



landscapes

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DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2018}

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NEIGHBOR NEWS: WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

Bird song, wildflowers, fresh green leaves . . . spring is indeed in the air and with it comes a flurry of activity at Deschutes Land Trust Preserves. As a neighbor of Whychus Canyon Preserve, we thought you might want to know what's happening at the Preserve. One of the major updates we are excited to share is the new naming system for our trails at Whychus Canyon Preserve! These trails are broken into four major sections:

Wagon Road Trails: This trail follows a portion of the historic Santiam Wagon Road. Interpretive signs tell the story of the road and the settlement of Central Oregon.

Rim Trails: These trails follow the canyon rim, providing stunning views of the canyon and the Three Sisters. In spring, Rim Trails are dotted with the brightly colored blooms of balsamroot, paintbrush, and lupine.

Meadow Trails: These trails provide access to the juniper and sagebrush meadows at the top of the canyon. Meadow Trails are flat for easy walking and offer a bounty of early spring wildflowers.

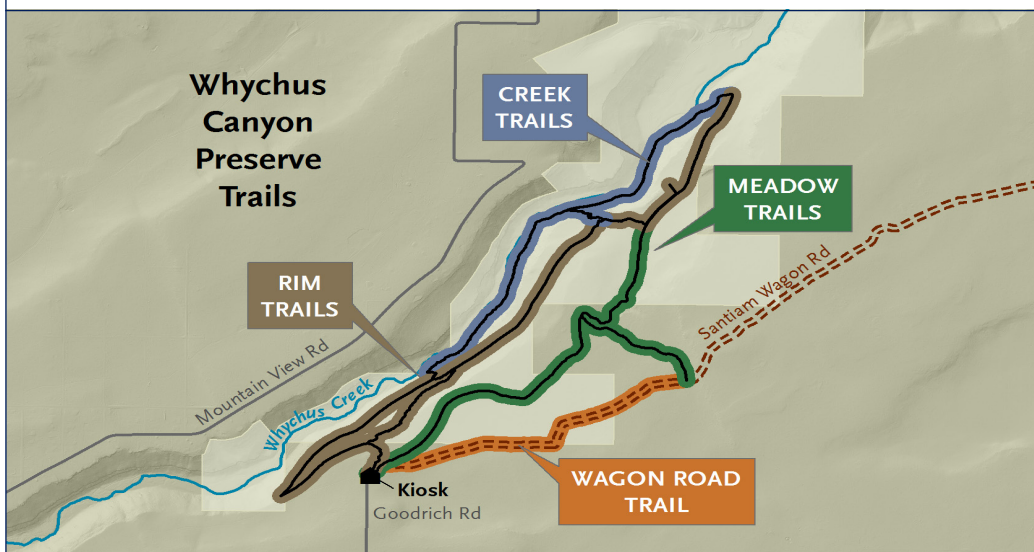
Creek Trails: These trails are accessed via the Rim Trails and follow Whychus Creek along the canyon floor. Visitors can enjoy the shade and quiet of the lush green vegetation that lines the creek. ➤



FISH RELEASES:

Spring is the season when tiny native fish are released at Whychus Canyon Preserve! In March, the Land Trust helped release 70,000 tiny Chinook salmon fry (~1" fish) all along Whychus Creek. At Whychus Canyon Preserve, volunteers in waders hiked in bags of fish looking for calm waters where these fish could find a home. The hope is that these salmon will bond with Whychus Canyon Preserve and Whychus Creek before they head to the ocean and then one day return to the Preserve to spawn and rear.

More: deschuteslandtrust.org/wildlife





MA WILSON

WHYCHUS CREEK RESTORATION UPDATE

In 2016, Whychus Canyon Preserve was the site of a massive creek and meadow restoration project designed to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Work focused on the northernmost mile of creek at the Preserve, dramatically changing a straight creek and dry meadow to a multi-channeled creek, a meadow full of water, and much better habitat for fish and wildlife. Today the meadow is quiet and you may wonder, what's next? **Restoration highlights for 2018:**

- We grow plants:** Restoration projects like the one at Whychus Canyon Preserve require a huge amount of new trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers to be planted! In 2016, 62,000 native plants were put in the ground, followed by another 5,000 in October of 2017. This spring, volunteers helped place 325 willow stems on the banks of Whychus Creek. These cuttings will soon take root and grow into large streamside shrubs. This fall we plan on planting another 5,000 trees and shrubs. Why go to all this effort? Streamside vegetation is very important to the health of Whychus Creek. These plants shade the creek and keep water temperatures cooler (good for fish and other critters). They keep soil from washing into the creek and help keep creek banks intact. And last, but not least, they provide hiding cover, perching locations, and homes for a variety of wildlife. Join us this fall to help plant your little patch and be a part of the Whychus Creek restoration!
- We monitor:** A huge part of restoration projects like this is monitoring how the site changes and grows over time. We continue to spend lots of time measuring and documenting physical and biological parameters to see how the restoration is progressing. This, in turn, will help inform the next phase of restoration. We hope to start the next phase of the restoration in a few years. —

Volunteers help plant along the banks of Whychus Creek inside a fenced enclosure. These temporary enclosures keep the hungry deer at bay and allow the plants to grow and thrive. Fences will be removed once the plants get established.



LSA BROWN

Check out the Whychus Canyon restoration without getting wet!

Join us for a special restoration tour just for neighbors: June 7, 10am-12pm
 Register online: deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-tour



LSA BROWN



THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST IS PROUD OF OUR GENEROUS FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS. JOIN US TODAY: DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN

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