

WORKING TO

PROTECT DEFEND RESTORE

OREGON'S HIGH DESERT



OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

HONORING

YOUR DEDICATION TO WILD DESERTS

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the passion and hard work of ONDA's dedicated members and supporters, 2014 was a year to celebrate.

With your support, ONDA made important strides toward



Brent Fenty

permanently protecting precious desert wild lands and wildlife. We defended iconic natural areas to ensure they will remain intact for future generations. Volunteers once again contributed thousands of hours to restoring critical high desert landscapes and rivers. And we rejoiced in the high desert legacy we've already

secured, celebrating the fifth anniversaries of the Oregon Badlands and Spring Basin wilderness areas and the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Simply put, all of this was possible because of you.

Hopefully, these few pages give you a sense of just some of the efforts you supported in 2014, as well as our vision for the years ahead. With your help, ONDA will continue building on more than 25 years of success in advocating for vibrant rivers, healthy wildlife habitat and unparalleled opportunities for solitude in the high desert.

Thank you for your commitment to the conservation of Oregon's dry side. Together, we will leave a natural legacy to be proud of in our high desert.

For Wild Deserts,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Fenty'.

Brent Fenty
Executive Director

Cover photo: Owyhee Canyonlands © Jim Davis



ELLEN WATERSTON

"If any organization can bring differing expressions of love of the same place together in the form of common solutions," says Bend resident Ellen Waterston, "ONDA can."

Ellen is a poet, author, arts advocate and lover of the high desert. She has served as a keynote speaker over the years at ONDA's Desert Conference and is presently working on a piece involving the Oregon Desert Trail.



DAVE GARCIA

"Two-hundred to 300 years from now, the wide-open high desert of today might not be there if we take it for granted," says Medford resident Dave Garcia, member since 1999.

Dave continually returns to the high desert for solitude, including on stewardship trips. "We need to have foresight to make sure it isn't gone within a few generations."

PEOPLE

ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR EFFORTS

ONDA's diverse members, supporters and partners come from all parts of the state and all walks of life. Through countless efforts, we are making a difference for the future of the high desert.



JESSE LANEY

"We all want to make the world we live in a better place," says Portland resident Jesse Laney, member since 2012. "Contributing to the protection and thoughtful stewardship of Oregon's desert lands is time and resources well spent."

Although he's juggling a family and college courses, Jesse squeezes in restoration trips, donates his stunning images and has written for ONDA's blog. "The very act of preserving these ecosystems and the species that call them home," he says, "holds an intrinsic value for our own species, now more than ever."



OTTO KELLER

Otto Keller owns the Jake Place Ranch along the South Fork of the Crooked River. ONDA volunteers have helped plant willow saplings along the banks and cut encroaching juniper.

"My mission for the ranch," he says, "is to enhance the property for all wildlife, to provide a place for learning, and to set an example for others to follow. ONDA has been a great partner in helping accomplish that."



MARGOT DODDS

Lakeview resident Margot Dodds, member since 2014, got involved with ONDA by joining a restoration project in her backyard: Hart Mountain.

She cares about the land, the people who make a living on it and the wildlife that calls it home. "I think the high desert is an amazing place," she says, "and it's important that there are places that are untrammelled."

Support ONDA's efforts to protect the high desert: ONDA.org

PROTECT / WHYCHUS-DESCHUTES



From leading group hikes to adding input at public meetings, ONDA continued its concerted efforts to build support for protecting the spectacular canyons, unique cultural artifacts and prime fish habitat of the Middle Deschutes River and Whychus Creek. Photo © Jim Davis

RESTORE / IMPROVING HIGH DESERT HEALTH



Nearly 300 volunteers contributed 4,496 hours of work in the high desert on ONDA's 30 stewardship trips. This included efforts such as stream restoration, wilderness study area monitoring and retrofitting fences to make them friendly to wildlife. Photo © Allison Crotty

PROTECT / GREATER HART-SHELDON REGION



By collaborating with landowners, ranchers, federal agencies and other conservation groups, ONDA moved efforts forward for sound management of the land between the Hart Mountain and Sheldon wildlife refuges to benefit wildlife like Greater sage-grouse and pronghorn antelope. Photo © Michelle Alvarado

2014 ONDA HIGH

OUR WORK TO PROTECT AND RESTORE OREGON

WASHINGTON



CALIFORNIA

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECT, DEFEND OREGON'S HIGH DESERT



PROTECT / SUTTON MOUNTAIN



ONDA helped secure pivotal endorsements from the city of Mitchell and Wheeler County Court for the 58,000-acre Sutton Mountain Wilderness Proposal, positioning it for congressional action in the year ahead. Photo © Tyler Roemer

PROTECT / OWYHEE CANYONLANDS



Spurred by ONDA efforts, more than 6,000 people signed a petition urging Sen. Ron Wyden to protect the Owyhee and more than 5,000 started following the Owyhee Canyonlands on Facebook. Talks in every corner of the state spread the word about this special place. Photo © Sean Bagshaw

DEFEND / STEENS MOUNTAIN



ONDA continued to defend Steens Mountain from an ill-advised wind development project and associated 43-mile transmission corridor that would fragment important habitat for golden eagles, Greater sage-grouse and other wildlife. Photo © Bruce Jackson

OUR VISION

VIBRANT, PROTECTED HIGH DESERT WILD LANDS

Today, we're working to protect, defend and restore stunning, ecologically significant areas in the Central Oregon Backcountry, Greater Hart-Sheldon Region, John Day River Basin, Steens Mountain Region and the Owyhee Canyonlands.



For nearly 30 years, ONDA has been the sole organization working exclusively on behalf of Oregon's high desert. With your support, our efforts have led to significant accomplishments: the creation of Steens Mountain, Oregon Badlands and Spring Basin wilderness areas; the improvement of water quality for spawning steelhead and salmon in the John Day River Basin; and the removal of roughly 2,400 tons of obsolete barbed wire fence from Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Our vision for 2015 includes:

Legislation for John Day River Basin wilderness areas – Cathedral Rock, Horse Heaven and Sutton Mountain will come before Congress backed by strong local support.

Congressional support for permanently protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands will be announced, buoyed by new allies who cherish the region's amazing 2.1-million acres of rivers, canyons and wildlife habitat.

Core Greater sage-grouse habitat will be safeguarded with strong land management strategies, particularly in the bird's most critical strongholds in the Greater Hart-Sheldon Region and Owyhee Canyonlands.

Independent land stewards will add more manpower to our already vibrant restoration efforts. Trained through a new part of ONDA's wilderness stewardship program, they will assist in monitoring and collecting data on the health of the high desert.

Oregon west-side ONDA members and supporters will have even more reason to be inspired by the high desert and active in efforts to protect it with the addition of a new Portland-based staff member dedicated to supporter engagement.

Photos, clockwise from top left: Cathedral Rock in the John Day River Basin (photo © Greg Burke); ONDA volunteers count Greater sage-grouse on a stewardship trip at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (photo © Michelle Alvarado); ONDA volunteers pass fence material across the South Fork of the Crooked River, Central Oregon Backcountry (photo © Gena Goodman-Campbell); ONDA members Tim Halloran, left, and Ernie Jones deliver signatures to Sen. Ron Wyden's office urging him to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands (photo © Chris Hansen).

HIGH DESERT HEROES

Honoring two volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to Oregon's high desert – Stu Garrett and Rob Windlinx.



STU GARRETT
Alice Elshoff Conservation Award



ROB WINDLINX
Volunteer of the Year

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

Stu Garrett **Alice Elshoff Desert Conservation Award**

In the tradition of Alice Elshoff, a former longtime board member known for her devotion to the desert, Stu Garrett has long been passionate about protection of Oregon's dry side. From leading hikes to giving talks, Stu shares the wonder of the high desert with great insight and understanding. His enthusiasm for botany, in particular, has made him an invaluable contributor. Thank you, Stu, for all that you do for the high desert!

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.

Rob Windlinx **Volunteer Of The Year Award**

Rob Windlinx has long cared deeply about the canyons, cultural artifacts and wildlife of his backyard – the Middle Deschutes River. So when Rob learned more about ONDA's Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Proposal, he dove right in. He's since become an avid, can-do volunteer with a big heart to match. From speaking up at public meetings to pulling fence to working behind the scenes, Rob's dedication is boundless. Thank you, Rob, for all that you do for 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	\$1,901,641
Total Fixed Assets	\$39,792
Total Other Assets	\$184,764
Total Assets	\$2,126,197

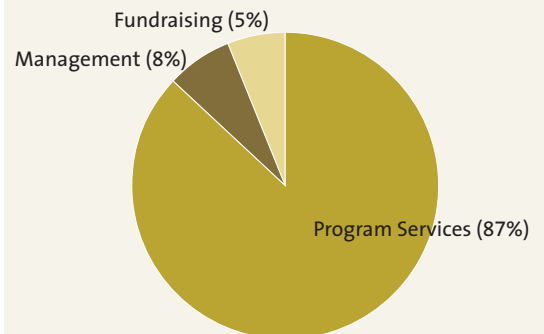
Liabilities & Equity

Total Liabilities	\$15,351
Total Equity	\$2,110,846
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$2,126,197

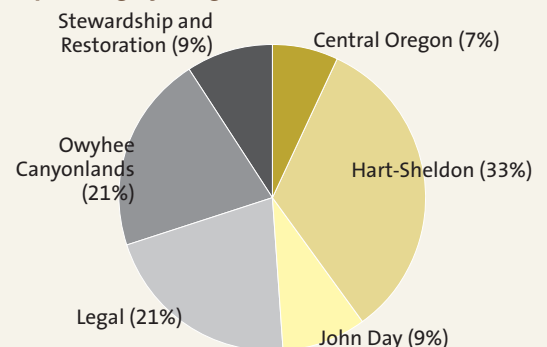
Revenue

2014 Total Revenue	\$2,093,230
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Expenses



Spending by Program





MAKE A DIFFERENCE

FIVE WAYS TO HELP PRESERVE HIGH DESERT WILD LANDS AND WILDLIFE

Owyhee Canyonlands. Photo © Leon Werdinger

1

Make a donation.

Oregon's high desert will be a wilder place because of your contribution to conservation.

ONDA.org/support

2

Sign the petition.

Your voice is critical to convincing legislators that Oregon's high desert needs protection today.

ONDA.org/takeaction

3

Stay connected.

Keep in touch with ONDA's work and share your high desert wadventures with us!

Sign up for our email alerts:

ONDA.org

Connect with us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/](https://Facebook.com/OregonNaturalDesertAssociation)

OregonNaturalDesertAssociation

View ONDA-related videos and subscribe:

YouTube.com/OregonDeserts

Consider high desert voices and opinions:

ONDA.org/blog

Share your adventures:

ONDA.org/tripreports

4

Grow our community.

Our events are a great way to learn about the high desert ... join us, and bring a friend!

ONDA.org/events

5

Volunteer.

Whether in the field or at the office, ONDA needs you! We work hard and have fun.

ONDA.org/volunteer



www.onda.org

STAFF

Jeremy Austin, Hart-Sheldon Coordinator
Barksdale Brown, General Manager
Allison Crotty, Development Director
Elisa Davis, Membership Coordinator
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