

*For over 25 years, Rick was president and co-owner of WinterCreek Restoration, a landscape/nursery company working exclusively with native plants of central and eastern Oregon. Their work focused on designing and creating ecology-based regenerative landscapes that were self-supporting and provided habitat for a variety of species from birds and mammals to fungi and bacteria.*

*He is currently the Founder of the High Desert Horticultural Center; a concept first developed approximately 15 years ago as a collaborative effort with several friends and colleagues at Oregon State University. It was an idea ahead of its time! While the nursery remains a core element of the Center, the vision of the HDHC expands well beyond plant production to train and educate the next generation of native plant professionals and conservationists.*

*Rick's previous experience includes work as an ecologist, environmental scientist and archaeologist in a variety of environments around the country, and he used knowledge from those experiences to create award winning landscapes throughout the western United States. He holds a B.S. in Physical Anthropology and a PhD in Horticulture, and specializes in the adaptive physiology of xerophytic species in semi-arid environments. He teaches courses in ecology based design and applied ecology at Oregon State University, and is a frequent guest lecturer for numerous organizations. He is a member of the Natural Areas Association, Society for Ecological Restoration, Oregon Landscape Contractors Association, and other professional societies. He is also a Central Oregon Master Gardener.*