

## TransCanada donates \$75,000 to Deschutes Basin Land Trust

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The Deschutes Basin Land Trust announced recently that TransCanada has made a five year, \$75,000 commitment to the Land Trust's Community Preserves and Back to Home Waters programs. The donation will help conserve land for local communities and for the return of salmon and steelhead to the upper Deschutes Basin. TransCanada officials toured the Land Trust's Metolius Preserve on October 5th to see the education and restoration made possible by their gift. TransCanada operates the Gas Transmission Northwest System, transporting natural gas from Canada to the Pacific Northwest and California. A portion of the high-pressure natural gas pipeline system runs through Central Oregon (east of Madras, Bend and La Pine). TransCanada develops partnerships with local non-profit organizations to make quality of life improvements. Rob Latimer, Community Relations Supervisor for TransCanada, noted "our pipeline system has been part of the Deschutes Basin for the past 45 years. We are pleased to provide long-term support to the Land Trust that aligns with our wildlife conservation, fish habitat protection goals in areas where we operate." The Land Trust conserves land through its Community Preserves program so local communities can experience and explore nature nearby. With four Preserves mainly clustered around Sisters, each serves as fertile ground for science and natural resource school programs. The Land Trust's Back to Home Waters program works to protect high quality habitat for salmon and steelhead. As part of the relicensing of 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. Brad Chalfant, executive director of the Land Trust, commented that "the Land Trust is extremely pleased to have the support of TransCanada. Their commitment to Central Oregon is helping the Land Trust protect the special places that contribute to our unique quality of life." The Deschutes Basin Land Trust has been preserving land for clean water and air, fish and wildlife habitat and local communities since 1995. By working cooperatively with private landowners and local communities, the Land Trust helps conserve and protect the Deschutes Basin's natural heritage. The Land Trust has protected more than 6,600 acres in the Deschutes Basin.

BendWeekly News Links: <http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/communitypreserves.htm>

<http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/BTHW.htm>

<http://www.transcanada.com>

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