

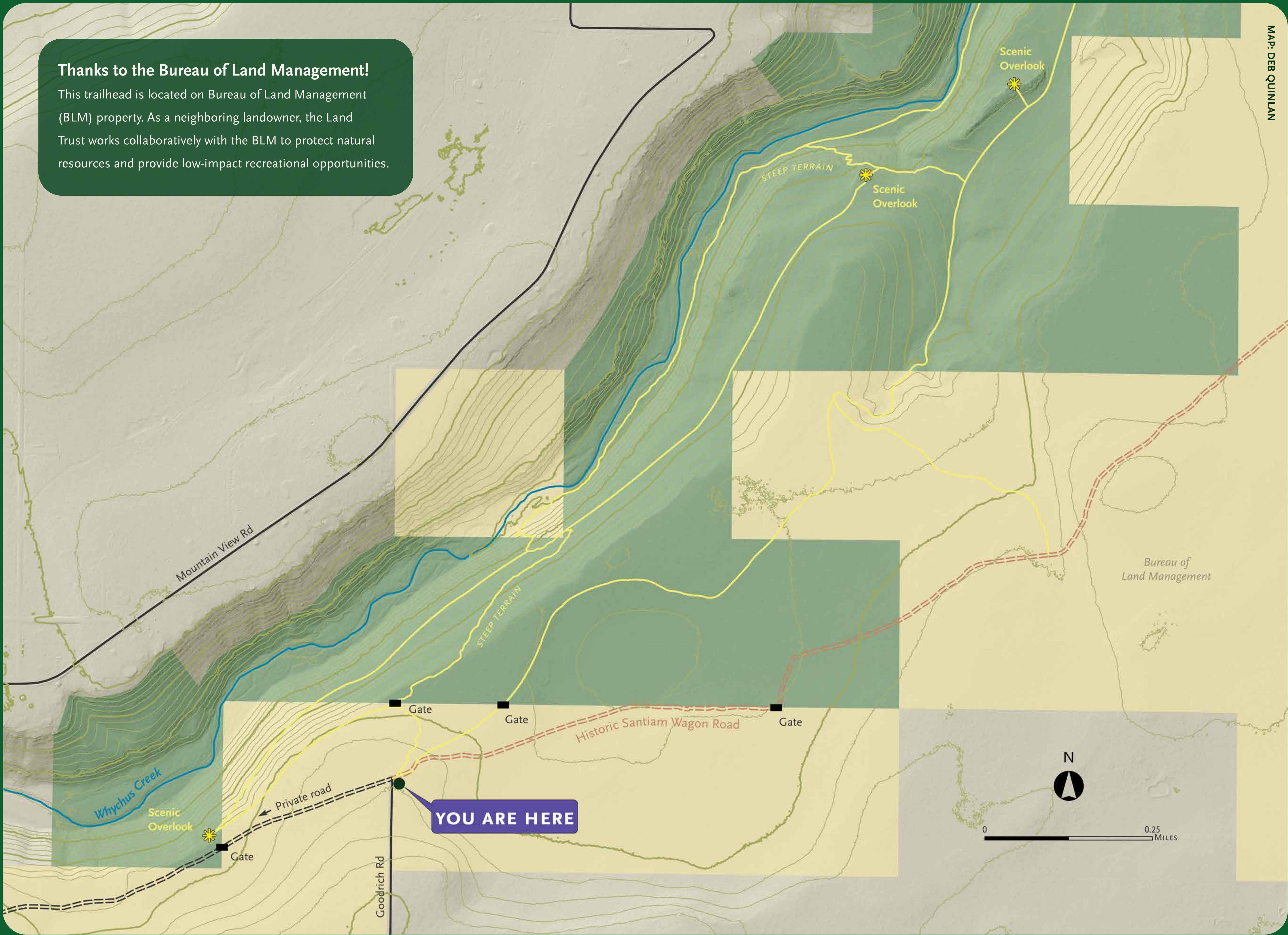
WELCOME TO WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

EXPLORING WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

Whychus Canyon Preserve is open to the public during daylight hours year-round and use is conditional upon following these and any other posted rules:

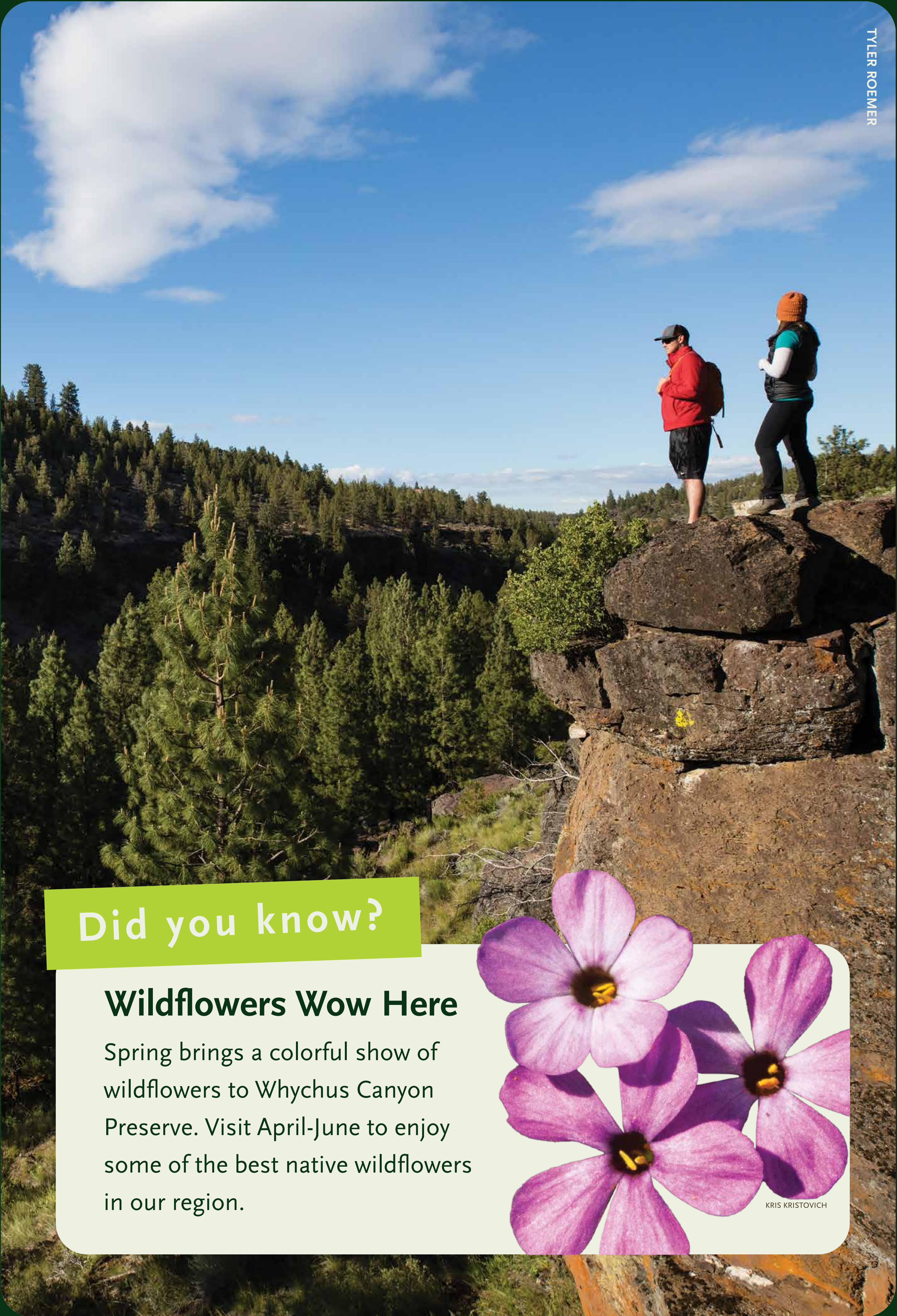
-  Dogs must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES. Please clean up after your pet.
-  Pedestrian travel only: no bike, horse, or motorized vehicle use. Stay on trails and respect restrictions as posted.
-  Help care for plants and animals. Removal or disturbance of plants, wildlife, and historical artifacts is prohibited.
-  Follow state laws when fishing on the Preserve.
-  No hunting, camping, campfires, smoking, or unmanned aircraft use. Commercial use and private events are prohibited.

This Preserve is private property owned by Deschutes Land Trust. Your use of the property is conditional upon these and any other posted rules. Preserve users failing to observe posted rules are trespassing and subject to applicable laws and penalties. Visitors to the Preserve may encounter risks associated with terrain, wildlife, and weather. The Deschutes Land Trust is not liable for injuries to Preserve visitors.



The Deschutes Land Trust conserves and cares for the lands and waters that sustain Central Oregon, so local communities and the natural world can flourish together for generations to come. We protected Whychus Canyon Preserve with the help of generous donors and countless volunteers. You can continue to protect the places you love by exploring our Preserves, and by becoming a member or volunteering today.

[DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG](https://deschuteslandtrust.org) | (541) 330-0017



Did you know?

Wildflowers Wow Here

Spring brings a colorful show of wildflowers to Whychus Canyon Preserve. Visit April-June to enjoy some of the best native wildflowers in our region.



Leer en español, listen with an audio reader, or download for reading later.

Wildlife Follow the Water



Animals like songbirds, deer, elk, and salmon all follow the water, finding food and shelter along the way. Many different kinds of birds can be found at the Preserve. Look for Western bluebirds in the sagebrush meadows or warblers along the creek. When you're hiking into the canyon, listen for the canyon wren's song (pictured above). It sounds like a descending series of notes.

The Preserve and surrounding public lands also provide habitat for mule deer and elk. These migrating animals follow waterways as they move from summer range in the mountains, to less snowy winter range in the high desert.

Salmon and Steelhead Depend on Whychus Creek

Steelhead and Chinook salmon swim through Whychus Creek, the Deschutes River, and the Columbia River to reach the ocean. Later, they will return to the creeks where they were born to lay eggs, which will hatch and grow in the safety of Whychus Creek.



Did you know?

Whychus is a Sahaptin name meaning "the place we cross the water."

WHYCHUS CREEK: A PATHWAY FOR LIFE

In our high desert region, creeks and rivers make green pathways for both wildlife and people. Places like Whychus Canyon Preserve offer a refuge for wildlife that also provide a connection to the outdoors for community members and visitors alike.

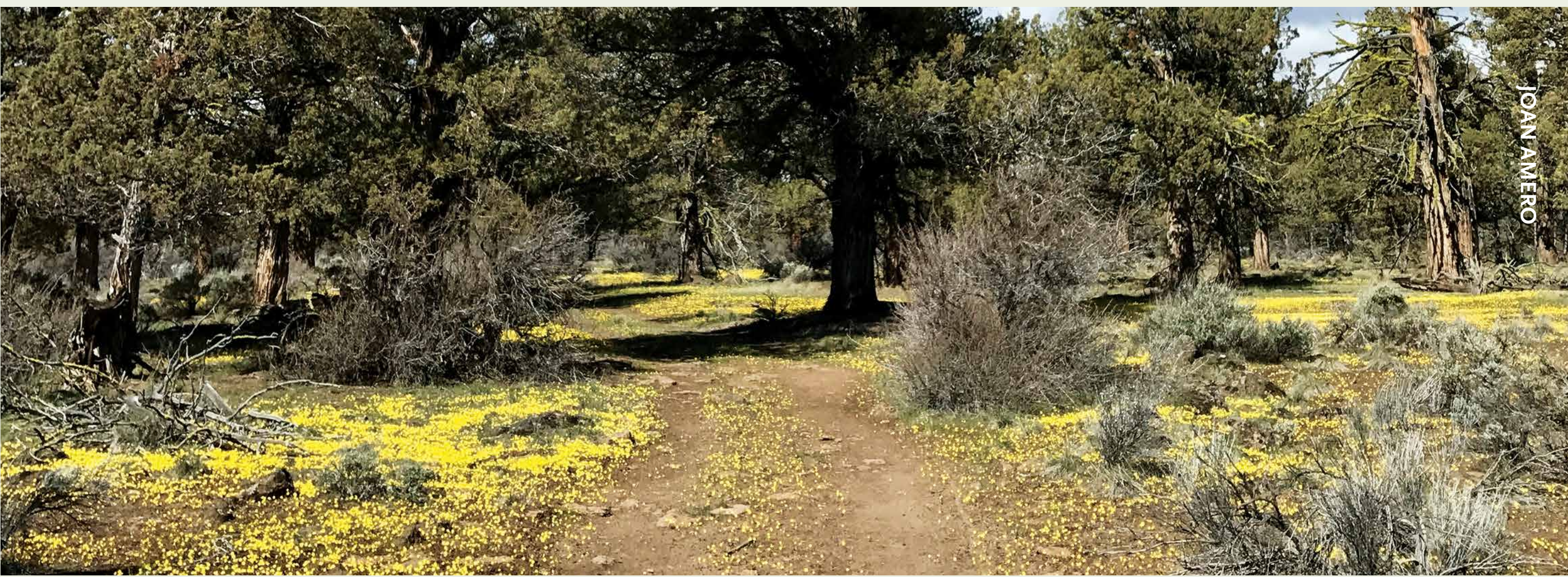


People Follow the Water

People have also been drawn to these green pathways for thousands of years for food, shelter, commerce, and recreation. The Northern Paiute, including two family groups called Wadatika (Seed Eaters) and the Tudyhdika (Deer Eaters) lived in the region, following creeks such as Whychus for its seasonal food sources. The Paiute are today a part of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Whychus Canyon Preserve is part of their traditional lands they were forced to cede in the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon in 1855.



Learn more about the original stewards of the land on the other side of this kiosk!



The Santiam Wagon Road

The historic Santiam Wagon Road also followed the creeks and meadows of Central Oregon. It provided passage from the Willamette Valley across the Cascades to the gold mines of John Day and Canyon City. A portion of this Wagon Road crossed Whychus Canyon Preserve. Learn more by walking the nearby Wagon Road Trail or joining the Land Trust for a guided tour.



NATIVE AMERICAN STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Deschutes Land Trust conserves and cares for lands in Central Oregon, including Whychus Canyon Preserve, that are part of the traditional lands of Native Americans in our region.

Acknowledging the Past



Since time immemorial, Native Americans, including the Warm Springs, Wasq'u (Wasco), and Paiute Tribes, have lived in this region. When Euro-Americans arrived in the early 1800s, they cleared forests, built settlements, and disrupted traditional Tribal territories, leading to forced displacement and cultural suppression. Between 1850-1870, the United States government further disrupted lifeways by forcibly moving most Tribes onto established reservations through treaties.

In 1855 the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon defined the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and affirmed Tribal rights to harvest and manage fish, wildlife, and other foods on the reservation and on accustomed lands outside of the reservation. The Warm Springs, Wasq'u (Wasco), and Paiute Tribes comprise the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Whychus Canyon Preserve is part of the traditional lands ceded to the United States in the Treaty of 1855.



Protecting Gifts From the Land

Since time immemorial, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have cared for the lands of Central Oregon to ensure that water, culturally significant foods, and traditional medicines are available for future generations.

Water



Fish



Deer + Elk



Roots + Berries



Building a Future Together

The Land Trust considers the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs important partners in management and restoration of our protected lands. The Land Trust honors their rights as a sovereign nation to harvest and manage fish, wildlife, and other first foods on their usual and accustomed lands, including Whychus Canyon Preserve. We also honor their traditional role as the original stewards of the land, helping care for and connect with the land since time immemorial.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, in partnership with Portland General Electric, provide funding, technical support, and guidance for conserving and restoring Whychus Canyon Preserve. We are grateful for the long-term partnership of their Natural Resources department staff who have served on our Board of Directors and as formal Advisors since 1997.

Reconnecting with Ancestral Lands

While acknowledging the past and present role of Native Americans as stewards of the lands is important, the Land Trust also believes that there is more to be done to address the harms of the past and reconnect communities with their ancestral lands. As a conservation organization and a landowner, the Land Trust is seeking ways we can support increased Indigenous access, stewardship, and ownership of land. Learn more about how you can get involved by scanning our code below.



THANK YOU!

The Deschutes Land Trust established Whychus Canyon Preserve in 2010 thanks to an amazing community of supporters. We thank you for your visionary investment in the future of Central Oregon and gratefully acknowledge all who have helped us conserve and protect Whychus Canyon Preserve forever!



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