

WELCOME TO CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE

EXPLORING CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE

The Hindman Springs portion of Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is open to the public during daylight hours year-round. The rest of the meadow is closed unless on an authorized Land Trust visit. When exploring the Hindman Springs Area, your use is conditional upon following these and any other posted rules:



Dogs are NOT allowed at the Preserve (except trained service animals).



Pedestrian travel only; no bike, horse, or motorized vehicle use. Stay on trails and respect restrictions as posted.

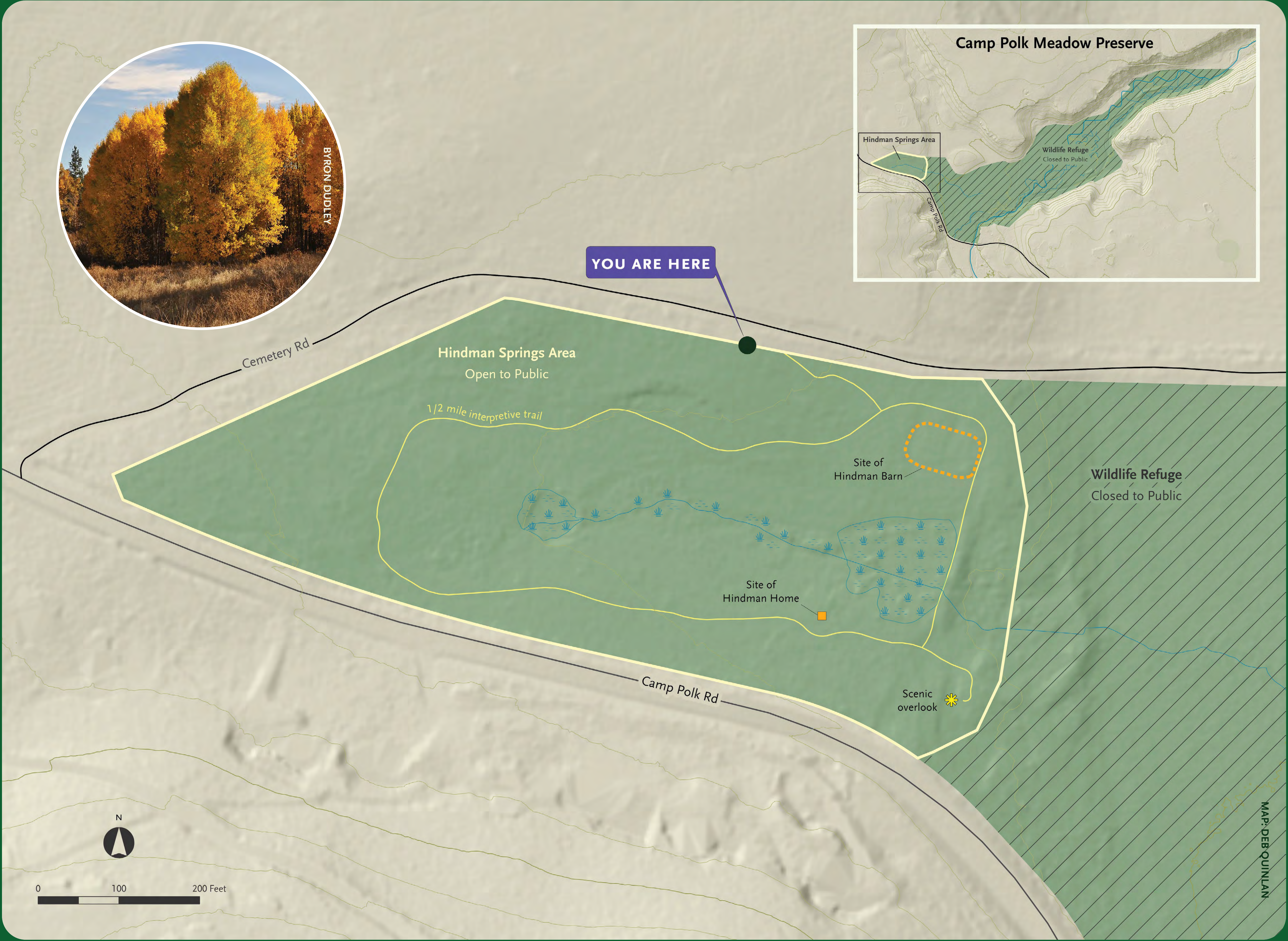


Help care for plants and animals. Removal or disturbance of plants, wildlife, and historical artifacts is prohibited.



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.



DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST

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 Camp Polk Meadow 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.

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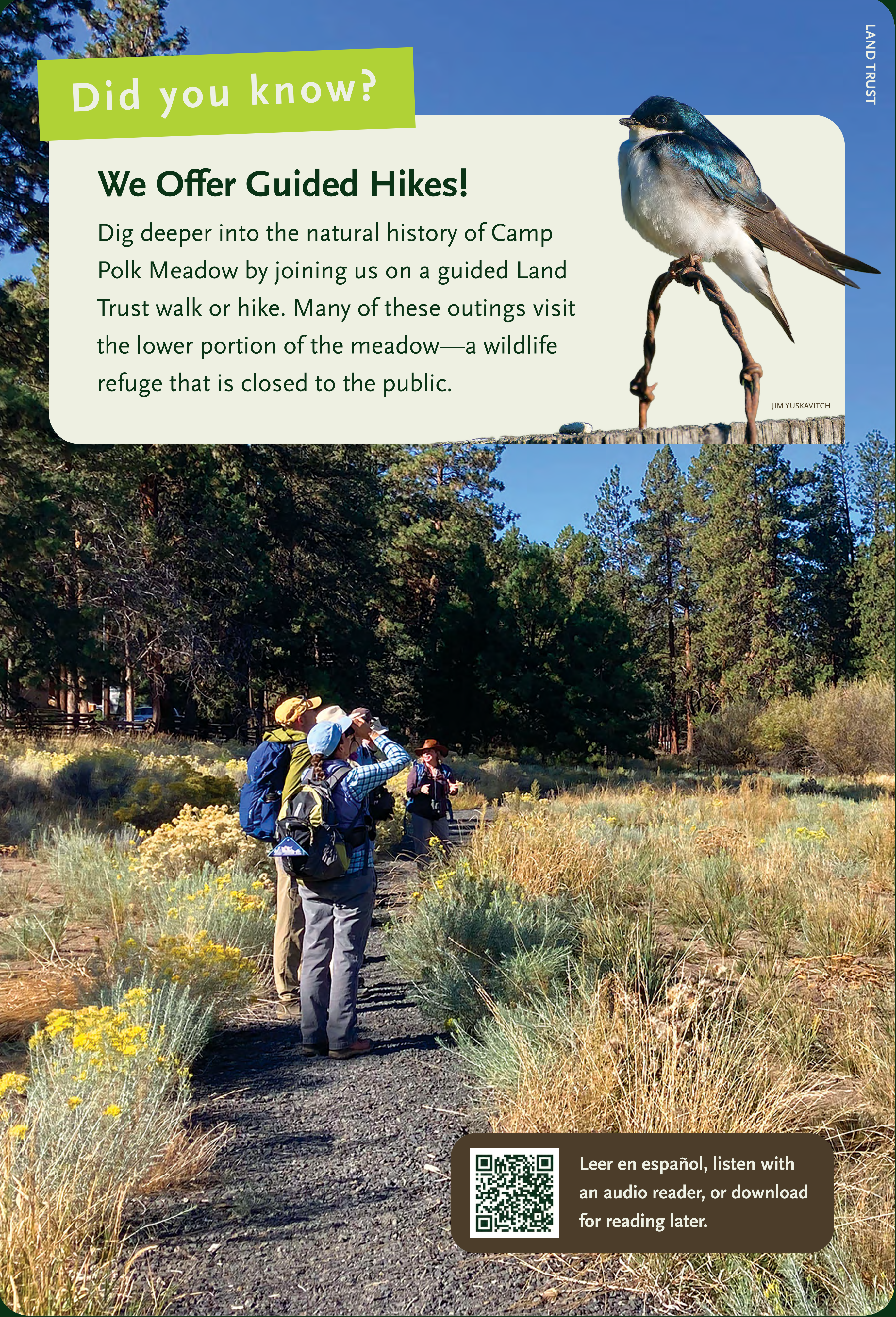
Did you know?

We Offer Guided Hikes!

Dig deeper into the natural history of Camp Polk Meadow by joining us on a guided Land Trust walk or hike. Many of these outings visit the lower portion of the meadow—a wildlife refuge that is closed to the public.



LAND TRUST



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

Nature Plays a Lead Role



Nature plays a leading role here at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. This meadow along Whychus Creek is one of only three large meadows on the entire 41-mile creek. Whychus Creek starts high in the mountains and flows through a mix of meadow and canyon sections. These meadows give the creek space to spread out, slow down, and build habitat diversity. Think slow and fast water, small side channels, and deep pools for salmon and steelhead. Dense streamside plants provide shelter and food for deer, elk, bobcat, and cougar. Wetlands and side channels are home to frogs, songbirds, and beavers. Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is a biologically rich island in our dry, high desert.

Songbirds and Swallowtails

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is a birding hot spot, home to 180+ different species! The Hindman Springs Area is a great place to watch birds. Look for blackbirds in the wetlands, calliope and other hummingbirds perched atop willows, and Western bluebirds in the juniper trees. Butterflies and other pollinators are also abundant in this part of the Preserve. Blooming native plants provide nectar and pollen for native pollinators like bees and butterflies. Watch for bright yellow swallowtail butterflies or, if you're lucky, the iconic orange and black of the monarch butterfly.



Did you know?

Led by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Chinook salmon and steelhead are making a comeback in Whychus Creek. Learn more by scanning our code to the left.



NATURAL AND CULTURAL TREASURES

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is a special place where nature and culture come together.



Rich Cultural History

Since time immemorial, Native Americans, including the Warm Springs, Wasq'u (Wasco), and Paiute Tribes, have lived in or visited this region. They visited places like Camp Polk on their seasonal rounds to hunt game for food, clothing, tools, and ceremonial uses. Today, Camp Polk remains an important place for local Tribes. It was part of the lands forcibly ceded by the Tribes to the United States in 1855. These Tribes are represented today by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The Land Trust considers the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs important partners in the stewardship of Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. We honor their rights as a sovereign nation to harvest and manage fish, wildlife, and other first foods on their traditional lands, including the Preserve.



Wagon Road Station

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve also played a key role in the early settlement of Central Oregon. The first Euro-Americans arrived in the 1800s. They camped and recorded descriptions in their journals of Camp Polk and nearby Indian Ford meadow. By 1868, Camp Polk became an early outpost on the Santiam Wagon Road, providing the area's first post office which predated the town of Sisters. The Hindman family, Samuel and Jane, settled here and built a house, a barn, and other structures near this kiosk. Today all that remains of this historic wagon road station is part of the Hindman barn, one of the oldest structures in Deschutes County.

Walk the nearby interpretive trail to explore more of the natural and cultural history of Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.