

LITTLE MEADOW WITH A BIG IMPACT

Diverse Plant and Animal Communities

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve plays an important role in the natural world. From dry meadow to streamside wetlands to aspen and pine forest, this small Preserve is home to a unique diversity of plant life that helps support a wide variety of wildlife.

Dry meadows contain all kinds of plant life that will not thrive under a shady canopy of trees. Wildflowers that grow here provide pollen and nectar for butterflies, moths, and other insects. Deer and elk depend on these same dry, open meadows for browsing on grasses and shrubs, and hawks hunt in these open areas for small animals.



Streamside Riches

Indian Ford Creek enriches the dry meadow by providing thick, streamside habitat and connected wetlands. The creek flows from springs at Black Butte Ranch eastward through pine forest and meadows like Indian Ford Meadow until it meets Whychus Creek near McKinney Butte.

Aspen, More Than Your Average Tree

Aspen at the Preserve provide year-round benefits to wildlife and people. In spring and summer, aspen offer nesting and foraging opportunities for songbirds, bats, deer, beaver, and other wildlife. Come summer, they give wildlife (and people!) cool shade to take respite from the hot sun. Then, each fall they light up with brilliant yellow and orange foliage. Finally in the winter and spring, aspen release snowpack stored in their shady groves into streams and groundwater.



SCENIC VOLCANO VIEWS

The Cascade region of the Pacific Northwest is one of the most active volcanic areas in the continental United States.

Broken Top



9,177 feet

South Sister



10,363 feet

Middle + North Sisters



10,052 feet | 10,090 feet

Mt. Washington



7,795 feet

Black Butte

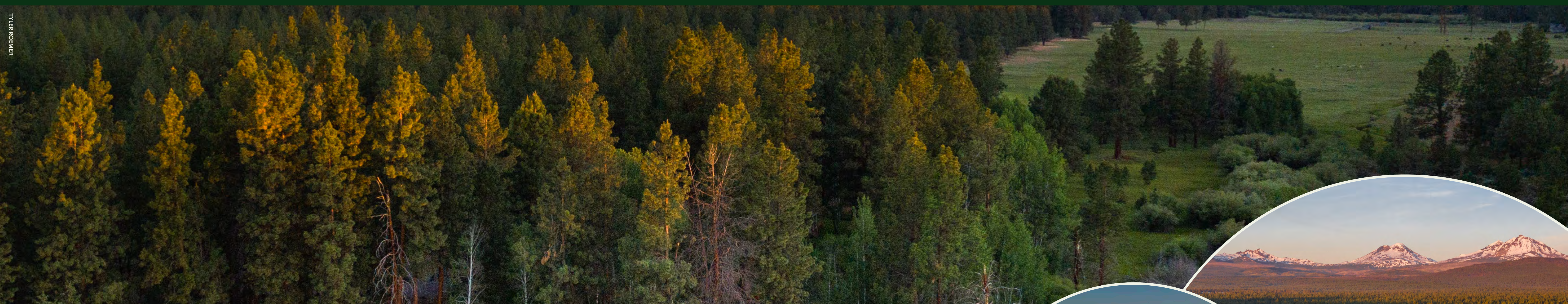


6,436 feet

Mt. Jefferson



10,502 feet



Volcanic Activity Shapes Our Region

In Central Oregon, the most recent volcanic eruption occurred about 1,300 years ago at Newberry Volcano south of Bend. In the section of the Cascades you see before you, from Broken Top to Mt. Jefferson, numerous eruptions have occurred in the past few thousand years. Some of these volcanoes still show signs of activity today, including small earthquakes and volcanic gas emissions. At Newberry Volcano and South Sister, there are indications that molten rock (magma) exists beneath the surface, which is a sign these volcanoes are still active and could erupt again. Fortunately, volcanoes give warning signs before they erupt, and the U.S. Geological Survey monitors Cascade volcanoes for signs of activity and issues warnings if there is an increased likelihood of an eruption.

Volcanoes will always pose a hazard to those who live near them, but by studying volcanoes, monitoring them for signs of activity, and taking steps as a society to protect ourselves, we can coexist with these sleeping giants. The long-term benefits of volcanoes far outweigh their dangers. Volcanoes provide nutrients to soils, fresh clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities. They have shaped the natural and cultural history of the Pacific Northwest and they are part of what makes Central Oregon and Indian Ford Meadow Preserve special places.



TYLER ROEMER

PHOTOS BYRON DUDLEY

TYLER ROEMER

PROTECTING MEADOWS FOR OUR FUTURE



Promoting Healthy Habitat

Today, dry meadow habitat, like you see at Indian Ford Meadow, is shrinking compared to what it would have been historically. Nearby trees are moving into these open spaces in the absence of fire. That's why the Deschutes Land Trust has been working for years to maintain the open meadow and important wildlife habitat at Indian Ford Meadow Preserve. We hand cut small juniper and pine before they get too big, pull weeds, and actively work to keep this special meadow healthy and here for the future. You can help care for this important meadow by staying on the trail to protect the fragile meadow plants that so many other creatures depend on.

Bird Sanctuary

More than 130 species of birds flit through the meadow and streamside areas at the Preserve. California quail are often seen darting from sagebrush to bitterbrush on the meadow's edge. Listen for their distinctive three beat call that sounds like "Chi-ca-go."



Get Involved

Make a difference in Central Oregon's future! Volunteer your time indoors and out and become a Land Trust donor today. Together, we can conserve the lands and waters of Central Oregon!



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