



DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST

JACK GOODARD

Neighbor News

Your Connection to Land Trust Preserves

Metolius Preserve Prescribed Burn

By the time you read this newsletter, the Land Trust will hopefully have completed our first prescribed fire at the Metolius Preserve (unless it kept snowing in Camp Sherman)! We have been interested in prescribed burning at the Metolius Preserve for more than a decade, and, thanks to a new collaboration with the Deschutes National Forest and The Nature Conservancy, we are able to burn a small portion of the Preserve this May.

The Land Trust's ultimate goal for the forests of the Metolius Preserve is to create a forest that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and provides healthy habitat for native plants and animals. Reintroducing prescribed fire to the Preserve is an important step in helping maintain and create a more diverse forest of mixed-age trees with a variety of habitats for wildlife. Reintroducing low-intensity fire also improves soil fertility, promotes vegetation growth, and helps create snags, or dead standing trees, that wildlife use for shelter.

Central Oregon's forests have benefited from fire for thousands of years. In fact, the removal of fire during the last hundred years has shown us how important fire is. Small, regular low-intensity fires have been replaced by large catastrophic ones that make it harder for our forests to recover. Prescribed burning helps reset natural cycles while also helping us reduce the threat of catastrophic fire for our neighbors.

Assuming all went well with burn conditions, the Land Trust is thrilled to be able to return this important part of the natural forest cycle to our Metolius Preserve. Join us for a post-burn tour to see the results firsthand! Details at right.

New to the Neighbor News or want to stay up-to-date on our Metolius-area Preserves? Visit: deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news



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Post-Burn Tour

Join the Land Trust for a tour of the prescribed burn completed this spring at the Metolius Preserve: June 6 from 2:30-4:30pm. Visit the recently burned section and learn why fire is so important to our ponderosa pine forests.

Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes

**53
Acres**



The Land Trust hopes to complete prescribed burning on 53 acres of the Metolius Preserve in May 2024!



The Great Arctic Returns

The great arctic (*Oeneis nevadensis*) butterfly will be back this year and the Metolius Preserve should be a great place to spot it! Though maybe not as well known and easily identifiable as a monarch butterfly, these native butterflies are special in their own right. The beautiful orange-brown species is biennial, meaning it takes two years to complete metamorphosis. The great arctic hibernates as a young caterpillar their first winter, and then as mature caterpillars through their second winter. They are primarily seen in highest abundance in even numbered years (it's 2024!) due to their long life cycle. Their flight typically begins in late June and extends through August.

How to identify the great arctic:

The upper side of the wings are orange-brown to pale orange in color with two eyespots on the forewing, and usually one small black spot on the lower corner of the hindwing. The eyespots on butterflies can confuse predators, sometimes causing them to strike the wing thinking it is the butterfly's head. Even with a small bite taken out of its wing, a butterfly can still fly. The hindwing and the forewing of the great arctic have black outer borders. The underside of the wings can be described as cloudy brown or gray brown, often helping the butterfly blend in on logs, rocks, and bark. The great arctic is also the largest of the western arctics, measuring in at 2-2.5 inches.

Where to look for them:

The open, coniferous forest of the Metolius Preserve provides excellent habitat for the butterfly, and the rocky hills and meadow edges of the Cascades provide places for males who perch all day seeking females. **Learn more:** deschuteslandtrust.org/wildlife



Join us for an outing!

Join the Land Trust on a guided walk or hike! Each year volunteers lead free outings at Land Trust Preserves. From birds to bees, wildflowers to trees, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!

Land Trust Walks + Hikes are offered through October. **Learn more:** deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes



SUE ANDERSON

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