

CONSERVING ESSENTIAL LANDS AND WATERS

The Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative



LAND TRUST PROFILE

Deschutes Land Trust

Founded in: 1995 · **Service Area:** Deschutes Basin, Oregon · **Acres Protected:** 12,863

For more information, visit: www.deschuteslandtrust.org

Project Story

Priday Ranch is home to a wide variety of native species. Among other things, the property includes numerous golden eagle nests and more than 80 beaver dams and lodges. Priday Ranch's significant natural features, formally documented in late 1970s ecological surveys, led both Jefferson and Wasco counties to designate portions of the property as significant natural areas in their respective comprehensive plans.

Trout Creek

Priday Ranch is a stronghold for Deschutes River steelhead. Biologists estimate Trout Creek provides up to 25% of the entire Deschutes River's steelhead production. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Priday family have worked for more than two decades to restore portions of Trout Creek degraded by past flood control efforts. As many as 350 steelhead spawn each spring in the 10 miles of creek on Priday Ranch, while the shaded environs of Degner Canyon support juvenile steelhead as they prepare for their long journey to the Pacific Ocean.

Climate change resilience at Priday Ranch

Priday Ranch contains more than 2,500 acres of highly-resilient and well-connected land. Its rugged geological features, large elevational gradient, and extensive streamside habitat areas will support a diversity of plant and animal species now and into a warmer future.

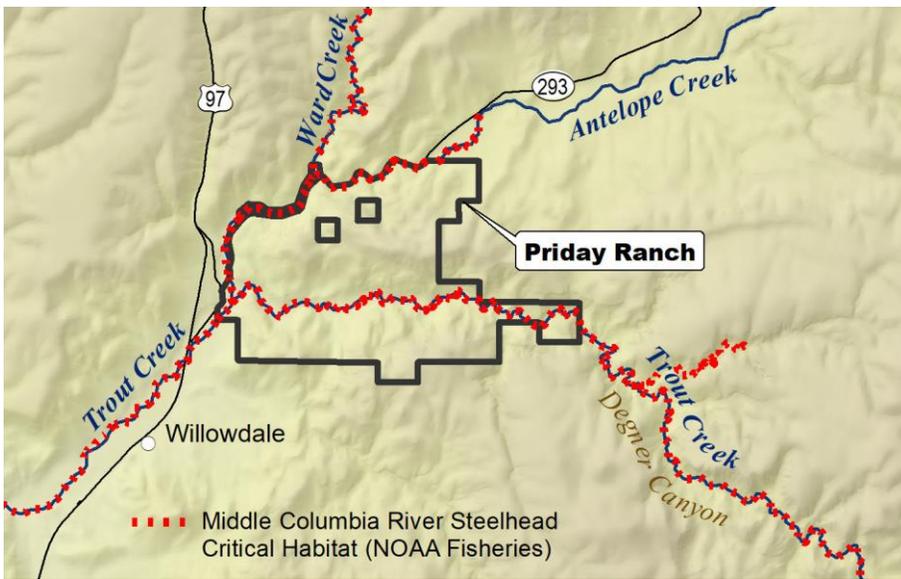
This project builds on three years of climate change work at the Deschutes Land Trust, with the Land Trust Alliance and the Charlotte Martin Foundation supporting data analysis, mapping, and strategic planning aimed at integrating climate science into conservation actions.

Project Highlights

- 4,500 acres of grasslands, shrub-steppe, floodplain, and riparian habitats.
- 2,531 acres of highly-resilient lands.
- 10 miles of Trout Creek, Antelope Creek, and Ward Creek, all critical habitat for threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead.
- Rugged canyons and rimrock cliffs provide nest sites for golden eagles and other raptors.

Restoring Priday Ranch

- Maintain and expand more than two decades of floodplain restoration work completed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Priday family.
- Restore native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees in floodplains, grasslands, and sagebrush-steppe.
- Manage water rights to benefit steelhead and other native species.



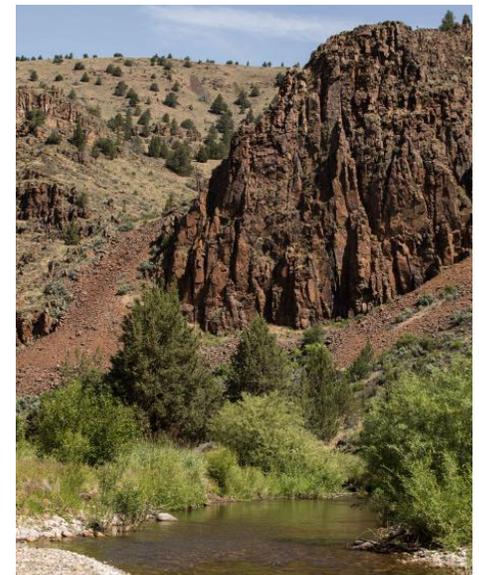
Priday Ranch offers some of the best steelhead spawning habitat in the Deschutes River Basin. (Map: Deb Quinlan)



Wild steelhead spawning in Trout Creek. (Photo: Adam Haarberg/Tom Nelson)



Farms, ranches, and open space surround Priday Ranch, creating a large swath of climate change-resilient land and prime wildlife habitat. (Map: Deb Quinlan)



Rimrock cliffs become rugged canyons above Trout Creek. (Photo: Ryder Redfield)



Extensive river habitat on the valley floor transitions upslope into vast sagebrush and grassland. (Photo: Ryder Redfield)



Restoration at Priday Ranch will help species thrive now as they prepare for a warmer future. (Photo: Deschutes Land Trust)