

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 13D**

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. 3)\***

**PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.**

---

(Name of Issuer)

**Common Stock, \$.001 par value per share**

---

(Title of Class of Securities)

**69423U107**

---

(CUSIP Number)

**Matthew S. Topham, Esq.  
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis  
LLP  
925 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2900  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
(206) 623-7580**

**Laurie Smiley, Esq.  
Arian Colachis, Esq.  
Cascade Investment, L.L.C.  
2365 Carillon Point  
Kirkland, WA 98033  
(425) 889-7900**

---

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person  
Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

**May 13, 2008**

---

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of §§240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box.

**Note:** Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

\* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

---

CUSIP No. 69423U107

---

1. Names of Reporting Persons  
Cascade Investment, L.L.C.

---

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a)

---

(b)

---

3. SEC Use Only

---

4. Source of Funds (See Instructions)  
WC

---

5. Check if Disclosure of Legal Proceedings Is Required Pursuant to Items 2(d) or 2(e)

---

6. Citizenship or Place of Organization  
State of Washington

---

7. Sole Voting Power  
8,775,224\*

---

Number of  
Shares  
Beneficially  
Owned by  
Each  
Reporting  
Person With

8. Shared Voting Power  
-0-

---

9. Sole Dispositive Power  
8,775,224\*

---

10. Shared Dispositive Power  
-0-

---

11. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person  
8,775,224\*

---

12. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)

---

13. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (11)  
17%

---

14. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)  
OO

---

---

\*Cascade Investment, L.L.C. ("Cascade") owns 3,750,000 shares of Series A Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series A Preferred Stock") of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. ("the Issuer"). Each share of Series A Preferred Stock is convertible at any time at Cascade's discretion into two shares of the Issuer's common stock at a price per share of \$8. As of the date of this filing, Cascade also owns 1,275,224 shares of common stock directly. All shares of common stock beneficially owned by Cascade may be deemed to be beneficially owned by William H. Gates III as the sole member of Cascade. Michael Larson, the Business Manager of Cascade, has voting and investment power with respect to the common stock held by Cascade. Mr. Larson disclaims any beneficial ownership of the common stock beneficially owned by Cascade and Mr. Gates.

CUSIP No. 69423U107

---

1. Names of Reporting Persons  
William H. Gates III

---

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a)

---

(b)

---

3. SEC Use Only

---

4. Source of Funds (See Instructions)  
WC

---

5. Check if Disclosure of Legal Proceedings Is Required Pursuant to Items 2(d) or 2(e)

---

6. Citizenship or Place of Organization  
United States of America

---

7. Sole Voting Power  
8,775,224\*

---

Number of  
Shares  
Beneficially  
Owned by  
Each  
Reporting  
Person With

8. Shared Voting Power  
-0-

---

9. Sole Dispositive Power  
8,775,224\*

---

10. Shared Dispositive Power  
-0-

---

11. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person  
8,775,224\*

---

12. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)

---

13. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (11)  
17%

---

14. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)  
IN

---

---

\* Cascade Investment, L.L.C. ("Cascade") owns 3,750,000 shares of Series A Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series A Preferred Stock") of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. ("the Issuer"). Each share of Series A Preferred Stock is convertible at any time at Cascade's discretion into two shares of the Issuer's common stock at a price per share of \$8. As of the date of this filing, Cascade also owns 1,275,224 shares of common stock directly. All shares of common stock beneficially owned by Cascade may be deemed to be beneficially owned by William H. Gates III as the sole member of Cascade. Michael Larson, the Business Manager of Cascade, has voting and investment power with respect to the common stock held by Cascade. Mr. Larson disclaims any beneficial ownership of the common stock beneficially owned by Cascade and Mr. Gates.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Amendment No. 3 to Schedule 13D is being filed jointly by Cascade Investment, L.L.C. and William H. Gates III (collectively, the "Reporting Persons") to amend the Schedule 13D filed on April 21, 2006, as amended on May 29, 2007 and May 6, 2008, to report a change in the Reporting Persons' ownership percentage as a result of sales of common stock of the Issuer by Cascade.

#### Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer

(a) See items 11 and 13 of the cover pages to this Schedule 13D for the aggregate number of shares and percentage of Common Stock beneficially owned by each of the Reporting Persons.

According to the Issuer, as of May 15, 2008, there were 44,131,065 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. As of the filing date of this Schedule 13D Amendment, Cascade beneficially owns 7,500,000 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of 3,750,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock and 1,275,224 shares directly for an aggregate of 8,775,224 shares of common stock, which represents approximately 17% of the shares of common stock currently issued and outstanding, including the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series A Preferred Stock. All shares held by Cascade may be deemed to be beneficially owned by Mr. Gates as the sole member of Cascade.

(b) See items 7 through 10 of the cover page to this Schedule 13D for the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by each of the Reporting Persons as to which there is sole power to vote or to direct the vote, shared power to vote or to direct the vote and sole or shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition.

As of the filing date of this Schedule 13D, Cascade (and Mr. Gates, as the sole member of Cascade) has the sole power to vote or direct the vote and dispose or direct the disposition of 8,775,224 shares of common stock.

(c) Since the last transaction reported in the previous Schedule 13D Amendment, Cascade sold a total of 727,300 shares of common stock on the dates and at the prices set forth on Exhibit 99.1. The sales were made for cash in open market transactions.

(d) Except as set forth in this Schedule 13D, to the knowledge of the Reporting Persons, no person has the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, securities covered by this Schedule 13D.

(e) Not applicable.

**Item 7. Material to be Filed as Exhibits**

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Dates and prices of sales of common stock since the last transaction reported on Amendment No. 2 to Schedule 13D, filed on May 6, 2008.

**SIGNATURE**

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: May 21, 2008

CASCADE INVESTMENT, L.L.C. (1)

By: /s/ Michael Larson  
Name: Michael Larson  
Title: Business Manager

WILLIAM H. GATES III (1)

By: /s/ Michael Larson  
Name: Michael Larson(2)  
Title: Attorney-in-fact

(1) This amendment is being filed jointly by Cascade Investment, L.L.C. and William H. Gates III pursuant to the Joint Filing Agreement dated April 21, 2006 and included with the signature page to Schedule 13D with respect to Pacific Ethanol, Inc. filed on April 21, 2006, SEC File No. 005-51517, and incorporated herein by reference.

(2) Duly authorized under Special Power of Attorney appointing Michael Larson attorney-in-fact, dated February 3, 2006, by and on behalf of William H. Gates III, filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Cascade Investment, L.L.C.'s Amendment No. 2 to Schedule 13G with respect to Arch Capital Group Ltd. on March 7, 2006, SEC File No. 005-45257, and incorporated by reference herein.

Cascade sold 727,300 shares of common stock on the dates and prices set forth below.

Sale Date	Number of Shares Sold	Price per Share
5/5/2008	100	3.850
5/5/2008	1,126	3.760
5/5/2008	8,205	3.750
5/5/2008	3,583	3.740
5/5/2008	97	3.730
5/5/2008	4,903	3.720
5/5/2008	3,627	3.710
5/5/2008	5,172	3.700
5/5/2008	1,405	3.690
5/5/2008	1,463	3.680
5/5/2008	100	3.670
5/5/2008	2,032	3.660
5/5/2008	1,014	3.650
5/5/2008	1,417	3.640
5/5/2008	1,770	3.630
5/5/2008	11	3.600
5/5/2008	3,109	3.570
5/5/2008	4,145	3.560
5/5/2008	4,183	3.550
5/5/2008	542	3.540
5/5/2008	156	3.535
5/5/2008	3,667	3.530
5/5/2008	3,173	3.500
5/5/2008	2,794	3.480
5/5/2008	6,837	3.450
5/5/2008	7,526	3.440
5/5/2008	300	3.435
5/5/2008	10,755	3.430
5/5/2008	6,788	3.420
5/5/2008	439	3.410
5/5/2008	5,780	3.400
5/5/2008	200	3.390
5/5/2008	3,581	3.380
5/6/2008	2,500	3.460
5/6/2008	2,994	3.450
5/6/2008	10,000	3.440
5/6/2008	7,435	3.420
5/6/2008	700	3.410
5/6/2008	17,071	3.400
5/6/2008	1,400	3.380
5/6/2008	300	3.375
5/6/2008	1,168	3.370
5/6/2008	6,216	3.360
5/6/2008	2,071	3.350
5/6/2008	500	3.335
5/6/2008	6,776	3.330
5/6/2008	363	3.325
5/6/2008	27,330	3.320
5/6/2008	3,796	3.310
5/6/2008	9,380	3.300
5/7/2008	420	3.320
5/7/2008	900	3.310
5/7/2008	6,350	3.300
5/7/2008	1,250	3.260
5/7/2008	6,928	3.250
5/7/2008	6,511	3.240
5/7/2008	7,641	3.220
5/7/2008	6,602	3.200
5/7/2008	1,900	3.190
5/7/2008	1,498	3.180
5/7/2008	5,000	3.170
5/7/2008	500	3.165

5/7/2008	4,500	3.160
5/8/2008	3,060	3.220
5/8/2008	300	3.215
5/8/2008	13,140	3.210
5/8/2008	14,780	3.200
5/8/2008	300	3.155
5/8/2008	8,820	3.150
5/8/2008	500	3.145
5/8/2008	12,300	3.140
5/8/2008	6,048	3.130
5/8/2008	10,752	3.120
5/9/2008	400	3.250
5/9/2008	4,800	3.240
5/9/2008	9,800	3.230
5/9/2008	3,200	3.220
5/9/2008	100	3.215
5/9/2008	5,770	3.210
5/9/2008	5,930	3.200
5/9/2008	2,600	3.180
5/9/2008	2,477	3.170
5/9/2008	393	3.160
5/9/2008	16,607	3.150
5/9/2008	12,923	3.140
5/9/2008	15,000	3.130
5/12/2008	600	3.320
5/12/2008	5,803	3.300
5/12/2008	17,769	3.290
5/12/2008	12,686	3.280
5/12/2008	16,212	3.270
5/12/2008	10,330	3.260
5/12/2008	8,200	3.250
5/12/2008	3,400	3.240
5/13/2008	948	3.300
5/13/2008	1,400	3.210
5/13/2008	4,514	3.200
5/13/2008	8,300	3.190
5/13/2008	500	3.185
5/13/2008	4,106	3.180
5/13/2008	17,041	3.170
5/13/2008	8,191	3.160
5/13/2008	6,037	3.150

---

5/13/2008	700	3.145
5/13/2008	11,050	3.140
5/13/2008	2,213	3.130
5/14/2008	5,000	3.250
5/14/2008	1,200	3.230
5/14/2008	500	3.210
5/14/2008	500	3.205
5/14/2008	34,421	3.200
5/14/2008	20,000	3.190
5/14/2008	100	3.185
5/14/2008	4,500	3.180
5/14/2008	1,079	3.170
5/14/2008	4,400	3.160
5/14/2008	8,075	3.150
5/14/2008	225	3.140
5/15/2008	2,600	3.270
5/15/2008	5,000	3.250
5/15/2008	12,100	3.240
5/15/2008	2,300	3.210
5/15/2008	2,341	3.200
5/15/2008	6,862	3.190
5/15/2008	21,197	3.180
5/15/2008	3,500	3.170
5/15/2008	3,297	3.160
5/15/2008	5,803	3.150
5/16/2008	200	3.205
5/16/2008	3,191	3.200

5/16/2008	3,209	3.190
5/16/2008	250	3.185
5/16/2008	2,018	3.180
5/16/2008	13,609	3.170
5/16/2008	13,123	3.160
5/16/2008	6,700	3.150

---