



**National Forest Foundation and Bonneville Environmental
Foundation Fund Incentive Watershed Restoration
in the Deschutes River Basin**

*Alliance Between Funders and Local Organizations Forges a Long-Term Community-
Based Approach to Restore Deschutes Basin Watersheds*

Portland, Ore. (December 18, 2006) – The National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) announced today a joint commitment to fund a 10-year watershed restoration initiative in Oregon’s Deschutes River Basin. This collaborative long-term commitment represents a new approach to environmental grant-making in the Pacific Northwest.

“Our long-term funding partnership turns traditional grant making on its head,” said Todd Reeve, BEF’s director of watershed programs. “Most funders evaluate proposed projects one at a time and award funding on a year-to-year basis. Our experience indicates that this sort of piecemeal funding can undermine our grantees’ ability to implement science-based restoration strategies that address complex watershed restoration needs over the long-term.”

The NFF and BEF worked with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, the Crooked River Watershed Council, the Deschutes River Conservancy, and the Deschutes Basin Land Trust to develop an integrated and long-term strategy to guide watershed restoration in three priority Deschutes Basin watersheds. In order to support actions that meet program criteria and reinforce the long-term iterative strategy developed for the project, the NFF and BEF have conditionally committed to provide grants to these local organizations over the next 10 years.

The combined BEF-NFF commitment to provide a long-term base of support has enabled community-based conservation groups in the Deschutes Basin to think more strategically about project implementation. “Traditional short-term grants provide little incentive for local groups to develop coordinated approaches,” explains Mary Vasse, director of northwest programs for the National Forest Foundation. “This longer-term approach provides an opportunity for groups to develop multi-year strategies that draw on one another’s strengths.” The combined benefits of this approach are expected to far exceed the capacity of any single organization.

In addition, long-term funding provides the opportunity for local organizations to monitor and evaluate progress and assess restoration effectiveness. BEF has pledged 10-year funding to support monitoring and evaluation and ensure that program partners can systematically track progress and improve strategies based on measured results. The NFF has pledged support for on-the-ground restoration projects. Both organizations recognize that success requires a combination of funding approaches.

More information about the 10-year Model Watershed Restoration approach, including a downloadable article from the American Fisheries Society's *Fisheries Magazine*, can be found online at <http://www.b-e-f.org/watersheds/index.shtm>.

About National Forest Foundation

The National Forest Foundation, chartered by Congress in 1992, engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 192-million-acre National Forest System, and administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of our National Forests. The NFF stands apart through its commitment to facilitating local involvement and encouraging community participation in forest and watershed stewardship. www.natlforests.org.

About Bonneville Environmental Foundation

The nonprofit Bonneville Environmental Foundation was established in 1998. Through revenues generated from the sales of green power products, BEF supports its dual mission of restoring watershed ecosystems and supporting renewable energy. BEF's Model Watershed programs comprise 10-year commitments that provide funding for monitoring, evaluation, and scientific oversight. BEF's long-term approach ensures that Model Watershed program partners apply scientific methodology and continuously track progress and improve strategies based on measured results. More information is available at www.b-e-f.org.

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