



journeys to oregon's last great places

Breathhtaking year round, the Pacific Northwest truly comes to life each spring and summer, and we invite you to explore it with us! This year, we're pleased to again offer a variety of unforgettable trips, including a tour of Southwest Oregon's unique geological and forested wonders, an opportunity to witness salmon reach the end of their ancient journey up Washington state's Ellsworth Creek, a peaceful and fun day of tree climbing, an exciting ride down the McKenzie River's pristine rapids, and memorable days of hiking Oregon's largest, privately owned nature sanctuary, Zumwalt Prairie Preserve.

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.

For more information or to sign up, please call Rudy Dietz, field trip program manager, at 503-802-8170. ***To allow everyone a chance to participate, there is a limit of two trips per guest. Thanks for understanding!***



Lower Table Rock Preserve © Rick McEwan

The Table Rocks, Whetstone Savanna and Agate Desert Preserves

Leaders: Molly Sullivan, Southwest Oregon stewardship coordinator and Keith Perchemlides, Southwest Oregon field ecologist
Date: Monday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Start: Central Point
Cost: \$35/person
Limit: 14

Visit the impressive Table Rocks of the Rogue River Plains, two of the most dramatic and interesting natural wonders in southwestern Oregon. On a four-mile, moderate hike, see an array of wildflowers surrounding these dramatic, flat-topped lava flows remnant of the area's volcanic origin. We'll briefly visit the Conservancy's Whetstone Savanna Preserve where a key portion of the region's oak habitat is protected. Threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp, rare wildflowers, and newly identified species of fungi live amongst mounded prairie and seasonal pool grassland communities here. The trip ends with a stop at the unique Agate Desert Preserve. Price includes lunch and transportation during the trip. ***Registration deadline is March 26th.***



Dew-covered lupine at Tom McCall Preserve © Rick McEwan

Spring Wildflowers at Tom McCall Preserve

Leader: Charlie Quinn, associate director of philanthropy

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Start: Portland

Cost: \$25/person

Limit: 13

A Nature Conservancy tradition, springtime in Oregon isn't complete without a visit to one of the Columbia Gorge's most stunning displays of wildflowers. The mounds, swales and vernal pools of this grassland preserve, not to mention the spectacular views of the gorge, provide the perfect backdrop for more than 300 plant species including balsamroot, lupine and Indian paintbrush. The preserve's diversity can be attributed to its location in the transition zone between the moist, heavily-forested west side of the Cascades and the drier bunch grass prairies of the east. Tom McCall Preserve also offers stark visual evidence of the dramatic geological events that formed it. Price includes transportation from Portland and lunch at a local café. Plan to walk up to two miles on flat, even terrain with minor elevation gain. **Registration deadline is March 31st.**

Zumwalt Prairie: Hiking Pine and Camp Creeks

Leader: Robert Taylor,
Northeast Oregon regional ecologist

Date: Wednesday - Thursday, June 10-11

Start: Joseph

Cost: \$225/person (double occupancy)
\$285/person (single occupancy)

Limit: 14

In 2006, The Nature Conservancy added 6,000 acres of stunning landscape — dubbed the Pine Creek Addition — to our existing Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, bringing our total protected area to 51 square miles. The addition includes one of the three Findley Buttes that stand so prominently above the rest of the prairie and, like the rest of the preserve, hosts intact bunch grass communities and provides critical habitat to a variety of species. We'll begin this active tour by hiking the Pine Creek Addition on day one, introducing you to the buttes, prairies, forests and wildlife of the area, including an amazing 360-degree view from atop the North Findley Butte. On day two, we'll continue our tour with a visit to some of the main activity centers on the rest of the preserve, including a walk up Camp Creek and a drive from the canyon bottom to the top of the prairie. Price includes transportation from Joseph, meals from lunch on Wednesday through lunch on Thursday and one night's lodging at the Wallowa Lake Lodge in Joseph. Hikes will be from three to five miles through native prairie and forest on uneven terrain with approximately 800 feet of elevation gain. The trip ends at Wallowa Lake Lodge by 4:00 p.m. on June 11th. **Registration deadline is May 8th.**



© TNC



Healthy populations of Belding's ground squirrels support Zumwalt Prairie's dense concentrations of nesting raptors. © Rick McEwan

Walking on Water at Sharon Fen

Leader: Molly Sullivan, Southwest Oregon stewardship coordinator

Date: Tuesday, June 23, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Start: Ashland

Cost: \$40/person

Limit: 12



© Kim Lepre/TNC

Discover this highly unusual quaking fen — a peat-forming wetland fed by nutrient-rich runoff or groundwater — located below Grizzly Peak near Ashland. A mosaic of plant communities form thick, floating mats in this 20-acre lake preserve, including bog buckbean and bulrush, brown mosses, sedges and beds of aquatic vegetation. Surrounding forests with white fir, incense cedar, ponderosa pine and Saskatoon serviceberry also harbor a diversity of wetlands including, at the other end of the nutrient spectrum, a quaking bog. We'll travel by four-wheel drive to this isolated corner of the Cascades, and then walk a short distance to the fen where you'll have the opportunity to literally "walk on water." You'll also have a chance to come face-to-face with the carnivorous sundew plant as you watch it devour its insect victims. Price includes lunch and transportation during the trip. **Registration deadline is June 2nd.**



© Rudy Dietz

Tree Climbing in the Oaks

Leader: Tim Kovar, Tree Climbing Northwest instructor

Date: Saturday, July 11, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Start: Portland

Cost: \$65/person

Limit: 12

Feel like a kid again while enjoying a peaceful, go-at-your-own-pace tree climbing experience. Using non-invasive techniques — and always attached to a harness and rope — you'll experience the forest from a perspective that most people never see. No prior experience is necessary, and you don't need to be exceptionally strong or fit to participate — the focus is on fun, not on

getting to the top. As author Robert Fulgham said, "tree climbing is a place to be, not a thing to do." We'll meet Tim Kovar, a master instructor for researchers and recreational tree climbers around the world, at his climbing site outside of Oregon City. Price includes lunch, transportation from Portland and all necessary equipment. To learn more about recreational tree climbing, visit Tree Climbing Northwest (www.treeclimbingnorthwest.com), Tree Climbers International (www.treeclimbing.com), or call Rudy Dietz at 503-802-8170. **Registration deadline is June 20th.**

The Rugged Southern Oregon Coast and Crook Point

Leader: Dick Vander Schaaf, coast and marine conservation director

Date: Tuesday - Wednesday, July 28-29

Start: Bandon

Cost: \$285/person (double occupancy), or \$310 with deck
\$350/person (single occupancy), or \$430 with deck

Limit: 14



© Carrie Walkiewicz/TNC

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

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Rivers Coast. 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 moderately challenging walks of up to two miles on varying terrain, and the price includes transportation during the trip, meals from lunch on Tuesday through lunch on Wednesday, and one night's lodging in Bandon.

Registration deadline is June 25th.



© Cynthia Beckwith/TNC

Paddling the Salmon River at Cascade Head

Leader: Debbie Pickering,

Oregon Coast stewardship ecologist

Date: Friday, August 14, 10:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Start: Knight Park

(off Hwy. 101, north of Lincoln City)

Cost: \$75/person

Limit: 12

Join us for a different view of our well-known Cascade Head Preserve — from the seat of a kayak. The Salmon River estuary offers the perfect venue to explore the area at the base of this coastal icon. We'll paddle down river

from Knight Park in stable recreation boats, and enjoy a picnic lunch and a walk on an isolated stretch of beach. Then we'll catch the incoming tide and paddle upstream into the heart of the salt marsh. There we'll learn about U.S. Forest Service efforts to restore this area to a naturally functioning estuary and the Conservancy's work to restore Cascade Head's native grassland, home to the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly. Price includes lunch and all kayaking equipment. **Registration deadline is July 24th.**

Rafting the McKenzie River

Leader: Leslie Bach, director of freshwater programs

Date: Thursday, August 20, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Start: McKenzie Bridge

Cost: \$90/person

Limit: 14

Experience one of Oregon's most scenic waterways in the heart of the western Cascades' dense evergreen forest, on a stretch of river with some of the purest water in the West. Fast-moving with dozens of exciting rapids, the McKenzie River is an active but relatively easy rafting adventure. Leslie will explain work being done by The Nature Conservancy and our partners along the river as well as other important salmon waterways in Oregon. Join us, along with professional river guides from Ouzel Outfitters, for a great day on the water.

Price includes lunch, all rafting equipment and shuttle. No previous rafting experience is necessary. Carpool options from Portland are available. **Registration deadline is July 30th.**



© Ouzel Outfitters

The Ancient Forests of Opal Creek

Leader: Rudy Dietz, field trip program manager
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Start: Stayton
Cost: \$40/person
Limit: 14

Legendary for its pristine, jade-green waters and towering, centuries-old trees, Opal Creek lies deep in the heart of Oregon's western Cascades. 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 center 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. Carpool options from Portland are available. **Registration deadline is August 4th.**



© Cullen Brady/TNC



View from atop Cascade Head Preserve © Rick McEwan

with the diverse plants and animals that call this land home. Along the way, we'll talk about the restoration work being done on Cascade Head to improve habitat for the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly, which began with the removal of a host of invasive species. In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lewis and Clark College and the Oregon Zoo, The Nature Conservancy is also raising silverspot pupae and reintroducing them to the headland, assuring their survival as the restored ecosystem gains a foothold. Timing of this trip has been planned to increase the chances of seeing the rare butterfly in its natural habitat. Price includes lunch. **Registration deadline is August 12th.**

Cascade Head Hike

Leader: Debbie Pickering,
Oregon Coast stewardship ecologist
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 9:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Start: Knight Park
(off Hwy. 101, north of Lincoln City)
Cost: \$25/person
Limit: 14

Join Debbie Pickering for a gentle, two-mile hike on one of The Nature Conservancy's best known preserves. With awe-inspiring views of the Pacific Ocean and the sinuous Salmon River below, we will become acquainted



The endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly.
© Rich Van Buskirk



Steens Mountain © Jason Seivers/TNC

Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert

Leader: Garth Fuller, Eastern Oregon conservation director

Date: Tuesday - Friday, September 15-18

Start: Frenchglen

Cost: \$350/person (double occupancy)
\$450/person (single occupancy)

Limit: 14

This four-day tour of Steens Mountain and its surrounding wildlands 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 August 11th.

Salmon Spawning at Ellsworth Creek

Leader: Tom Kollasch, Willapa program director

Date: Thursday, November 5, 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Start: Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge (near Ilwaco, WA)

Cost: \$30/person

Limit: 10

Ellsworth Creek is a unique example of conservation and restoration of our temperate coastal rainforests at the watershed scale. The nucleus of a 9,000-acre area, the 5,000-acre watershed is dedicated to preserving and restoring this globally rare ecosystem. Increasingly rare species, such as the marbled murrelet, use the valuable remaining patches of old forest at Ellsworth, where amphibian species diversity is also at its highest in Washington state. Chum salmon runs remain strong here and will hopefully be in full swing during our trip, with hundreds of fish making their return up the creek. Join Tom on this moderately steep, 1.5-mile hike to see these impressive, ancient forests, and learn about The Nature Conservancy's vision to restore natural ecological processes throughout the watershed. Price includes lunch and transportation during the trip. Carpool options from Portland are available. **Registration deadline is October 15th.**



Chinook salmon © Tom and Pat Leeson

Call Rudy Dietz, field trip program manager, at 503 802-8170 to reserve your spot today. We look forward to seeing you!

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