

WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

COME CELEBRATE!

THE DEDICATION AND GRAND
OPENING OF OUR NEW PRESERVE

JUNE 18, 2011

10AM-2PM

DEDICATION AT 10AM

WITH WALKS, HIKES, TOURS, &
KIDS' ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW

DIRECTIONS & DETAILS

WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG

BYRON DUDLEY

OUR MISSION

The Deschutes
Land Trust works
cooperatively with
landowners to
conserve land for
wildlife, scenic
views, and local
communities.

landscapes

THE NEWSLETTER OF DESCHUTES LAND TRUST { VOL 15, SPRING 2011 }



**DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
MICHAEL EMMONS
VICE-PRESIDENT
TOM ATKINS
TREASURER
MARY CAMPBELL
SECRETARY
JOANNE MATHEWS

DIRECTORS
GEOFF BARNARD
DON BAUHOFFER
ROD BONACKER
ROBERT EVANS
ROBERT GROVES
COLLINS HEMINGWAY
KIM MCCARREL
LAURI POWERS
WILLIAM J. RAINEY
LARRY WEINBERG

ADVISORS
CHRIS BABCOCK
ROBERT BRUNOE
RUTH BURLEIGH
JIM BUSSARD
ALLEN DOBBINS
C.E. 'WIN' FRANCIS
MIKE HOLLERN
BETSY JOHNSON
JIM KNAPP
RICK RUPP
JOHN SHELK
BILL SMITH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BRAD CHALFANT

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST

P. 541] 330 0017
F. 541] 330 0013

210 NW IRVING AVENUE
SUITE 102
BEND, OREGON 97701
DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Halfway through our 15th year of operations, the Land Trust is also at the halfway point for our 15th Anniversary Campaign. We launched the campaign last fall to both purchase Whychus Canyon Preserve and raise the annual funds that keep professional staff working on acquiring, restoring, and managing our protected lands.

We successfully completed the first part of the campaign by creating Whychus Canyon Preserve. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who made it all possible! Now we continue the work to raise our annual operating budget. With nearly \$200,000 left to raise by June 30th, we have some work ahead of us.

Certainly, it's no secret that raising annual operating dollars isn't as exciting as acquiring new Preserves. However, annual operating gifts are critical to the success of those acquisitions and their long-term stewardship.

Annual gifts allow staff to create and maintain trails so the community can enjoy and experience these lands. These gifts provide the opportunity for the long-term restoration of our forests, meadows and creeks. And it's annual gifts that allow us to continue talking with a landowner for as long as it takes to help them conserve their land.

The 15th Anniversary Campaign is an important first step toward creating the kind of future that Central Oregon deserves. Help us lay the foundation now for the next Community Preserve, be it Skyline Forest or the next in a series of acquisitions to help bring salmon and steelhead back to home waters. **Be a part of the Campaign today!**

PROTECTING OUR BACKYARD SKYLINE FOREST WORK CONTINUES



HIKERS EXPLORE SKYLINE FOREST. PHOTO: LAND TRUST.

The Deschutes Land Trust has been working for seven years to protect Skyline Forest—the 33,000 acre backyard for Bend and Sisters. Since the beginning, the Land Trust's goal has been to conserve Skyline Forest for wildlife, scenic views, sustainable timber harvest, and community recreational use. To do that, we've worked with successive landowners, community groups, local elected officials, and the Oregon Legislature to find the path for conserving the forest. Despite these efforts and some highly notable successes, Skyline Forest remains at risk.

The current owner of Skyline Forest has been exploring its options for returning to the legislature to amend the 2009 Skyline Forest Bill. That bill provided a framework for the Land Trust to conserve 31,800 acres of Skyline Forest and another 34,700 acres along the Little Deschutes River—more than 100 square miles of Central Oregon's private forests. Unfortunately, the bill never established a formal and legally binding commitment from the landowner.

It is unclear when, or even if, the owners will introduce new legislation. What is clear is that the Land Trust will continue to pursue the conservation of Skyline Forest. Nearly every Land Trust project has taken time—and each has seen its fair share of twists and turns, dead ends, and compromises before completion. The Land Trust's strength is our ability to stay at the table until we have a deal. Because Skyline Forest is so large and complex and so vulnerable to development, the Land Trust was forced to announce our intentions far earlier than usual. Consequently, the public has had a front row view of the roller coaster nature of a very complicated project.

As the Land Trust continues discussions with the landowner, we remain committed to the permanent protection of Skyline Forest. Our belief is that Skyline Forest is simply too important to the future of Central Oregon. So, as long as you are behind us, we'll continue to be at the table...for as long as it takes.

IRIS + TIGER SWALLOWTAIL. PHOTO: SUE ANDERSON.



WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

FROM ACQUISITION TO GRAND OPENING

With the spectacular Whychus Canyon Preserve finally protected, you might wonder what's next? How do we ready a newly acquired property for its grand opening? The short answer: with lots of sweat equity!

And, of course, a great management plan! Land Trust staff and volunteers spent countless hours at Whychus Canyon Preserve prior to its acquisition. Their mission: to explore its boundaries and interior, create photo monitoring points, inventory vegetation types, wildlife habitat, and more. All that information was then compiled, mapped and analyzed to develop management goals and strategies. At Whychus Canyon, our primary goals are to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat; while providing for public interpretation, education, and low-impact recreation.

In terms of restoration, we've hit the ground running. With major projects still awaiting funding, our current goal is to restore the native forests and meadows of the Whychus Canyon Preserve. The Preserve contains a diverse mix of plant communities including quaking aspens, old-growth junipers, sagebrush meadows, and ponderosa pine stands. To restore 250 acres of ponderosa pine we're removing encroaching junipers. We're also thinning juniper from aspen stands and removing invasive weeds from the Preserve. Remarkably, the property has been minimally impacted by invasive weeds. We hope you'll lend a hand to pull the few that are out there. (See the work party schedule on pg. 6)!

In addition to restoration work, trail development has already begun. Utilizing some of the existing roads, the Land Trust will be creating trails that explore the juniper forests and meadows of the canyon rim. Dedicated (and burly!)

volunteers will also help rough out a trail down into the canyon to reach Whychus Creek. (See work party schedule pg. 6). The trail will follow the creek and then climb back up the canyon walls to the rim, providing access to a previously inaccessible stretch of the creek. We also hope to one day link trails on the Preserve with nearby trails to Alder Springs and the adjacent National Grasslands.

Future restoration and recreation plans include restoring the stream as needed, building permanent interpretive kiosks, and enhancing trails and overlooks with benches and signs. Though this work is still a few years out, we are actively raising funds for these projects.

The months preceding the opening of a Community Preserve are a busy, yet exciting, time for the Land Trust. We'll be working feverishly to ready the Preserve and welcome you to its grand opening and dedication on June 18th. If you can't make the dedication, be sure to make some time to explore Whychus Canyon Preserve: the bright wildflowers of the canyon rim or the flitting songbirds that dart about along the meandering Whychus Creek will make the trip well worth it.

Anxious to get out to Whychus Canyon Preserve? Check out our Walk + Hike schedule for monthly outings, or join a work party to help get the Preserve ready!

COME CELEBRATE! DEDICATION + GRAND OPENING JUNE 18, 2011.

DETAILS: WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG



BOB WOODWARD



BRUCE BOWEN



KIM MCCARREL

CAMP POLK MEADOW

GROWING YEARS PREP FOR NEXT STEPS

It's been two years since the restoration of Whychus Creek began at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Two years since bulldozers spent eight weeks carving a channel in the historic path the creek once followed across the meadow.

Today the meadow is quiet save for the occasional volunteer walking the line of fencing that protects the 178,000 native plants that were put in along the banks of the restored channel.

The restoration team specifically scheduled growing years so the plants would have time to get established before water is released into the channel. In the meantime, the plants have been watered deeply to encourage long roots to reach the water table. With a 95% plant survival rate, and root surveys showing healthy growth, our plants will soon be on their own.

This fall the protective fencing and irrigation piping put in place to nurture those native plants will come down. Roots should be well on their way by then and browsing by deer should be buffered by our amazing survival rate and the planned overplanting. The removal of fencing and piping will also ready the meadow for the final phase of construction in spring 2012.

Next spring, crews will return to the meadow to construct the entrance and exit reaches to the restored channel. They'll make small side channels critical for rearing fish and, finally, they'll remove access roads and plugs from the restored channel. Once their work is done, the restoration team will redirect Whychus Creek into the restored channel.

As we prepare for the final phase of the restoration, your help is needed! **Volunteer to remove invasive weeds in the restoration area.** This work will ensure the success of the entire restoration project—and this year we especially need your help as funds for professional weed removal crews are dwindling. Join a scheduled work party or volunteer for a few hours on your own. Contact Sherry Berrin for more information:

sherry@deschuteslandtrust.org or (541) 330-0017. ↗

VOLUNTEER

TRAIL CLEAN UP—
INDIAN FORD MEADOW
April 26, 10AM-12PM

WEED PULL—
WHYCHUS CANYON
May 4, 9:30AM-12:30PM

TRAIL CLEAN UP—
METOLIUS PRESERVE
May 6, 10AM-12PM

TRAIL BUILDING—
WHYCHUS CANYON
May 18, 9AM-1PM

WEED PULL—
INDIAN FORD MEADOW
May 25, 10AM-12PM

RESTORATION AREA WEED PULL—CAMP POLK MEADOW
June 8, 10AM-12PM

WEED PULL—
WHYCHUS CANYON
June 30, 9:30AM-12:30PM

WEED WARRIORS:
FIRST SATURDAYS
May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug 6

REGISTER ONLINE WWW.DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG

BACK TO HOME WATERS

WHY PERPETUITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

For 15 years the Land Trust has been working collaboratively with the community and conservation partners to bring salmon and steelhead home.

Back in 2002 when the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Portland General Electric formally committed to restore fish passage on the lower Deschutes River, our collaborative work took on a new urgency to ensure that salmon and steelhead returned to protected, healthy streams. The Watershed Councils worked on restoration and monitoring, the River Conservancy restoring streamflows, and the Land Trust protecting and stewarding key lands. Throughout, volunteers and neighbors helped plant trees, pull weeds, and spread the word about returning salmon and steelhead.

Today, this collaborative partnership is recognized as one of the most successful land, water, and habitat conservation projects in Oregon and the country. As we see the benefits of our collective work—the beginnings of a restored Whychus Creek at Camp Polk Meadow, a newly protected Whychus Canyon Preserve—we are also reminded of the long-term commitment this work demands. To actually effect the kind of change we want to see, we need to be here forever.

That's the crux of the Land Trust's commitment to this collaboration. It's about successive generations of stewards and an institution to hold the land and foster a culture of stewardship. We will continue to strategically pursue priority conservation projects like the acquisition of an additional 6 acres of springs and wetlands adjacent to Camp Polk Meadow Preserve and the nearly 2 mile stretch of Whychus Creek that would connect the Whychus Canyon Preserve to Rimrock Ranch. And we will continue to work to restore and manage those lands for fish and wildlife once they are protected. That's why perpetuity in land conservation is so important. ↗

LEAVE A LEGACY IN PERPETUITY

As thoughtful stewards of this place we call home, we're each in a unique position to leave a legacy that transcends our short time here. Consider that each gift you make to the Land Trust is changing the future of this place in a subtle way. Bit by bit, you're reshaping our future.

An even more dramatic legacy may be possible by designating the Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will or other financial instrument. For generations, thoughtful individuals have left gifts to institutions to construct new buildings or fund scholarships. Similarly, a gift to the Land Trust could purchase a beautiful meadow or permanently care for a towering forest. You *can* change the future. For more information about planned giving, please contact Brad Chalfant, (541) 330-0017.

In this issue

15TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

SKYLINE FOREST: WORK CONTINUES

WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

PREPARING FOR ITS GRAND OPENING

CAMP POLK MEADOW

OUR GROWING YEARS

BACK TO HOME WATERS

WHY PERPETUITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

WALKS + HIKES

NEW! APRIL-NOVEMBER FULL SCHEDULE



210 NW IRVING AVENUE, SUITE 102, BEND, OREGON 97701
LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
BEND OR
PERMIT No. 473