

CHAPTER 2

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.8 Wildlife

Background

Wildlife diversity is a large part of the attraction of Deschutes County and was mentioned in many Comprehensive Plan meetings in 2008 and 2009 as important to the community. The key to protecting wildlife is protecting the habitats each species needs for food, water, shelter and reproduction. Maintaining habitats also means retaining or enhancing connectivity between habitats, in order to protect migration routes and avoid isolated populations.

Wildlife habitat is protected through Statewide Planning Goal 5, Open Spaces, Scenic and Historical Areas and Natural Resources and the associated Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 660-023 (this Rule replaced 660-016 in 1996). Statewide Goal 5 includes a list of resources which each local government must inventory, including wildlife habitat.

The process requires local governments to inventory wildlife habitat and determine which items on the inventory are significant. For sites identified as significant, an Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy (ESEE) analysis is required. The analysis leads to one of three choices: preserve the resource, allow proposed uses that conflict with the resource or strike a balance between the resource and the conflicting uses. A program must be provided to protect the resources as determined by the ESEE analysis.

In considering wildlife habitat, counties rely on the expertise of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW). Those agencies provide information for the required wildlife inventory and recommendations on how to protect wildlife habitat on private lands.

This Section implements part of State Planning Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources

Cross-References



Additional policies related to Wildlife

- Water Quantity and Quality (Section 2.5)
- Rivers, Streams and Fish (Section 2.6)
- Regional Problem Solving for South Deschutes County (Section 2.7)
- Rural Development (Section 3.2)
- Rural Housing (Section 3.3)
- Rural Economy (Section 3.4)
- Rural Recreation (Section 3.8)
- Destination Resorts (Section 3.9)

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Wildlife Designations

Plan 2000

Plan 2000 included a Fish and Wildlife Chapter and in conjunction with that Plan the Wildlife Area Combining Zone was adopted. This overlay zone was intended to protect identified big game habitat through zoning tools such as appropriate lot sizes and setbacks. In 1986 a River Study was completed and adopted into the Resource Element. Goals and policies from that study, including wildlife goals, were added to Plan 2000. As part of State mandated Periodic Review, in 1992 ODFW provided an updated inventory of fish and wildlife, including mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. The County completed the analysis required by the then prevailing Rule, OAR 660-16-000 and adopted a Sensitive Bird and Mammal Combining Zone which identified and protected specific bird nests or leks and bat hibernating or nursery sites.

Compliance with Goal 5

In 1992, during periodic review, Deschutes County met the requirements of Goal 5 by:

- The adoption of Goals and Policies in Ordinance 92-040 reflecting Goal 5 requirements;
- The adoption of Ordinance 92-041, which pursuant to the Goal 5 rule amended the comprehensive plan to inventory each Goal 5 resource, analyze conflicting uses, and analyze the Economic, Social, Environmental, and Energy (ESEE) Consequences of protecting or not protecting inventoried fish and wildlife resources;
- The adoption of zoning ordinance provisions in Ordinance 92-042, as applied to inventoried sites by the map adopted by Ordinance 92-046;
- The adoption of specific timelines in Ordinance 92-040 for revisiting resource sites inventoried as so-called “1b” sites under the Goal 5 rule;
- To comply with the requirements of Goal 5 and OAR 660-16-000, the County worked with the ODFW to obtain the most recent inventory information on fish and wildlife resources in the county and to identify uses conflicting with the fish and wildlife resources. This information was used to update the inventories in the periodic review order and amend the ESEE analyses. In addition, ODFW provided information to support zoning ordinance provisions to resolve conflicts between fish and wildlife resource protection and development.

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Wildlife Snapshot

- There are 816,649 acres in Deschutes County's Wildlife Area Combining Zone
- There are 40 sites protected by the Sensitive Bird and Mammal Habitat Combining Zone
- 76% of County land is owned and managed by the Federal Government through the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
- An ODFW study for 2008 shows nearly \$70 million was spent in Deschutes County on travel generate expenditures on wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting by people from over 50 miles away
- Over 60% of the \$70 million noted above was spent for wildlife viewing, with fishing second with nearly 30% and nearly 10% on hunting
- Over \$8 million in revenue from fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing came from people who live in the County or within 50 miles of the County
- Over 60% of the \$8 million noted above was spent on fishing, over 20% was spent on hunting and under 20% was spent on wildlife viewing



Deer Migration Corridor

The Bend/La Pine migration corridor is approximately 56 miles long and 3 to 4 miles wide and parallels the Deschutes and Little Deschutes Rivers. The corridor is used by deer migrating from summer range in the forest along the east slope of the Cascades to the North Paulina deer winter range. Deschutes County adopted a "Deer Migration Priority Area" based on a 1999 ODFW map submitted to the South County Regional Problem Solving Group. This specific sub-area is precluded from destination resorts.

Deer Winter Range

The ODFW identified the Metolius, Tumalo and North Paulina deer winter ranges during Deschutes County's initial comprehensive plan. The boundaries of these winter ranges are shown on the Big Game Sensitive Area map in the 1978 Comprehensive Plan and have been zoned with Wildlife Combining Zone since 1979. The winter ranges support a population of approximately 15,000 deer.

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In 1992, ODFW recommended deer winter range in the north east corner of the county, north of Crooked River, in the Smith Rock State Park area be included in the Deschutes County inventory and protected with the same measures applied to other deer winter range in the county. This area was officially included and mapped on the Big Game Habitat Area and Wildlife Combining Map when Ordinance 92-040 was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Elk Habitat

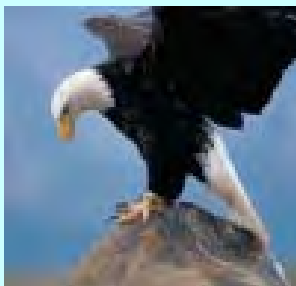
The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Deschutes National Forest identifies 6 key elk habitat areas in Deschutes County. The ODFW also recognizes these areas as critical elk habitat for calving, winter or summer range. The following areas are mapped on the Big Game Habitat Area map and in maps in the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan:

- * Tumalo Mountain
- * Ryan
- * Fall River
- * Kiwa
- * Crane Prairie
- * Clover Meadow

Antelope Habitat

The Bend and Ochoco District offices of the ODFW have provide maps of the antelope range and antelope winter range. The available information is adequate to indicate that the resource is significant. The antelope habitat is mapped on Deschutes County's Big Game Habitat-Wildlife Area Combining Zone Map.

Sensitive Birds



Nest sites for the northern bald eagle, osprey, golden eagle, prairie falcon, great grey owl, and great blue heron rookeries are inventoried in Ordinance No. 92-041. The area required for each nest site varies between species. The minimum area required for protection of nest sites has been identified by the ODFW in their management guidelines for protecting colony nesting birds, osprey, eagles and raptor nests.

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Future of Wildlife

Much of the wildlife habitat in Deschutes County is located on public lands. Federal lands make up 76% of County lands with another 3% State or County owned. Federal lands are not subject to County regulation but as noted in the Forest section of this Plan they contribute greatly to what makes Deschutes County special. These lands are important economic generators that also contribute to the community's quality of life, providing ample opportunities for wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting.

On public lands the County's role is to coordinate with the agencies managing the lands to ensure development approved by the County does not impact wildlife on public lands and to comment on wildlife management plans that impact the County. It is also important to work closely with the federal and state wildlife agencies. Another area for coordination is with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL). In 2009 this non-profit group initiated a Greenprint effort that will identify specific areas needing protection, including wildlife habitat. A survey done by this organization identified protecting wildlife habitat as important to County residents.

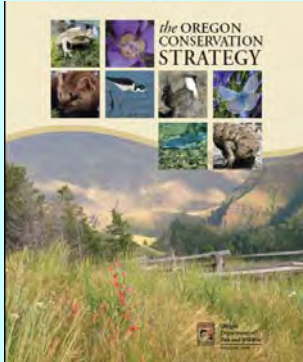
Rural Development

The loss of wildlife habitat and species leads to declining recreational opportunities, tourist dollars and quality of life. Yet, many species are sensitive to human development, with some species benefiting and some being harmed by the growth of human activities. Development of structures or infrastructure can fragment habitats. Barriers such as roads, dams or housing can interfere with migration routes and connectivity leading to isolated and unhealthy populations. Development also increases the impacts from non-native and invasive species. Most Deschutes County residents we heard from in updating this process consider the local wildlife one of the benefits of living here. With careful planning, many of the impacts to wildlife habitat can be mitigated.



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Oregon Conservation Strategy

In 2006 the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) was adopted by Oregon’s Fish and Wildlife Commission for the state of Oregon. The OCS celebrates Oregon’s natural heritage by articulating goals and identifying actions that conserve and restore Oregon’s species, habitats and ecosystems. It is not a regulatory document but instead presents issues, opportunities, and recommended voluntary actions that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation in Oregon. The recommendations within the OCS can be used to address species and habitat conservation needs, expand existing partnerships and develop new ones, and provide a context for balancing Oregon’s conservation and development priorities. The future of many species will depend on landowners’ and land managers’ willingness to voluntarily take action on their own to improve fish and wildlife habitat.



East Cascade Ecoregion

Deschutes County is identified in the East Cascade Ecoregion. Habitats of the East Cascades ecoregion present much variation, from sagebrush flats to alpine fields. The conservation issues are similarly diverse, as well as complex. Timber harvest practices, grazing and fire suppression have altered the distribution and structure of much of the ecoregion’s historic ponderosa pine and forests many riparian and wetland habitats have been degraded. Rapidly expanding urban and rural residential development is another major emerging conservation issue, resulting in development within riparian zones, the loss of big game winter range, and water diversions to support development. Along with this development, Highway 97 traffic volume continues to increase, creating a major barrier to wildlife movement. Habitat fragmentation and increasing recreational use is of concern in this ecoregion.



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Altered Fire Regimes

As noted in Section 2.3, past forest practices and fire suppression have resulted in young, dense mixed-species stands where open, park-like stands of ponderosa pine once dominated. These mixed conifer forests are at increased risk of forest-destroying crown fires, disease, and damage by insects. Shading from encroaching trees and fire suppression has reduced the vigor of shrubs, particularly bitterbrush, an important forage plant for mule deer. Efforts to reduce fire danger and improve forest health may help restore habitats but require careful planning to provide sufficient habitat features that are important to wildlife (e.g., snags, down logs, hiding cover for big game.) Similarly, wildfire reforestation efforts should be carefully planned to create stands with tree diversity, understory vegetation and natural forest openings. Increasing home and resort development in forested habitats makes prescribed fire difficult in some areas and increases risk of high-cost wildfires. Although many urban-interface “fire proofing” measures can be implemented with minimal effects to wildlife habitat, some poorly-planned efforts have unintentionally and unnecessarily harmed habitat.



Land Use Conversion and Urbanization

The East Cascades ecoregion includes some of the fastest growing areas of the state. Rapid urban and rural residential development contributes to habitat loss, and can threaten traditional land uses such as agriculture and forestry. Urban and rural residential development also can fragment habitat into small patches, isolating wildlife populations. Increasing traffic volumes and road density associated with development creates barriers to animal movements, especially along Highway 97. Residential development is increasing in sensitive habitats such as wetlands, riparian areas, and close to cliffs and rims where raptors nest.



Habitat Fragmentation

In non-forested areas, habitats for at-risk native plants and some animal species are largely confined to small and often isolated fragments such as roadsides and sloughs. Opportunities for large-scale protection or restoration of native landscapes are limited. Existing land use and land ownership patterns presents challenges to large-scale ecosystem restoration.

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Increasing Recreational Use

Increasing recreational use can impact wildlife directly (e.g., mortality from off-highway vehicles) or indirectly (e.g., new road construction interferes with migration pathways). Increasing numbers of recreationalists, including mountain bicyclists and rock climbers, can impact sensitive areas.



Invasive Species

Non-native plant and animal invasions disrupt native communities, diminish populations of at-risk native species, and threaten the economic productivity of resource lands.

Water distribution in Arid Areas and Wildlife Entrapment in Water Developments

In arid areas, water availability can limit animal distribution. Water developments established for cattle, deer, and elk can significantly benefit birds, bats, and small mammals as well. However, some types of these facilities, particularly water developments for livestock, can have unintentional hazards. These hazards include over-hanging wires that act as trip lines for bats, steep side walls that act as entrapments under low water conditions, or unstable perches that cause animals to fall into the water. If an escape ramp is not provided, small animals cannot escape and will drown.

East Cascade Ecoregion Conservation Opportunity Areas

There are two East Cascade Ecoregion Conservation Opportunity Areas in Deschutes County:

EC-05 (Whychus Creek)

- The Three Forks of Whychus Creek headwater in the Three Sisters Wilderness on the east slope of the Cascade Range

Special Feature: Designated as a Wild and Scenic River

- Key Habitats: Aquatic and Riparian
- Key Species: Bull Trout, Mountain Whitefish, Redband Trout

Recommended Actions:

- Increase levels of large in-stream wood, reduce sediment, and improve fish passage
- Maintain or enhance in-channel watershed function, connection to riparian habitat, flow and hydrology
- Maintain or restore riparian habitat and ecological function; ensure sufficient habitat complexity for wildlife

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EC-07 (Little Deschutes River Basin)

Special Feature: Extensive wet meadow systems and some high-quality riparian shrub habitats. Area includes a large percentage of the ecoregion's black swift habitat.

- Key Species: Oregon Spotted Frog, Black Swift, Sandhill Crane, Bull Trout, Redband Trout

Recommended Actions:

- Maintain or enhance in-channel watershed function, connection to riparian habitat, flow and hydrology
- Maintain or restore riparian habitat and ecological function; ensure sufficient habitat complexity for wildlife
- Manage livestock grazing to promote recovery and maintenance of riparian habitats
- Restore wetlands and wet meadows



Interagency Report

In 2009 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management collaborated to provide a report on Wildlife in Deschutes County, *Updated Wildlife Information and Recommendations for the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan Update* (Interagency Report).

ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy

The ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy provides direction for ODFW staff to review and comment on projects that may impact fish and wildlife habitat. This policy recognizes six distinct categories of wildlife habitat ranging from Category 1 – essential, limited, and irreplaceable habitat, to Category 6 – low value habitat. The policy goal for Category 1 habitat is no loss of habitat quantity or quality through avoidance of impacts by using development action if impacts cannot be avoided. The ODFW recommends avoidance of Category 1 habitats as they are irreplaceable, and thus mitigation is not a viable option. Categories 2-4 are for essential or important, but not irreplaceable habitats. Category 5 habitat is not essential or important, but has high restoration potential.



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Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) is responsible for administration of the Endangered Species Act and multiple Federal wildlife laws that protect endangered species and migratory birds, respectively. It is Oregon’s policy “to prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species (ORS 496.012). The ODFW maintains a list of native fish and wildlife species in Oregon that have been determined to be either “threatened” or “endangered” according to criteria set forth by rule (OAR 635-100-0105). Recovering species when their populations are severely depleted can be difficult and expensive, and socially and economically divisive. To provide a positive approach to species conservation, a “sensitive” species classification was created under Oregon’s Sensitive Specie Rule (OAR 635-100-040). The table on Page 2 - 135 lists species in Deschutes County that are listed by either the Federal or State wildlife agencies under the above mentioned laws or authorities. A complete list showing the use period, abundance and special status of select mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles is provided in Appendix H of the Interagency Report.



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Table 35 - Special Status of Select Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, and Reptiles in Deschutes County 2009

Species	Special Status	
	State	Federal
Mammals		
California Ground Squirrel	Vulnerable	
California Wolverine	Threatened	Species of Concern
Fisher	Critical	
Fringed Myotis	Vulnerable	
Long-eared Myotis		Species of Concern
Long-legged Myotis	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Pallid Bat	Vulnerable	
Preble's Shrew		Species of Concern
Pygmy Rabbit	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Silver-haired bat	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Small-footed Myotis		Species of Concern
Spotted bat	Vulnerable	
Townsend's western big-eared bat	Critical	Species of Concern
Yuma Myotis		Species of Concern
Birds		
American Peregrine Falcon	Vulnerable	Delisted
Bald Eagle	Threatened	Delisted
Black Tern		Species of Concern
Black-backed Woodpecker	Vulnerable	
Ferruginous Hawk	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Flammulated Owl	Vulnerable	
Great Gray Owl	Vulnerable	
Greater Sage Grouse	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Lewis' Woodpecker	Critical	Species of Concern
Loggerhead Shrike	Vulnerable	
Long-billed Curlew	Vulnerable	
Mountain Quail	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Northern Goshawk	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Northern Spotted Owl	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Pileated Woodpecker	Vulnerable	
Swainson's Hawk	Vulnerable	
Western Burrowing Owl		Species of Concern
White-head Woodpecker	Critical	Species of Concern
Willow Flycatcher	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Yellow-breasted chat		Species of Concern
Amphibians and Reptiles		
Cascades Frog	Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Coastal tailed frog		Species of Concern
Northern Sagebrush Lizard		Species of Concern
Oregon slender salamander		Species of Concern
Oregon Spotted Frog	Sensitive	Candidate
Western Pond Turtle	Critical	
Western Toad	Vulnerable	



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Riparian and Wetland Areas for Wildlife and Fish

Riparian areas support a greater diversity of wildlife than upland areas, and are particularly important and limited habitats in the arid Western U.S. Over 60 percent of neotropical migratory songbirds in the western U.S. use riparian areas at some point during the year. Approximately 80 percent of all wildlife species depend on riparian areas. Aquatic and fish productivity are directly related to properly functioning and healthy riparian habitat.

As noted earlier in Section 2.6, Deschutes County has limited riparian and wetland habitats. In 1985, the US Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a National Wetland Inventory for most of Deschutes County. However, due to the large spatial scale of the mapping effort (1:58,000) wetlands smaller than five acres in size were not identified as significant only because they were not mapped, not because they are insignificant.. Most wetlands smaller than five acres in size provide significant habitat necessary for a suite of wildlife species. A Local Wetland Inventory would greatly improve the County's ability to conserve wetland resources, which are vital to maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations in the Upper Deschutes basin. Sensitive wildlife species dependent on riparian and wetland areas in the County include, but are not limited to the table on Page 2 - 137. A complete list showing the use period, abundance and special status of select mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles is provided in Table 2 of the Interagency Report.



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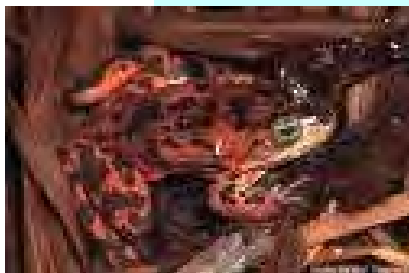
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*Table 36 - Threatened, Endangered and Species of Concern
Dependent on Floodplain areas in Deschutes County*

Species	State (ODFW)	Federal (USFW)
Columbia Spotted Frog	State Sensitive Critical	Candidate
Oregon Spotted Frog	State Sensitive Critical	Candidate
Western Toad	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Cascade Frog	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Oregon Slender Salamander		Species of Concern
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	State Sensitive Critical	Candidate
Lewis Woodpecker	State Sensitive Critical	Species of Concern
White-headed Woodpecker	State Sensitive Critical	Species of Concern
American Bald Eagle	Threatened	Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act
Northern Goshawk	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
American Peregrine Falcon	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Delisted
Greater Sandhill Crane	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Flammulated Owl	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Great Gray Owl	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Three-toed Woodpecker	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Balck-backed Woodpecker	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Pileated Woodpecker	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Willow Flycatcher	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Yellow-breasted chat		Species of Concern
Townsend's Big Eared Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
California Myotis	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Long-legged Myotis	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Hoary Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Silver-haired Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Pallid Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	

Oregon Spotted Frog in the Upper Deschutes Basin

Oregon spotted frogs historically were found in Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Benton, Jackson, Lane, Wasco, Deschutes and Klamath counties. Currently, this species is only known to occur in Deschutes, Klamath, and Lane counties. In Deschutes County spotted frogs occur within water bodies on the Deschutes National Forest, Prineville District Bureau of Land Management and private land. The Oregon spotted frog is considered a Candidate species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW). The USFW is currently revisiting the status of the Oregon spotted frog for listing under the ESA.



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The Upper Deschutes and Little Deschutes Rivers and associated wetlands are key habitat for the frog. In particular, riverine oxbows that contain permanent standing water but are no longer connected to the river provide essential overwintering and breeding habitat. The rivers and associated floodplains are connectivity corridors that must be maintained to allow populations of frogs to interbreed. Small ponds and isolated wetlands with emergent or floating aquatic vegetation and perennial water also provide habitat for the frog, particularly those that are devoid of predatory fish and bull frogs. In the Upper Deschutes and Little Deschutes Rivers spotted frog is threatened by the loss of marsh habitat due to vegetation succession and lodgepole pine encroachment into wetlands; alteration of riverine and wetland hydrologic regimes; interactions with non-native fish and bull frogs; and degraded water quality. Livestock grazing in high density may also pose a threat to Oregon spotted frog

Development of high groundwater lots within the floodplain of the Upper Deschutes Rivers may also pose a threat to the Oregon spotted frog in the future and could be considered conflicting uses relative to its conservation. High groundwater lots are where groundwater rises to within 24 inches of natural ground surface. Under DEQ rules, no septic system can be installed in these conditions. Filling wetlands will directly affect the habitat on which the frog is dependent. Additionally, the recent findings of the US Geological Survey suggest that development of lots with a high water table will increase nutrient loading (i.e., nitrate) in the rivers. Excess nitrate loading in the river, combined with a naturally occurring high level of phosphorous in the substrate, will greatly exacerbate eutrophication of the rivers and lead to excess algal growth and vegetative growth. Spotted frogs are dependent not only on the wetland habitat but the high quality of water within these wetlands.



Shrub-Steppe Habitat

Shrub-steppe habitat provides needed resources for over 100 bird species and 70 mammals including 12 Oregon state listed sensitive species, and one threatened species. Large blocks of unfragmented functioning habitat with low human disturbance are needed to support shrub-steppe wildlife. If avoidance of these areas is not possible, providing for “no net loss” and a “net benefit” (restoration) of shrub-steppe habitat should be a vital component of any conservation plan. The table on Page 2 - 139 lists threatened, endangered and species of concern depended on sagebrush steppe habitat in Deschutes County. A complete list is provided in Table 3 of the Interagency Report.

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Table 37 - Threatened, endangered and species of concern depended on sagebrush steppe habitat in Deschutes County

Species	State (ODFW)	Federal (USFW)
Greater Sage-Grouse	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Species of Concern
American Bald Eagle	Threatened	Federal Eagle Protection Act
Golden Eagle		Federal Eagle Protection Act
Swainson's Hawk	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Ferruginous Hawk		Species of Concern
American Peregrine Falcon	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Delisted
Burrowing Owl	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Townsend's Big Eared Bat	Threatened	Species of Concern
California Myotis	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Long-legged Myotis	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Hoary Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Silver-haired Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Spotted Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Species of Concern
Pallid Bat	State Sensitive Vulnerable	
Pygmy Rabbit	State Sensitive Vulnerable	Species of Concern

Greater Sage Grouse in Deschutes County

The population management objective for sage-grouse in this region (Prineville District), which includes portions of Deschutes and Crook counties, is to restore sage grouse numbers and distribution near the 1980 spring breeding population level, approximately 3,000 birds. Sagebrush conversion to agricultural lands, wetland degradation, invasive plants, mining, transmission lines, grazing practices that affect necessary cover or forage, recreational disturbance – motorized and non-motorized, and residential and wind energy developments can all impact local sage-grouse populations and could be considered conflicting uses relative to conservation of greater sage-grouse.



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Breeding habitat (lekking, nesting habitat, and early brood-rearing) is critical to the life-history of sage-grouse. Like many upland birds, sage-grouse rear only one brood of young in a breeding season. Regional radio-telemetry data in Deschutes and Crook counties show that 80 percent of hens nest within 4 miles of a lek. This distance becomes paramount when considering the sage-grouse population in Deschutes County, which is on the fringe of the species range, and therefore is more susceptible to cumulative effects of habitat alteration and disturbance.

A USFW model, indicating where sage-grouse populations are more likely to persist in landscapes throughout the full range of the species, shows Deschutes County to be on the fringe of the species range and at risk of extirpation. Authors suggest that conservation efforts focused on maintaining large expanses of sagebrush habitat, enhancing the quality of existing habitat, and increasing connections between suitable habitat patches would be most beneficial to maintaining healthy sage-grouse populations. These conservation measures are key in Deschutes County due to the present low sage-grouse population levels, the species low reproductive rate, and the species limited ability to adapt to habitat changes (i.e. habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation).

In Deschutes County some wintering areas are known and have been delineated by the Bureau of Land Management. These habitats have included extensive stands of mountain big sagebrush and low and early-flowering sagebrush. Depending on winter snow accumulations, some wintering areas become especially important, as heavy snowfall forces birds out of low sage areas into big sage areas where sagebrush is still accessible. Because of sage-grouse dependence on sagebrush for winter forage, losses to these areas can have severe impacts on winter survival and subsequent breeding populations size. Because of the essential and limited nature of winter habitat, “no net loss” and “net benefit” (restoration) are paramount if avoidance is possible.



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Critical Bird and Mammal Sites

The ODFW identified a list of bird and mammal species that occur on private land in Deschutes County that are especially sensitive to human activity: bald and golden eagles, sage grouse, prairie falcon, great blue heron, great gray owl and Townsend's big-eared bat. The purpose of providing special protection for sensitive birds and mammals is to assure that their habitat areas are protected from the effects of conflicting uses or activities. Protection of bird sites can be achieved through the development of site specific management plans. Management plans assure that the proposed use and activities will not destroy or result in abandonment of the sensitive species from a nest site. Residential development, mining, and activities with high human disturbance and other actions that result in habitat loss and/or degradation are threats to these critical bird and mammals sites that could be considered conflicting uses relative to conservation of critical bird and mammal sites.

The ODFW is not requesting additional or modification of existing protection criteria for site specific sensitive bird and mammals sites other than for sage grouse. The sites adopted in the last periodic review have been examined. The ODFW recommends that Deschutes County consider updating their inventory to include new sites and remove old ones that are no longer used. A complete list of current and recommended critical bird and mammals site locations and protection measures are provided in Appendices A-G of the Interagency Report.

Site specific protection recommendations include:

- Continue to protect 30 bald eagle nest sites in Deschutes County
- Remove protection for 34 bald eagle nest sites that are no longer occupied
- Add protection for 22 eagle nest sites that are not currently protected under Deschutes County ordinance
- Maintain protection for 32 golden eagle nest sites that are currently protected under Deschutes County ordinance
- Add one golden eagle nest site to the Deschutes County inventory for protection
- Continue to protect 32 sage grouse lek sites that are currently protected under Deschutes County ordinance

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- Remove protection for 4 sage grouse lek sites that are currently protected under Deschutes county ordinance but are no longer in use
- Add 5 sage grouse lek sites to the Deschutes County inventory for protection
- Change the name of the sage grouse lek site, currently protected by Deschutes County, from Squaw Lake to Shaver Flat
- Continue to protect 8 prairie falcon sites under Deschutes county ordinance
- Maintain protection for one heron site that is still in use
- Remove protection for a heron site that is no longer in use
- Maintain protection for Great gray owl nest site
- Maintain protection for two known bat sites in Deschutes County



Game Species

Mule Deer, elk, antelope, cougar, black bear, and silver grey squirrel are species considered to be sensitive to human disturbance in Deschutes County by the ODFW. Cougar populations are increasing. Elk, antelope, black bear, and silver grey squirrel populations are stable. Mule deer populations continue to decline. The following table estimates Big game population in Deschutes County.

Table 38 - Big Game Population Estimates, Deschutes County (2009)

Species	Number
Mule Deer	9,337*
Elk	1,500
Pronghorn	1,000
Cougar	~150
Black Bear	~150
Silver Grey Squirrel	~800

* The management objective for the Paulina and Deschutes Wildlife Management Units, primarily located in Deschutes County, is an April adult population of 18,700 mule deer

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.8 Wildlife

Many new land uses have occurred that were not envisioned during the last periodic review. The ODFW recommends that Deschutes County add the following uses with high human use and disturbance to the do not permit list:

High Human Use and Disturbance to Game Species

- Guest ranch
- Outdoor commercial events (i.e. Wedding Venues, Farmers Market)
- OHV course
- Paintball course
- Shooting range
- Model airplane park
- BMX course

The ODFW is not asking the county to change any of the existing big game wintering range and mitigation corridor maps currently in use by the county. Existing county ordinances do not permit the following uses in a Wildlife Area Zone designated as deer winter range, significant elk habitat, or antelope range. These listed uses generate a high level of public activity, noise, and habitat alteration, which in turn can alter many acres of valuable habitat. Game species avoid areas with these uses, which results in reduced overall habitat effectiveness of critical habitat.

Game Species Avoid

- Golf course
- Commercial dog kennel
- Church
- Public or private school
- Bed and breakfast inn
- Dude ranch
- Playground, recreation facility or commercial center owned and operated by a government agency or a nonprofit community organization
- Timeshare unit
- Veterinary clinic
- Fishing lodge
- Destination Resort



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.8 Wildlife

Deschutes County Goals

Key Issues

1. **Implementing the Interagency Report wildlife recommendations to protect wildlife and habitat.**
2. **Recognizing the importance of wildlife and habitat to the local quality of life and the economy.**
3. **Balancing protection of wildlife with development rights.**

Goals

1. **Maintain and enhance a diversity of wildlife and habitat for today and for future generations.**
2. **Promote the economic and recreational benefits of wildlife and habitat.**
3. **Balance wildlife protection and development rights.**

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Policies

2.8 Wildlife

Goal 1 Policies:

- 2.8.1 Incorporate the recommendations of the 2009 Interagency Report into County Code.
- 2.8.2 Coordinate with public agencies, non-profit organizations and private property owners to restore and manage wildlife habitat.
- 2.8.3 Encourage public or non-profit ownership of areas identified by the County as significant wildlife or riparian habitat.
- 2.8.4 Review the Oregon Conservation Strategy when amending the Wildlife section of this Plan

Goal 2 Policies:

- 2.8.5 Promote wildlife related tourism as described in the economic development section of this Plan.
- 2.8.6 Work with agencies and non-profit organizations that provide information and education on wildlife and habitat protection, including high desert sage habitat.

Goal 3 Policies:

- 2.8.7 Use incentives and County Code to protect habitat and mitigate the impacts of development on wildlife.
- 2.8.8 Develop protections for the Oregon Spotted Frog if it is listed as a Federally Threatened or Endangered Species.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.8 Wildlife

Wildlife Action Items

- Ongoing Actions**
- Actions that Deschutes County is currently taking

- Early Action Items**
- Actions taken immediately or within 5 years of the adoption of Comprehensive Plan 2030

- Mid-Term Action Items**
- Actions taken within 5-10 years of the adoption of Comprehensive Plan 2030

- Long-Term Action Items**
- Actions taken within 10-20 years of the adoption of Comprehensive Plan

Ongoing Actions:

Actions for Policy 2.8.2

- A.2.8.1** Assist private property owners to research grant funding that could be used to restore and maintain wildlife habitat on private lands.
- A.2.8.2** In collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife identify lands where public ownership or conservation easements should be encouraged.
- A.2.8.3** Notify Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife of all land use applications on lands in the two wildlife combining zones.
- A.2.8.4** As new information becomes available, review and revise County Code to protect wildlife corridors.

Action for Policy 2.8.3

- A.2.8.5** Maintain an inventory of County-owned lands in the Bend/La Pine Deer Migration Corridor.

Action for Policy 2.8.6

- A.2.8.6** Find and provide informational hand outs on wildlife issues.

Action for Policy 2.8.7

- A.2.8.7** Enforce County animal control regulations.

Early Actions:

Action for Policy 2.8.1

- A.2.8.8** Update the Statewide Goal 5 wildlife inventory based on the 2009 Interagency Report as discussed in the Goal 5 section of this Plan.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Action Items

2.8 Wildlife

A.2.8.9 Update County Code based on the 2009 Interagency Report to do the following:

- Ensure protection for all species on the Federal or Oregon threatened or endangered species list.
- Ensure mitigation of development impacts on Species of Concern, State Critical or State Vulnerable species.
- Address the recommended prohibited uses in the Wildlife Area Combining Zone.
- Enhance protections of sage grouse leks.



Action for Policy 2.8.7

A.2.8.10 Initiate a Local Wetland Inventory as described in the Rivers, Streams and Fish section of this Plan.

Action for Policy 2.8.2

A.2.8.11 Review the final Trust for Public Lands Greenprint when it is completed and incorporate appropriate wildlife suggestions into this Plan.

CHAPTER 2

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.9 Open Space and Scenic Views

Background

Open spaces are generally undeveloped areas that are being maintained for some other purpose, such as parks, forests or wildlife habitat. Besides the value that stems from the primary use of the land, open spaces provide aesthetically pleasing undeveloped landscapes. Because these areas are undeveloped they also provide additional benefits such as water recharge and safety zones from natural hazards like flooding.

Deschutes County has a rich abundance of open space. With public land ownership at 80% and extensive farms and forests, open spaces are an important draw for visitors and were often mentioned as a key to local quality of life. Along with the open spaces, scenic views were identified as important to residents. The backdrop of the Cascade Mountains and vast forest and sage landscapes provide a inspirational setting for visitors and residents alike. Statewide Planning Goal 5 recommends, but does not require, creating an inventory and protections for open spaces and scenic views and sites. Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 660-023 defines open spaces as parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature sanctuaries and golf courses.

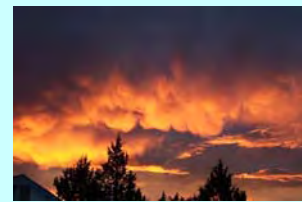
Open Space and View Designations

The 1979 Resource Element contained a list of open spaces and areas of special concern, the majority of which were in Federal and/or State control. As part of State Periodic Review, a list of open spaces and scenic resources was created that included State Parks, lakes, and landscape management areas. An Open Space and conservation district designation is applied to a few lands and the views are protected through the Landscape Management Combining Zone.

Open Space and Views 2009

- There are 70,634 acres in the Open Space and Conservation Zone
- Nearly 65% of the Open Space and Conservation Zone land is Federally owned and another nearly 12% is State owned
- There are 32 roads/road segments in the Landscape Management Overlay Zone
- The Landscape Management Overlay Zone also applies to major rivers and streams

This Section implements part of State Planning Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources



Cross-References



Additional policies related to Open Space and Scenic Views

- Rural Development (Section 3.2)
- Rural Economy (Section 3.4)
- Public Facilities and Services (Section 3.6)
- Transportation System Plan (Section 3.7)
- Rural Recreation (Section 3.8)
- Destination Resorts (Section 3.9)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.9 Open Space and Scenic Views



Future of Open Space and Views

Open Space

In Deschutes County, approximately 76% of the land is owned and managed by the Federal government and is not subject to County regulations. These lands remain mostly undeveloped and contribute greatly to the open space in the County, including areas such as the Newberry National Monument or the Three Sisters Wilderness Area and numerous high mountain lakes. In addition, there are three state parks and three state scenic viewpoints that contribute open space. Finally, private forest lands and agriculture lands act as open space, as do the numerous golf courses throughout the County.

It can be expected that over the 20 year life of this Plan, most of the Federal lands will remain undeveloped and will continue to function as open space. The State parks are also anticipated to remain. (for more information see the Recreation section of this Plan.) The County can work closely with federal and state agencies to protect these special areas. On private lands the County can lend support to voluntary conservation easements and land trusts. Private lands suitable for open space designation were and continue to be eligible for special property tax consideration (ORS 308A.300-330), because they maintain high quality scenic environments for the benefit of the public.

Scenic Views

Scenic views can be found throughout Deschutes County. With eight glacial covered mountains and numerous buttes, there are scenic views in nearly every part of the County. Issues around views involve a fine balancing act between the conflicting rights of neighboring property owners and often the greater community good. The following list presents some of the issues that have arisen recently.

- A landowner cuts the swath of trees that block his/her mountain views, thus impacting their neighbors views of forest lands.
- A cell tower is proposed that will provide the cell phone service many people depend on, but the height of the tower impacts the neighbors views.
- A landowner wants to be energy self-sufficient and proposes a windmill, but the windmill height impacts the neighbors views.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.9 Open Space and Scenic Views

Views from roads and rivers have long been protected by a landscape management overlay zone. There have been questions as to the effectiveness and usefulness of this protection. There have also been questions as to the right way to balance other scenic view areas.

Design Development

The quality of life enjoyed by county residents can in many ways be attributed to the natural mountain and high desert setting. As growth continues to occur, the type of development can have a direct impact on the region's quality of life.

Appropriately placed and designed buildings can complement the natural environment and essentially serve as an extension to the natural landscape. However, inappropriately designed development can detract from the area's overall character. It is the goal of this element to encourage development design that fits with the natural landscape. It is not the intent of this element to dictate to the type of design that should be used. In fact, there are many types of architectural and site design styles that can complement the surroundings.

As discussed earlier the county is blessed with many scenic visual resources. High mountain peaks are the most obvious, but they also include many other features such as open meadows, riparian corridors, wetland areas, and forested areas. Development will inevitably occur within some of these areas. However, the way that development is placed can have a profound effect on the visual landscape. For example, keeping building heights below the forest canopy and using materials that blend with the forest can help maintain the visual dominance of the forest.

Trust for Public Lands

One avenue the County can take is to identify specific sites or views that still need to be protected. This is being done in 2009 through the Trust for Public Land (TPL). This non-profit organization has initiated a public process to create a Greenprint that identifies a number of resources, including open spaces and scenic views (and wildlife, parks and trails). The TPL will also identify tools that can be used to protect lands identified, such as conservation easements or funding sources to purchase specified lands. Working with the TPL will provide the County with important information that can be incorporated into this Plan.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.9 Open Space and Scenic Views



Key Issues

1. **Open spaces and scenic views contribute to the quality of life and the economy but protecting these resources needs to be balanced with development rights.**

Goals

1. **Identify and protect significant open spaces and scenic views.**
2. **Balance protections for open spaces and scenic views with development rights.**



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Open Space and Scenic View Policies

Goal 1 Policies:

- 2.9.1** Encourage the protection of a variety of open spaces through a variety of methods such as public or non-profit land purchase, conservation easements, regulations or open space tax deferrals.
- 2.9.2** Support efforts to identify and protect significant open spaces and visually important areas.
- 2.9.3** Support the formation of non-profit land trusts and other non-profits dedicated to retaining open spaces.

Goal 2 Policies:

- 2.9.4** Ensure that new development complements the natural environment without being overly restrictive.

2.9 Open Space and Scenic Views



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.9 Open Space and Scenic View

Open Space and Scenic View Action Items

- Ongoing Actions**
- Actions that Deschutes County is currently taking

- Early Action Items**
- Actions taken immediately or within 5 years of the adoption of Comprehensive Plan 2030

- Mid-Term Action Items**
- Actions taken within 5-10 years of the adoption of Comprehensive Plan 2030

- Long-Term Action Items**
- Actions taken within 10-20 years of the adoption of Comprehensive Plan

Ongoing Actions:

Action for Policy 2.9.1

A.2.9.1 Rimrocks along streams shall receive special review to assure that visual impacts of structures viewed from rivers or streams are minimized.

Actions for Policy 2.9.2

A.2.9.2 In cooperation with public agencies, non-profit organizations and private landowners work towards a comprehensive system of connected open spaces.

A.2.9.3 When reviewing visually important lands, consider especially lands that provide a visual separation between communities and lands that are visually prominent, such as hillsides, as viewed from key public places, such as roads.

Actions for Policy 2.9.5

A.2.9.4 Work with private property owners to provide incentives and mitigations for protecting visually important areas from development impacts.

Early Action:

Action for Policy 2.9.2

A.2.9.5 Update the Statewide Goal 5 open space and scenic view inventory as discussed in the Goal 5 section of this Plan.

Action for Policy 2.9.5

A.2.9.6 Review County Code and revise as needed to provide incentives to locate structures in forests or view corridors so as to maintain the visual character of the area.

A.2.9.7 Review the Landscape Management Combining Zone code and revise as needed to ensure a balance of view protections and property rights.

A.2.9.8 Review County sign code and revise as needed to ensure a balance of view protection and property rights.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Open Space and Scenic View Action Items

- A.2.9.9** Review the Trust for Public Lands Greenprint when completed and incorporate appropriate open space and view shed recommendations into this Plan.
- A.2.9.10** Review Deschutes County Code definition of open space to consider removing golf courses from it.

2.9 Open Space and Scenic View

