

## Oregon brewery introduces organic, salmon-safe ale

Deschutes receives Oregon Tilth organic certification

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Oregon's Deschutes Brewery Friday debuted its newest beer, Green Lakes Organic Ale, the first to be brewed with Salmon-Safe certified hops.

The Bend, Ore.-based brewery got started on the idea four years ago when Deschutes brewmaster Larry Sidor began looking for organic barley to meet the company's criteria.

To qualify for certification from the nonprofit Salmon-Safe, hops growers meet rigorous conservation requirements, including finding natural methods to control weeds and pests, protecting streams and wetlands, planting cover crops on fallow fields to prevent erosion and runoff, and reducing irrigation water use.

"After working with vineyards for more than a decade to protect water quality and wildlife habitat in Northwest salmon watersheds, Salmon-Safe is delighted to partner with pioneering Willamette Valley hops growers and Deschutes Brewing to introduce this first beer sourced from Salmon-Safe certified sterling hops," Salmon-Safe Director Dan Kent told Sustainable Food News.

The amber-colored Green Lakes Organic ale is made with caramel and Munich malts as well as six different varieties of hops.

Deschutes also spent nearly six months working with Oregon Tilth to receive organic certification for its 50-barrel brew house.

Built in Oregon by JV Northwest, the brew house was the anchor of the brewing facility built in 1993 that expanded the operation outside of the original brewery and public house. After brewing 20,000 batches of beer, it now meets National Organic Program standards.

Green Lakes Organic Ale is currently available only on tap at the Deschutes Public House in downtown Bend, the company said. It will be available in limited release mid-December, in 22-ounce bottles with a suggested retail price of \$4, and on draft as part of the Bond Street Series. Six-packs will be on grocers' shelves year-round in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska beginning early February. Suggested retail for six-packs is \$7-\$9.

Founded in 1988 by Gary Fish, Deschutes Brewery and Public House also brews Mirror Pond Pale Ale, Black Butte Porter, The Abyss and Hop Trip among others. The company plans to open a Portland Brewery and Public House next year while celebrating its 20th anniversary.

