

LANDSCAPES

FALL 2006

FEATURED THIS ISSUE



- Adopt-a-trail Program (3)



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Local couple decides to protect their land forever



Jim Yuskavitch

When Bob and Gayle Baker bought **Rimrock Ranch** 18 years ago they knew they had found a unique piece of Central Oregon. The ranch's 1,120 acres contain productive ranchland, pine forests and over 1.5 miles of Whychus Creek.

But the Bakers also worried about the future of their ranch because its combination of multiple lots of record, spectacular mountain and creek views, and its proximity to growing Sisters made the ranch particularly susceptible to development.

Knowing that they wanted to see the tradition of ranching and wildlife habitat continue, Bob and Gayle came to the Land Trust hoping they could work with us to preserve Rimrock Ranch forever.

Several years and drafts later, the Bakers and the Land Trust have drawn up a **land preservation agreement** which will forever protect Rimrock Ranch and its high quality wildlife habitat and agricultural land.

Brad Nye, the Land Trust's project manager, noted that "the conservation of Rimrock Ranch really benefits the whole community. Not only does it maintain the rural character of the area, but it protects some of the best spawning grounds for returning steelhead."

Rimrock Ranch contains one of the first sections of Whychus Creek that steelhead will use for spawning as they travel up the Deschutes on their journey from the ocean. As part of the relicensing settlement for the dams on the lower Deschutes, salmon and steelhead are expected to return to the streams of the upper Deschutes in 2007 for the first time in more than 40 years. The Land Trust's **Back to Home Waters** program works to protect high quality habitat for these returning fish.

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"The conservation of Rimrock Ranch really benefits the whole community."



Planning for the future



Jim Yuskavitch

This time last year, we looked back at the accomplishments of our first 10 years. This year we're looking forward by preparing for the most **rigorous strategic planning process** we've ever undertaken.

Why is a planning process noteworthy, given our success to date? With Bend ranked as the **country's 6th fastest growing community**, the on-going conversion of agricultural lands and huge shifts in timber ownership, our way of life is going to change dramatically unless we get creative and think outside the box. Strategic planning is one way to do that.

The Land Trust can't solve all the region's challenges. However, with your help we can make a profound difference in the way Central Oregon grows. Expect to hear much more as we reach out to gather your concerns, insights and advice in the months ahead.

Speaking of looking forward, the Land

Trust is pleased to welcome two new faces to the family. **Erin Deggendorfer** of Sisters has joined the Land Trust Board of Directors. A native Central Oregonian, Erin brings a wealth of experience in event planning, marketing, communications and non-profit development.

Sherry Berrin is our new Land Steward



Jim Cornelius

The Land Trust is pleased to have Erin Deggendorfer on board!

Assistant. With a strong background in conservation biology, education, and environmental law, Sherry will be helping Amanda with stewardship activities through January 2007.

Brad Chalfant, *Executive Director*

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Newsletter

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Coming soon: Biography of a Place



A book on Camp Polk Meadow Preserve and its history to be released this fall.

Martin Winch's *Biography of a Place* (Deschutes County Historical Society, 2006) tells the story of the Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. A dedicated Land Trust member and volunteer, Martin has worked for many years to weave together the **social and natural history of the meadow**. *Biography of a Place* digs down into the roots of the meadow exposing a surprising and entertaining story, and a memorable cast of characters. This is a pleasurable, novel way to understand how a social and natural landscape became what it is today. Look for Martin's book in local bookstores this fall.



Community Preserves

Conserving land so local communities can experience nature nearby.

A new view of Lake Creek

If you have visited the Metolius Preserve this summer, you have undoubtedly noticed a few changes! We are busy building interpretive facilities that will help introduce people to the unique resources of the Preserve. Work has recently finished on some of the most exciting new features: fish viewing platforms.

These platforms, placed along the **Betsy Johnson Nature Trail**, will allow visitors to enjoy a close up view of Lake Creek without damaging fragile creekside vegetation. What might you be looking for in the creek? Salmon of course!

With the 2005 relicensing settlement for the dams on the lower Deschutes River, native salmon and steelhead will be able to return to the streams and rivers of the upper Deschutes for the first time in over 40 years. The Metolius Preserve will play an important role in this reintroduction since sockeye salmon will migrate up Lake Creek through the Preserve on their way to spawn in Link Creek, while chinook will use Lake Creek as rearing habitat. The Land Trust's **Back to Home Waters** program works to protect habitat for the return of these fish.

When the fish do come home, we hope you'll visit the Metolius Preserve and catch a glimpse of their spectacular journey from one of our new viewing platforms.



Newly constructed viewing platforms provide a close up view of Lake Creek.



Making a difference

Does your church group, service club or work team want to build camaraderie while restoring wildlife habitat?

Contact Sherry at (541) 330-0017 to schedule your own group work party.

Volunteers help keep trails in tip-top shape



Bill Dakin working on the Indian Ford Meadow Preserve Founders trail.

Want to help take care of a Community Preserve, but need to do it on your own time? You might be a perfect candidate to **adopt-a-trail!** This spring the Land Trust launched a new program that allows volunteers to adopt a section of trail at a Land Trust Community Preserve to help keep it clear of debris and weeds.

A wonderful bunch of volunteers stepped up to launch the program and have since been out raking, weeding or spreading wood chips when they can. Adopt-a-trail volunteers help keep Community

Preserve trails in tip-top shape for tours, classes and visitors alike.

Many thanks to Camp Polk trail adopters: **Martha Lussenhop, Celia Leber, Mac Anderson, Ken Serkownek, and Mary Smith.** We are also thankful for **Byron Dudley and Gretchen and Bill Dakin** who adopted the Indian Ford Meadow trail and for **Gary Cundiff and Wolfree** who adopted the Metolius Preserve Betsy Johnson Nature Trail.

Interested in learning more or signing up to help next field season? Email Amanda at amanda@deschuteslandtrust.org.

Byron Dudley

Land Trust Events

Get Outside!

Rimrock Ranch Celebration Tours

Bob and Gayle Baker invite you to their ranch to see the important fish and wildlife habitat, rimrock canyon, and ranchland they have chosen to protect with the Land Trust. Advance registration is required, please call (541) 330-0017.

September 23: Bird Walk with Norma Funai and Mary Crow, 9AM-11:30AM

October 7: Fish Walk with Ted Wise, 10AM-12PM

October 14: Bird Walk with Mary Crow and Steve McMasters, 9AM-11:30AM

October 20: Fish Walk with Brad Nye, 10AM-12PM



Jim Yuskavitch



Work parties:

Make room in your schedule for a Land Trust work party. To help restore and manage our Preserves please call (541) 330-0017.

September 9: Camp Polk Meadow wood chip party, 9:00AM-12:00PM

September 30: Metolius Preserve wood collecting, 9:30AM-12:30PM

October 4: Metolius Preserve wood collecting, 9:30AM-12:30PM

October 7: Metolius Preserve wood collection and trail work, 10AM -3PM

Free firewood—you haul

October 28 from 10AM to 2PM

Come collect firewood from the recent Metolius Preserve forest restoration project.

Wood will be cut and piled—no searching necessary! You simply load and haul away.

Visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org/specialevents.htm for maps and pickup information.

Metolius Preserve Tree Hunt

December 2

Mark your calendar for the 3rd annual Metolius Preserve Tree Hunt! Pending any major snow storms, the Land Trust invites all members to the Metolius Preserve to hunt for your holiday tree.

Look for a postcard in your mail box in November.

Come Inside!

Bend Film Festival - October 12-15

This year's film fest will feature the inaugural **Earth Award**, in honor of the Land Trust, for the best conservation themed filmmaking. Many thanks to The Pennbrook Company for creating this award to recognize the Land Trust's work. Look for this new category of films this October at the festival.

Skyline Forest Benefit Art Show - November 3

Attend the First Friday art opening at the Tumalo Art Collective! Artists have created images of Skyline Forest from plein air to photography, digital media to glass. A portion of the proceeds from this opening will benefit Skyline Forest. Thanks to TAC artists for making this opening possible!

For more information on any Land Trust event visit: www.deschuteslandtrust.org/eventcalendar.htm or call (541) 330-0017



Member Profile: Dick & Mary Hollenbeck

Though the fish may tremble with fear when a Hollenbeck is near, the Land Trust is pleased to have people like Dick and Mary Hollenbeck as members! Skillful flyfishers and dedicated volunteers, the Hollenbecks live in Estacada and visit Central Oregon often. Recently the Hollenbecks donated a Charitable Remainder Trust to the Land Trust and agreed to tell their story:



Dick helps water native transplants at the Metolius Preserve.

Why did you first become involved with the Land Trust?

We've been supporters of the Land Trust since its inception, but became more directly involved with the Land Trust's **Back to Home Waters** program in 2004 when Dick became the conservation chair for the Oregon State Council of Trout Unlimited. Born and raised in Bend, Dick is acutely aware of the pressure of growth on Central Oregon. He chose to become involved personally and with Trout Unlimited because of a desire to preserve a part of Central Oregon and to help restore some of it to its wonderful habitats.

How have you been involved with the Land Trust?

Dick has set up five cooperative restoration projects for Trout Unlimited members on Land Trust Preserves. From stream bank stabilization to helping build educational facilities, Dick has rallied many stalwart Trout Unlimited volunteers to help with some of the toughest volunteer projects the Land Trust has to offer.

What made you consider donating a Charitable Remainder Trust to the Land Trust?

When we had property that we were going to sell, we liked the idea that a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) would give us an opportunity to support the Land Trust on a long-term basis. The CRT process is not overly difficult but does require a financial advisor. It benefits the Land Trust and we receive the benefit of a charitable tax deduction, a small income for life, and the pleasure of a sizable contribution to the Land Trust in the future.



Did You Know?

The Land Trust now has an e-newsletter. Sign-up for the Basin Banter — monthly updates on Land Trust projects, opportunities and events!

Join today, email sarah@deschuteslandtrust.org

You can help provide for the future!

Charitable Remainder Trust:

- an estate planning tool
- ideal for assets like stocks and property
- provides an income for you while helping you avoid capital gains taxes
- AND provides a donation to your favorite charity

Why not just make a regular donation? By making a gift of your estate you are helping ensure the long-term success of land conservation in Central Oregon.

Call Brad Chalfant, Executive Director for more information at (541) 330-0017.



Back to Home Waters

Conserving habitat for returning salmon and steelhead trout.

Rimrock Ranch *continued from page 1*



Rimrock Ranch is also home to **golden eagles, rare plants, native grasslands** and is used by **wintering mule deer** and **sensitive migrating songbirds**. The Bakers will continue ranching and have agreed to allow the Land Trust and our partner groups to use the property for education and to carry out wildlife restoration and enhancement projects.

As the final paperwork was being signed, Gayle Baker sighed with relief, "it is wonderful to finally know that our place will be protected forever."

Celebrate the conservation of Rimrock Ranch. Join us for a special Rimrock tour this fall. See page 4 for tour dates.

Visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org for a schedule of events.



The Bakers and the Land Trust would like to thank the following for their generous help in conserving Rimrock Ranch forever:

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, The Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Portland General Electric, the Arthur Johnson Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the James Stanard Foundation.

Important habitat protected by land protection agreement

This fall brings the completion of another Land Trust conservation project. **The Canyons land protection agreement protects 550 acres** of mule deer winter range and riverside habitat near Smith Rock State Park.

Owners of the Ranch at the Canyons came to the Land Trust several years ago hoping to conserve the land they owned on the opposite side of the Crooked River. That land contains **more than a mile of Crooked River frontage** which will now be conserved for fish and wildlife habitat. The land protection agreement also protects springs and wetlands, raptors, and the area's scenic view.



Canyons land protection agreement protects wildlife habitat



Skyline Forest update

Skyline Forest is a view we've all seen. Rising toward the high Cascades and reaching from Bend nearly to Sisters, this large contiguous, undeveloped stand of forest would **protect not only our scenic view, but also, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and timber jobs.**

In May of this year, a new company took control of the holding company that owns Skyline Forest. Fidelity National Financial decided to postpone the auction that had been planned. The Land Trust is encouraged by the postponement because we can now negotiate with Fidelity to protect Skyline Forest instead of being forced to bid against others at auction.

The Land Trust is in contact with Fidelity National Financial and they have indicated that they want to work with the Land Trust. The Land Trust is currently in discussions with Fidelity and at this stage, everything is looking quite favorable. However, it is important to remember that Skyline Forest will only be conserved if the **community's interest and concern remains strong.** This is why we need your continued support.

We will keep you updated as news develops. However, keep in mind that this is potentially the largest transaction of its kind ever done in the Northwest and will take time and patience to bring to fruition. Be assured the Land Trust is doing everything we can to conserve Skyline Forest.



View of Skyline Forest as seen from Tumalo Reservoir.

Jim Yuskavitch



Renew Early!

Use the envelope in this newsletter to renew your membership for 2006.

Your early renewal will help us save money and conserve more land. **AND** you won't have to receive any of those reminder letters!

Many Thanks to...



The **FootZone!** With more than 500 runners and sponsorships from Dansko, Patagonia, Smartwool, Chaco, Keen, Vasque and Rebound Physical Therapy, the FootZone donated more than \$11,000 from the annual Dirty Half Trail Run to the Land Trust! Thanks as well to all the runners and the Land Trust volunteers who helped make the race a success. And special

thanks to Chuck Arnold, who not only ran the race, but also secured pledges to make an additional donation to the Land Trust. What a great idea Chuck!!

TransCanada has made a five year, \$75,000 commitment to our *Community Preserve* and *Back to Home Waters* programs. TransCanada operates the Gas Transmission North West (GTN)



System, transporting high pressure natural gas from Canada to California. A portion of the pipeline system runs through Central Oregon (east of Madras, Bend and La Pine).

TransCanada believes in developing partnerships with local non-profit organizations to "sustain ongoing quality of life improvements." The Land Trust is thankful of their dedication and foresight and is proud to welcome them as a business partner!

**Yes! I want to preserve land in the Deschutes Basin.
I would like to make my tax deductible contribution of:**

\$60 \$120 \$300 \$500 \$_____ \$1,000 (*Five Rivers Society Member*)

Electronically transfer \$_____ (\$10 min) on the 20th of each month from the account **on my enclosed voided check.**
Signature authorizing the above transfer: _____

Please charge my Visa/Mastercard Monthly Once \$_____ Signature: _____
Card # _____ Exp. _____

My check is enclosed.

My contact information on the mailing label below is accurate.

Join the **Basin Banter** - the Land Trust's monthly e-news! (We will NOT share your email!) Email: _____

Please do not trade my name with other organizations.

What is the #1 way to help the Land Trust today?

Convert your membership to EFT! EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) is a simple process where the Land Trust automatically debits your bank account each month for your donation. You determine the monthly amount and are free to stop at any time.

Why convert to EFT?

- Your donation goes further! With the average paper transaction costing around \$25 and only 25% of members responding to each renewal notice, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to determine that we have to use a significant portion of your donation to get you to renew.
- We can use more of your donation to protect and restore land.
- Saves resources like paper, ink, energy and time—for you and us!

Sign up for EFT using the form above or contact Sarah at (541) 330-0017 for more information.

Land Trust Events *See Calendar of Events on page 4 for tours and work parties.*



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