A Busy Year

2004 was a busy year for the Land Trust, as we stepped up our land stewardship efforts and laid the groundwork for a number of new *Back to Home Waters* projects.

With the Metolius Preserve acquisition complete, our *Back to Home Waters* program shifted its focus back to Squaw Creek and to the Crooked River, where significant stretches of habitat and potential salmon and steelhead habitat are at risk. By "at risk", we mean that stretches of both waterways run through large farms and ranches, which could become residential subdivisions because of mounting development pressures and Measure 37. If that happens, we’ll have lost a very substantial part of our local agricultural base, as well as having complicated the effort to restore streamside habitat for fish and wildlife. Consequently, the Land Trust’s staff is working with local farmers and ranchers to develop working farm easements that can be funded through state and federal conservation programs.

Stewardship work on our *Community Preserves* saw substantial habitat restoration and enhancement efforts at both Camp Polk Meadow and the Metolius Preserves. At Camp Polk, extensive willow and riparian plantings continued, along with our first effort at uplands restoration. Native seeds were collected for propagation by the new University of Oregon Ecological Restoration Field Program which is being based at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. As part of our budding relationship with the University, students will get hands-on field experience assessing, planning and restoring habitat at Camp Polk and the Metolius Preserves.

At the Metolius Preserve, a large crowd turned out for the formal dedication and the variety of tours and programs for both kids and adults. The *Becky Johnson Nature Trail* was constructed with help from countless volunteers, including students from the Heart of Oregon Corps and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council. Large areas along the South Fork of Lake Creek were replanted by local volunteers, along with a big contingent from Trout Unlimited chapters in the Willamette Valley. The TU folks even ventured away from the stream to help with pre-commercial thinning and slash removal. We also continued detailed assessment and planning for long-term management of the Preserve.

Looking ahead to the busy field season we’ll focus on the health of our forests and riparian areas, enhance wildlife habitat, as well as build interpretive and recreational facilities. With our own guided tours and expanded partnerships with local schools, the University of Oregon and WolfTree, our Preserves will increasingly serve as important educational sites. We’ll continue working with landowners and pursuing funding for new *Back to Home Waters* projects. We’ll also be pursuing innovative efforts to conserve family farms, ranches and working forests. It’s an aggressive agenda, but with your support we’ll work together to conserve the best of Central Oregon.
2004 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.

Outreach

- Hosted nearly 200 visitors at the Metolius Preserve for its formal dedication in June. Also dedicated the Becky Johnson Nature Trail at the South Fork of Lake Creek.
- Conducted public presentations and tours of Land Trust Preserves, including the Metolius Preserve and Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.
- Participated in the Five for Five Benefit Concert at the Les Schwab Old Mill Amphitheater.
- Land Trust Members and Volunteers gathered at the Rimrock Ranch for tours and music by the Blue D’arts.
- Hosted 1st Annual Metolius Preserve Christmas Tree Hunt for over 250 people.

Land Conservation

- Partnered with Wolftree and local schools including Cascades Academy, High Desert Middle School, Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School, OSU-Cascades, St. Francis School, University of Oregon, and Willamette University at Camp Polk Meadow and Metolius Preserves with over 200 students participating in outdoor science experiences.
- Contracted with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and the Heart of Oregon Corps for stewardship work at Camp Polk Meadow and Metolius Preserves.
- Volunteers initiated Amphibian and Bat Surveys at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.
- Completed planning for the Metolius Preserve including a Forest Management Plan, a Public Access & Interpretive Plan, and a Weed Management Plan.
- Initiated a Wetlands Delineation and a Sensitive Plant Survey at the Metolius Preserve.
- Volunteers worked to replant disturbed areas and complete thinning and fuels reduction work at the Metolius Preserve.
- Installed two satellite linked, streamflow monitoring gauges on Squaw Creek.
- Partnered with the Archeological Society of Central Oregon and the East Cascades Bird Conservancy for Archeological and Bird Surveys at the Metolius Preserve.
- Continued riparian and upland restoration work at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.
Organizational Capacity

- Initiated with the University of Oregon, a new Ecological Restoration Field School program at Camp Polk Meadow which will restore habitat and train tomorrow’s scientists.
- Enlisted a hardworking group of volunteers who donated over 4,500 hours to the Land Trust’s work.
- Received grant funds from The Oregon Community Foundation to add a Membership & Outreach Coordinator.
- Formalized partnership with the Crooked River and Upper Deschutes Watershed Councils and the Deschutes River Conservancy for salmon restoration.

Fundraising

- Grew our membership to 750 households.
- Expanded our Conservation and Stewardship Endowment at The Oregon Community Foundation.
- Secured funding from a variety of sources to help implement Interpretative work at the Metolius Preserve, including a kiosk, interpretative signs, viewing platforms and bridges.
- Exceeded Brooks Resources $10,000 Business Challenge, raising $12,305 from local businesses.
- Seeded a Conservation Revolving Fund with a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

2004 Revenue = $613,868

2004 Expenses = $384,258

Ending Net Assets = $4,850,441

*Includes funds received for the Metolius Preserve as well as development of a Conservation Revolving Fund. This summary as of December 31, 2004 has been derived from the Land Trust’s 2004 unaudited financial statements. The 2004 financial statements will be audited with an expected completion of fall 2005. A copy of the Deschutes Basin Land Trust’s Form 990 can be found at www.guidestar.org
We gratefully acknowledge gifts received January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. Thank you for your commitment!

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

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Our deepest appreciation for the vision and commitment of the individuals & businesses who donate $1,000 or more annually.
Many thanks for all your hard work and support. 
Your dedication and commitment makes our work possible!
We apologize for any oversight please let us know so we can include you in our next appreciation.
Goals for the Year 2005

- Build local and regional awareness of *Back to Home Waters* and the potential to bring back the upper basin’s legendary runs of salmon and steelhead trout.
- Continue to develop *Back to Home Waters* projects through outreach to landowners.
- Expand our *Community Preserves* program by identifying potential Community Preserve sites in the Bend area.

- Partner with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the Forest Service to move forward on the **remeandering of Squaw Creek through Camp Polk Meadow Preserve**.
- Inspire and engage local residents to learn more about the Basin by participating in **stewardship & restoration activities** on Land Trust Preserves.

- Finish construction of the first phase of the **Metolius Preserve Interpretive and Educational Facilities**.
- Complete the Land Trust’s first **Conservation Easement on the Crooked River**, adjacent to Smith Rock State Park.
- Formalize and expand the **Conservation Buyer Program**.

- Expand, diversify and strengthen the Board, with emphasis on outreach and fundraising roles.
- Diversify and strengthen the Land Trust’s financial base by building the **Five Rivers Society and our general membership**.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL US!**

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