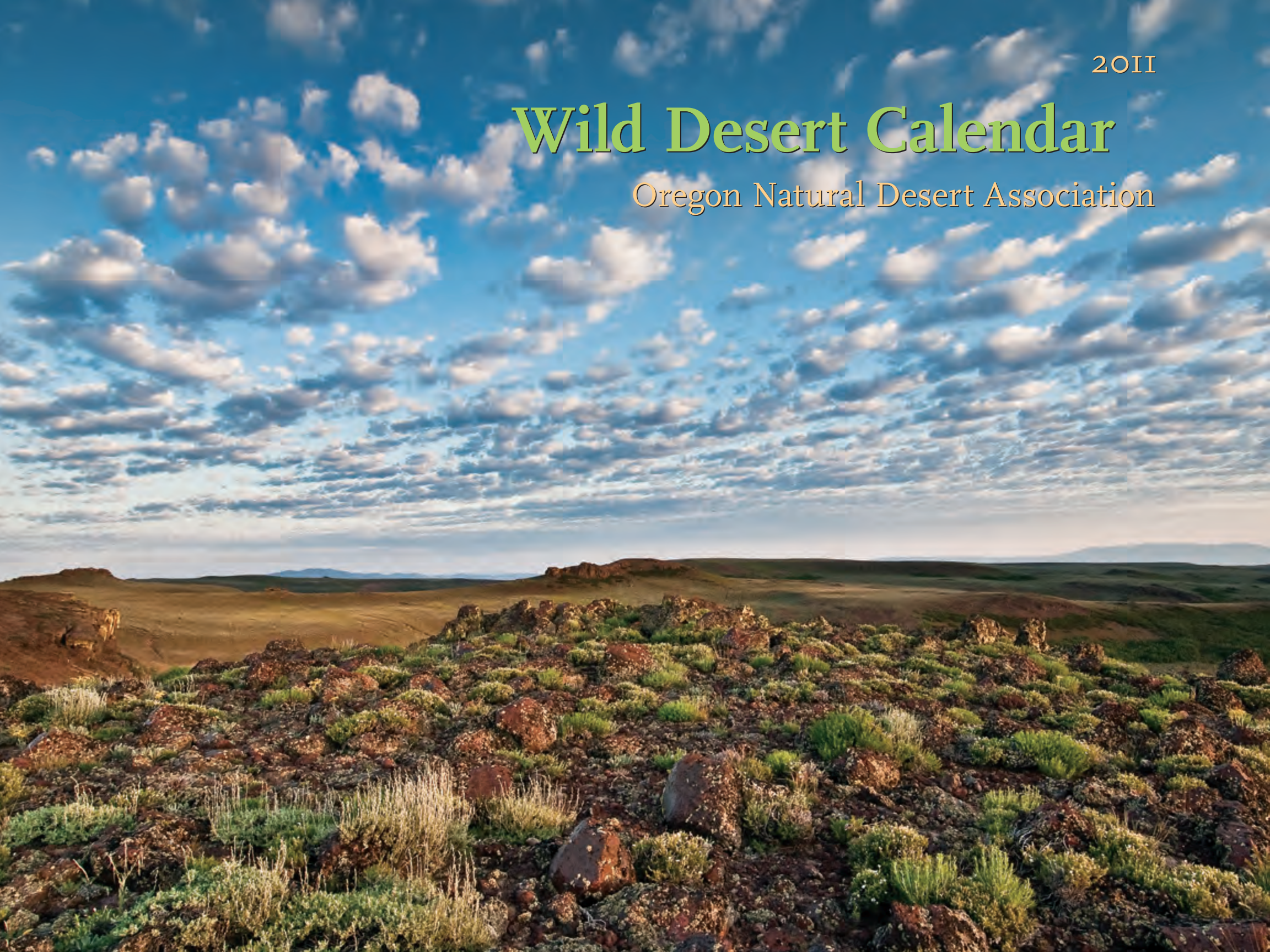


2011

# Wild Desert Calendar

Oregon Natural Desert Association







## FIELD WORK: THE ONDA VOLUNTEERS STORY

*The Oregon Natural Desert Association needs your support. By joining ONDA you are supporting our efforts to protect, defend and restore Oregon's native deserts. There is no better way to experience Oregon's High Desert than volunteering with ONDA. Please consider making a gift today or joining us on a restoration trip.*

*Visit [www.onda.org](http://www.onda.org) or call 541.330.2638 for more information.*

*Photos: Chris coiling barbed wire © Robert Tilley (left). John Day River volunteer trip, © Steve Vidito (center top). Kids at annual meeting, © Alan Butler (center bottom). Colin at ONDA annual meeting © Kim Brown (right).*



**Did you know almost half of Oregon is desert?** East of the Cascades, the state's evergreen forests give way to arid lands of subtle beauty. Oregon's High Desert is home to sage grouse, pronghorn and kit fox; its wetlands support legendary migratory bird populations, and its important populations of salmon, steelhead and redband trout ply desert rivers. The desert boasts stands of juniper, aspen, mountain mahogany and ponderosa pine. Though isolated and sparsely populated, these fragile lands and rivers are threatened by irresponsible livestock grazing, off-road vehicle use and mining. Wilderness protection can help protect the desert from these threats. Oregon Natural Desert Association is the only nonprofit working exclusively to protect Oregon's High Desert. ONDA's mission is to protect, defend and restore the health of Oregon's native deserts. Since 1987, ONDA has successfully used education, science, litigation and grassroots advocacy to protect these special lands. ONDA is working to save Oregon's desert gems, a suite of special places that includes Steens Mountain, the Owyhee River Canyonlands, Hart Mountain and Oregon's Outback, the Central Oregon Desert and the John Day River Basin. We are lucky to have these places in our backyard. We hope you enjoy the stunning photographs in this calendar. After you've absorbed their beauty, please remember that ONDA needs your help to save these places for ourselves, for wildlife, and for future generations. We hope you'll join ONDA and help save Oregon's High Desert.

#### John Day River Basin

Flowing over 280 miles, the John Day is the second longest undammed river in the contiguous U.S. Biologically, the John Day is among the most vital watersheds in North America, claiming one of the last all-wild runs of anadromous fish in the Columbia Basin, and the largest and most viable run of wild steelhead in the lower 48. The John Day Basin is characterized by steep basalt canyon walls, hills dotted with juniper and sagebrush in lower elevations and mixed conifer forests at the basin divide. One of the most geologically rich river corridors in the West, the John Day's fossil records date back 54 million years. In 2008 ONDA began a stream habitat restoration project

on Bridge Creek, a tributary of the John Day River. With the recent designation of Spring Basin Wilderness, ONDA can now work to secure wilderness protection for other public lands, including Cathedral Rock and Horse Heaven Proposed Wilderness Areas, Sutton Mountain and the Lower John Day Basin.

#### Central Oregon Desert

An active resort, recreation, and retirement community, Bend is surrounded by public lands. East of Bend lies an array of desert wildlands worthy of Wilderness designation. These lands provide habitat for pronghorn, prairie falcon, sage grouse and countless plant species. After decades of campaign work by ONDA staff and

volunteers, the Oregon Badlands were finally designated as Wilderness in March, 2009. Future opportunities for wilderness in Central Oregon include Whyhous-Deschutes Canyon, Hampton Buttes, Gerry Mountain and lands on the South Fork Crooked River.

#### Hart Mountain & Oregon's Outback

Hart Mountain is an incomparable biological gem. Herds of pronghorn roam its stark slopes and plains. The mountain's springs feed streams that run cool, clear and deep, fostering healthy populations of native redband trout. This unique landscape is a refuge for the threatened sage grouse. Established as a National Antelope Refuge in the 1930s, Hart

Mountain suffered from grazing until an ONDA lawsuit forced removal of cattle in 1994. Renowned for its rich wetlands that provide important habitat for migratory birds, the Warner Valley area is among the most overlooked wild places in Oregon. In addition to its waterways, the Warner Valley area is notable for its healthy shrubsteppe habitat and Native American cultural sites.

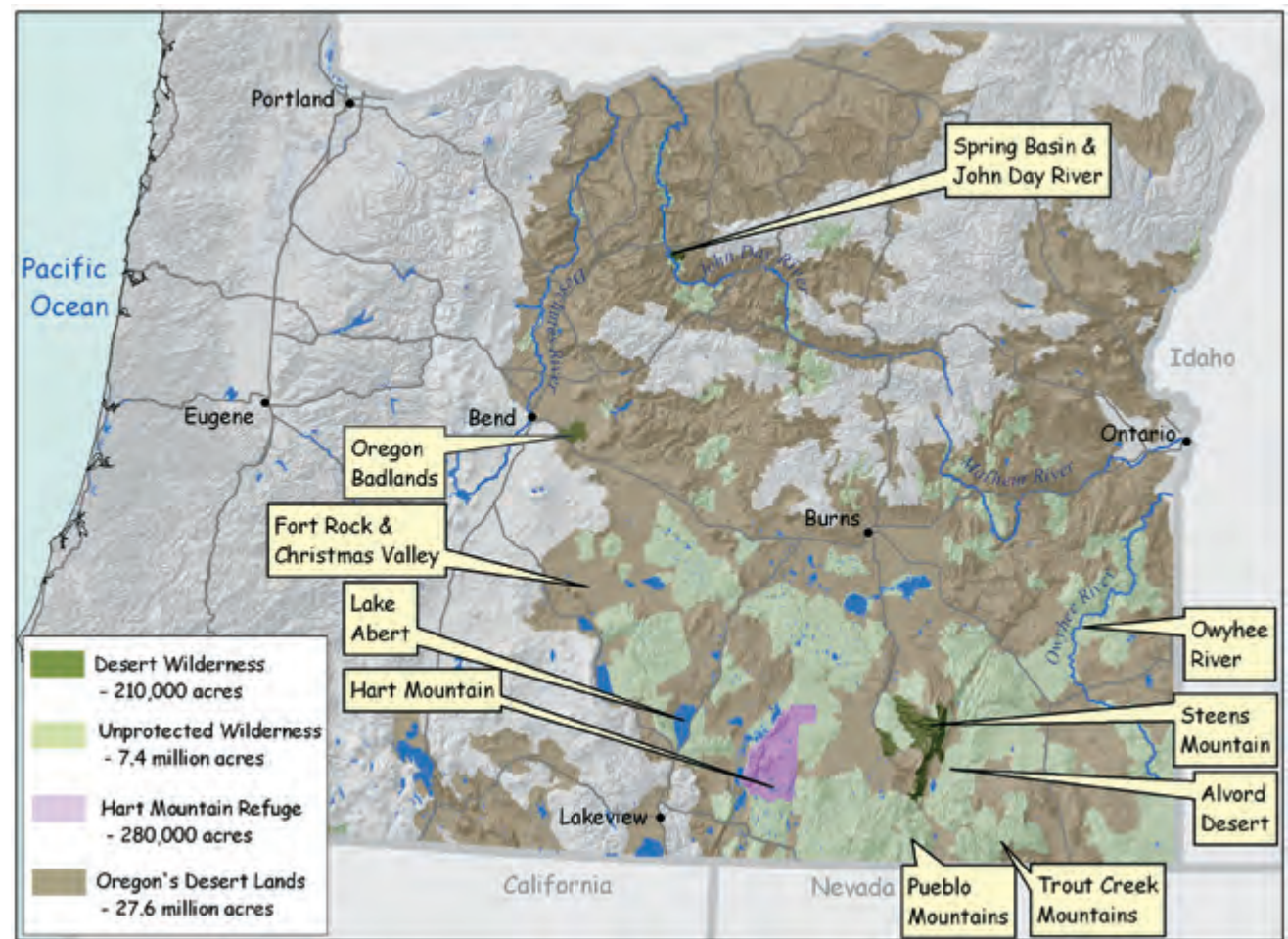
#### Owyhee River Canyonlands

The Owyhee Canyonlands, Oregon's most remote roadless area, lie in the southeast corner of the state. The Owyhee River and its tributaries have carved spectacular canyons in the desert; its waters support pronghorn, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ea-

gles, sage grouse, snakes and lizards and native plants. Covering 3 million acres in Oregon, Idaho and Nevada, the Owyhee Canyonlands comprise one of the most important roadless areas in North America. A 1999 ONDA lawsuit removed livestock from much of the Owyhee River corridor. ONDA is currently working to protect over 2 million acres of wilderness quality lands in the Owyhee.

Learn more about these desert regions and read about featured hikes on our website.

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



Map by Craig Miller







# JANUARY



Willow Creek ice. © Jim Davis

*“The late afternoon sun spread golden light on the land, ... It was a big silence, soothing, serene, made bigger, more soothing, more serene by the sounds that whispered in it: shush of wind, clack of rock, scrape of brush, ... beat of heart.”*

– Bernard Schopen  
*The Big Silence*

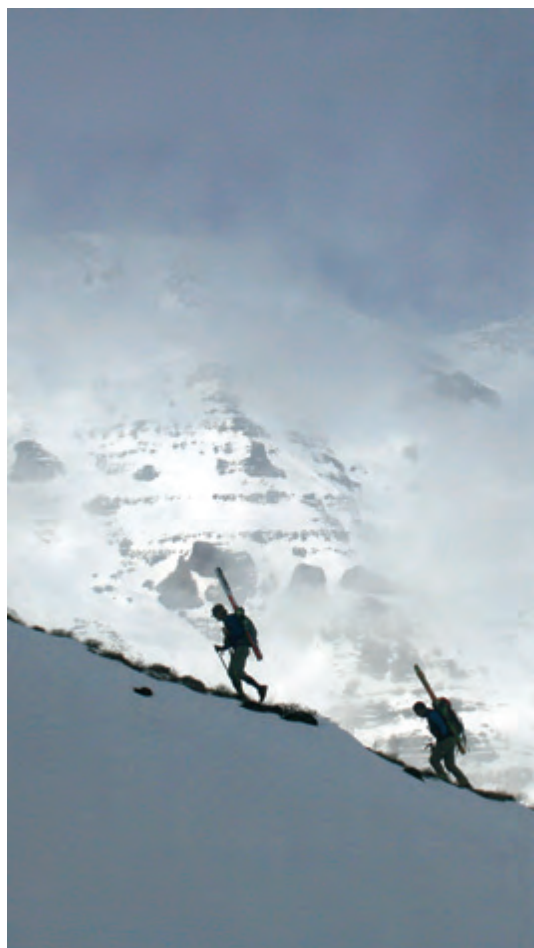
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 New Year's Day
2	3 Perihelion (Earth closest to Sun) 11 AM PST Quadrantid meteor shower (40/hour)	4 •	5 ONDA incorporated, 1989	6	7	8
9	10	11 Aldo Leopold born, 1887	12 ☾	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observed	18	19 ○	20	21	22
23/30	24/31 Cows removed from Blitzen Wild & Scenic River, January 31, 1997	25	26 ☾	27	28	29 Edward Abbey born, 1927







# FEBRUARY



Skiers on Steens Mountain. © Kevin Grove

*“Eastward the dawn rose, ridge behind ridge into the morning, and vanished out of eyesight into guess; it was no more than a glimmer blending with the hem of the sky, but it spoke to them, out of the memory and old tales, of the high and distant mountains.”*

– J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Lord of The Rings*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			Groundhog Day			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	St. Valentine's Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Presidents' Day				Howard Zahniser, father of 1964 Wilderness Act, born, 1906	
27	28					
	First Gray Wolf in 37 years enters Oregon, 1999					







# MARCH



Bighorn sheep. © Greg Burke

*“On this lonely ridge I was not more than two days’ hike from road’s end. Yet it seemed I had left civilization far, far behind. ... Will the next generation ever have the chance to experience the same feeling of serenity and composure that comes when man faces the wilderness alone?”*

– William O. Douglas  
My Wilderness

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 •	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 ☾
			Ash Wednesday			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 ☽
Daylight Saving Time begins, 2 AM				St. Patrick's Day		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 ☾
Equinox, 4:23 PM PDT		John McConnell, Earth Day founder, born, 1905	Nine Pacific Northwest salmon species listed as endangered, 1999			
27	28	29	30	31		
			Oregon Badlands and Spring Basin Wilderness Areas designated, 2009			







# APRIL



Pelican and kayaker at Hart Lake. © Mark Nelson

*"This we know. The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to earth. This we know. ... Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."*

– Chief Sealth (Seattle)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
• 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	☾ 11	12	13	14	15	16
☾ 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Palm Sunday		Passover		John Muir born, 1838 Lyrid meteor shower (20/hour)	Good Friday Earth Day First Earth Day, 1970	
☾ 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter						







# MAY



Ash-throated flycatcher. © Marylynn Diggs

*“Wilderness is an area ... where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain ...”*

– From the Wilderness Act, 1964

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







# JUNE



Thompson's Paintbrush. © Jim Davis

*“Human presence is not the dominant element in Southeastern Oregon. The open, sweeping terrain and measureless sky take center stage, while the profound silence is a blank sheet upon which the desert winds write their subtle background music.”*

– Al St. John  
Oregon's Dry Side

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			● 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	◐ 8	9	10	11
12	13	14	○ 15	16	17	18
		Lyrids meteor shower (10/hour)				
19	20	21	22	◐ 23	24	25
Father's Day		Solstice, 10:16 AM PDT				
26	27	28	29	30		
Oregon Wilderness Act passed, 1984	Taylor Grazing Act passed, 1934					







JULY



Western fence lizard. © Marylynn Diggs

“On the eastern escarpment of the Trout Creeks ... the sight and sound of man (is) nearly non-existent. When giant thunder-heads sail overhead, the landscape and skyscape combine to provide a breath-taking feeling of spaciousness.”

Bruce Hayse  
Unobscured Horizons, Untravelled Trails:  
Hiking the Oregon High Desert

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







# AUGUST



Corn lily. © Jim Davis

*“The solitude, stillness, clear dry air, harshly outlined hills ... of Oregon’s forgotten corner provide a unique experience in the exploration of our relationship with the earth.”*

Bruce Hayse  
*Unobscured Horizons, Untravelled Trails:  
Hiking the Oregon High Desert*

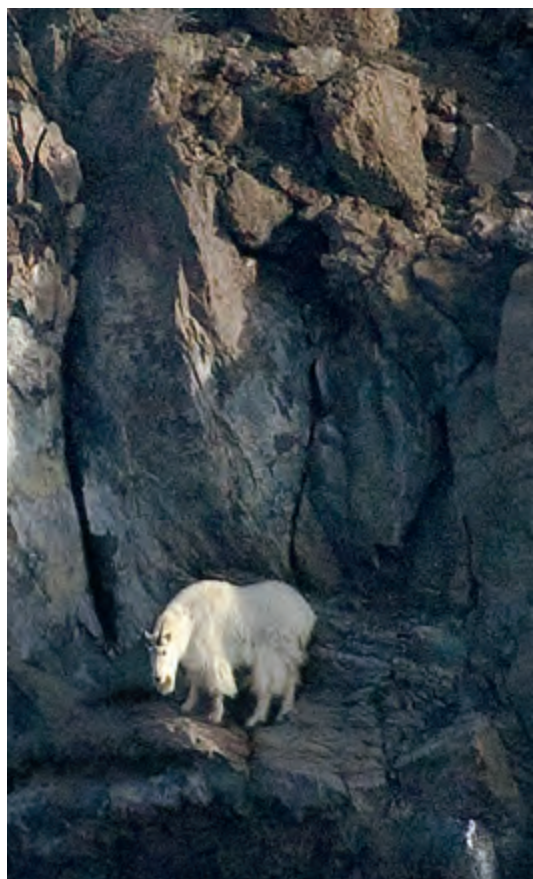
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Perseid meteor shower (60/hour)	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				President Theodore Roosevelt created Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, 1908		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			







# SEPTEMBER



Badlands mountain goat. © Brian Ouimette

*"All things of the universe are miracles,  
each as profound as any."*

– Walt Whitman

(As if to affirm the wisdom of President Obama's designation of the Badlands as Oregon's most recent Wilderness in March, 2009, a lone mountain goat inexplicably appeared in December, 2009.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Federal Wilderness Act passed, 1964
4 ☾	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 Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt designated Klamath River a Wild & Scenic River, 1994	23 Equinox, 2:05 AM PDT	24
25	26	27 ●	28	29 Rosh Hashanah	30	







## OCTOBER



Western columbine. © Dan Sherman

*“In our last miles we finally begin to see the promise of what lies ahead; the canyon splits open the plateau like a great wound in the earth’s surface. Not a mere cut, but a deep laceration, exposing the flowing veins of water, which feed life into this canyon. The land has been laid bare for us to inspect the beating pulse of its heart.”*

– Devon Comstock, June 2010

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 Yom Kippur Draconid meteor shower (10/hour)
9	10 Columbus Day observed	11 ○	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 ●	20	21 Orionid meteor shower (20/hour)	22
23/30	24/31 (31) Halloween	25	26 ● John Day Fossil Beds National Monument founded, 1974	27	28 Congress passed Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, 1988	29







# NOVEMBER



Sutton Mountain waterfall. © Jim Davis

*The Desert more often appears to us  
as space, not place. ... Land is a state  
of matter, landscape a state of mind,  
and the desert is notoriously resistant to  
colonization.*

—William L. Fox  
*The Void, the Grid, & the Sign*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ☾	2	3  President Reagan signed Omnibus Oregon Wild & Scenics Act, 1988  Oregon citizens vote to create state Scenic Waterways System, 1970	4	5
6  Daylight Saving Time ends, 2 AM	7	8	9	10 ○	11  Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17  Leonid meteor shower (40/hour)	18 ☾  Cows removed from Owyhee Wild & Scenic River, 1999	19
20	21	22	23	24 ●  Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			







# DECEMBER



Northern Saw-whet owl. © Gilbert Staender

*“It is strange how deserts turn us into believers. I believe in walking in a landscape of mirages, because you learn humility. I believe in living in a land of little water because life is drawn together.”*

– Terry Tempest Williams  
Refuge

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Geminid meteor shower (60/hour)				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			First Day of Chanukkah Solstice, 9:30 PM PST			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas			Last Day of Chanukkah			



# ONDA

## Wild Desert Calendar 2011

Oregon Natural Desert Association is working to protect Oregon's desert jewels: Steens Mountain; Owyhee River Canyonlands; Hart Mountain and Oregon's Outback; the Central Oregon Desert, and the John Day River Basin. We are lucky to have these gems in our backyard. You can help preserve these incomparable places by becoming a member of ONDA.



JANUARY WILLOW CREEK



FEBRUARY ALVORD DESERT



MARCH CATHEDRAL ROCK



APRIL LAKE ABERT



MAY WHYCHUS-DESCHUTES CANYON



JUNE MICKEY MOUNTAIN



JULY TROUT CREEK MOUNTAINS



AUGUST PUEBLO MOUNTAINS



SEPTEMBER BADLANDS WILDERNESS



OCTOBER OWYHEE RIVER



NOVEMBER SUTTON MOUNTAIN



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS VALLEY

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