

## Whychus Canyon

The Whychus Canyon Preserve is nearly 1000 acres of canyons and the wandering Whychus Creek. It is managed by the Deschutes Land Trust. The Whychus Creek meanders through the middle of the canyon at about 2800 feet elevation, and the volcanic cliffs top out a little over 3000 feet elevation. But beware, there are a few steep spots going from one to the other. The bottom of the canyon is punctuated with ponderosa pines, cottonwoods, and a few quaking aspens. The flatter area above the canyon has the traditional juniper, sagebrush, and grasslands, and some hardy ponderosa pine. It can get quite hot here summers, so be like the ponderosas and manage your water intake well.

Except in rare, impacting snowfalls, this area would be ideal for year-round exploration (again take lots of water on warm days). Signs near the beginning ask that you avoid walking on muddy trails. Dogs are welcome, but must be leashed at all times as the many signs request.

There are several loop alternatives that generally parallel the creek that take advantage of the connecting short stints that allow transfer from one to the other. See the “Whychus Canyon Preserve Trail Map” below that describes the trail conditions. I’ve also included a USGS derived topographic map to give you an idea of the ups and down. These are complemented by a road access map and a proximity map that shows some of the other nearby preserves managed by the Deschutes Land Trust.

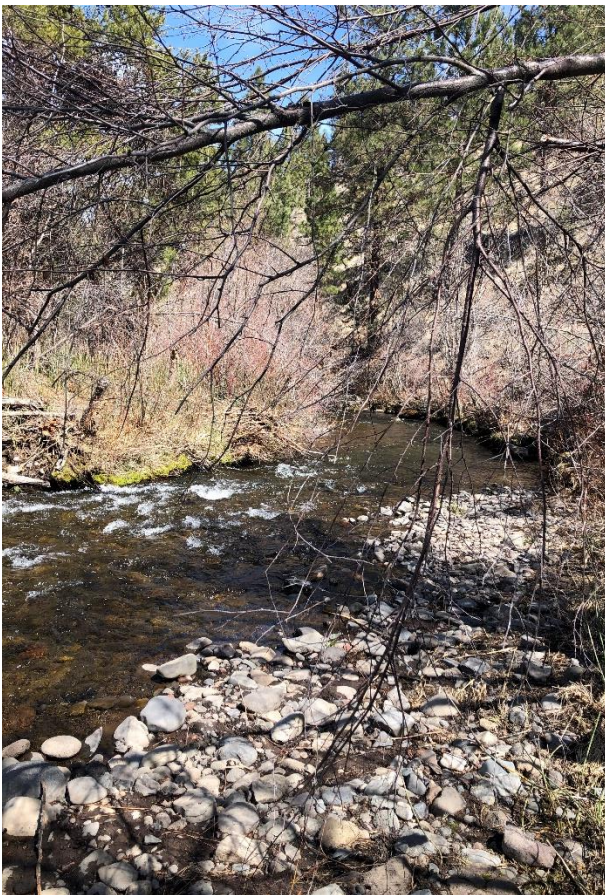


*The kiosk at the entrance*

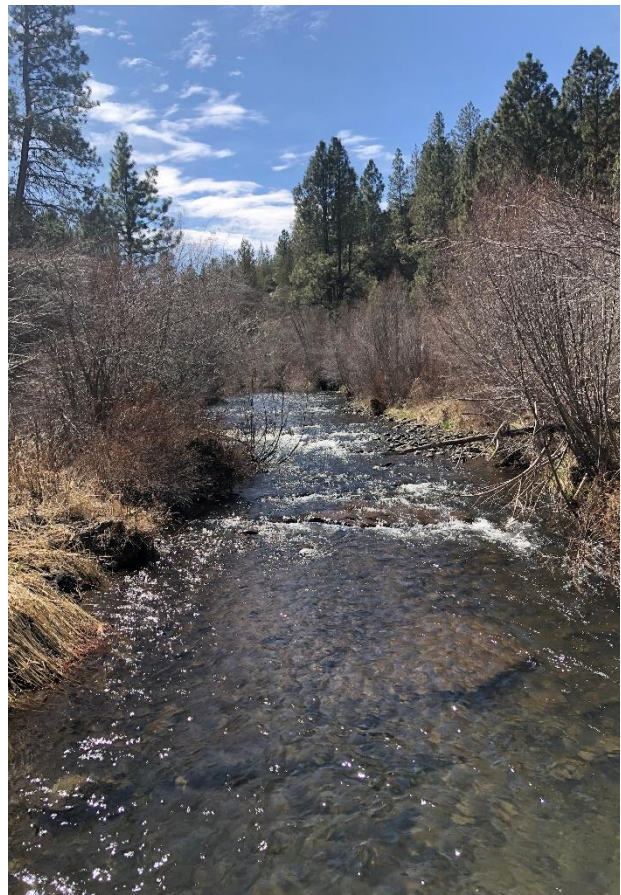




*Typical landscape on the rim showing the western juniper and a few ponderosa pines*



*Near the point you reach the Creek Trail*



*A little further downstream*





*The layers of volcanic rock on the north side*



*One of the wider spots at the bottom of the canyon*





*A view to the Cascades (Brokentop is just visible on the left half)*



*Two VERY unusual conifers for the area. This was a lodgepole pine. They typically occur much higher in elevation!*



*And a grand fir (I didn't see any other of these species in the area. Cones drifted downstream, and they took advantage of the nearness to the creek, and the cold air that often collects in canyons.)*

The preserve is a great example of how a landscape can be restored to a semblance of its former habitat. This Youtube video shows its restoration:

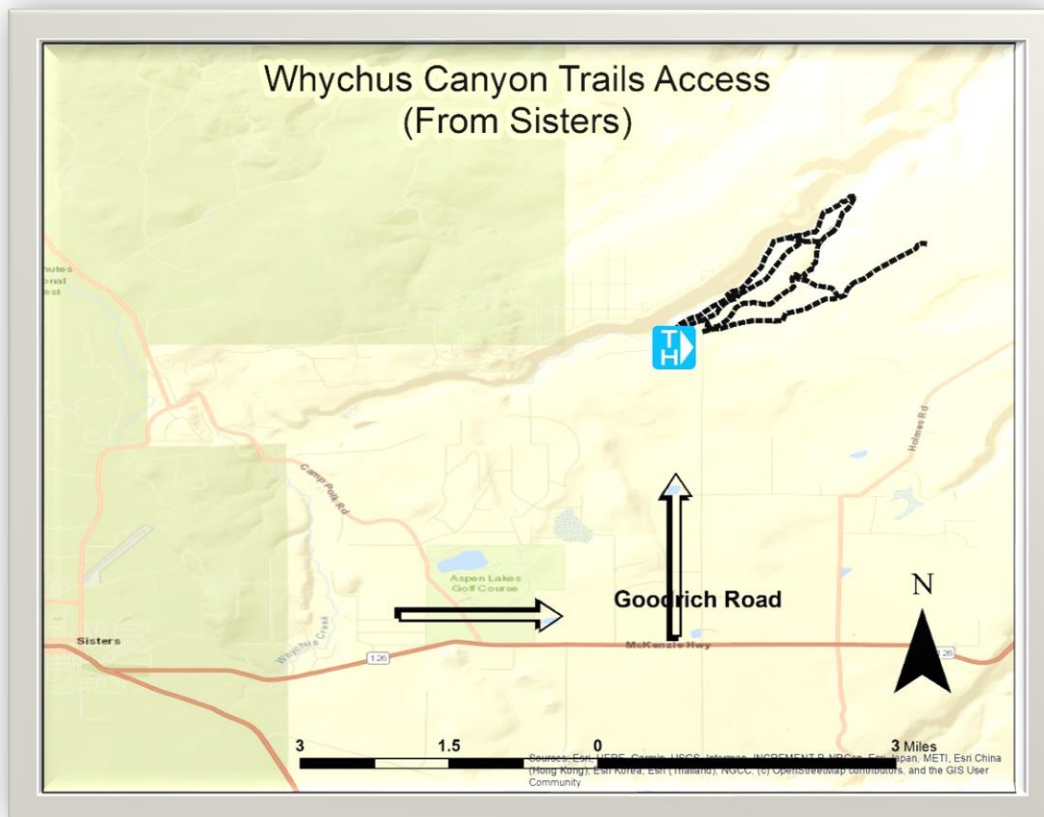
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIS-8A699f4>

For more information on the Preserve see:

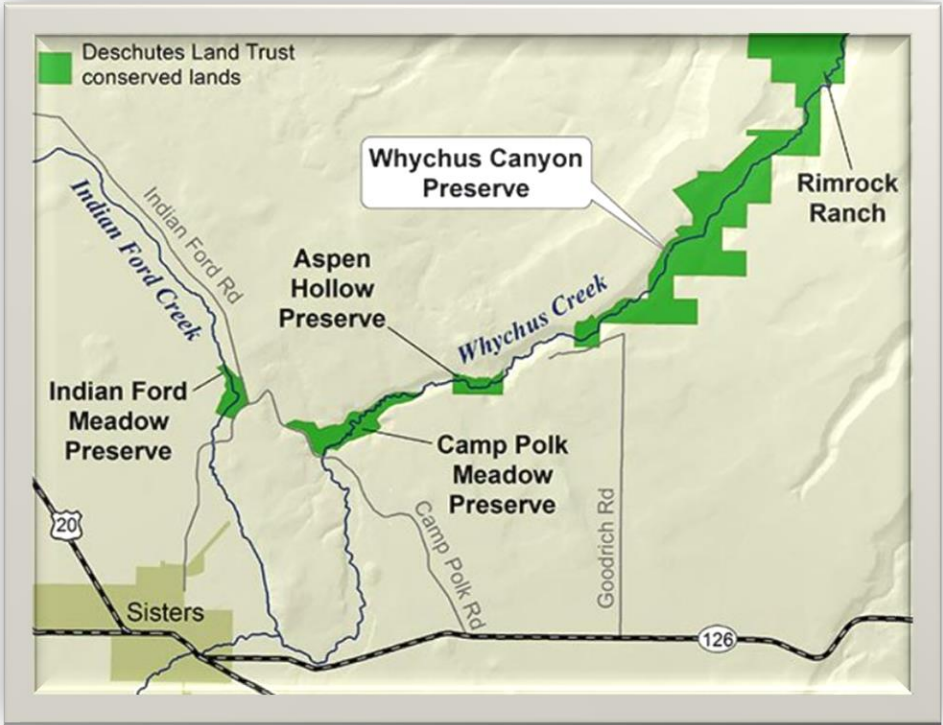
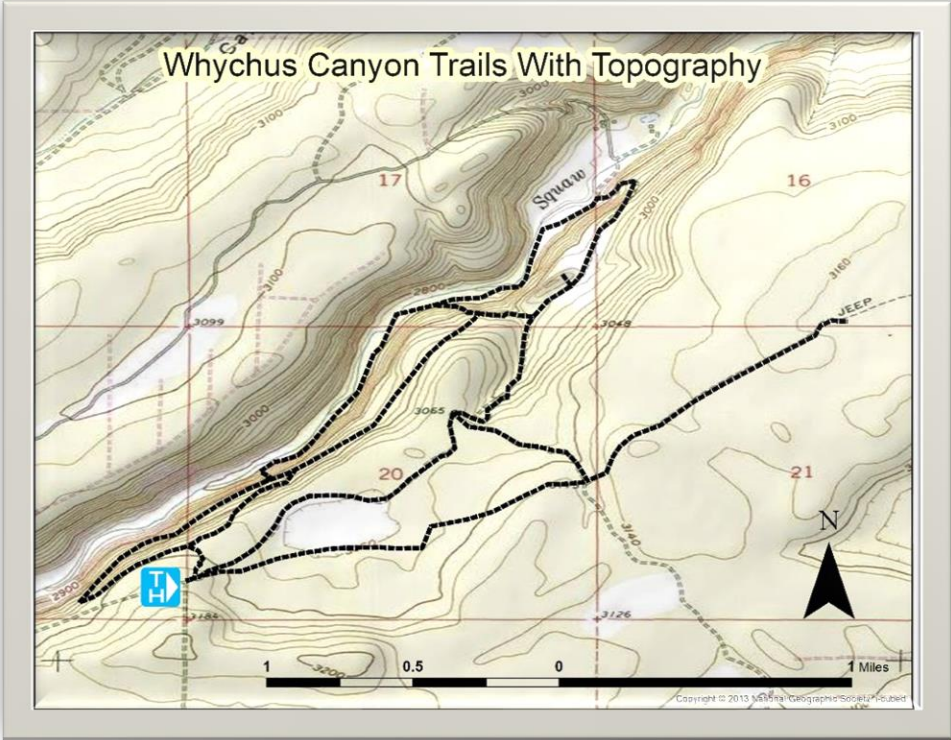
<https://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/protected-lands/whychus-canyon-preserve>

The historic Santiam Wagon Road goes through the southern edge of the Preserve. For more information, see the website:

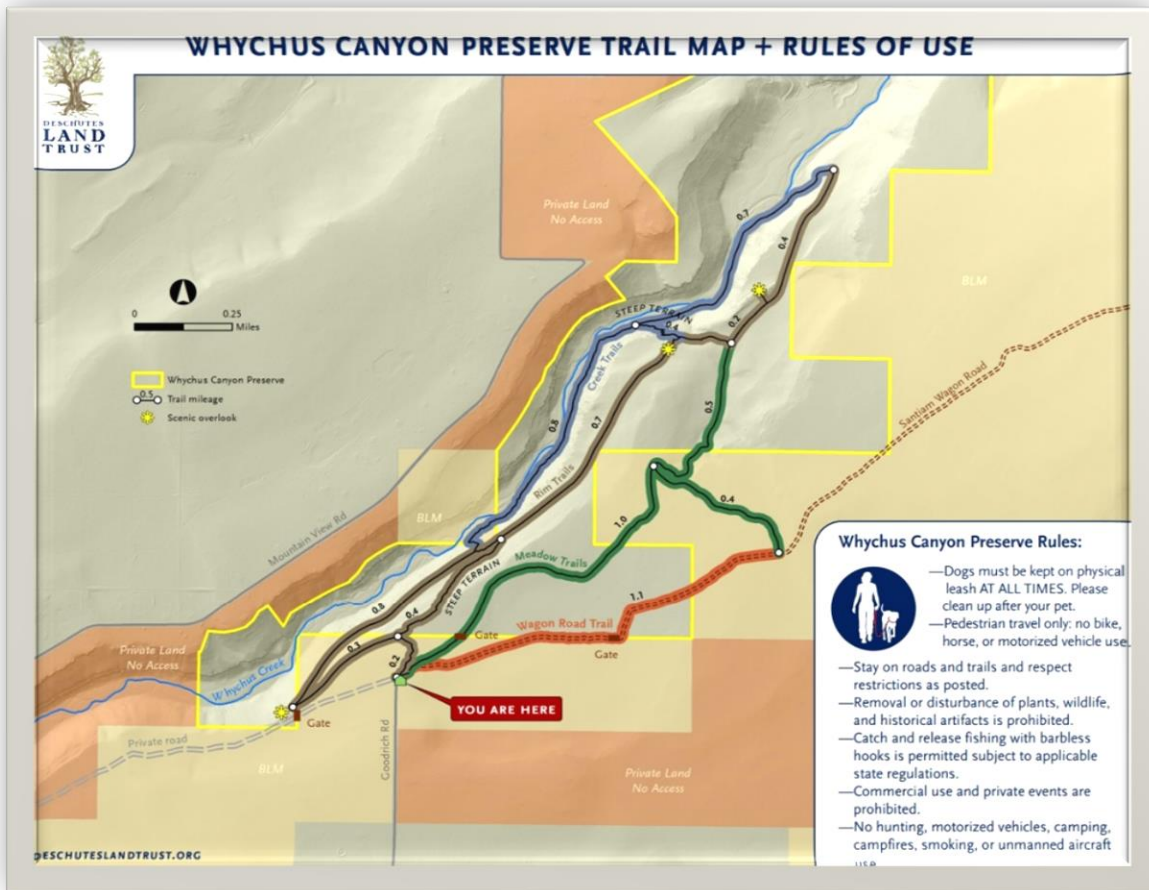
<https://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/wagonroad#reconstructing-routes>







Area Preserves (source: Deschutes Land Trust)



*Official Preserve Map (source: Deschutes Land Trust)*