

Deschutes Land Trust offers free hike series

The Deschutes Land Trust announced today the start of its 2015 Walk + Hike series. From April through November, Land Trust volunteer naturalists lead more than 110 free walks, hikes, and bike rides at various Land Trust protected lands. Participants can explore birds, wildflowers, or geology while hiking along Whychus Creek or in the forests of the Metolius Preserve.

Land Trust Walks + Hikes are of varied distances with diverse topics. Short bird walks catch spring migrations while exploring birding hot-spots like Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Longer full-day hikes explore the glacier-carved valleys and volcanic craters of the Sisters area. Mountain bike rides take in the vast expanse and trails of Skyline Forest, while night hikes allow participants to get outside and soak in the darkness. Families with children will delight in a roster of pint-size hikes dedicated to birds, bees, bugs and more.

Walks + Hikes are led by skilled volunteer naturalists

who delight in sharing nature with others. Many Land Trust leaders are trained Oregon State University Master Naturalists with a lifetime of experience outdoors. Join them to explore new hiking trails, observe migrating songbirds, or delight in spring wildflowers.

All walks and hikes are free. Group size is small to limit impact on Land Trust preserves and give attendees the best experience possible. Registration for each outing opens one month prior to the outing and can be done online. Once registered, detailed directions for the outing will be provided. Find the full schedule at www.deschuteslandtrust.org/events.

The Deschutes Land Trust conserves land for wildlife, scenic views, and local communities. As Central Oregon's only nationally accredited and locally based land trust, the Deschutes Land Trust has protected more than 8,700 acres since 1995. For more information on Deschutes Land Trust, Call 541-330-0017 or visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org.

Warm Springs fires official who alleged mismanagement

BEND (AP) — The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has fired an official whose concerns led to a federal investigation.

The tribes' director of human resources told *The Bulletin* on Friday that secretary-treasurer Jake Suppah was let go.

Suppah was hired by the tribes in 2013 for the job that is comparable to a city

manager.

The Warm Springs native told *The Bulletin* last month that he uncovered troubling financial patterns within the tribes, including theft of time, mismanagement of federal grants, and missing funds.

The U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Inspector General is now looking into the tribes' financial matters.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Summit riders have a great time on the informal yet challenging Ride for Two Rivers.

RIDE: Registration for trek is open until May 28

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offer.

"This ride really brings people closer to a part of Oregon that is extremely special," said Judy Trego, executive director of the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce. "Sisters is the perfect place to highlight the beauty and story of the Metolius and the Whychus rivers. The scenery, the country, and the people all make for a truly one-of-a-kind ride."

The Ride for Two Rivers begins at Creekside Park in Sisters and winds its way to the top of the spectacular

lava-rock moonscape through the forested landscape of McKenzie Pass, offering spectacular mountain views along the way. Riders coast back to Sisters and Creekside Park where they can enjoy refreshments and locally brewed craft beer.

This fully supported ride offers a variety of round-trip routes for all ability levels from 18 miles to 75 miles and is the perfect way to use your pedal power for good. Registration is open now at a low cost of \$35 (the price goes up to \$45 after April 30).

Ride proceeds will directly support on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects within the National Forest Foundation's (NFF) Treasured Landscapes campaign site encompassing

these watersheds. These restoration efforts will enhance fishing and other recreational activities while improving health of the rivers and wildlife habitat through trail improvements and restoration of in-stream habitat. This work by the NFF and its partners has already raised and leveraged over \$100,000 and resulted in the ground-breaking return of steelhead and sockeye salmon in increasing numbers to Whychus Creek and the Metolius River.

Registration is open through May 28 at www.RideforTwoRivers.com. For more information on the Ride for Two Rivers contact Judy Trego at the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce at judy@sisterscountry.com or 541-549-0251.

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