

WORKING TO

PROTECT DEFEND RESTORE

OREGON'S HIGH DESERT



OREGON
NATURAL
DESERT
ASSOCIATION

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING YOUR PASSION
FOR THE HIGH DESERT

We all have experiences in Oregon’s high desert that helped firmly establish our connection to this incredible landscape. The sound of the John Day or Owyhee flowing towards the mighty Columbia. A memorable sunset on Steens Mountain. Or perhaps pronghorn speeding through the sagebrush on Hart Mountain.



Brent Fenty
Among ONDA’s 30 years of effort on behalf of Oregon’s high desert, 2016 stands out as a year in which more members and supporters than ever before came together as a voice for our high desert public lands. Thanks to you, the Owyhee Canyonlands became a national conservation priority. Together, we made our love for public lands loud and clear – from more than 1,300 volunteers signing up to restore Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to the thousands of emails sent, letters written and meetings attended in support of our wild high desert places. And we all worked hard and had fun, logging nearly 10,000 hours to help restore our public lands across the region.

It’s your commitment that made this all possible.

Conserving our high desert takes perseverance. We will continue to remain true to the beliefs that we all cherish: Oregon’s high desert deserves protection because of its beauty, ecology, cultural heritage and recreational opportunities; that public lands make us richer as Americans and are common ground for diverse communities; and that science should inform our priorities and work.

Thank you for making 2016 another landmark year. Together, we will ensure that ONDA remains a powerful force to protect, defend and restore our incredible natural legacy for current and future generations.

For a wild desert,

Brent Fenty
Executive Director

OUR WORK
TO PROTECT, DEFEND
& RESTORE OREGON’S
HIGH DESERT IN 2016



Cover photo: Owyhee Canyonlands by Tyson Fisher

PROTECT

2016

85,000

PEOPLE URGED
our leaders to protect
the Owyhee Canyonlands

400,000

ACRES SURVEYED
to help protect the
Greater sage-grouse

1,300

VOLUNTEERED
to restore the Malheur
National Wildlife Refuge

ONDA's advocacy helped make the Owyhee Canyonlands a national conservation priority in 2016. These public lands offer outstanding recreation, wildlife habitat and solitude. Photo by Tyson Fisher

A STRONG VOICE FOR PUBLIC LANDS

From rallying public lands supporters to convening 200 thought leaders at our 28th Desert Conference, ONDA provides a strong, thoughtful voice for the future of our wild places. Your support in 2016 helped ONDA lead the way in building momentum for forever protecting Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands, fostering a movement of outdoor recreation companies, small businesses, veterans, sportsmen and more than 85,000 individuals calling for action. That force helped make the Owyhee a national conservation priority for the future.

Strong local support propelled efforts to designate the John Day River Basin's Sutton Mountain as wilderness. Assessments of more than 400,000 acres of Greater sage-grouse habitat will provide a baseline for high desert health to help bolster the future of the bird in the Greater Hart-Sheldon Region. Through it all, ONDA supporters raised their voices in support of public lands, the birthright of all Americans.



"I believe we will protect the Owyhee Canyonlands, because I have time and again seen ONDA persevere. Sense of mission and the ability to see the long view are among the organization's greatest strengths."

DAVID JOHNS
ONDA MEMBER SINCE 2003

DEFEND

2016

7 YEARS

OF STANDING AGAINST
industrial development
on Steens Mountain

39.2

RIVER MILES
defended to protect
endangered bull trout

1.9 MILLION

ACRES OF
Greater sage-grouse
habitat safeguarded

In a big win for a wild place, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected a federal permit that would have paved the way for development on Steens Mountain. Photo by Michelle Alvarado

STANDING UP FOR OUR WILD DESERT

Your support through seven years of focused efforts netted a significant victory in 2016 for the future of Steens Mountain, the iconic gem of Oregon's high desert. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals sidelined a plan to construct dozens of industrial wind turbines and a 46-mile, high-capacity power transmission line at Steens. The court ruled against the federal approval of an easement allowing for the powerline, noting the failure to take into account Greater sage-grouse habitat.

In addition to safeguarding Steens Mountain, ONDA toiled to ensure the survival of the remaining bull trout in the Malheur and North Fork Malheur rivers and continued work toward safeguarding Greater sage-grouse habitat on public lands throughout the state's high desert. ONDA is committed to taking action when necessary so that these natural areas remain intact for future generations.



"ONDA's exceptional legal advocacy saved one of my most cherished natural places, Steens Mountain, from industrial development. For that, future generations will be grateful."

PETE SANDROCK
ONDA MEMBER SINCE 2006

RESTORE 2016

9,953
HOURS CONTRIBUTED
by volunteers to high
desert stewardship

25
MILES OF BARBED
wire fence removed
or retrofitted

12,250
NATIVE PLANTS
planted for
stream restoration

A volunteer rolls up obsolete barbed wire in the John Day River Basin, removing a barrier for wildlife. ONDA volunteers made significant contributions to high desert health in 2016. Photo by Evan Kinkel

RESTORING HEALTHY HIGH DESERT HABITAT

ONDA volunteers never fail to amaze. In 2016, hundreds of you once again did more than ever in the field to help steward high desert health. Projects like stream restoration continued, helping myriad wildlife species, from beaver returning to the ecosystem to fish seeking cool waters to spawn. We continued to grow our partnerships with state and federal agencies, private landowners and tribes in order to more effectively target our efforts.

In addition a new program called Independent Stewards moved full-steam ahead this past year, pairing desert-savvy volunteers with work they can do on their own when out in the high desert. ONDA’s volunteers will continue working to improve wildlands and waterways in the days ahead, and having fun along the way.



“ONDA stewardship trips inspire me. I get to learn new things and see new places, and in the process perform important work that improves the wildlife habitat.”

ELISA CHENG
ONDA MEMBER SINCE 2013

OUR VISION

For 2017 and beyond, your support will continue the work to protect, defend and restore the most stunning and ecologically significant areas of eastern Oregon’s high desert public lands.

Our vision for 2017 includes:

Public lands will be thoughtfully managed and remain in public hands. Together, we will stand firm as a strong voice for maintaining our unique American legacy – lands belonging to all.

Greater sage-grouse habitat will be safeguarded. With your support, we will assess the health of roughly 600,000 acres of sagebrush sea to help ensure a bright future for sage-grouse. We will also continue collaborative efforts with land managers, landowners and others.

Waterways in the John Day Basin will become more resilient in the face of climate change. Your backing of stewardship efforts will fortify this region’s lands and waterways for a changing climate, to the benefit of area residents and wildlife alike.

Support will continue to grow for forever protecting wild places. Your contributions will allow more voices to join the chorus calling for permanent protection of amazing eastern Oregon public lands, including the Owyhee Canyonlands and Sutton Mountain.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

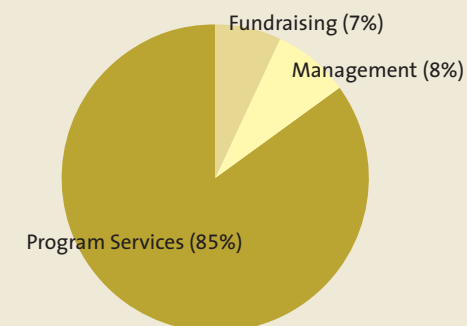
Conservation in Oregon’s high desert is fueled by the generosity of our members. Every donation, advocacy action and volunteer hour adds up to an incredible investment in a healthy, promising future for Oregon’s desert landscapes, waterways and wildlife. The following information reflects the scope of your giving and the essential programs these contributions support.

Assets	
Total Current Assets	\$1,860,561
Total Fixed Assets	\$45,896
Total Other Assets	\$193,887
Total Assets	\$2,100,344

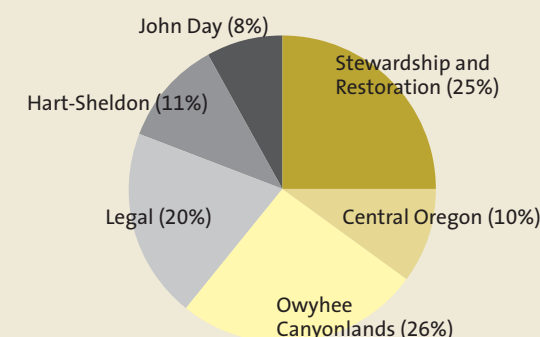
Liabilities & Equity	
Total Liabilities	\$28,374
Total Equity	\$2,071,970
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$2,100,344

Revenue	
2016 Total Revenue	\$1,538,982

Expenses



Spending by Program



The Greater Hart-Sheldon Region, which encompasses two refuges with prime wildlife habitat, is a vast, intact expanse of Oregon’s sagebrush sea. Photo by Jim Davis

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Owyhee Canyonlands. Photo by Sage Brown



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

OF OUR WORK TO PROTECT, DEFEND AND RESTORE PUBLIC LANDS IN OREGON'S HIGH DESERT.



www.ONDA.org



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