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SPRING NEWSLETTER

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BYRON DUDLEY



DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST

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Get Involved with us!



Connect With Us

Explore the nature of Central Oregon from home! Follow us on Facebook or Instagram, or join our e-newsletter to get the latest Land Trust news: deschuteslandtrust.org



Volunteer Your Time

Donate your time to tend trails, count birds, stuff envelopes, or help on hikes! Make your community a better place by volunteering today: deschuteslandtrust.org/volunteer



Explore Our Lands

The Deschutes Land Trust conserves and cares for 18,742 acres of land in our region for today and tomorrow. Visit one of our protected lands on your own, or join us April-November for a free, guided walk or hike.

Walks + Hikes

From geology to butterflies, history to kids' outings, our volunteer leaders help you explore the wonders of Central Oregon.

Join us today: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes



JACK HAWKINS



Saving Skyline Forest

Will this be the year that the Land Trust saves Skyline Forest? As longtime Central Oregonians know, the Land Trust has worked for nearly 20 years to permanently protect Skyline Forest—the 33,000 acre forest between Bend and Sisters. This year marks four years since this property was listed for sale, and in that time, Deschutes Land Trust has been actively pursuing a strategy to purchase the property from its current owners and find a permanent conservation solution for this special place.

We have also been working with our community to envision a future for Skyline Forest that reflects our changing community and our changing climate. A group of community stakeholders—recreationists, local nonprofit and conservation groups, Tribal members, land managers, government officials, and more—came together last year to create a community vision for Skyline Forest. The end result is a document that outlines eight shared values around wildlife and habitat conservation, recreation and community use, and wildfire risk mitigation. Our goal is to use this community vision to help center the Land Trust's approach to conserving Skyline Forest in a way that upholds these values.

Today, we are entering a new phase of our path toward finding a permanent conservation outcome for Skyline Forest and are working on developing the funding partnerships that will enable us to move forward with a purchase of the property. Of course, we are only able to move at the pace and will of the landowner, but we are optimistic that 2023 will be a productive year for conserving Skyline Forest for our entire community. Regardless of how the project moves forward, we know that the conservation of Skyline Forest will take all of us coming together to save this important community resource.

Look for more information in our monthly e-newsletter about how you can get involved. Skyline Forest protects important wildlife habitat, tremendous recreation opportunities, and the scenic green foothills that set off the Central Oregon Cascades. Together we can ensure that we find a conservation solution to permanently protect this treasure of Central Oregon.

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/skyline-forest



Creative Ways To Get Your Kiddos Outside

As the days start to lengthen and get warmer again, you might be thinking it's time to get the family out of the house and back into nature! If you're hesitant about taking the family hiking, or want to find new ways to avoid questions like "Are we there yet?", here are three fun ways to engage your whole family in hikes!

1

Let the kiddos be the experts!

Encourage them to be the hike leaders by including them in everything from snack picking to route setting. Help them explore trail maps even before leaving the house and decide the route they want to try. Make hiking feel like a special activity by letting your kiddo design a personal trail mix at the grocery store! Buy ingredients like nuts, candies, chocolate, or dried fruit and let them make their own unique mix for the trail!

2

Get the cameras out!

During your hike, make fun nature videos together! Film some shorts for your imaginary Animal Planet channel, and get your kids to narrate different parts of their hiking experience. You can prompt them with questions like: What are they doing? What are they seeing and observing? What animals may have been there before? Bonus points if they do it in a silly voice!

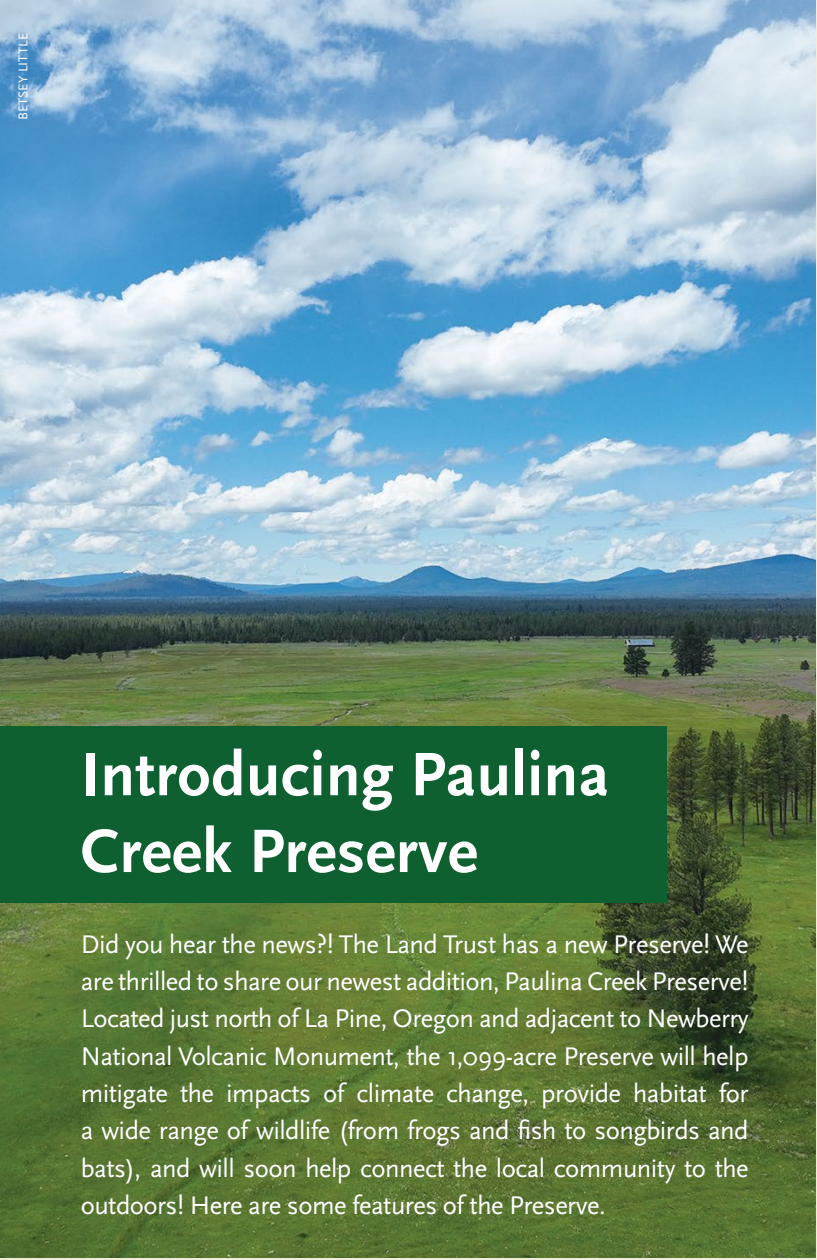
3

Incorporate activities that engage the senses!

These ideas take prep but are a blast to incorporate into your hikes. One of my favorite kid-focused activities is paint chip scavenger hunts. Before your hike, pick up a variety of paper paint samples (found in hardware stores) and see how closely you can match things on the trail with the samples! Extra fun: make up new names for the paint colors based on what you found on the trail!

For more tips on how to help kids explore nature, visit: deschuteslandtrust.org/kids

#HappyHiking!



Introducing Paulina Creek Preserve

Did you hear the news?! The Land Trust has a new Preserve! We are thrilled to share our newest addition, Paulina Creek Preserve! Located just north of La Pine, Oregon and adjacent to Newberry National Volcanic Monument, the 1,099-acre Preserve will help mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife (from frogs and fish to songbirds and bats), and will soon help connect the local community to the outdoors! Here are some features of the Preserve.

Haven for Plants and Animals

Paulina Creek Preserve protects more than three miles of Paulina Creek, a ribbon of lush green in our high desert. The creek and its surrounding wetlands, meadows, and forests provide habitat for a wide range of fish and wildlife including rainbow and brown trout, bald and golden eagles, migratory songbirds, deer and elk, Western monarch butterflies, and other pollinators.

The Land Trust will work to improve habitat for these plants and animals through future stream and forest restoration efforts. Stream restoration will focus on restoring Paulina Creek and its surrounding wet meadow by realigning the creek into its historic channels and reconnecting it to its floodplain. We also plan on improving water quality and quantity in Paulina Creek and Paulina Lake by returning irrigation water rights to instream use. Forest and meadow restoration efforts will center around

restoring native plant communities in transitional areas between floodplain and forests, and increasing resilience to wildfire through sustainable thinning and fuels reduction efforts.

Climate Resilience

Paulina Creek Preserve is an important refuge for a warming climate. Strong connections to surrounding undeveloped lands (Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) and a barrier-free landscape mean the Preserve will continue to provide wildlife habitat into the future as the climate changes. A restored Paulina Creek will help hold and provide cold water habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. Restored forests can help mitigate wildfire risk as regional fires become more common. The wet meadow at Paulina Creek Preserve also plays an important role in helping mitigate the impacts of climate change: it acts as a carbon sink, removing carbon from the atmosphere and helping buffer local impacts from a warming climate.

Community Connections

As the Land Trust works to plan for the future of Paulina Creek Preserve, we look forward to involving local communities in the planning process. We are working with the Klamath Tribes, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and others to develop strategies for managing and restoring the property, as well as for sharing the history of the people who have cared for this land since time immemorial. The Land Trust is currently in the process of soliciting community feedback on community values around the Preserve and will use that feedback to help craft access and management plans. Future goals include establishing Preserve trails and access points that eventually connect to trails in Newberry National Volcanic Monument and other local trailheads.

Save the Date!

Paulina Creek Preserve Open House:

OCT
14
2023



Watch our website for more details!

Birds of Central Oregon

A flash of color in the treetops. An intricate song emerging from the willows. The shriek of a raptor soaring high in the sky. Birds are all around us! If you take a moment to stop, look, and listen, you'll begin to hear them rustling in shrubs, see their quick flights between trees, and pick up on their small chirps.

With more than 169 species of birds spotted at the Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, we can't share all of the birds of Central Oregon with you! Here are three that are sure to delight and surprise you.



KRIS KRISTOVICH

American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*)



Length: 7.5 inches



Habitat: Fast flowing streams

Did you know that Central Oregon has a songbird that walks under water?!? American dippers can be spotted on boulders and downed logs next to or in streams, bobbing their body up and down (hence the name dipper). This is the telltale sign of the bird, as its dark gray plumage is not as identifying. American dippers feed on aquatic larvae, which they find underwater in clear, whitewater streams.



KRIS KRISTOVICH

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)



Length: 12.5 inches



Habitat: Open woodlands

This is an easy one to spot around town! Northern flickers have a slim head, slightly curved bill, white rump, and a long tail that tapers to a point. Their plumage is striking with a brown body patterned with black spots, bars, and crescents. The underside of their wing and tail feathers are a rosy red. Males have a bright red mustache stripe. Northern flickers mainly eat ants and beetles and, because of this, are often spotted on the ground as they forage. They use their long, barbed tongue to lick up their meals.



KRIS KRISTOVICH

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)



Length: 3.75 inches



Habitat: Open woodlands

Unmistakable from other hummingbirds in Central Oregon, the Rufous hummingbird is so named due to the brilliant orange-red feathers that cover the bodies of males. Females have green back feathers with an orange-red central throat. Rufous hummingbirds are recognized as quite feisty! If you have a hummingbird feeder, you've probably noticed they are your most aggressive hummingbird, constantly chasing off others. Rufous hummingbirds breed farther north than any other hummingbird, reaching all the way to Alaska.

See more birds of Central Oregon: deschuteslandtrust.org/co-birds

CONSERVATION. COMMUNITY. CARING FOR THE LAND.



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