

journeys

to oregon's last great places

© Rick McEwan

Aspectacular region all year, the Pacific Northwest is born anew each spring and summer, and we invite you to explore it with us. This year, we're pleased to offer a wide range of trips, including two journeys into our state's largest privately-owned nature sanctuary, northeast Oregon's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve (*above*). We're also embarking on several inaugural trips, including a search for bald eagles near Williamson River Delta Preserve, a hike through the Conservancy's newest Willamette Valley preserve, Coburg Ridge, an exciting rafting trip on the wild and scenic North Umpqua River and a tour of oyster restoration work in Netarts Bay.

Your generous support makes our conservation at these remarkable sites possible, and we want you to see first-hand how you've helped us protect these special places.

To sign up for one or more trips, please call Di or Laura at 503 802-8100, and mention this brochure. *Space is limited to ensure a quality experience for everyone, so we encourage you to make your reservations early.*

Bald Eagles and Birding the Williamson River Delta

Leader: Matt Barry, Williamson River
Delta Preserve director
Date: Friday - Saturday, March 16-17
Start: Klamath Falls
Cost: \$135/person (double occupancy)
\$180/person (single occupancy)
Limit: 12

Spring is a special time in the Klamath Basin. Each year more than two million birds pass through this world-class haven of biodiversity along the Pacific Flyway, and Upper Klamath Lake is home to 17 native fish species – eight of which are endemic – and over 15 unique species of freshwater mollusks. Our trip begins the evening of the 16th, when we gather for dinner in Klamath Falls, followed by a discussion of The Nature Conservancy's work in the region. The next morning, there's an optional 5:00 a.m. trip to watch bald eagles fly and feed (this area hosts one of



© Michael Wilhelm

the largest wintering populations of bald eagles in the lower 48). After breakfast we head north to bird and explore the 7,440-acre Williamson River Delta Preserve, one of the most challenging and pioneering wetland restoration projects in the West. Price includes transportation from Klamath Falls during the trip, one night's lodging, and meals from Friday's dinner through Saturday's lunch. Primarily auto-based, this tour will offer frequent stops to look for birds and view conservation projects. *Registration deadline is March 2nd.*



Juniper tree © Alan D. St. John

Journey through Juniper Hills

Leader: Dr. Stu Garrett, Nature Conservancy trustee
Date: Saturday, May 19, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Start: Prineville
Cost: \$25/person
Limit: 9

Our 14,000-acre Juniper Hills Preserve represents a diverse central Oregon landscape of ancient western juniper trees, native grasslands and ponderosa pine forests. Nestled between the Ochoco Mountains on the north and the Maury Mountains on the south, it serves as a vital migratory corridor for elk, antelope and other wildlife. John Day and Clarno “painted hills” formations highlight the preserve’s fascinating geological history, while the story of the Meek Lost Wagon Train reveals another intriguing historical side. Wildflowers should be outstanding in May, and Dr. Garrett will share his expertise on both the native flora and the area’s fascinating history. This trip is partially auto-based, and also includes several short walks of up to one mile on gentle grades with slight elevation gain. Cost includes lunch and transportation from Prineville. *Registration deadline is April 27th.*

Butterflies, Wildflowers and Oak Savanna at Coburg Ridge

Leader: Jason Nuckols, Willamette Valley preserve manager
Date: Friday, June 1, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Start: Eugene
Cost: \$25/person
Limit: 12



Fenders blue butterfly on Kincaid’s lupine © Matthew Benotsch/TNC

Explore a rare Roemer’s fescue prairie habitat – home to the endangered Fender’s blue butterfly and its host plant, Kincaid’s lupine, as well as 200 native plant species – on this challenging three- to four-mile hike. Jason will lead us up to and along the 1,800-foot Coburg Ridge, northeast of Eugene, to one of the few remaining large, native upland prairie tracts in the Willamette Valley. We’ll hike down The Nature Conservancy’s new 1,200-acre preserve, recently acquired via a conservation easement, through one of the valley’s largest intact oak savannas. Hear how the Conservancy and the landowner have been working together to restore the preserve’s native oak and prairie habitats. Cost includes lunch. *Registration deadline is May 11th.*



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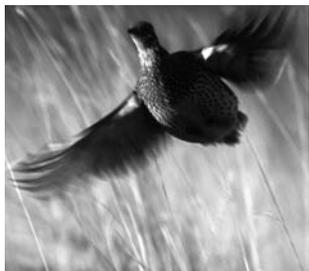
Zumwalt Prairie: Hiking the New Pine Creek Addition

Leader: Phil Shephard, northeast Oregon stewardship director
Date: Saturday - Sunday, June 9-10
Start: Joseph
Cost: \$215/person (double occupancy)
\$265/person (single occupancy)
Limit: 14

In 2006, The Nature Conservancy expanded our stunning Zumwalt Prairie Preserve by 6,000 acres, bringing our total protected area to 33,000 acres. Dubbed the Pine Creek Addition, the new acreage includes 13 miles of streams in the headwaters of Pine Creek, important to federally-protected runs of Snake River steelhead. The site was also the last refuge of

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the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse before it vanished from Wallowa County in the 1940s, and is likely to play a role in ongoing efforts to reintroduce the once-common grassland bird. During this active tour, we'll spend the first day hiking the addition and introducing you to the preserve's prairies, wildflowers, forests and wildlife – plus, an amazing 360-degree view from atop the North Findley Butte! On day two, we'll visit some of Zumwalt's main activity centers, including a walk up Camp Creek and a drive from the canyon depths to the top of the prairie. Price includes transportation from Joseph, meals from lunch on Saturday through lunch on Sunday, and one night's lodging at the Wallowa Lake Lodge. Hikes will range from three to five miles through native prairie and forest on uneven terrain with approximately 800 feet of elevation gain. *Registration deadline is March 31st.*



Columbian sharp-tailed grouse
© Michael Durham

Zumwalt Prairie: The Classic Zumwalt

Leader: Phil Shephard, northeast Oregon stewardship director
 Date: Monday - Tuesday, June 11-12
 Start: Joseph
 Cost: \$215/person (double occupancy)
 \$265/person (single occupancy)
 Limit: 14

Snow-capped alpine mountains, open prairie and vast canyonlands surround the Conservancy's 51-square-mile Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in northeast Oregon. An amazing array of early summer wildflowers highlights the landscape, while intact bunchgrass communities provide critical habitat for one of the highest-known concentrations of breeding birds of prey in North America. The area is also home to mule deer, bighorn sheep, bobcat and giant herds of Rocky Mountain elk. Snake River steelhead, federally listed as a threatened species, spawn in the creeks draining the prairie, as do inland redband trout. This trip will explore the remote and spectacular reaches of Zumwalt, including an introduction to our new 6,000-acre Pine Creek Addition (for a more extended tour of the Pine Creek Addition, see previous trip). Price includes transportation from Joseph, meals from lunch on Monday through lunch on Tuesday, and one night's lodging at the Wallowa Lake Lodge. This trip is primarily auto-based with several stops and will have short, easy walks of less than half a mile (optional). *Registration deadline is March 31st.*



© Michael Durham



Bradshaw's lomatium © Bob Main

Wildflowers at Kingston Prairie

Leader: Greg Fitzpatrick, Willamette Valley stewardship coordinator
 Date: Wednesday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Start: Jefferson
 Cost: \$25
 Limit: 12

Explore one of the Willamette Valley's best remaining examples of native prairie at the Conservancy's 152-acre Kingston Prairie Preserve. Composed of wet and dry prairie habitats, the site hosts more than 170 plant species. Learn what we're doing to restore the prairie and, if we're lucky, hear the song of the once-common western meadowlark. Located on a plateau above the North Santiam River, Kingston Prairie opens a window into Oregon's past. Unsuitable for farming due to the basalt bedrock that underlays shallow soils, some of the preserve has retained much of its original vegetation. The prairie hosts a thriving diversity of native

wildflowers, and during the tour you'll have a chance to view many species, such as common camas, shooting star, Oregon sunshine and clarkia, as well as the rare Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette daisy and Oregon larkspur. This trip will be an easy walking tour on flat, uneven ground up to two miles total. Price includes lunch. *Registration deadline is May 23rd.*



© Scott Pearson/TNC

Ancient Forests of Opal Creek

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager
Date: Wednesday, June 20, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Start: Stayton
Cost: \$35/person
Limit: 9

Deep in the heart of Oregon's western Cascades lies Opal Creek, a place of legendary beauty, of pristine, jade-green waters, of towering, centuries-old trees. In 1996, federal legislation created the 20,300-acre Opal Creek Wilderness and the 13,640-acre Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area. A 1,920-acre Wild and Scenic River designation for Elkhorn Creek was also established to protect the heart of this priceless treasure. Join staff from the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center on interpretive walks through this legendary old growth forest, and discover why this internationally renowned gem is so magical. Between walks, enjoy a sit-down lunch at Jawbone Flats, a 75-year-old mining camp and the centerpiece of a growing education program. Walking will be on forest trails, up to four miles total, with moderate elevation gain. Price includes lunch and transportation from Stayton during the trip. *Registration deadline is May 30th.*

Returning Native Oysters to Netarts Bay

Leader: Dick Vander Schaaf, coast and marine conservation director
Date: Monday, July 16, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Start: Netarts
Cost: \$50/person
Limit: 11

Native oysters are poised for a comeback in Netarts Bay, thanks to a local partnership and a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Historically found from the shores of Alaska to Baja, the Olympic oyster (*Ostrea conchaphila*) has declined due to overharvest and other negative impacts on West Coast bays and estuaries. The Nature Conservancy, together with partners including the Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery, Oregon State University and local oyster growers, is rearing Olympia oysters in Netarts Bay, beginning with ten million larvae spawned over the past two years. A restored oyster population will improve water quality by filtering the water and building shell reefs. During the first half of this trip, you'll board small, five-person motorboats for a short run up the bay during low tide to see the newly-created oyster beds. After a sit-down lunch on the bay front in Netarts, you'll visit a local oyster hatchery and see how the native oysters are being reared. Price includes lunch and boat transportation. Though we will be in the bay (and thus somewhat protected waters), participants should be comfortable in a small watercraft for up to three hours. *Registration deadline is June 22nd.*



© Stephen Anderson/TNC

Rafting the Wild and Scenic North Umpqua River

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager
Date: Thursday - Friday, July 19-20
Start: Steamboat (40 miles east of Roseburg)
Cost: \$345/person (premium package, double occupancy)
\$415/person (deluxe package, double occupancy)
Age: Must be at least 12 years old
Limit: 15



© Ouzel Outfitters

Set amidst the wilderness areas and national forests of the southern Oregon Cascades, the North Umpqua River is one of the most beautiful rivers in the Pacific Northwest.

Towering Douglas-fir forests line this steep and rugged canyon, shading the crystal clear water as it leaps and cascades through steep gorges and boulder-strewn currents. With 25 significant rapids and numerous smaller ones in roughly 20 miles, the Umpqua delivers one of the region's most fun and enjoyable paddling experiences. We gather in the later afternoon on our first day for dinner and lodging at the famous Steamboat Inn, located on the river's bank. During dinner we'll discuss the next day's activities and the Nature Conservancy's recent work identifying conservation sites in the East and West Cascades ecoregions. The next day will be full of exciting rafting! Price includes dinner on day one, breakfast and lunch on day two, one night's lodging at the Steamboat Inn, all rafting equipment and gratuities, and experienced, professional guides from Ouzel Outfitters. A limited number of premium and deluxe rooms are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Supplemental charges of \$85 (for premium rooms) and \$145 (for deluxe rooms) will be charged for singles. *Registration deadline is April 27th.*



Borax Lake Preserve © Mike Henetz

Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager
Date: Monday - Thursday, July 23-26
Start: Frenchglen
Cost: \$345/person (double occupancy)
\$445/person (single occupancy)
Limit: 14

This four-day tour of Steens Mountain and its surrounding wild-lands takes in some of the most spectacular and important conservation areas in the West, including the Steens Mountain

Cooperative Management and Protection Area and the Conservancy's Borax Lake Preserve. On day one, we'll gather in the evening at the historic Frenchglen Hotel, where we'll lodge for the next three nights. The next day, we'll visit hot spring-fed Borax Lake, where the endangered Borax Lake chub evolved to thrive in surface temperatures reaching 105 degrees. Then we'll visit the Alvord Desert – Oregon's driest spot – and stop for a world famous milkshake in the tiny town of Fields. On day three, we'll drive the scenic Loop Road to the 9,733-foot summit of Steens Mountain – the state's largest fault block mountain – where we'll enjoy spectacular views down glacier-carved gorges like Kiger and Little Blitzen. On our return to the hotel, we'll look for Oregon's largest herd of wild horses, estimated at over 400. Mornings and evenings will include optional birding excursions into adjacent Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and the trip includes long periods of driving as well as short, easy walks. Price includes meals from dinner on day one through breakfast on day four, three nights' lodging at the Frenchglen Hotel and transportation during the trip. Note: Lodging at the Frenchglen Hotel includes shared bathrooms. Rooms with private baths are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for an additional \$18 per night at the Drover's Inn nearby. *Registration deadline is June 22nd.*



Crook Point © Roy W. Lowe/USFWS

Exploring Crook Point and Oregon's Wild Rivers Coast

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager

Date: Wednesday - Thursday, August 8-9

Start: Bandon

Cost: \$295/person (double occupancy)
\$365/person (single occupancy)

Limit: 14

In remote southwestern Oregon, where wild rivers, ancient forests and craggy sea stacks are shadowed by the Siskiyou Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, lies an enchanting, little-known secret – Oregon's Wild

Rivers Coast. Jason, a former Parks and Recreation planner in the region, will provide a unique tour of some of the West Coast's most spectacular scenery. We'll visit several Nature Conservancy partnership projects including Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Blanco – Oregon's western-most point – Port Orford Heads State Park and the awe-inspiring headland at Crook Point. Now part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Crook Point is normally closed to the public, but this trip offers a rare opportunity to tour the area with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The trip includes easy to moderate walks of up to two miles on even terrain, and the price includes transportation during the trip, meals from lunch on day one through lunch on day two and one night's lodging in Bandon. *Registration deadline is July 11th.*

Rivers and Sea: Exploring Oregon's Northwest Corner

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager

Date: Tuesday - Wednesday, August 14-15

Start: Portland

Cost: \$200/person (double occupancy)
\$290/person (single occupancy)

Limit: 14

In Oregon's northwestern corner, one of America's great rivers meets the Pacific Ocean. The mouth of the mighty Columbia joins dune beaches dotted with sea stacks and headlands, forming the heart of a stunning region rich in natural and human history.

This area is a showcase for Nature Conservancy project sites and successful partnerships – if you think you've seen this part of Oregon, think again! Our two-day tour includes visits to well-known landmarks, as well as little-known secrets, including some areas not normally open to the public. Highlights include Ecola State Park (Cannon Beach), Circle Creek (Seaside), the Columbia River Bar and Clatsop Spit at Fort Stevens State Park (Hammond), Clatsop Plains (Warrenton), the Youngs River Watershed (Olney), Blind Slough and Gnat Creek (Knappa). Throughout the trip, Conservancy staff and local guest speakers will discuss regional conservation priorities. Evening accommodations are literally over the water, in rooms at the new and much-acclaimed Cannery Pier Hotel in historic Astoria's cultural center. The tour includes walks of up to one mile each day with moderate elevation gain. *Registration deadline is July 13th.*



View from Ecola State Park © Jason Seivers/TNC

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*Call Di or Laura at 503 802-8100 to reserve your spot today.
We look forward to seeing you!*