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Jon Abernathy/For The Bulletin

Crux coolship brew day at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.

A BREW DAY WITH CRUX

BY JON ABERNATHY • For The Bulletin

On a sunny afternoon in late April, I drove out to the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve near Sisters for a special brew day with Crux Fermentation Project. Crux partnered with the Deschutes Land Trust to bring its mobile coolship to the Preserve, along the banks of Whychus Creek, to create a wild yeast-inflected Experimental IPA. I was invited to join the brewery and the Land Trust to observe the brew in action.

A coolship is a broad, shallow open-top vessel used to cool wort (unfermented beer), allowing it to cool overnight in the open air. Wild yeasts and bacteria settle into it to begin the process of fermentation; these organisms reflect their particular environment and lend a unique terroir to the finished beer.

The wort was prepared at Crux's brewery in Bend, then trucked out to the Preserve, still hot. As we watched, steaming hot sugary liquid jetted into the coolship. It took about 40 minutes to fill the open tank, and members of the Land Trust added handfuls of juniper boughs and three large bags of Sterling hops to infuse the wort as it cooled.

This partnership and beer are part of a larger project spawned by the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT). This project, "The Oregon I Am," features a first-of-its-kind map highlighting 81 different locations throughout the state that anyone can visit. COLT partnered with eight breweries, including Crux, to brew beers inspired by Or-

egon's diverse landscapes.

With the exception of Crux's beer, all are being released this week; Crux will release its beer on the 25th to coincide with a virtual tasting event for the project.

I asked the brewery about the inspiration behind the recipe for this IPA.

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