



2016

# **WILD DESERT CALENDAR**

Oregon Natural Desert Association





## OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION: WE KEEP OREGON'S DESERT WILD

To know Oregon's desert is to love it. And ONDA's thousands of hard-working volunteers, dedicated donors and passionate advocates know it well and love it deeply. Over ONDA's nearly 30-year history, our community's shared devotion to Oregon's high desert ensures that these amazing wild places are here to treasure and explore, now and always.

An all-volunteer effort, the Wild Desert Calendar has been connecting people throughout Oregon and beyond to our incredible wild desert places for more than ten years. We invite you to visit the places you see in these pages. Then join us in helping conserve Oregon's stunning rivers, landscapes and wildlife:

Visit [www.onda.org/getinvolved](http://www.onda.org/getinvolved).



row 1 (L-R): ONDA's John Day coordinator leads Senator Merkley and Wheeler County Judge Perry on a tour of the Sutton Mountain proposed wilderness © Phil Chang; Obsidian artifact from civilizations past, Greater Hart-Sheldon Region © Heidi Hagemeyer; An ONDA volunteer counts Greater sage-grouse at dawn, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge © Andrew Carter.

row 2 (L-R): ONDA volunteers plan a hike up Jennies Peak after a day of restoration work, Pine Creek Conservation Area, John Day River Basin © Sage Brown; Cheers! ONDA women celebrate the completion of a trek from Sheldon to Hart, Greater Hart-Sheldon Region © Jim Davis; Rafters float past Cathedral Rock proposed wilderness, John Day River Basin © Dave Rein.

row 3 (L-R): Tamarisk mapping in the Honeycombs Wilderness Study Area, Owyhee Canyonlands © Mark Montgomery; Hiker gazes out over Carlton Canyon, Owyhee Canyonlands © Corie Harlan; Fun for the whole family! 2015 Annual General Meeting, John Day River Basin © Allison Crotty.

row 4 (L-R): Mule deer, Steens Mountain © Brian O'Keefe; ONDA volunteer pulls fence, Pine Creek Conservation Area, John Day River Basin © Sage Brown; ONDA volunteers weave willow branches into artificial beaver dams, John Day River Basin © Bob Denouden; ONDA volunteer exploring the canyon by kayak, Owyhee Canyonlands © Ken Scholz.





# OREGON'S WILD DESERT: 8 MILLION ACRES TO EXPLORE

With few paved roads and fewer crowds, Oregon's high desert remains an undiscovered marvel of the West. Its dynamic rivers, sheer canyons, craggy peaks and quiet expanses stretch across nearly half the state, providing a vast wonderland for wildlife and for outdoor adventures. Pronghorn antelope often outnumber people, and starry night skies are a way of life.

This is the awe-inspiring place that the Oregon Natural Desert Association presents to you in its 2016 Wild Desert Calendar. With these images of existing and proposed wilderness, we invite you to join ONDA's more than 4,500 members and supporters in celebrating the wonder of Oregon's high desert.

ONDA has worked for nearly 30 years to protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert for future generations. Roughly 8 million acres of potential wilderness exist here, awaiting discovery. When our favorite places are protected, we take comfort in knowing that we can return to land changed only by the elements. By partnering with landowners, government agencies, elected officials and individuals like you, ONDA provides a strong voice for the conservation of Oregon's high desert.

## THE SPECIAL PLACES WHERE WE WORK

### OWYHEE CANYONLANDS

At more than 2 million acres, Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands region is the largest undeveloped, unprotected expanse in the lower 48 states. Its red-rock canyons, vital rivers and diverse wildlife – including the imperiled Greater sage-grouse – are unlike any place else in Oregon. Permanent protection of the Owyhee is one of ONDA's top priorities.

### CENTRAL OREGON BACKCOUNTRY

With rolling sagebrush plains and dramatic river canyons, the gateway to Oregon's dry side offers world-class recreation right outside city limits – including rafting, hiking and horseback riding. Many of its waterways are also critical spawning grounds for salmon and steelhead. ONDA is engaged in collaborative efforts to protect the Whychus-Deschutes and Hidden Springs areas of Central Oregon.

### JOHN DAY RIVER BASIN

The John Day River flows absent of dams, providing prime habitat for summer steelhead and chinook salmon. The surrounding lands offer exceptional recreation and wildlife habitat. By working with county officials, community leaders and landowners, ONDA helped welcome legislation in Congress in 2015 that would make Sutton Mountain wilderness. ONDA has also worked on wilderness proposals for the Cathedral Rock, Horse Heaven and Lower John Day areas.

### STEENS MOUNTAIN

In 2000, Steens Mountain became Oregon's first desert wilderness. ONDA played a critical role in making it happen and continues to advocate on the iconic mountain's behalf today. From "right idea, wrong place" wind energy development to the carving of unnecessary roads, we will continue work to protect the jewel of the Oregon desert.

### GREATER HART-SHELDON REGION

Spanning more than 3 million acres of Oregon and Nevada, the Greater Hart-Sheldon Region is a diverse expanse of mountains, wetlands, sagebrush steppe and canyons. It's also a haven for wildlife: More than 300 species thrive here, including migrating waterfowl, pronghorn antelope and, critically, the imperiled Greater sage-grouse. ONDA has worked to protect, restore and connect this region for decades.

### OREGON DESERT TRAIL

The Oregon Desert Trail stretches nearly 800 miles across some of the most scenic, ecologically significant public lands in Oregon's high desert, including the Oregon Badlands Wilderness, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Steens Mountain Wilderness and the Owyhee Canyonlands. Whether it's a day hike or a long-distance adventure, the Oregon Desert Trail offers recreationists of all stripes an amazing way to experience the high desert.



### MAP DETAIL







# JANUARY



Long-billed curlew. © Stephen Parsons

*We drove down from sunrise on Steens Mountain ... to the break over Hart Mountain into North Warner, where we could look down on lakes ... shimmering in the morning breezes .... We stood facing such beauty as if given something from a dream about what the world could be, if we let it, alive and significant without us.*

**William Kittredge**  
*Hole in the Sky*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2 Perihelion (Earth closest to Sun) 3 PM PST
3 Quadrantid meteor shower (30/hour)	4	5 ONDA incorporated, 1989	6	7	8	9
10 Quadrantid meteor shower (30/hour)	11 Aldo Leopold born, 1887 Honor Aldo's wild legacy! ONDA.org/support	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observed	19	20	21	22	23
24/31 (31) Cows removed from Donner und Blitzen Wild & Scenic River, 1997	25	26	27	28	29 Edward Abbey born, 1927	30

## DECEMBER

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31

## FEBRUARY

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29







# FEBRUARY



Great horned owl. © Stephen Parsons

*I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty. In the wilderness, I find something more dear and connate than in streets or villages. In the tranquil landscape, and especially in the distant line of the horizon, man beholds somewhat as beautiful as his own nature.*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**  
*The Journals*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7	• 8	9	10 Ash Wednesday	11	12	13
☾ 14 St. Valentine's Day Fall in love with Oregon's wild deserts! ONDA.org/support	15 Presidents' Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	○ 22	23	24	25 Howard Zahniser, father of 1964 Wilderness Act, born, 1906	26	27
28 First gray wolf in 37 years enters Oregon, 1999	29	1	2	3	4	5

## JANUARY

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## MARCH

					1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31					







# MARCH



Microseris. © Jim Davis

*A trip into the Owyhee still allows you to feel like you are the first and only person to have set foot there. ... The Owyhee will test you, remind you of your vulnerability and take your breath away with its great beauty. And in the tranquility of the big quiet, you just may find your true self.*

**Bonnie Olin**  
to Northwest Whitewater Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daylight Saving Time begins, 2 AM				St. Patrick's Day		Spring Equinox, 9:30 PM PDT
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Palm Sunday		John McConnell, Earth Day founder, born, 1905			Good Friday	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Easter			Oregon Badlands & Spring Basin wilderness areas designated 2009. Celebrate these amazing wild places! ONDA.org/support			

## FEBRUARY

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7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
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## APRIL

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30						







# APRIL



Desert evening primrose. © Cregg Large

*A river is a different kind of mystery, a mystery of distance and becoming, a mystery of source. Touch its fluent body and you touch far places. You touch a story that must end somewhere but cannot stop telling itself, a story that is always just beginning.*

**John Daniel**  
*The Far Corner*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	• 7	8	9
10	11	12	☾ 13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	☉ 21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					Earth Day First day of Passover Lyrid meteor shower (20/hour)	Last day of Passover
				John Muir born, 1838		

## MARCH

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

## MAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				







# MAY



Eastern sagebrush lizard. © Jeremy Austin

*The old, old junipers knit the entire scene together. I don't believe trees see or feel or speak in the conventional sense, but they can tell us much about a place and something, maybe, about ourselves.*

**Jim Witty**

*Meet Me in the Badlands*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 ● Eta Aquarid meteor shower (30/hour)	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 ◐	14
15 Mother's Day Love your mother (nature)! ONDA.org/support	16	17	18	19	20	21 ○
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 ◐	30 Memorial Day	31	1	2	3	4

## APRIL

					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

## JUNE

				1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			







## JUNE



Purple sage. © Greg Burke

*Sometimes, in a desert landscape, a landscape without consciousness, emptier of intellect than any other landscape I have ever seen, I think I can feel emotion lying like heat on the surface of the sand and seeping into cracks between boulders.*

**Kathleen Dean Moore**  
*Riverwalking*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Father's Day	Summer Solstice, 3:34 PM PDT					
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Oregon Wilderness Act passed, 1984 Celebrate Oregon's wild deserts! ONDA.org/support	Taylor Grazing Act passed, 1934					

## MAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## JULY

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							







JULY



Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. © Jim Davis

My hope for the future of the Hart-Sheldon area is that there will always, always be pronghorn gliding across the landscape and sage-grouse strutting on their leks.

Alice Elshoff

There’s humility in saying, “Maybe we don’t know everything. We don’t know everything that’s coming in the next 100, 200 years.” But we can protect some places so that we don’t lose our knowledge of the natural world.

Helen Harbin

Often, when people first engage the desert they are struck by the expanse of it all. Once you see and feel that expanse, it goes with you. It’s part of you forever. It changes the way you see life. I don’t know anyone who doesn’t have that response to the desert.

Julie Weikel

JUNE												
		1	2	3	4							
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
26	27	28	29	30								

AUGUST												
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27						
28	29	30	31									

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Independence Day Aphelion (Earth farthest from Sun) 9 AM PDT Freedom, equality and wilderness for all! ONDA.org/support					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Henry David Thoreau born, 1817				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Delta Aquarid meteor shower (20/hour)		Spotted owl listed as endangered species, 1990







# AUGUST



Bighorn sheep. © Stephen Parsons

*There is only now, and now is perfect. And later there will be the memory of perfection – not an empty superlative-laden wishful platitude, but a visceral knowledge of what it was like – the sensations and scents and sounds and silences, and the immense and beautiful and humbling poetry of it all.*

**Guy Tal**

*End of Season Reflections*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Perseid meteor shower  
(60/hour)  
Wish upon a star  
for more wilderness!  
[ONDA.org/support](http://ONDA.org/support)

President Theodore  
Roosevelt created Malheur  
National Wildlife Refuge,  
1908

## JULY

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31

## SEPTEMBER

1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30







# SEPTEMBER



Greater sage-grouse. © Stephen Parsons

*As humans, we distinguish ourselves through art, architecture and invention. But equally important, and perhaps more difficult, is for us to agree that we have been gifted natural wonders that cannot be improved upon and to leave these places wild. It is clear that the Owyhee Canyonlands deserves such an honor.*

**Brent Fenty**  
executive director, ONDA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	● 1	2	3  Federal Wilderness Act passed, 1964 Protect, defend and restore Oregon's wild deserts! ONDA.org/support
4  Rosh Hashana ends	5  Labor Day	6  President Franklin Roosevelt designated Hart Mountain as National Antelope Refuge, 1935	7	8	9 ☾	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 ○	17
18	19	20	21	22  Autumn Equinox, 7:21 AM PDT Bruce Babbitt designated Klamath River a Wild & Scenic River, 1994	23 ☾	24
25	26	27	28	29	● 30	1

## AUGUST

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31

## OCTOBER

1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30 31







## OCTOBER



Pika. © Dave Rein

*I always had the strangest feeling that the aspen were people, lost souls, not unhappy, just a little sad to be encased in bark in the crystalline air of a deserted canyon. I still have this feeling of friendship when visiting an aspen grove ...*

**Melvin Adams**  
Netting the Sun

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act passed, 1968	Congress passed Steens Mountain Cooperative Management & Protection Act, 2000 Keep Steens Mountain wild, always! <a href="http://ONDA.org/support">ONDA.org/support</a>					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Columbus Day	Yom Kippur				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Orionid meteor shower (25/hour)	
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
	(31) Halloween		John Day Fossil Beds National Monument founded, 1974		Congress passed Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, 1988	

## SEPTEMBER

	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## NOVEMBER

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			







# NOVEMBER



Pronghorn. © Jim Davis

*The desert is subtle, secretive in color and movement. It doesn't brandish. To know the high desert requires diving deep into the sagebrush ocean, looking closely, taking time, tasting silence.*

**Ellen Waterston**  
*Where the Crooked River Rises*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 President Reagan signed Omnibus Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, 1988 Oregon citizens vote to create state Scenic Waterways System, 1970	11	12
Daylight Saving Time ends, 2 AM					Veterans Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Leonid meteor shower (15/hour)	Cows removed from Owyhee Wild & Scenic River, 1999	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Thanksgiving Grateful for Oregon's wild deserts? ONDA.org/support		
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

## OCTOBER

							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

## DECEMBER

						1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		







DECEMBER



Petroglyphs, Hart-Sheldon Region. © Brian Ouimette

And you discover where music begins  
before it makes any sound,  
far in the mountains where canyons go  
still as the always-falling, ever-new flakes of snow.

**William Stafford**  
from “You and Art”

NOVEMBER												JANUARY						
	1	2	3	4	5							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12						8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19						15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26						22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30									29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas						

Geminid meteor shower  
(100/hour)

Give the gift  
of conservation!  
ONDA.org/support

Winter Solstice,  
2:44 AM PST

First Day of Hanukkah



The **Oregon Natural Desert Association** works to protect, defend and restore the beauty and solitude of Oregon's wild desert places, including the Owyhee Canyonlands, Central Oregon Backcountry, Greater Hart-Sheldon Region, the John Day River Basin and Steens Mountain. Support ONDA's efforts and help protect the places you love. Visit [www.ONDA.org/support](http://www.ONDA.org/support)



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JANUARY **HART-SHELDON REGION**



FEBRUARY **SUTTON MOUNTAIN**



MARCH **OWYHEE CANYONLANDS**



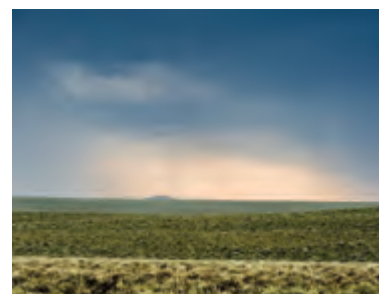
APRIL **WHYCHUS-DESCHUTES**



MAY **SUTTON MOUNTAIN**



JUNE **OREGON BADLANDS**



JULY **HART-SHELDON REGION**



AUGUST **ABERT RIM**



SEPTEMBER **OWYHEE CANYONLANDS**



OCTOBER **STEENS MOUNTAIN**



NOVEMBER **HART-SHELDON REGION**



DECEMBER **ALVORD DESERT**

## WILD DESERT CALENDAR

The Wild Desert Calendar is a publication of the Oregon Natural Desert Association. Copyright to all photographs herein belongs to the photographers. Special thanks to Greg Burke, Jon Cain, Mark Chidlaw, Jim Davis, Helen Harbin, Daniela Marshall, Mike Sequeira and our contributing photographers. Many thanks to our ONDA community of members, volunteers and supporters who make this calendar and all our desert conservation work possible.

Printed locally with soy-based inks on 30% recycled, Forest Sustainability Council-endorsed paper manufactured using 100% green, e-certified renewable energy.

Special thanks to the following contributors:



Summer Lake  
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