with Jim Anderson. Nathan asked Home Depot to donate plywood and screws and then with the crew's assistance over 70 nesting boxes were cut out and assembled. The nest boxes ranged in size for nuthatches to small owls.

A "Gleaner Study" entails placing nesting boxes in the forest for small birds that "glean" insects from trees. Nuthatches, chickadees, and others of their kind are insect-eating cavity nesters, and as such are essential elements in the elusive goal of "Forest Health".

On a cold day in December, Nathan and his crew placed the boxes around the Metolius Preserve and recorded the locations using GPS.

This coming spring and summer Nathan and his crew will be monitoring the boxes and study what impact these nesting birds may have on the Preserve forests and adjacent US Forest Service areas.

Volunteers are needed May

through July to assist with monitoring the nest boxes on a regular basis to observe and record nesting activity. For more information about this volunteer opportunity please contact the Land Trust at (541) 330-0017.

Jim Anderson, *Sisters Naturalist*



Jim Anderson

Nathan Rau places a nesting box at the Metolius Preserve.



Birding Hot Spots *cont'd from page 1*

Even before the acquisition of the **Metolius Preserve**, ECBC started surveying the birds inhabiting the forested property. A grant from **Wolfree/US Fish & Wildlife Service** allowed the ECBC to explore every corner of the Preserve in 2004, finding over 80 bird species. In addition to seven woodpecker and seven flycatcher species, the Preserve hosted singing Veery (a forest thrush) and Red-eyed Vireo this past summer, two species considered rare in the region, neither of which has ever been observed nesting in the Metolius Basin.

In 2004, the **Oregon Cascades Birding Trail** selected Camp Polk Meadow Preserve as one of 184 key birding sites throughout Oregon's Cascade Mountains. ECBC also helped secure funding from **The American Bird Conservancy** for a habitat conservation project. In an effort to improve nest sites for cavity-nesting bird species, the ECBC partnered with the Land Trust for a unique snag-creation project at the Preserve. This winter eight ponderosa pine trees at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve had their tops removed to enhance their suitability for the

White-headed Woodpecker, a sensitive and declining species throughout the Deschutes Basin.

Birders of all skill levels are invited to join us this season. Volunteers at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve are needed

to help monitor avian use of the newly created snags on the property. Volunteers are needed at the Metolius Preserve to help observe bird nesting behaviors, contributing to our knowledge of avian response to various forest management techniques.

Grab your binoculars (or we'll loan you a pair!) and join us in the field this spring. Contact project coordinator **Steve Shunk at 408-1753** for details and dates of scheduled orientations at both Preserves. Come out and help make a difference...for the birds. **Steve Shunk, East Cascades Bird Conservancy**



The Red-naped Sapsucker is an annual cavity-nester at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.

Steve Shunk



Renew Early!
Please consider using the envelope in this newsletter to renew your membership for 2005.

In an effort to save resources the Land Trust will only be sending a renewal notice to members in the Fall.

Thank you!

What is a "Conservation Buyer"?



A Conservation Buyer is a real estate buyer who wants to help the Land Trust protect the scenic, historic, agricultural, or wildlife values of a property. The Land Trust works with Conservation Buyers to identify priority conservation properties that meet a buyer's specific needs. Following the purchase, the Conservation Buyer donates a **Conservation Easement** to the Land Trust. The donation of the Conservation Easement may result in significant tax benefits to the buyer.

Conservation buyer transactions are an effective means of conserving special properties, and the Land Trust is developing a formal **Conservation Buyer** program that will help us match conservation buyers with suitable properties. If you're interested in our **Conservation Buyer** program please contact Brad Nye at (541) 330-0017.

Thematic Tours of Land Trust Preserves

Explore, have fun, and learn about the Land Trust's Preserves!

Group size is limited; please RSVP early to the Land Trust office at (541)330-0017. Bring water, walking shoes, and binoculars (optional). Dress in layers for weather conditions. Please note that some of the Preserves contain few established trails and the ability to traverse uneven terrain may be required. For further information or driving directions contact us or visit our website at: www.deschuteslandtrust.org

Metolius Preserve

- **Bird Walk** with Norma Funai
April 23rd, 9-11AM
- **Bird Walk** with Norma Funai & Jim Anderson - May 20th, 9-11AM
- **Plant Ecology Walk**
with Paul Edgerton - May 28th, 9-11AM
- **Forestry Walk** with Amanda Egertson & Paul Edgerton - June 17th, 10AM-12PM
- **Bird Walk** with Norma Funai
June 25th, 8:30-10:30AM
- **Plant Ecology Walk** with Paul Edgerton
Aug 6th, 10AM-12PM
- **Ecology Walk** with Kent Gill
Aug 27th, 10AM-12PM

* Riverfest Event

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve

- **Bird Walk*** with Norma Funai
May 6th, 8:30-10:30AM

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve

- **Wildlife Walk*** with Jim Anderson & Joyce Padgham - May 3rd, 8:30-11:30AM
- **Restoration & Cultural History**
with Joyce Padgham - May 26th, 9-11AM
- **Bird Walk** with Norma Funai
June 10th, 8:30-10:30 am
- **Restoration & Cultural History**
with Joyce Padgham - June 16th, 9-11AM
- **Bird Walk** with Norma Funai
July 1st, 8:30-10:30AM
- **Fall River Ecology Walk**
with Maret Pajutee - Sept 17th, 10AM-12PM

Want to Sign Up?

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

What You Can Do...Electronically!

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.



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Join Us For Our 2005 Stewardship Season

We look forward to having you join us to take care of our Preserves this 2005 field season! We will be transplanting vegetation, collecting seed, pulling weeds, building fences and trails, monitoring our preserves, and working on other projects as needs arise.



Amanda Egertson

COIC volunteers help transplant native vegetation at the Metolius Preserve.

May

Sat. May 7: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Work Party
Wed. May 18: Indian Ford Meadow Preserve Work Party

June

Sat. June 4: Metolius Preserve Work Party
Wed. June 15: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Work Party

July

Sat. July 2: Indian Ford Meadow Preserve Work Party
Wed. July 20: Metolius Preserve Work Party
Sat. July 30: Metolius Preserve Work Party

August

Wed. Aug 17: Metolius Preserve Work Party



Amanda Egertson

Amphibian surveyors take a closer look into the ponds at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.



Amanda Egertson

Volunteers help burn slash piles at the Metolius Preserve.

September

Sat. Sept. 3: Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Work Party
Wed. Sept. 21: Metolius Preserve Work Party

October

Sat. Oct. 8: Metolius Preserve Work Party

A carpool will leave the Land Trust office in Bend at 8:30 am and return by 1:30 pm. Actual start time depends on location, activities at Camp Polk Meadow and Indian Ford Meadow start at 9:00 am and at Metolius Preserve at 9:30 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: _____
Address: _____

Phone (day): _____
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 _____

Presidential Thoughts



Founders attend the NW Land Trust Alliance Conference.

“...discussions are aimed at keeping Central Oregon’s special character present for future generations.”

Central Oregon, and Central Oregonians, are remarkable. Ten years ago a handful of residents set out to establish a land trust focused on the Deschutes Basin. The goal: to preserve for future generations some of the special places which give

Central Oregon its character.

It was risky. Would people care? The Land Trust was private, relying on the generosity of those who shared the vision and understood how important a long term view was. In conserving land, opportunities come at their own pace and time. The Land Trust had to be there, available, for the community and its landowners, and operate on the community’s timetable. Not always easy.

This year, on the Land Trust’s tenth anniversary, Central Oregonians can be proud. This small organization has been a catalyst in the **conservation of 5,503 acres**, and now

owns outright 1,455 acres, held in trust for the community. It’s been in the black for every one of those years, and has a modest endowment. A commendable accomplishment.

As I write discussions are under way with local landowners regarding easements, acquisitions, or other mutually beneficial arrangements. The discussions are aimed at keeping Central Oregon’s special character present for future generations.

But there’s more work to be done--making the long view permanent. The Land Trust needs to gain the solid, enduring financial support which will enable it to respond to those special, unpredictable opportunities in the future.

The founders were right. People do care. Two hundred volunteers have rolled up their sleeves to help improve and maintain land that is now a community asset, and over 750 families contribute financially. More and more people here, when asked "Do you have a land trust?" will say, "Of course--the Deschutes Basin Land Trust. Have you seen the Metolius Preserve? It’s magnificent."

Dwain Fullerton, Board President



More Water for Indian Ford Creek

Over the past three years the Land Trust and the **Oregon Water Trust** have been working with the owners of the **Willows Ranch on Indian Ford Creek** to create a senior instream water right for the creek. By converting from a surface water supply to a ground water supply, Willows Ranch has improved its irrigation system and reduced its water use.

The reduced water use was captured in a **permanent instream water** right, which will help provide increased flow in Indian Ford Creek. The instream water right, created in part from the oldest water right on Indian Ford Creek, protects from 1- 2 cfs (cubic feet per second) of water through the summer months. This water will recharge wetlands and increase the amount and quality of habitat for the stream’s redband trout.

The Land Trust thanks the Willows Ranch for their vision, cooperation, and patience, the Oregon Water Trust for navigating the instream water right process, and the **Deschutes River Conservancy** for its help with the transaction.





Forest Stewardship *cont'd from page 1*

Our core forest stewardship goals for the Metolius Preserve are as follows:

- To restore historic anadromous fish populations through habitat improvement and protection.
- To restore and maintain habitats in a condition that supports native wildlife populations.
- To reduce risk of catastrophic forest fire.
- To integrate management with USFS plans for surrounding lands to achieve landscape-scale objectives.
- To restore and maintain rare and listed plant populations.



Scott Melcher operates a Harvester to cut small diameter ponderosa pine trees at the demo site.

Amanda Egertson



IRM's bio-diesel fueled Lightfoot grinds slash and brush at the demo site.

Amanda Egertson

- To provide for low-impact recreational use, consistent with natural resource protection and restoration goals.
- To provide for public interpretation, educational and research opportunities focused on the unique fishery and forest resources.
- To achieve goals with limited financial outlays by utilizing self-sustaining management.

The forest stewardship demo area was a first step in attaining these goals and we look forward to implementing similar prescriptions on a larger scale.

In the meantime, we encourage you to head out to the Preserve to view our work first hand. Feel free to stop by the demo area anytime, or join one of the many Preserve tours that will be offered throughout the summer. For directions to the site and more photos, please see our website: www.deschuteslandtrust.org/forestrydemo.htm

What You Can Do for the Future...

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.

For more information about including the Land Trust in your future plans visit our website at www.deschuteslandtrust.org or contact Brian Harrington at 541-330-0017.

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A Tree with Many Names

The ponderosa pine is commonly referred to as a black bark pine until it develops its cinnamon colored plates and deep furrows. Old-growth ponderosas are often called yellow belly ponderosa.



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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 Wildlife Walk - May 3rd
- Indian Ford Meadow Bird Walk - May 6th

Land Trust Field Season Work Parties:

- May to September 2005

Land Trust Preserves Guided Tours

- April to September 2005

NW Land Trust Alliance Conference

- Leavenworth, WA April 7th-9th

Land Trust Alliance Rally

- Madison, WI October 14th-17th

Wish List

Scanner
Volunteers
Bookshelves
13" Laminator
8 ft Conference Table & Chairs
Welding and Metal fabrication
Woodworking skills for Signs & Benches

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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