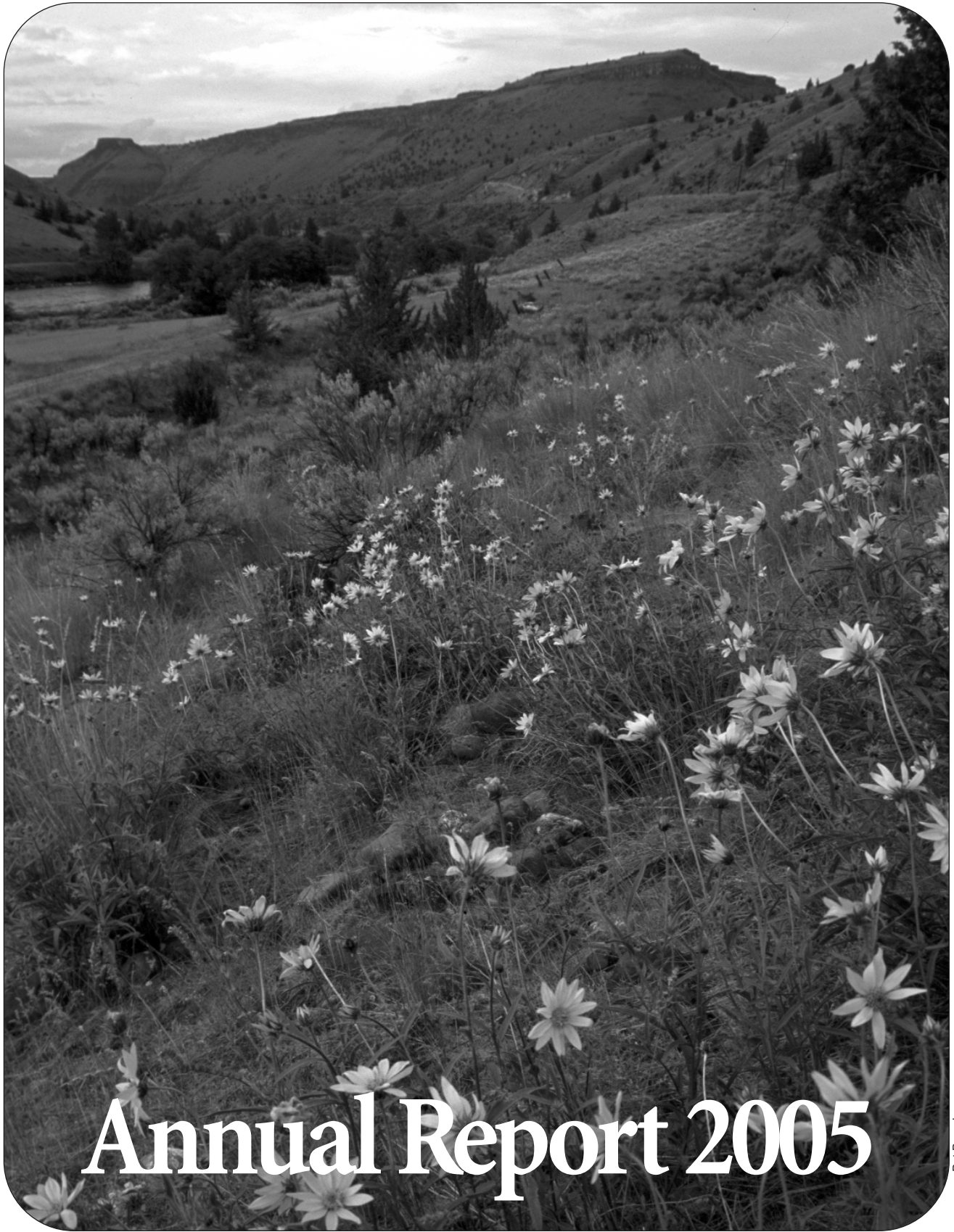


Deschutes Basin Land Trust



Annual Report 2005

2005

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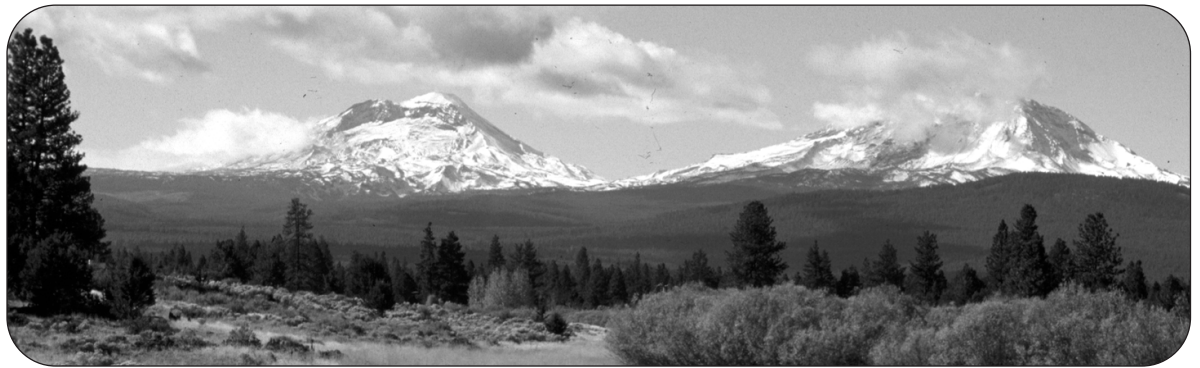
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Indian Ford Meadow Preserve - Byron Dudley

The Future is Bright

This past fall marked the Deschutes Basin Land Trust's 10th Anniversary. In looking back, it's hard to believe how far we've come in a mere decade. Ten years ago, a small group of folks dreamed of creating a community-based land trust that would **work to protect land for wildlife, scenic views, and recreation.**

We've gone from working with our first local landowner who donated 63 acres of scenic meadows to working with a team of consultants and advisors to try to purchase nearly 300,000 acres of working timberland. Our first volunteer weed pull is now complemented by work with restoration foresters to encourage old growth forest habitat for wildlife at the Metolius Preserve. Our interpretive facilities have expanded from the first informational kiosk at Indian Ford Meadow to new trails, bridges and covered kiosks at the Metolius Preserve. And, from less than a dozen donors and volunteers our community has grown to more than 1,100 donor families and hundreds of active volunteers. Yes, the Land Trust has come a long, long way.

But then, so has Central Oregon. Whoever imagined that Bend would become the country's 6th fastest growing community? Or that Bend, Sisters, Redmond, Prineville and Madras would all lose their lumber mills? It sounds trite, but the truth is that change is constant and **the Central Oregon of today, won't be the Central Oregon of tomorrow.** When we formed the Land Trust, we knew our region would change. The beauty is that we have evolved and will continue to evolve to reflect the values and needs of the communities of this Basin. With that in mind, the next 10 years will see the Land Trust taking on larger, increasingly sophisticated projects and programs.

This year presents both breathtaking opportunities and great challenges for the Land Trust. The Land Trust has worked hard over the past year to position ourselves to acquire Skyline Forest. Whether it happens through an auction this spring or a series of subsequent transactions, we'll continue pursuing these important timberlands. Similarly, our **Back to Home Waters** program, with its many acquisitions and easements to protect and restore our streams for returning salmon and steelhead will take years to fully realize. The point is that none of these efforts will unfold overnight and can only happen if we're actively, but patiently pursuing them. However, none of this is possible without your continued support and participation.

The Land Trust provides a means for each of us to give something back to this place and future generations. While Central Oregon will change in the years ahead, **we hope you'll continue to invest in our collective future.** Your past investment has returned handsome dividends these past ten years and the future looks even brighter.

Brad Chalfant
Executive Director

Dwain Fullerton
President, Board (2005)

2005 Accomplishments

The mission of the Deschutes Basin Land Trust is to protect special lands in the Deschutes Basin for present and future generations by working cooperatively with landowners and communities.

Land Conservation

- Continued identification and prioritization of properties within our *Back to Home Waters*, *Community Preserves* and *Working Farms, Forests and Ranches* programs.
- Completed 90% of the fundraising to acquire an easement at Rimrock Ranch on **Whychus Creek**. The easement will protect almost two miles of high quality stream and floodplain habitat on lower Whychus Creek. The project will also protect important upland habitats, including several **golden eagle nest sites**.
- Finalized easement terms on the Ranch at the Canyons to protect more than a mile of the lower **Crooked River** and 550 acres of mule deer winter range adjacent to Smith Rock State Park.
- Helped establish an innovative funding mechanism, the first of its kind in the country, to help fund the conservation of working forests in Oregon. This funding will be instrumental in the acquisition and conservation of the 33,000 acre **Skyline Forest**.
- Secured an instream water right on **Indian Ford Creek** by working with Oregon Water Trust and the owners of Willows Ranch. This project will return water to wetlands and improve the quality of habitat for the stream's redband trout during the summer months.



The lower Crooked River as it flows through Ranch at the Canyons.



COIC students help plant native vegetation around the new South Fork kiosk at the Metolius Preserve.

Stewardship

- Contracted with the **Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council** to help with restoration of Camp Polk Meadow and interpretive facilities at the Metolius Preserve.
- Enlisted the help of more than 250 volunteers to put over **4,500 hours** into the Land Trust's work.
- Conducted **noxious weed pulls** at all Preserves.
- Created snags at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve to increase habitat availability for **white-headed woodpeckers** (a species of special concern in this area) and other cavity nesting species.
- Partnered with the **Upper Deschutes Watershed Council** and the **Deschutes National Forest** to plan for restoration of Whychus Creek as it runs through Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.
- Conducted bird, amphibian, bat, plant, and snag surveys at various properties.
- Restored **native plant communities** along the South Fork of Lake Creek.
- Began **forest restoration** at the Metolius Preserve, including groundbreaking work to implement a mosaic thinning pattern to restore and enhance wildlife habitat and mimic historic forest conditions.

Accomplishments cont'd

Organizational Capacity

- Increased membership to **1,160 households**.
- Hired an **Outreach Coordinator** to expand our fundraising and outreach capacity.
- Exceeded **Brooks Resources'** \$10,000 Business Challenge, raising over \$35,000 from businesses.
- Completed a formal financial audit.
- Secured significant multi-year grants from **Bank of the Cascades** and **TransCanada Pipelines Limited**.



Brian and Hannah Harrington enjoy lunch on the new Indian Ford Meadow Preserve overlook after a morning of trail work.

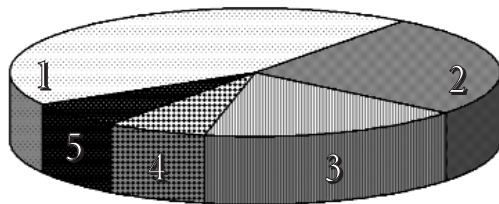


Wolfree students examine water samples from Lake Creek.

Outreach

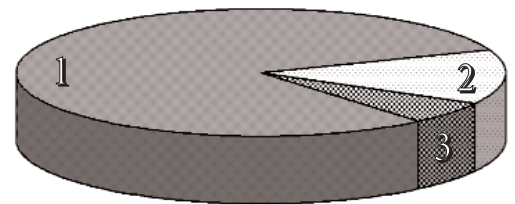
- Partnered with **Wolfree** (a local science education group), local schools and the **University of Oregon, OSU-Cascades, and Central Oregon Community College**, to provide more than 300 students with outdoor science experiences.
- Volunteer naturalists led **public education tours** at Land Trust Preserves for more than 200 participants.
- **Interpretive facilities** at the Metolius Preserve, including a kiosk and pedestrian bridges, were built and plans for viewing platforms were finalized.
- Created the **Indian Ford Meadow Founders' trail and overlook**.
- Hosted **10th anniversary** celebration week with more than with 17 tours of all the special places the Land Trust has conserved.

2005 Revenue = \$665,972



- 1 - Individual Contributions 44%
- 2 - Project/Contract 26%
- 3 - Business/Corporations 17%
- 4 - Foundations 7%
- 5 - Other 6%

2005 Expenses = \$503,068



- 1 - Program Services - Land Protection and Education 81%
- 2 - Fundraising and Membership 13%
- 3 - Administrative 6%

Ending Net Assets = \$5,093,011

This summary as of December 31, 2005 has been derived from the Land Trust's 2005 unaudited financial statements. The 2005 financial audit will be completed by fall 2006. A copy of the Deschutes Basin Land Trust's Form 990 can be found at www.guidestar.org

In Appreciation...

Land conservation is a community effort and the Land Trust is proud to have such strong community support. In 2005, through the generous contributions of individuals, corporations, and foundations, we have moved closer to fulfilling the Land Trust's mission. We are especially pleased this year to highlight those supporters (*) who have been with the Land Trust since our founding ten years ago. Thank you for your commitment!

Five Rivers Society Members

Our deepest appreciation for the vision and commitment of the individuals and businesses who donate \$1,000 or more annually.

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cont'd on next page

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Many thanks to the members who have made additional donations to help with the transaction costs of the Skyline Forest project.

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Anne and Kent Gatling canoe to the Thomas Preserve during the Land Trust's 10th Anniversary events.



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*Many thanks for all your hard work and support.
Your dedication and commitment makes our work possible!*



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On a sad note, our thoughts go out to Lindy Hanson for the loss of her husband, Peter Hanson. Peter was an enthusiastic Land Trust volunteer who will be missed.

We apologize for any oversight. Please let us know so we can include you in our next appreciation.

Goals for the Year 2006



A view from Skyline Forest.

Land Conservation

- Continue to build **awareness** of *Back to Home Waters* and the potential to bring back the upper basin's legendary runs of salmon and steelhead trout.
- Close two large easements that will **benefit both fisheries and upland game** within our Back to Home Waters project area.
- Continue to identify new *Back to Home Waters* and *Community Preserve* projects and initiate outreach to landowners.
- Secure an option on the 33,000 acre **Skyline Forest**.
- Formalize and expand a *Conservation Buyer* program to facilitate land conservation within priority areas of the Deschutes Basin.

Stewardship

- Continue stewardship of Land Trust Preserves.
- Complete the first phase of **forest restoration** at the Metolius Preserve
- Complete design phase for the **restoration of Whychus Creek** through Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.
- Monitor all conservation easements to ensure compliance.
- Engage more than 300 volunteers in 5,000 hours of **volunteer stewardship**.



Homeschool students help with trail maintenance at the Metolius Preserve.



A birding tour at Indian Ford Meadow Preserve.

Outreach

- **Inspire and engage local residents** to learn more about the Basin by participating in stewardship and restoration activities on Land Trust Preserves.
- Finish construction on the first phase of the Metolius Preserve **interpretive and educational facilities**.
- Develop **interpretive signs for the trails** at Metolius and Indian Ford Meadow Preserves.
- Expand communications and marketing to **increase community participation**.

Organizational Capacity

- Expand, diversify and **strengthen the Board**.
- Diversify the Land Trust's financial base by building the **Five Rivers Society**, business and general membership.
- Expand and diversify **The Oregon Community Foundation** Endowment Fund.
- Continue compliance with **LTA Standard and Practices**.

For more information or to find out how you can get involved please visit our website or call us!

Deschutes Basin Land Trust - *Lands in trust, protected forever*

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