



OREGON
NATURAL
DESERT
ASSOCIATION

PROTECT DEFEND RESTORE

OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



HONORING YOUR DEDICATION TO WILD DESERTS

Dear Friends,

Every year, I marvel at the commitment of the Oregon Natural Desert Association's members, supporters and partners. 2013 was no exception. Volunteers again spent thousands of hours restoring streams, completing the Oregon Desert Trail for all to enjoy and engaging in many other activities that protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert for future generations.



Brent Fenty

In the following pages, we celebrate that commitment, showcasing the work that you and the ONDA community made possible. We also share our continuing efforts to protect the water, wildlands and wildlife we treasure.

Steens Mountain. Owyhee Canyonlands. John Day River basin. The Hart-Sheldon region. Central Oregon's backcountry. We turn to these places for adventure and inspiration. We also envision a future where they remain, unchanged, for future generations.

The dedication of the ONDA community makes me believe that achieving protection for these amazing places is possible. As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Your continued commitment is making a positive change in the world. Thank you for all your support. Because of you, Oregon's desert is a wilder place.

For Wild Deserts,

Brent Fenty
Executive Director

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to your support this past year, ONDA's amazing members, supporters and volunteers logged the following accomplishments to **PROTECT**, **DEFEND** and **RESTORE** our high desert:

- The **Cathedral Rock** and **Horse Heaven** areas near the John Day River were proposed for wilderness designation in the Oregon Treasures Act, now pending in Congress. The bill passed unanimously in its U.S. Senate committee.
- The **Oregon Desert Trail** became available for all to enjoy. The first long-distance hiker traversed the trail, and the maps, GPS data and guide material were completed and shared on ONDA's website. We also have requested that federal agencies formally recognize the trail.
- **Greater sage-grouse** will benefit from our continued vigilance. We provided detailed feedback to the BLM on its proposed management plan for Oregon's sage-grouse population, helped count birds, and continue to monitor and challenge any proposal that would harm important sage-grouse habitat.
- More than **300 volunteers** performed 4,040 hours of public lands restoration work on 30 stewardship trips.
- More than 1 million acres of wild desert surrounding **Hart Mountain** and the Lakeview area was inventoried to encourage new protections that would benefit wildlife, including Greater sage-grouse and pronghorn antelope.
- **Steens Mountain** – and the Greater sage-grouse, golden eagles and other wildlife that call it home – remains safe from wind development, as we continue to fight approval of a transmission corridor across public land.
- Protection of the **Whychus-Deschutes** gained significant support when nine organizations that make up the Central Oregon Conservation Network adopted it as a priority for the coming year.

Cover photo: © Jim Davis



*Leslie Gulch, Oregon's
Owyhee Canyonlands
proposed wilderness.
© Tyson Fisher*

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS | Carved by desert rivers winding to the Pacific, Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands is the largest unprotected expanse of the American West. Craggy red-rock canyons, blue-ribbon trout streams and endless skies amaze and recharge the soul.

Learn more about gems
of the high desert at
[ONDA.org/wherewework](https://onda.org/wherewework).

One key reason this remote expanse of southeastern Oregon is so special is because it's intact: The nation's largest herd of California bighorn sheep, the imperiled Greater sage-grouse and other wildlife roam over millions of acres, unfettered by modern-day development. Visitors drink in its fascinating geology, its archeological wonders and its pure solitude.

Keeping the Owyhee this way is one of ONDA's top priorities. We're working diligently with local residents, lawmakers and Oregonians of all stripes to build support for this conservation opportunity of national significance. Thanks to you, in 2013 we've grown our supporter list, drawn media attention and given numerous presentations to share the importance of this pristine place. We will continue this year in our efforts to ensure that the clear rivers, diverse wildlife and untrammelled beauty of the Owyhee Canyonlands remains for generations to come.



Why I support efforts to protect the **Owyhee Canyonlands**

"Sometimes, hiking in the big solitude of an Owyhee canyon, I think of the volcanic commotion and the earth-shifting and the millions and millions of years of carving that have created this wondrous place. The thought that we can save this amazing landscape is equally humbling." [Lacy Turner, ONDA member since 1999](#)

DEFEND



Steens Mountain view
from Alvord Desert Wilderness
Study Area. © Sean Bagshaw

STEENS MOUNTAIN | You never forget that first visit to Steens Mountain. From its dramatic cliffs plunging thousands of feet to its perfect U-shaped gorges and abundant wildlife, Steens Mountain stands apart as a breathtaking place unlike anywhere in Oregon.

Speak out on behalf
of the high desert at
ONDA.org/takeaction.

The work of ONDA members and supporters was critical in securing the creation of the Steens Mountain Wilderness in 2000, the first desert wilderness in the state. Yet the need to stand up on Steens Mountain's behalf hasn't faded with federal designation. In 2013, ONDA continued to advocate against an ill-advised wind energy development on the mountain, particularly approval of a 40-mile transmission corridor that would fragment important habitat for golden eagles, Greater sage-grouse and other wildlife.

In keeping with ONDA's long tradition of speaking up when the desert we love needs protection, we will continue to participate in public processes and, when necessary, serve as a watchdog for places as special as Steens Mountain. Your passion and commitment will help ensure that the grandeur of Steens Mountain remains evermore.



Why I support efforts to defend **Steens Mountain Wilderness**

"Steens is very important to me because it's so beautiful, so pristine and intact. If we don't defend Steens, 200 years from now what makes this place so special will be lost to memory." [Brian Maguire, ONDA member since 2007](#)

RESTORE



Annual General Meeting
volunteer work. © Allison Crotty

HIGH DESERT STEWARDSHIP | ONDA stewardship program participants are well known as some of the most devoted, can-do volunteers anywhere. They take on backbreaking tasks with relish. They toil no matter the weather, and do so with a smile. And they continually notch astounding accomplishments on behalf of the vitality of the high desert.

Join the fun at
ONDA.org/volunteertrips
or ONDA.org/events.

Stewardship volunteers continued to work hard and have fun in 2013. Notably, they neared the completion of pulling out the last remaining obsolete fence in the cow-free section of the Steens Mountain Wilderness.

The amazing work of stewardship volunteers also has allowed ONDA to take on new challenges. Impressed with our results, federal land management agencies and others have expanded our partnerships, which will soon lead to more habitat improvements for Oregon's native desert fish and wildlife. We will be taking on new important work as well, such as retrofitting fence to make it less hazardous to passing wildlife.

We will see the greatest rewards years from now: healthy wildlife populations thriving in a renewed, restored Oregon high desert. We can't thank ONDA's community enough for supporting these vital restoration efforts.



Why I support ONDA's high desert stewardship

"To focus on ornery, sharp barbed wire all morning, then turn to take in wilderness suddenly liberated from dissecting lines and right angles, rewards me with an abundant sense of purpose fulfilled. It's a small act in a giant landscape. I feel it helps foster healing and reclaim the Earth's wholeness." [Laura Van Fleet, ONDA member since 2003](#)

OUR VISION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

For more than 25 years, we've accomplished great feats together for Oregon's high desert. Join us in 2014 and beyond, as ONDA continues to advocate on behalf of the places we love.

Your support will propel four regional efforts – in the Central Oregon Backcountry, the John Day River Basin, the Greater Hart-Sheldon Landscape and the Owyhee Canyonlands – to protect more than 5 million acres of intact desert wildlands. You will help watchdog efforts to defend native fish and wildlife, and you will sustain work that restores critical habitat.

Our vision for 2014 includes:

Congressional support for permanently protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands will come to fruition, as our leaders recognize its rivers, cultural resources and unique beauty as treasures to preserve for future generations.

Passage of the Oregon Treasures Act in Congress will result in expanded public access, new protection for public land and better habitat for native salmon and steelhead populations in the John Day River basin.

Expanded outreach efforts throughout Oregon will raise awareness of the beauty and diversity of the high desert, bringing in hundreds of new members and supporters.



Greater sage-grouse. © Barbara Rumer

New stewardship initiatives will bring innovation to restoration and grow ONDA's role in the high desert. We will help federal agencies perform critical tasks, such as wilderness monitoring and Greater sage-grouse lek counts. And we will start on new ways to safeguard the desert, such as retrofitting fence to make it less hazardous to wildlife.

Core Greater sage-grouse habitat will be recognized and safeguarded against unwise developments due to ONDA's participation in state and federal planning efforts.

Every contribution on behalf of Oregon's high desert makes a difference. Here are five ways you can help protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert in the coming year.

1. Make a special donation.

Your generosity speaks to your passionate commitment to conservation. Oregon's high desert is a wilder place because of your vital, sustaining support of ONDA.

ONDA.org/support

2. Grow our community.

Attend an ONDA event this year, and bring a friend. We believe to know the high desert is to love it, so help us spread the word! The more voices we bring together, the stronger our message and the greater our success.

ONDA.org/events

3. Stay connected.

Keep abreast of ONDA's work all year long, and share your high desert insights and adventures with us!

Sign up for our email alerts: ONDA.org

Connect with us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/OregonNaturalDesertAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/OregonNaturalDesertAssociation)

View ONDA-related videos and subscribe: [YouTube.com/OregonDeserts](https://www.youtube.com/OregonDeserts)

Consider high desert voices and opinions: ONDA.org/blog

4. Contact your representatives.

Your voice is critical to convincing legislators of the importance of conservation in Oregon's high desert. Tell them about your love of its vast skies, clear waterways and abundant wildlife.

ONDA.org/takeaction

5. Volunteer.

Whether in the field or at the office, ONDA needs you! Together we log amazing achievements. Roll up your sleeves to contribute and have fun in the process.

ONDA.org/volunteer



DICK HERB
Volunteer of the Year



DAVID EDDLESTON
Alice Elshoff Conservation Award

HONORING OUR MEMBERS

People are at the heart of what we do. To show our appreciation, each year ONDA honors two individuals who have made outstanding contributions to desert conservation.

The Alice Elshoff Desert Conservation Award recognizes passion and dedication to the high desert in the tradition of former longtime board member Alice Elshoff.

David Eddleston

Alice Elshoff Desert Conservation Award

David Eddleston has been known to call the Oregon Badlands Wilderness “the office.” And it’s his dedication to this office -- both in advocating for its designation as wilderness and in starting and leading the Friends of the Oregon Badlands, or “Fobbits” -- that made him a natural for the Alice Elshoff Desert Conservation Award. Thank you, David, for your continued leadership and vigor on behalf of the Badlands!

The Volunteer of the Year Award acknowledges the contributions of one among our hundreds of dedicated volunteers who consistently goes above and beyond for Oregon’s high desert.

Dick Herb

Volunteer Of The Year Award

Dick Herb fell for Oregon’s high desert more than 50 years ago during a summer job near Clarno, unearthing fossils and swimming in the John Day River. Today, he’s one of ONDA’s most dedicated, can-do volunteers. From pulling fence to delivering newsletters to decking the halls for the Bend year-end party, Dick takes on whatever task is at hand with gusto. Thank you, Dick, for all that you do for ONDA and the high desert!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ONDA’s work to protect, defend and restore Oregon’s high desert is fueled by the generosity of our members. Every donation, advocacy action and volunteer hour adds up to an incredible investment in a healthy, promising future for Oregon’s desert landscapes, waterways and wildlife.

The following information reflects the scope of your giving and the essential programs these contributions support.

Assets

Total Current Assets	\$1,625,885
Total Fixed Assets	\$42,721
Total Other Assets	\$189,962
Total Assets	\$1,858,568

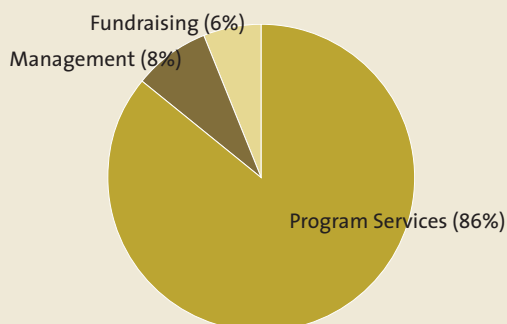
Liabilities & Equity

Total Liabilities	\$14,641
Total Equity	\$1,843,927
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,858,568

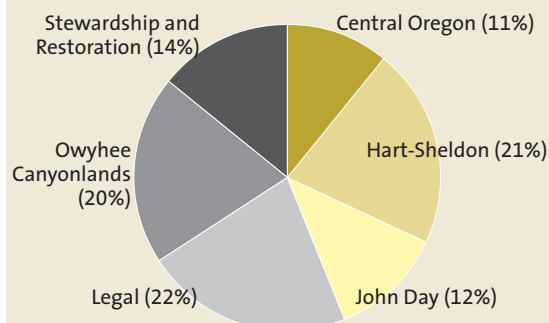
Revenue

2013 Total Revenue	\$2,180,403
--------------------	-------------

Expense



Spending by Program



WORKING TO PROTECT, DEFEND AND RESTORE OREGON'S HIGH DESERT FOR OVER 25 YEARS



STAFF

Brent Fenty
Executive Director
Barksdale Brown
General Manager
Allison Crotty
Development Director
Nick Dobric
Hart-Sheldon Program Manager
Gena Goodman-Campbell
Central Oregon Coordinator
Ben Gordon
John Day Coordinator
Heidi Hagemeier
Communications Coordinator
Chris Hansen
Owyhee Coordinator
Corie Harlan
Development Coordinator
Jefferson Jacobs
Stewardship Coordinator
Lindsay Jones
Development Assistant
Mac Lacy
Senior Attorney
Dan Morse
Conservation Director
Michael O'Casey
Stewardship Assistant
Julie Weikel
Owyhee Liaison

AT LARGE

Craig Miller
GIS Specialist
Bill Marlett
Senior Conservation Advisor
Dana Nehl
Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

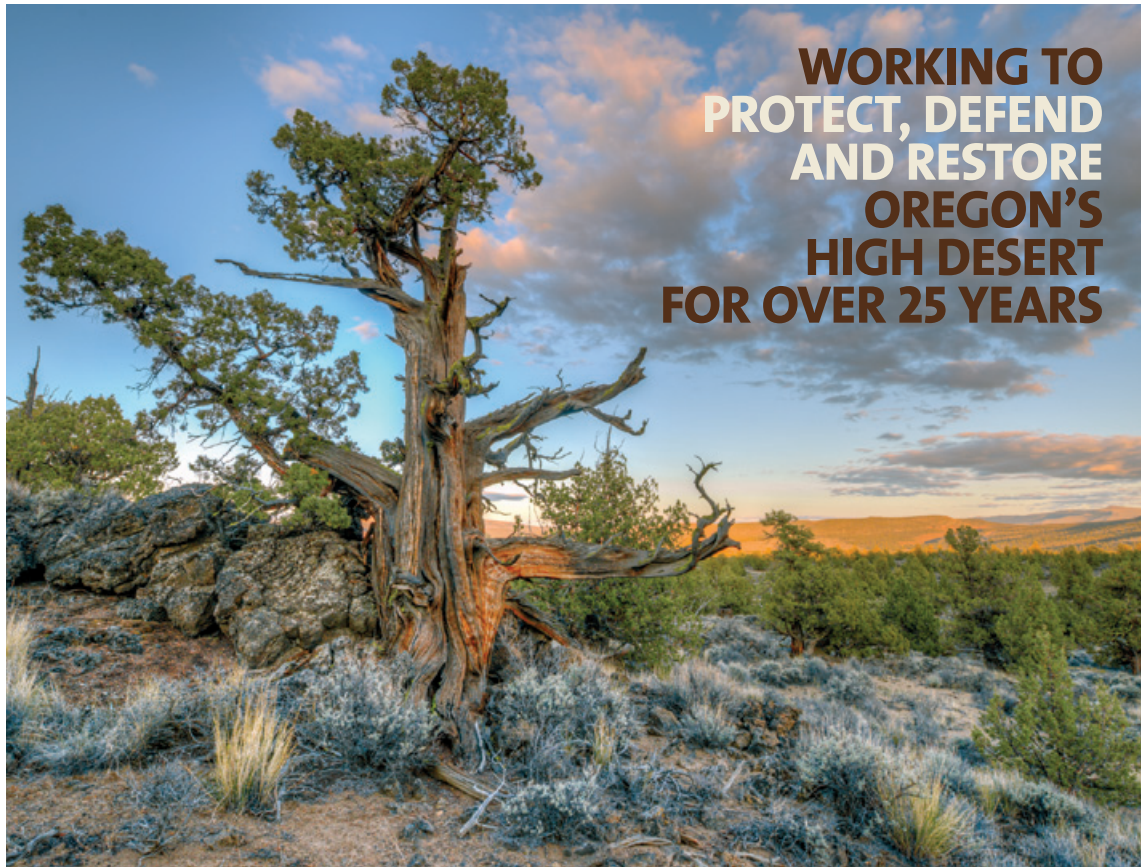
Helen Harbin, Bend, President
John Sterling, Bend, Vice President
Jeff Frank, Santa Barbara, Treasurer
Gilly Lyons, Portland, Secretary
Lisa Brown, Portland
Ray Hartwell, Albuquerque
Teague Hatfield, Bend
Alan Hickenbottom, Portland
Durlin Hickok, Tumalo and Seattle
Allison Mace, Portland
Ken Rait, Portland
Kirk Richardson, Portland
Chris Van Dyke, Tumalo
Julie Weikel, Princeton

OFFICES

50 SW Bond Street, Suite #4
Bend, OR 97702
541.330.2638

917 SW Oak Street, Suite 419
Portland, OR 97205
503.525.0193

317 SW Alder Street, Suite 900
Portland, OR 97204
971.244.0836 ext. 301



Photos, clockwise from top: Oregon Badlands Wilderness, © Greg Burke; ONDA members hiking Twin Springs Gorge, © Jim Davis; ONDA member Alice Elshoff and Jess Wenick, habitat ecologist for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, build a new section of refuge boundary fence, © Jefferson Jacobs; Middle Deschutes Canyon, proposed Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness, © Jim Davis; petroglyph, Hart-Sheldon Corridor, © Brian Ouimette.

