

2017

# **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): Rafters float the wild Owyhee River at Iron Point, photo: Nate Wilson; Owyhee supporters rally at a Live Monumental celebration, photo: KEEN Footwear; Fun for the whole family! 2016 Annual General Meeting, photo: Allison Crotty.

row 2 (L-R): An ONDA volunteer removes obsolete fencing from Pine Creek Conservation Area, John Day River Basin, photo: Evan Kinkel; Owyhee glow, Owyhee Canyonlands, photo: Tyson Fisher; Hikers explore Horse Heaven, John Day River Basin, photo: Tyson Fisher.



row 3 (L-R): Hikers gaze out over Leslie Gulch, Owyhee Canyonlands, photo: Corinne Handelman; ONDA stewardship coordinator gives a download of the day's planting project, South Fork Crooked River, photo: Gena Goodman-Campbell; ONDA volunteers gear up for a fence pull in Pine Creek Conservation Area, John Day River Basin, photo: Evan Kinkel.

row 4 (L-R): Are you #WildForTheOwyhee?, photo: Michael Hughes; An ONDA volunteer counts Greater sage-grouse at dawn, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, photo: Sage Brown; A thru-hiker embarks on the Oregon Desert Trail, photo: Jim Davis; ONDA volunteers enjoy a campfire, Owyhee Canyonlands, photo: Sage Brown.





# 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 2017 Wild Desert Calendar. With these images of existing and proposed wilderness, we invite you to join ONDA's more than 5,000 members and supporters in celebrating the wonders 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 season after season, year after year, 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 anyplace 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 fishing, 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 wildlife habitat and recreation. 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 partnered with local landowners and ranchers on wilderness 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 challenging "right idea, wrong place" wind energy development to watchdogging 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 and restore 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



Burrowing owl. Photo: Stephen Parsons

*...the birds that dipped and dove around us connected the landscape to marshes up and down three continents, from Argentina to Siberia. Malheur is one of the critical feeding sites along the Pacific Flyway, the migratory route of millions of waterfowl and shorebirds. With their flights and their songs, these birds tie continents together.*

**Nancy Langston**

*Where Land & Water Meet:  
A Western Landscape Transformed*

*Keep it for your children, your children's children, and for all who come after you.*

**Theodore Roosevelt**

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

## 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	









*I felt the overwhelming presence of empathy as if the trees somehow cared for me, were praying for me because I was so temporary, fragile; because my metabolism was so fast that I missed the essence of light, wind, snow, and time. They watched mountains dissolve, felt in their roots what I could only understand as an abstract idea.*

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						

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

26 27 28 1 2 3 4

Groundhog Day

St. Valentine's Day

Presidents' Day

Howard Zahniser, father of 1964 Wilderness Act, born, 1906

First gray wolf in 37 years enters Oregon, 1999





# MARCH



Greater sage-grouse. Photo: Stephen Parsons

*I sat with a man in a cowboy hat in the pre-dawn cold and waited for a sage-grouse to come out from its shelter. And when it did, I looked at this cowboy/ rancher and saw that this bird, pillowed and strutting, had made the corners of the man's mustached mouth rise up, and his eyes squint, and the water in them glitter like a small diamond.*

**Naseem Rakha**  
ONDA Blog, *The Stories We Tell*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Ash Wednesday	9	10	11
12 Daylight Saving Time begins, 2 AM	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 Spring Equinox, 3:29 AM PDT	21	22 John McConnell, Earth Day founder, born, 1905	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Oregon Badlands & Spring Basin wilderness areas designated, 2009.	31	1

## 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	

## 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						







APRIL



Indian paintbrush, *Castilleja* sp. Photo: Sage Brown

*The canyon is a vault of light, its streaked volcanic walls rising hundreds of feet above me. ... a rippling, wavering river of light follows the river that follows the stone as it wears the stone away. ... It slips away into its future, where it already is, and flows steadily forth from up the canyon, a fountain of rumors from regions known to it and not to me.*

**John Daniel**  
*The Far Corner*

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								

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







# MAY



Blue-eyed damner. Photo: Melvin Adams

*But once we have tasted far streams, touched the gold,  
found some limit beyond the waterfall,  
a season changes and we come back changed  
but safe, quiet, grateful.*

**William Stafford**  
from *Allegiances* in *The Way It Is*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
						Eta Aquarid meteor shower (30/hour)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Memorial Day					

## 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 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



Western tanager. Photo: Stephen Parsons

*There is an otherness to the high desert. Something momentous and sacred in the purity of the silence. The relationship of man and nature still seems to be in appropriate proportion. So long as this balance is maintained, both seem to have an equal shot at longevity, sustainability.*

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

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
Father's Day		Summer Solstice, 9:24 PM PDT				
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	Oregon Wilderness Act passed, 1984	Taylor Grazing Act passed, 1934				







# JULY



Hedgehog cactus, *Pediocactus nigrispinus*. Photo: Lindsay Jones

*From my perspective, the desert is full, chock-a-block full of beauty, perspective, humility and patience – the stuff of life. True, there's greater biodiversity in a rain forest, ...but you won't find peace of mind in any greater quantity than when watching the sun rise in the desert, or more sanity than when you're watching it go down.*

**Charles Finn**  
in *High Country News*

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

## JUNE

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

## 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







# AUGUST



Bitterroot, *Lewisia rediviva*. Photo: Lindsay Jones

*In our increasingly hectic lives, it is our wildest places that provide a liberating reminder that we are but a part of the vast web of life, and in such places, on equal footing with a beaver damming a stream or a bee pollinating a flower. These humbling reminders will be ours as long as we keep public lands wild and open to all Americans.*

**Brent Fenty**  
Executive Director, ONDA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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	31	1	2

Perseid meteor shower  
(60/hour)

President Theodore  
Roosevelt created Malheur  
National Wildlife Refuge,  
1908

Solar Eclipse, Total  
~10:20 AM PDT  
(Central Oregon)

## 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



Great Basin rattlesnake. Photo: Jim Davis

*Aridity frees light. It also unleashes grandeur. The earth here wasn't cloaked in forest, nor draped in green. ... Desert beauty was "sublime" in the way that the romantic poets had used the word ... rugged mountain faces, not reassuring but daunting nature, the earth's skin and haunches, its spines and angles arching prehistorically in sunlight.*

**Julene Bair**

*The Ogallala Road: A Memoir of Love and Reckoning*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6 ○	7	8	9
Federal Wilderness Act passed, 1964	Labor Day		President Franklin Roosevelt designated Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, 1935			
10	11	12 ◐	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 ●	20	21	22	23
				Rosh Hashana	Autumn Equinox, 1:02 PM PDT Bruce Babbitt designated Klamath Wild & Scenic River, 1994	
24	25	26	27 ◐	28	29	30
						Yom Kippur

## 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



Duckweed, *Wolffia* sp. Photo: Greg Burke

*Those who haven't the strength or youth to go into it can simply contemplate the idea, take pleasure in the fact that such a timeless and uncontrolled part of earth is still there....We simply need that wild country available to us.... For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.*

**Wallace Stegner**  
*The Sound of Mountain Water*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act passed, 1968	3 Congress passed Steens Mountain Cooperative Management & Protection Act, 2000	4	5 ○	6	7
8	9 Indigenous Peoples' Day	10	11	12 ◐	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 ●	20	21 Orionid meteor shower (20/hour)
22	23	24	25	26 John Day Fossil Beds National Monument founded, 1974	27 ◑	28 Congress passed Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, 1988
29	30	31 Halloween	1	2	3	4

## 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

				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



Aspens, Steens Mountain. Photo: Dave Kohli

Overhead, a wide sky achieves the deepest shade of clear, dry-air blue. Few clouds obscure the scintillating light ... The desert is married to the sun, its shadows mirroring the bright orb's arc across the sky. The slanting rays of morning and evening reveal the contrasting textures of the landscape ...

**Al St. John**  
*Oregon's Dry Side*

## 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							

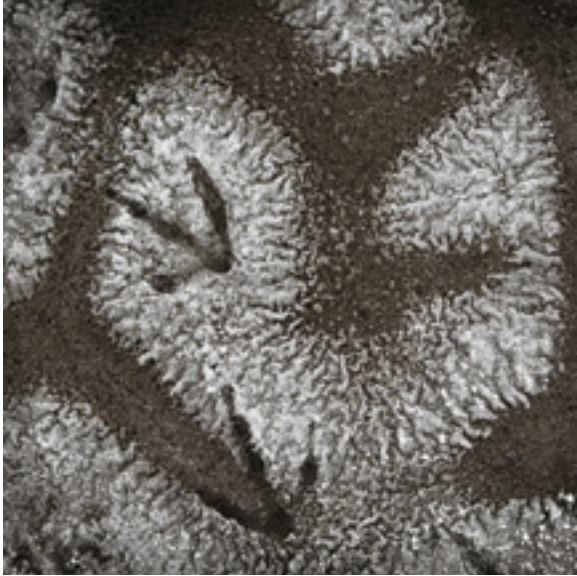
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3 ○ President Reagan signed Omnibus Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, 1988 Oregon citizens vote to create state Scenic Waterways System, 1970	4
5 Daylight Saving Time ends, 2 AM	6	7	8	9	10 ●	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 ● Leonid meteor shower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







# DECEMBER



Playa tracks, Lake Abert. Photo: Matt Witt

*Above me, from black to black, was a pavement of radiance, an endless abyss of light. I was terrified, falling upward into that blazing silence. There was no dark, really. It was all stars, all light, it was eternity made visible. I was seeing, for once, with my mortal eyes, what is always here.*

**Ursula K. Le Guin**  
*Out Here*

NOVEMBER											
	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							

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								

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
○ 3	4	5	6	7	8	● 9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			First Day of Hanukkah Geminid meteor shower (100/hour)			
● 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Last day of Hanukkah	Winter Solstice, 8:28 AM PST		
24/31	25	● 26	27	28	29	30
	Christmas					



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, 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 MALHEUR WILDLIFE REFUGE



FEBRUARY SUTTON MOUNTAIN



MARCH GREATER HART-SHELDON REGION



APRIL OWYHEE CANYONLANDS



MAY WHYCHUS-DESCHUTES



JUNE SOUTH FORK CROOKED RIVER



JULY TROUT CREEK MOUNTAINS



AUGUST OWYHEE CANYONLANDS



SEPTEMBER OWYHEE CANYONLANDS



OCTOBER GREATER HART-SHELDON REGION



NOVEMBER STEENS MOUNTAIN



DECEMBER ALVORD DESERT

## WILD DESERT CALENDAR

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