



DESCHUTES  
LAND  
TRUST

# Neighbor News

Your Connection to Paulina Creek Preserve

## Fire Near Paulina Creek Preserve

As you all know, June brought the first big fire of the season to La Pine. In the first few days, the Darlene 3 fire quickly grew to several thousand acres and evacuations and public land closures were in effect for neighborhoods and lands surrounding Paulina Creek Preserve.

Thankfully, the fire ended up growing primarily to the east, keeping our neighbors and Paulina Creek Preserve out of its path. By June 30th, the fire was mostly contained and evacuations were lifted. The Land Trust is hugely grateful to the firefighters and other team members who managed the incident so expertly! And, we are so thankful that all of our neighbors remained safe and their homes were not impacted by the fire.

Throughout the fire, the Land Trust was in close coordination with our partners who were leading firefighting efforts. We attended daily briefings and worked with the incident management team to find ways we could support firefighting efforts. We offered Paulina Creek Preserve as a temporary firefighting base camp, though fire managers eventually decided on other locations. Eventually, as the fire progressed, Paulina Creek Preserve was used as a temporary helicopter landing pad for reconnaissance flights.

Throughout the fire we remained so thankful for you, our neighbors, and the amazing firefighting team. We will always be there to help future firefighting efforts, and look forward to doing our part in fire-wise preparedness as we thin some of the forest at Paulina Creek Preserve this fall. Learn more about that project on the back side of this newsletter.

Stay up-to-date on Preserve news: [deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news)



## OPEN HOUSE

### Join us at our Open House!

Learn more about all our projects at our fall Open House! Celebrate an outstanding year of conservation, community, and caring for the land. Connect with Land Trust staff and other community members, and enjoy snacks and drinks.

**October 8, 2024, 5-7pm**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend

**RSVP:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/events](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/events)

### Did you know?

The Land Trust helped Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with a project to monitor migration and habitat use of the elk herd that is frequently at and around Paulina Creek Preserve.



# Forest Restoration at Paulina Creek Preserve

As we mentioned in our spring newsletter, one of the goals we have for Paulina Creek Preserve is to restore the forests at the Preserve to improve forest health and reduce the risk of fire danger. The Preserve has 578 acres of predominately ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine forests.

Past forest management at the Preserve, including fire suppression and a lack of active thinning, have changed the character of the forest on the property over time. Tree composition has shifted to favor the shorter-lived and more fire-prone lodgepole pine with fewer older ponderosa pines that are important to wildlife.

This fall or winter (depending on conditions) we will start our forest restoration efforts by thinning the dense forest near the southern border of the Preserve to create a fuel break for neighboring homes. The goal will be to thin lodgepole pine to favor ponderosa pine, and retain a mosaic of lodgepole thickets for wildlife shelter and cover. The thinning will be completed using machinery that cuts and gathers trees, and then hauled to existing landings/staging areas. Eventually, the thinned trees will be used in the restoration of Paulina Creek to provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Anytime the Land Trust completes forest restoration, we strive to ensure that overall disturbance on the land is limited, and that soils and plants in the thinned areas are protected as much as possible. We encourage you to join us for a guided walk after the thinning is complete to learn more about the restoration. We appreciate your patience as we work to build a new Preserve for our future!

Learn more: [deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news)



## Visit Paulina Creek Preserve!

Join the Land Trust on a guided tour of Paulina Creek Preserve! Each year volunteers lead free walks and hikes at Land Trust Preserves, including Paulina Creek Preserve.

Whether it's a bird walk, geology hike, or general tour, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!

Details: [deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)



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