



Camp Polk meadow a Deschutes Basin Land Trust site Sisters, Oregon



Location: Just north of Highway 126 in Sisters, Oregon on Squaw Creek.

Specific Directions:

SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS:

WE WILL MEET BY THE CEMETERY:

FROM BEND: Hwy 20 West to Sisters - turn Right on Cloverdale Road (between mile markers 5 & 4). Take a left on Hwy 126 and then after 1/4 mi take the next Right on Camp Polk Road.

*Drive up Camp Polk Road - after approximately 3 miles turn right on gravel access road with Camp Polk Meadow Preserve sign just before Cemetery Rd. Cars can park at the end of Cemetery Rd. near the cemetery. Buses will meet Wolf tree staff at bus pull-off on access rd. just off Camp Polk Rd.

FROM SISTERS: Take Camp Polk Road. Drive approximately 3.1 miles. Be sure to keep Right on Camp Polk Road when Wilt Road continues straight ahead. Once you pass the sign for Indian Ford Meadow Road on your Left, look for the Camp Polk Road sign. From this point go another mile until you cross Squaw Creek . Turn left on gravel access road just past Cemetery Rd. (look for the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve sign). Cars can park at the end of Cemetery Rd. near the cemetery. Buses will meet Wolf tree staff at bus pull-off on access rd. just off Camp Polk Rd.

FROM REDMOND: Take Hwy 126 West - take a Right on Camp Polk Road. Follow from * above.

Site Description/Natural History:

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is comprised of 145 acres of rare wetland/wet meadow habitat. In 1865, the government stationed military on the Camp Polk property to "protect" settlers and members of the Warm Springs Tribe (who were friendly with the white people) from the hostile Payute Indians. The land was homesteaded in 1871, as part of the earliest white settled homestead in the watershed. In 2000 the Deschutes Basin Land Trust partnered with Portland General Electric, the Deschutes Basin Resources Conservancy and the Oregon Water Trust to acquire the preserve.

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Plants and Wildlife:

Ponderosa pine stands are found on the preserve, along with aspen, which are recovering from heavy grazing and beaver activity. Juniper, sage and cheat grass are commonly found in the dry meadow.

Raptors, woodpeckers, frogs and rattlesnakes can all be found on the preserve.

Aquatic Systems:

The headwaters of Squaw Creek are in the Bend Glacier of Broken Top. It is mainly fed by snow melt, but also by several springs. A Dam is located approximately 7 miles from Camp Polk Meadow and is used to divert water for irrigation . The creek meandered through Camp Polk Meadow until it was "restructured" to flow in a straight path. The largest efforts to straighten the creek were by the Corps of Engineers after the 1964 floods. Squaw Creek used to be the largest Steelhead spawning habitat in the upper Deschutes watershed.

Management Issues:

The Land Trust is planning to restore and conserve a portion of Squaw Creek. The restoration's focus is on increasing riparian habitat and enhancing water quality and quantity for the eventual reintroduction of Steelhead runs. A Restoration and Management plan is being developed. The Archeological Society of Central Oregon has begun archeological surveys on the Preserve. Initial plant and wildlife surveys, stream surveys, and weed mapping are in progress.

Site Specific Safety:

RATTLE SNAKES. Keep your ears and eyes open, walk in front of your students when possible.

Make students aware of the danger, but don't frighten them. If someone is bit:

- Move everyone away from snake
- Treat bite as a flesh wound, DO NOT cut and suck.
- Radio WolfTree staff immediately

MOVING WATER. If students are in stream, an adult must be in stream, downstream from students. Life jackets are necessary for all students in the water if flows are high (to be determined by program manager).

NETTLES. Look for nettles and avoid walking through them.

BRIDGE. Beware of footing on bridge as it is in need of repair.