



landscapes

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DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2017}

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SUMMER + FALL PRESERVE UPDATES

The Deschutes Land Trust was hard at work this summer and fall making our Sisters-area Preserves healthy and inviting! As a neighbor of several of our Preserves, we thought you might want to know about some of these updates. Highlights include:

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve: The Land Trust rebuilt the Hindman Springs Area trail this summer. Visitors will now find a crushed gravel trail that is wider and offers a new bridge for easier walking. The trail update is the first phase of a larger effort to give this portion of Camp Polk Meadow Preserve some attention. We will embark on phase two in 2018 which will include stabilizing the Hindman Barn, restoring native plant communities, and installing new interpretive signs. New Preserve entrance signs were also installed this fall. The Hindman Springs Area is open to the public during daylight hours year-round.

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve: A new welcome kiosk was installed at Indian Ford Meadow this summer. It orients visitors to the Preserve and tells the story of the meadow's preservation along with its human and natural history. The Land Trust also built a new segment of trail at Indian Ford Meadow that transforms the out-and-back trail into a lovely loop through the meadow. Visitors will enjoy a better view of Indian Ford Creek, the Cascade Mountains, and the Preserve's wildlife. A new Preserve entrance sign was also installed this fall. Indian Ford Meadow Preserve is open to the public during daylight hours year-round.

Willow Springs Preserve: Willow Springs Preserve is the newest addition to the Land Trust family of Preserves! The Land Trust spent much of this summer and fall getting to know the Preserve and taking inventory of the natural resources. A new Preserve entrance sign was also installed this fall. Finally, we offered our first guided hikes of the Preserve and we look forward to welcoming you on more next season. Willow Springs Preserve is closed to the public, but can be visited on guided tours.

We also want to send out a big thank you to our volunteer crew of Trail Stewards who have been out regularly all summer helping taking care of the trails at our Preserves. They have been joined by two amazing volunteer Trail Ambassadors who hike these trails to visit with users and promote appropriate use. Thank you! —



TRAIL AMBASSADOR STEVE PONDER



TRAIL AMBASSADOR GINNY ELLIOTT



KRIS KRISTOVICH

GOLDEN EAGLE FEVER!

The Land Trust is extremely fortunate to have a pair of golden eagles that nest and fledge their young at our Aspen Hollow Preserve! Even cooler is the fact that you can watch the eagles on the nest via a live webcam.

Tune in this February as our neighbors and partners at East Cascades Audubon Society turn on the webcam and watch the eagles incubate and raise their young. Then, join us for a tour next summer to see the nesting site first-hand.

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/golden-eagles

JAY MATHER



RESTORATION EFFORTS CONTINUE

One of the Land Trust's major goals for our Preserves is to restore habitat for native fish and wildlife. Highlights for current restoration projects include:

Stream restoration: Whychus Canyon Preserve is in the midst of a massive 6-mile creek and meadow restoration project! The northernmost mile of the Preserve was restored in 2016, turning a straight creek and dry meadow into a multi-channelled creek, full of water, and offering much better habitat for fish and wildlife. In the fall of 2016, volunteers and others planted 62,000 native plants in the restoration area. In 2017, we added another 5,600 native plants and installed temporary fencing around some of the plants to keep away our deer and elk friends. This October brought the highest flows on Whychus Creek we've seen since the restoration began! Scientists working on the project were pleased to see the newly restored creek respond by distributing water across the meadow and depositing lots of fine sediment where new plants will soon thrive. Now we watch the restoration area grow and change, and we plan for the next phase upstream where we will again return the creek to a large meadow. This phase will begin in 2019.

Native plant restoration: The Land Trust has been working at all our Sisters-area Preserves this summer and fall to reduce populations of noxious weeds so our native plants can thrive. We target some of the worst weeds with herbicides if we can safely spray. But we also rely on an outstanding crew of volunteers called the Weed Warriors! These dedicated folks visit our Preserves three times a month to hand pull weeds in those sensitive areas near our creeks and wetlands. We are forever indebted to the Weed Warriors for all their time and efforts. Thank you!



THE WEED WARRIORS PAUSE FOR A BREAK. PHOTO: LAND TRUST.



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BUSY BEAVERS AT CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE:

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve was the scene of a massive creek and meadow restoration from 2009-2012. Today, the creek is making itself at home in the meadow, the tiny native plants we carefully placed in the ground are head high, and wildlife are returning! We saw the first adult steelhead return to the meadow in the spring of 2016 and our resident beavers have been hard at work dropping trees and making dams. All positive signs the meadow is recovering!

More: deschuteslandtrust.org/wildlife



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