

## LAND TRUST: Much of their work is in Sisters Country

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Bend, much of the work that is cause for celebration has been done in Sisters Country.

The Land Trust was founded in 1995 to conserve land for wildlife, scenic views, and local communities. Their first conservation project was acquiring Indian Ford Meadow Preserve outside of Sisters in 1996. Since then the Land Trust has worked with local landowners all over Central Oregon to conserve a total of 8,750 acres of land for wildlife and local communities.

"I've watched the Deschutes Land Trust for nearly 20 years and continue to be impressed by their vision, patience and strategic approach to land conservation. The Land Trust is a vital organization in the community and is committed to serving our region for generations to come," said Mike Hollern, CEO of Brooks Resources.

The Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Preserve and Whychus Canyon Preserve are signature projects and emblematic of the Land Trust's long-term approach to community conservation. The Land Trust purchased and protected the 150-acre Camp Polk Meadow Preserve outside of Sisters in 2000. They then worked

with the community and key conservation partners to restore the meadow and two miles of Whychus Creek to benefit salmon, songbirds, and other wildlife. Over the years, thousands of people have walked Camp Polk Meadow on guided interpretive hikes, learning about the meadow, restoration, and the role these places play in our high desert.

Whychus Canyon Preserve was first protected in 2010 and expanded in 2014. Since acquiring the Preserve, the Land Trust has worked to restore native forests and will soon begin a major restoration of Whychus Creek. Whychus Canyon Preserve also provides the community with trails and access to Whychus Creek in a place that was previously inaccessible. The Land Trust is currently working to finish their conservation work on Whychus Creek via the Campaign for Whychus Creek.

"The Deschutes Land Trust is here for the community and because of this community," said Brad Chalfant, the Land Trust's executive director. "It's truly humbling to receive the support of so many people from Central Oregon and beyond for the past 20 years. Land trusts, like ours, are meant to be here forever. Together we can ensure our community remains livable for wildlife and humans for generations to come. We hope you'll join us to celebrate our collective accomplishments."

## FOSTER: 'Fospice' gives dogs grace and dignity in last years

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right now that are fostering animals that need fospice care," said Wendy Monzulla, foster coordinator at BrightSide. "Last winter we had a setter mix named Titan come in that was rescued from one of the high-kill shelters in California. He was older, didn't want to eat and was very lethargic, so we put out an appeal for fostering for fospice care."

Gena Huff from Redmond saw a photo of Titan on BrightSide Animal Center's Facebook page that her friend had sent her.

"I went down to the shelter to visit Titan," Huff recalled. "He seemed depressed and he looked like he needed someone so much, so I decided to foster him. My dog Maggie passed away from cancer in 2013, and we did end-of-life care for her at home, so I understand about fospice care. What is amazing is that shortly after we took in Titan, I brought home a few kittens from the shelter to foster and Titan is now paying it forward by becoming a foster caregiver for the kittens. He loves them, they climb all over him, and it helps his self-esteem and gives him something to live for. We are so happy that he is thriving in the fospice program!"



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Titan and his kitten buddies.

And while it can be emotionally challenging to take home a terminal animal, the companionship and love that you receive in return is beyond measure. In the past these animals would have been euthanized, but now because of fospice volunteers they can live out their lives in dignity and comfort.

It takes a special personality to care for animals in the fospice program. Redmond residents Jim and Kate Byerly have been in the program fostering for four years. They continue to take in and heal the hearts of end-of-life animals.

"We started fostering puppies in the beginning then have fostered adult dogs," Jim said. "Then there were two Chihuahuas, a mother, Poquito and daughter, Chica, that were both older, over 10. They had been in the shelter for a couple of years and we took them in as fosters

because they had been there too long. We needed to fospice the mom and kept the other as a foster to keep them together. We also did fospice care for a dog named Kaiser, but he passed away. We recently took on a stray Chihuahua named Jewel that came in to shelter and fostered her, she is now on hospice care with medication provided by BrightSide. So right now we have two hospice dogs, Jewel and Poquito."

For dogs like Poquito and Jewel, that are older and often in ill health, fospice volunteers can offer an end-of-life experience filled with love and compassion.

For more information about the foster program visit [www.brightsideanimals.org](http://www.brightsideanimals.org).

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