

landscapes

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

THE NEWSLETTER OF DESCHUTES LAND TRUST { VOL 19, SPRING 2015 }

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SKYLINE FOREST UPDATE

JAY MATHER

A year ago this June, fire raced dramatically across Skyline Forest scorching more than 6,200 acres and closing the forest to visitors for the remainder of the summer and fall. Since then, Skyline's owner has salvage logged the burned forest with eventual plans to replant.

There is no doubt that Skyline Forest is a changed place. The fire and post-fire logging have reshaped popular spots like Bull and Snag Springs. However, fires have always shaped our forests. What type of forest returns remains to be seen as a changing climate, site conditions, and other factors influence a new mix of plant life. See the changes for yourself on guided fire ecology walks this June. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/events.

Our path to a deal also took a turn this winter, when the Florida-based owner of Skyline sold it and all of their Central Oregon timberlands (197,000 acres total) to a Singapore-based investment group. The news was a shock to some and generated headlines.

However, the Land Trust views the ownership change as simply a new chapter in the journey toward permanent protection for Skyline. While it's too soon for substantive conversations with the new owner, the reported sale price appears to more realistically reflect the market value of the properties. Land trusts can't generally pay more than market value, so this could be an important step forward.

Skyline Forest will only happen when the landowner is ready. While we search for the right transaction structure—one that works for the landowner and the Land Trust—we're patiently and systematically developing funding mechanisms and partnerships to permanently conserve the Forest's 33,000 acres. These include partnering with the our local university and developing a new state-level funding source for working farms and forests.

Skyline Forest remains important for Central Oregon—and the Deschutes Land Trust—with its wildlife habitat, scenic views, and opportunities for education and recreation. ➤

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CAMPAIGN FOR WHYCHUS CREEK

RUSS McMILLAN

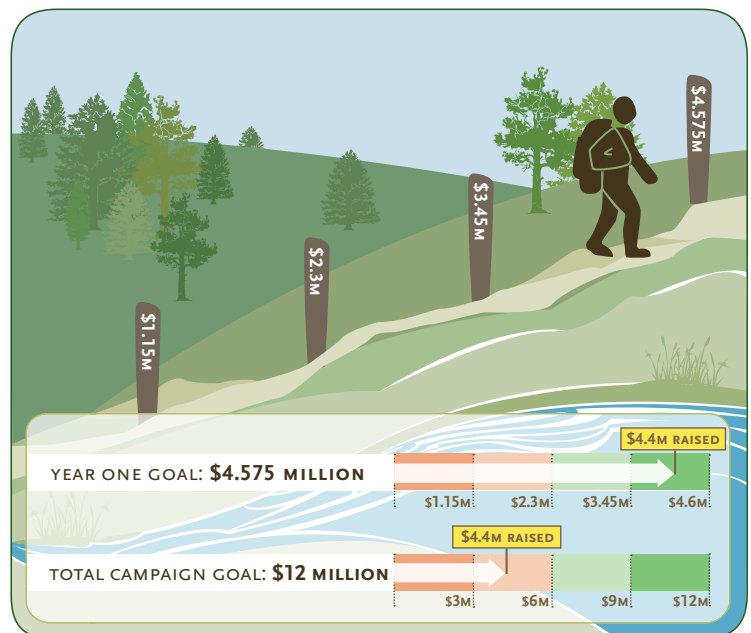
The Land Trust's Campaign for Whychus Creek is in full swing. We hope by now you've heard about it, but do you know what it is and why it's the Land Trust's highest priority?

The Campaign for Whychus Creek is a comprehensive campaign. That simply means we want to do more than just protect additional properties along Whychus Creek. In this case, we also want to care for our lands and engage the community in this effort. Thus, we have broken our campaign into three parts:

- **Land Conservation:** We will continue to work cooperatively with private landowners along Whychus Creek to permanently protect remaining high priority creek, meadow, and canyon habitats.
- **Land Stewardship:** We will return ecological health and permanently care for Whychus Creek and its surrounding meadows and canyons. The end result: a healthier creek for salmon and steelhead, and more robust habitat for deer, elk, songbirds and eagles.
- **Community Engagement:** We will serve the community by providing access and learning opportunities at our Preserves. We hope to inspire citizens of all ages to make Whychus Creek their own and take an active role in its continued preservation.

The Land Trust has already successfully conserved eight miles of Whychus Creek and 2,200 acres of its surrounding lands, but our vision is not yet complete. The Campaign for Whychus Creek will help complete that vision: in the next three years we hope to raise \$12-15 million to implement our vision over the next ten years, and beyond.

Whychus Creek IS Central Oregon. Help us make this unique resource an ecological and social centerpiece of our community now and for generations to come. ➤



SPRING IS FOR WILDFLOWERS

Spring in the high desert is a tentative thing: sun and warm temperatures one day followed by snow the next. The only sure sign that spring is really here is the arrival of wildflowers.

Central Oregon, with its deserts and high mountain meadows, is chock full of wildflowers. While we certainly can't list them all here, we can share ten of our favorites found at Land Trust Preserves.

Some are common, others worth the wander:



MA WILLSON

GOLDFIELDS: MARCH-APRIL



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SAND LILY: APRIL-MAY



ALAN ST. JOHN

BITTERROOT: MAY



DARLENE ASHLEY

YARROW: APRIL-SEPTEMBER



TYLER ROEMER

ARROWLEAF BALSAMROOT: MAY-JUNE

Goldfields, *Crocidium multicaule*.

One of our very first wildflowers of the season! You'll find these dime size flowers carpeting the sagebrush flats. Single yellow flower with 8 rays 1/4-1/2 in long on a delicate stem up to 6in tall.

Sand lily, *Leucocrinum montanum*.

Another early bloomer that can be found in sagebrush flats and pine forests. It grows in rosette-like bunches with 4-8 white flowers per bunch. Flowers have 6 petals; leaves are 4-8in, flat and linear.

Bitterroot, *Lewisia rediviva*.

A desert beauty growing in rocky, open soils. White to pink flowers burst from rosettes on the ground. Named for Meriwether Lewis whose samples grew 2 years after collecting (rediviva = restored to life!)

Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*.

A widespread native at home in sagebrush meadows and pine forests. Leaves are feathery and flowers grow on tall stems in an umbrella-like cluster. Each white flower has 3-5 rays and a yellow center.

Arrowleaf balsamroot, *Balsamorhiza sagittata*.

One of our showiest wildflowers lighting up hillsides with sunny, disk-like faces. Grows in clumps with large widely triangular leaves that have heart-shaped bases. Yellow flowers are 2 1/2 -4in wide on 1-3ft stems.



ALAN ST. JOHN

Spotted mountain bells, *Fritillaria atropurpurea*.

A beautifully delicate native lily, found in forests near openings. Brownish bell shaped flowers have yellow-red spots and grow 5-25in tall. This uncommon lily takes a keen eye to find!

Red columbine, *Aquilegia formosa*.

A stunningly delicate native that grows in moist, partly shaded areas. Drooping bright red and yellow flowers grow on stalks up to 4ft tall. Hummingbirds and butterflies love columbine nectar.

Mariposa lily, *Calochortus macrocarpus*.

A sagebrush jewel that blooms intensely lavender on tall 8-23in stems. Mariposa is 'butterfly' in Spanish, and kalo and chortos are Greek for 'beautiful,' and 'grass.'

Scarlet gilia, *Ipomopsis aggregata*.

Trumpet-shaped, bright red flowers on stems up to 3ft tall. Flower color may vary from scarlet, speckled with white, to pale pink speckled with red. Grows in dry soils in woodland openings and meadows.

Washington lily, *Lilium washingtonianum*.

This native lily seems like it came straight from the flower shop with its classic shape, smell, and size! Large white to pink flowers on tall, 2-8ft, stems. Grows in dry forests and is named for Martha Washington.



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SPOTTED MOUNTAIN BELLS: JUNE



CAROL BISHOP

RED COLUMBINE: MAY-JULY



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MARIPOSA LILY: JUNE-JULY



MA WILLSON

SCARLET GILIA: JUNE-AUGUST



MA WILLSON

WASHINGTON LILY: JUNE-JULY

Disclaimer: While we've done our best to be accurate, bloom times are different every year due to weather, location, site conditions and more. Learn more about our native wildflowers on a guided Land Trust hike: deschuteslandtrust.org/events

You can find all these wildflowers at your Land Trust Preserves! details: deschuteslandtrust.org/wildflowers

MEET OUR NEWEST ADDITION

To kick off the Land Trust's Campaign for Whychus Creek, we announced our newest addition: 480 spectacular acres of creek, meadow, and canyon next to Whychus Canyon Preserve. We call it the addition to Whychus Canyon Preserve.

We can't wait for you to get to know the addition, whether at our dedication this spring, on a guided tour, or on an extended hike from Whychus Canyon Preserve. In the meantime, here's a look at our newest addition and how it adds up to a better future for Central Oregon:

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TYLER ROEMER

+ 480 acres preserved

The addition doubles the size of Whychus Canyon Preserve and connects it with Land Trust-protected Rimrock Ranch.

+ 2 additional miles of Whychus Creek conserved

A continuous stretch of six miles of Whychus Creek is now preserved forever.

+ Opportunities to restore Whychus Creek

Conserving the addition opens the door for large-scale stream restoration projects, similar to the award-winning work at the Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.

+ Important salmon and steelhead habitat

Whychus Creek provides important habitat for the salmon and steelhead returning to Central Oregon. The addition preserves two miles of the critical habitat these fish need to thrive.

+ 2 meadows

Meadows are rare on Whychus Creek. It's a creek that usually cascades down narrow, rimrock canyons. Once restored, these meadows will be green sanctuaries for fish and wildlife in our arid landscape.

+ Cottonwood forest

The towering cottonwood trees at the addition are now preserved forever. These special trees only grow in floodplains along creeks of Central Oregon, and we're proud to preserve this forest and ensure its health forever.

+ Homes for deer, elk, bluebirds, and spotted bats

The addition is home to a variety of wildlife. By protecting the habitat that songbirds, elk, eagles, and spotted bats rely on, we're making a better future for wildlife in Central Oregon.

+ An amazing place for you to explore

You'll be able to enjoy and explore the addition on an extended hike from Whychus Canyon Preserve, at our upcoming Dedication, or on a guided hike. For information on upcoming hikes at the addition, visit: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes

SAVE THE DATE!

Whychus Canyon Preserve Addition Dedication

May 30, 2015: 10am-2pm

Dedication at 10am. Walks, tours, and kids' activities to follow.

Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/events

WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE ADDITION:

**2 MILES OF WHYCHUS CREEK + 480 ACRES + 100s OF TREES + 1000s OF CRITTERS =
1 AMAZING PLACE FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR CENTRAL OREGON**

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST

Celebrating 20 years of conserving
the best of Central Oregon!



TYLER ROEMER



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THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST IS PROUD OF OUR GENEROUS FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS. JOIN US TODAY: [DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/join)

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

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