

WORKING TO

PROTECT DEFEND RESTORE

OREGON'S HIGH DESERT



OREGON
NATURAL
DESERT
ASSOCIATION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

THE PASSION AND HARD WORK OF ONDA'S MEMBERS

Dear Friends,

Every year, I'm awed by the passion and hard work of ONDA's members, supporters and partners. 2015 was no exception: Once again, your strong commitment made important gains possible for Oregon's high desert wild lands and wildlife.



Brent Fenty

Together, we made giant strides toward forever protecting world-class natural areas in Oregon's high desert, including Sutton Mountain and the Owyhee Canyonlands. We continued to defend our iconic desert places to ensure they remain pristine for future generations. We restored desert streams and pulled obsolete fence to improve habitat for wildlife like the Greater sage-grouse. And we paused to celebrate important moments, such as the 15-year anniversary of the designation of Oregon's first desert wilderness, Steens Mountain.

These pages highlight all the work you made possible in 2015, as well as our vision for the years ahead.

For nearly 30 years, ONDA has offered a strong voice for conservation on Oregon's dry side. Your dedication has made it possible. Backed by such strong commitment, we'll continue to make a difference in the future of public lands in the high desert.

For Wild Deserts,

Brent Fenty
Executive Director

Cover photo: Owyhee Canyonlands © Jim Davis

PEOPLE

ONDA's diverse members, supporters and partners come



LEBRON HARDIE

LeBron Hardie of Bend joined ONDA in 2011 to protect public lands he had been visiting for decades in eastern Oregon. The time to do it is now, he says, and ONDA has the capacity to get the work done.

"Visionaries of the past preserved wild places for those who would follow them, so now we must do the same for those who will follow us," he says. "ONDA is the most dedicated, hardworking, and effective group in Oregon to lead our efforts to preserve the special places of the high desert."



SAGE BROWN

"As I fall more and more in love with the high desert, the importance of keeping it healthy and intact has become clear to me," says Sage Brown, a Portlander who joined ONDA in 2014. "When I moved to Oregon all I knew initially were the lush green forests found west of the Cascades. As I ventured farther east, the vast expanses of sagebrush and juniper were a wonderful surprise. The landscape takes my breath away."

"Being able to take part in protecting such a wild and beautiful place firsthand with ONDA is truly special."

MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

e 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.



CREGG LARGE

"I came to Oregon 12 years ago from Texas. Texas, for all its size, has very little public land," says Cregg Large of Bend, an ONDA member since 2009. "If one wanted to hunt game you had to pay to do so on private ranches. Campgrounds were well-manicured and lacked any wildness factor."

"Coming to Oregon has made me realize the special gift we as Americans have in our public lands. Volunteering with an organization like ONDA is my way of reciprocating for this gift. Through restoration efforts, I feel we are helping leave a better place than we found it. Through advocating for protection for public lands, we safeguard migration routes for animals and keep the land where it belongs: with the public."

CRAIG TERRY

"The people I have had the privilege to share time with each season keep me volunteering again and again," says ONDA stewardship trip regular Craig Terry of Hood River. He joined ONDA in 2008. "Who else but those ONDA staff leaders would make fresh coffee at dawn each morning or pack a watermelon all day to serve as a reward under a juniper in a steep canyon?"

Craig, who grew up in northwestern Nevada, says ONDA connects him with places he loves and a mission he believes in. "Taking out barbed wire sort of completes a circle for me. My grandfather and his father put up wire fences for their ranching needs."



BONNIE OLIN

"If you spend enough time in the wild, it will change you," says Bonnie Olin, an ONDA member since 2013 from Junction City. "So it was for me in Oregon's high desert, especially in the Owyhee Canyonlands."

To support ONDA, Bonnie says, is to strive to protect the very values of Oregon's high desert that are critical to the human experience: quiet and connectedness with nature. "Oregon's desert," she says, "broadens your understanding of your relationship to all living things."

Support ONDA's efforts to protect the high desert: [ONDA.org](https://onda.org)

PROTECT / WHYCHUS-DESCHUTES



ONDA participated in collaborative efforts alongside community leaders and stakeholders to protect Whychus-Deschutes as wilderness while reducing wildfire risks for neighboring landowners and farmers. Photo © Greg Burke

RESTORE / IMPROVING HIGH DESERT HEALTH



ONDA volunteers gave their all planting 14,000 trees and constructing 15 artificial beaver dams to restore vital riparian areas. They also removed or retrofitted 11.5 miles of barbed-wire fencing to improve habitat connectivity for iconic desert species like the pronghorn. Photo © Sage Brown

PROTECT / GREATER HART-SHELDON REGION



ONDA continued to advocate for the sound management of the land between Hart Mountain and Sheldon wildlife refuges by working closely with landowners, ranchers, federal agencies and others and by highlighting the need for connectivity with the new film "Sagebrush Sisters." Photo © Jim Davis

2020 ONDA HIGH

OUR WORK TO PROTECT AND RESTORE OREGON



HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECT, DEFEND OREGON'S HIGH DESERT



PROTECT / SUTTON MOUNTAIN

Building on strong community support and unanimous endorsements from local officials that ONDA helped to secure, Senator Jeff Merkley introduced legislation in 2015 that would forever protect Sutton Mountain as wilderness. Photo © Tyler Roemer



PROTECT / OWYHEE CANYONLANDS

ONDA championed this dynamic protection effort, which has broad support from local and national groups, veterans, sportsmen and nearly 20,000 Oregonians statewide. Photo © Jim Davis



DEFEND / STEENS MOUNTAIN

ONDA celebrated the 15th anniversary of the designation of Steens Mountain as Oregon's first desert wilderness. Efforts to protect wilderness values and wildlife habitat in this iconic landscape continue, particularly from industrial wind energy development. Photo © Michelle Alvarado

OUR VISION: **PROTECTED HIGH DESERT WILD LANDS**



With our 5,000 members and supporters, ONDA works to protect, defend and restore stunning, ecologically significant public lands in Oregon's high desert, focusing on the Central Oregon Backcountry, Greater Hart-Sheldon Region, John Day River Basin and Owyhee Canyonlands.

Our vision for 2016 includes:

The Owyhee Canyonlands will receive permanent protection, buoyed by the robust support of thousands of Oregonians from every corner of the state and every walk of life.

Inspired by strong local support, Congress will pass wilderness legislation for the John Day River Basin, protecting 58,000 acres at stunning Sutton Mountain.

Independent land stewards will expand our ability to improve the health of the high desert. Trained for big projects in 2016, these individuals will add to the work performed on 28 trips by Wilderness Stewardship Program volunteers.

An ever-growing slate of events and opportunities, particularly on Oregon's west side will provide supporters and newcomers alike more ways to become inspired and get involved in ONDA's work for the high desert.

Monitoring the implementation of a new plan to protect the Greater sage-grouse will ensure that a future for the imperiled bird remains intact.

Photos, clockwise from top left: Owyhee Canyonlands (photo © Chad Chase); ONDA volunteers prep for work at the Pine Creek Conservation Area (photo © Sage Brown); Sutton Mountain (photo © Tyson Fisher); ONDA volunteers monitor Greater sage-grouse leks on a stewardship trip at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (photo © Andrew Carter).

HONORS: HIGH DESERT HEROES

Each year, ONDA recognizes supporters who have gone above and beyond in their contributions to conservation in Oregon's high desert. The Alice Elshoff Desert Conservation Award acknowledges the passion and dedication shown in the tradition of this founding ONDA member. And the Volunteer of the Year Award honors shining stars among our numerous dedicated volunteers.



Helen Harbin

HELEN HARBIN | ALICE ELSHOFF DESERT CONSERVATION AWARD

You're sure to see Helen Harbin smiling and mingling at ONDA events and volunteer trips. Helen has long devoted her immense talent by serving on ONDA's board – including seven years as board chair – using her corporate experience to better the organization. She's also always ready to lend a hand, whether pulling fence in the field or going on film as one of the Sagebrush Sisters. We can't thank Helen enough for devoting her passion and know-how to the high desert.

PHYLLIS PENGELLY & MARY POWELL | VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



Phyllis Pengelly and Mary Powell

These two friends regularly join restoration trips and help out at events together, so it only seemed fitting to recognize them as a team. Whether it's calling senators or selling tickets at events, this dynamic duo is willing to do whatever it takes to help the high desert. And they do it all with such joy and commitment. We're thrilled and honored to recognize Mary and Phyllis as our 2015 outstanding volunteers.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Conservation in 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	\$1,835,991
Total Fixed Assets	\$58,512
Total Other Assets	\$189,080
Total Assets	\$2,083,583

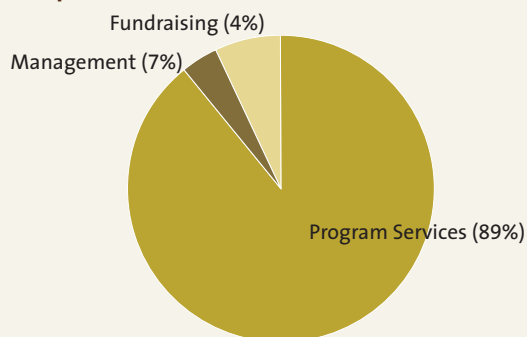
Liabilities & Equity

Total Liabilities	\$16,331
Total Equity	\$2,067,252
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$2,083,583

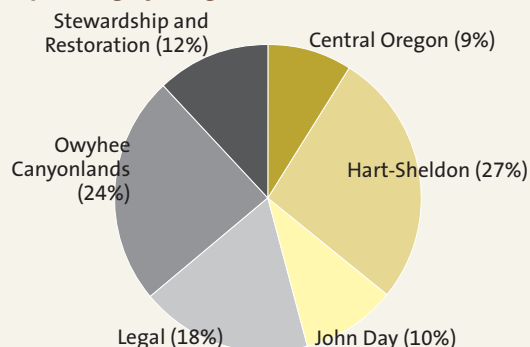
Revenue

2015 Total Revenue	\$1,522,212
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Expenses



Spending by Program



FOUR WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR WILD LANDS AND WILDLIFE



Owyhee Canyonlands. Photo © Tim Neville

1 Give.

Every contribution helps ensure that Oregon's high desert remains wild. ONDA.org/support

2 Join the fun.

Get inspired by the high desert at our events ... and bring a friend! ONDA.org/events

3 Volunteer.

Whether in the field or at the office, ONDA offers ways to work hard and have fun. ONDA.org/volunteer

4 Add your voice.

From signing a petition to writing a letter, your voice is critical in moving desert conservation forward. ONDA.org/takeaction



www.ONDA.org



Follow ONDA on social media

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