

LAND TRUST:
Property offers rare habitat

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important habitat, the goal is to restore and enhance the ecological function of the creek and floodplain, DLT reports.

The Land Trust intends to maximize high-quality habitat for salmon and steelhead to spawn and rear, for songbirds to nest and forage, and for otter and beaver to eventually flourish.

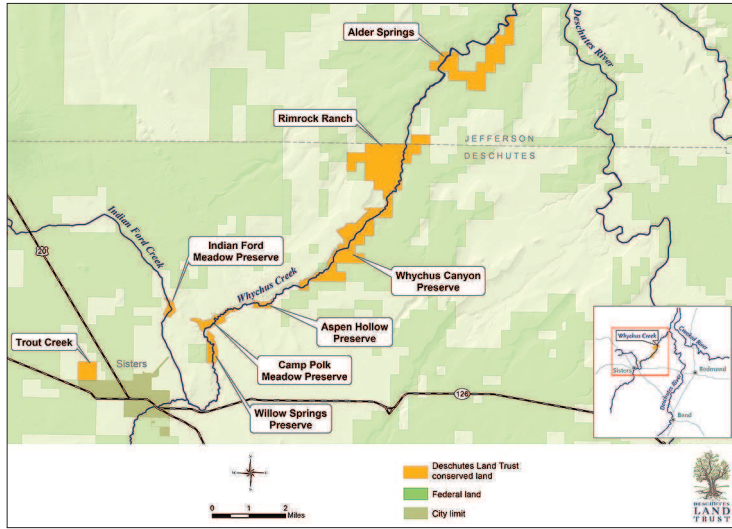
Willow Springs is one of only a handful of historically wet-meadow properties on Whychus Creek.

The property was purchased from Aspen Lakes Development.

Like the meadows at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, Whychus Canyon Preserve, and Rimrock Ranch, the meadows on Willow Springs Preserve provide important wildlife habitat in our arid high desert. The Land Trust is currently developing management plans for the Preserve that will guide the future of the land including restoration activities and community use. While plans are being developed, access to the Preserve will be limited to guided tours.

For information on tours, visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes.

Launched in the fall of 2014, the Land Trust's goal for the Campaign for Whychus Creek is to finish protecting the highest



GRAPHIC COURTESY DESCHUTES LAND TRUST

DLT has acquired numerous properties along Whychus Creek.

quality wildlife habitat along Whychus Creek, ensure the permanent care of those lands for generations to come, and engage the community along the way. In the three years of the Campaign, the Land Trust has protected three new parcels of land along Whychus Creek and continued to care for the more than 2,300 acres already entrusted to them.

The Land Trust partnered with Craft3, a regional non-profit lender, in order to act quickly and conserve Willow Springs Preserve — bridging the financial gap between early community donations and acquisition costs, while pursuing grant funds and completion of the Campaign. Craft3 provided financing through its Conservation Bridge Fund, which provides loans to land trusts, conservation, and community groups in Oregon.

“We are excited to support Deschutes Land Trust’s conservation work in Central Oregon. The Land Trust’s long-term vision

for restoration of Whychus Creek aligns with Craft3’s mission to invest in ecological assets in the communities we serve,” said Brad Hunter, Craft3 business lender.

Craft3 has partnered with DLT in recent years to help conserve high-priority properties in Central Oregon.

Mush Without Slush...



PHOTO BY HADLEY MCCANN

Mushers took a fun dry-land run on the forest roads west of Sisters last weekend.

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