

2019

WILD DESERT CALENDAR

Oregon Natural Desert Association





OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION: WE KEEP OREGON'S DESERT WILD

From petroglyphs to panoramic vistas, Oregon's high desert offers much to love. ONDA's thousands of hard-working volunteers, dedicated donors, and passionate advocates know the desert well and love this remarkable region deeply. Our vibrant community is dedicated to ensuring that Oregon's high desert treasures are protected for future generations to know and love just as we do today.

An all-volunteer effort, the Wild Desert Calendar has been connecting people throughout Oregon and beyond to our incredible wild desert for 15 years. We invite you to visit the places you see in these pages. Then, join us in helping conserve Oregon's stunning rivers, wild lands, and wildlife.

Visit www.onda.org/getinvolved.



row 1 (L-R): Stars over Birch Creek in the Owyhee Canyonlands, photo: David Ramirez; ONDA volunteers circle up on a stewardship trip at Denny Jones Ranch, photo: Sage Brown; A cyclist enjoys a pit stop overlooking the Painted Hills and Sutton Mountain, John Day River Basin, photo: Joni Kabana.

row 2 (L-R) An ONDA volunteer clears trail in the Fremont National Forest, photo: Corinne Handelman; The next generation of ONDA volunteers! 2018 Annual General Meeting, John Day River Basin, photo: Jim Davis; ONDA volunteers plant native trees and shrubs to restore a stretch of the South Fork Crooked River, photo: Elizabeth McLagan.



row 3 (L-R): A hiker pauses to take it all in on the Alder Springs Trail, Central Oregon Backcountry, photo: Tim Lutz; ONDA volunteers celebrate another year of accomplishments at the High Desert Hootenanny in Bend, photo: Lace Thornberg; Rafters explore the wild Owyhee River, photo: Vince Ready.

row 4 (L-R): An ONDA volunteer counts Greater sage-grouse at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, photo: Marshall Gibson; An ONDA volunteer plants sagebrush starts to restore Oregon's high desert, photo: Sage Brown; ONDA volunteers walk along a new fence they built to protect a riparian restoration project on Summit Creek, Malheur National Forest, photo: Sage Brown; Home for the night in the uplands of the Owyhee Canyonlands region, photo: Eric Valentine.



OREGON'S WILD DESERT: 8 MILLION ACRES TO EXPLORE

Oregon's high desert remains a remote marvel of the West. You'll find few paved roads here. Instead, nature plays out largely uninterrupted. Swift rivers, sheer canyons, craggy peaks and quiet expanses provide critical habitat for wildlife and a backdrop for outdoor exploration. Pronghorn antelope often outnumber people, and starry night skies are a way of life.

This is the awe-inspiring place that the Oregon Natural Desert Association presents to you in the 2019 Wild Desert Calendar. If you find yourself inspired by the wild lands in these photos, we invite you to join us in protecting them.

Since 1987, ONDA has worked to protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert public lands. By partnering with tribes, land management agencies, landowners, elected officials and people like you, ONDA is a strong voice for the conservation of Oregon's high desert.

WHERE WE WORK

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS

At more than 2 million acres, Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands is the largest undeveloped, unprotected expanse in the lower 48 states. Its red-rock canyons, vital rivers and diverse wildlife – including the imperiled Greater sage-grouse – are unlike anything else in Oregon. Permanent protection of the Owyhee is one of ONDA's top priorities.

CENTRAL OREGON BACKCOUNTRY

With rolling sagebrush plains and dramatic river canyons, the "gateway" to Oregon's dry side offers world-class recreation right outside city limits – including fishing, hiking, horseback riding and more. Many of its waterways are also critical spawning grounds for salmon and steelhead. ONDA is engaged in collaborative efforts to protect the Whychus-Deschutes and Hidden Springs areas of Central Oregon.

JOHN DAY RIVER BASIN

The John Day River flows absent of dams, providing prime habitat for summer steelhead and Chinook salmon. The surrounding lands offer exceptional recreation and wildlife habitat. By working with county officials, community leaders, and landowners, ONDA helped welcome legislation in Congress in 2015 that would make Sutton Mountain wilderness. ONDA has also partnered with local landowners and ranchers on wilderness for the Cathedral Rock, Horse Heaven and Lower John Day areas.

STEENS MOUNTAIN

In 2000, Steens Mountain became Oregon's first desert wilderness. ONDA played a critical role in making it happen and continues to advocate on the iconic mountain's behalf today. From challenging "right idea, wrong place" wind energy development to watchdogging the carving of unnecessary roads, we will continue to protect the jewel of the Oregon desert.

GREATER HART-SHELDON REGION

Spanning over more than 3 million acres of Oregon and Nevada, the Greater Hart-Sheldon Region is a diverse expanse of mountains, wetlands, sagebrush steppe and canyons. It's also a haven for wildlife: More than 300 species thrive here, including migrating waterfowl, pronghorn antelope and the imperiled Greater sage-grouse. ONDA has worked to protect, restore and connect this region for decades.

OREGON DESERT TRAIL

The Oregon Desert Trail stretches nearly 800 miles across some of the most scenic, ecologically significant public lands in Oregon's high desert, including the Oregon Badlands Wilderness, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Steens Mountain Wilderness and the Owyhee Canyonlands. Whether it's a day hike or a long-distance adventure, the Oregon Desert Trail offers recreationists of all stripes an amazing way to experience the high desert.



MAP DETAIL





JANUARY



Mule deer. Photo: Devlin Holloway

It is difficult to explain the feeling of the high desert. The soft coarseness; the tight heat on your skin; the cool, clean, saturated color after a rain. To understand the desert is to touch, feel and explore it. ... Maps and photographs are compelling, but experience is the pinnacle of knowledge.

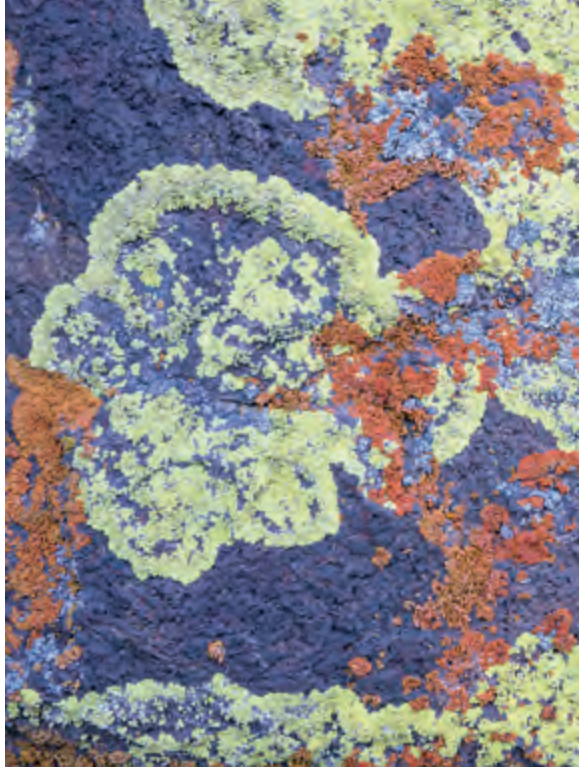
JEREMY AUSTIN
ONDA Hart-Sheldon Coordinator

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 New Year's Day Last day of Kwanzaa	2 Perihelion (Earth closest to Sun) 9 PM PST	3 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	18	19
○ 20	21 Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observed	22	23	24	25	26
● 27	28	29	30	31 Cows removed from Donner und Blitzen Wild & Scenic River, 1997	1	2

DECEMBER	FEBRUARY
1	1 2
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28
30 31	



FEBRUARY



Lichen. Photo: Barb Rumer

*In the afternoon I wander away through
the junipers. They scatter on low hills
that open and close around me.
If I go far enough, all sight or sound
of people ends. I sit and look endless miles
over waves of those hills.*

WILLIAM STAFFORD

"Through the Junipers" in *The Way It Is*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Groundhog Day
3	• 4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	☾ 12	13	14 St. Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 Presidents' Day	☾ 19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Howard Zahniser, father of 1964 Wilderness Act, born, 1906	☾ 26	27	28	1	2
				First gray wolf in 37 years enters Oregon, 1999		

JANUARY

	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				

MARCH

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



MARCH



Western meadowlark. Photo: Dennis Hanson

Our ability to preserve wild places and wildlife is a fundamental indicator of society's foresight and generosity. Although we often pursue such conservation for immediate benefits, in order for such protections to endure, we must collectively recognize such preservation is necessary because it is simply moral.

BRENT FENTY

Oregon Desert Land Trust Executive Director

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4	5	6 ●	7	8	9
			Ash Wednesday			
10	11	12	13	14 ◐	15	16
Daylight Saving Time begins, 2 AM						
17	18	19	20 ○	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day			Spring Equinox, 2:58 PM PDT		John McConnell, Earth Day founder, born, 1905	
24/31	25	26	27 ◐	28	29	30
						Oregon Badlands & Spring Basin wilderness areas designated, 2009

FEBRUARY

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

APRIL

		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					



APRIL



Bald eagle. Photo: Judd Rook

Today, whether saving wilderness or rewilding damaged and fragmented landscapes as an act of humility, to act is a sign of courage.

BILL MARLETT
Founding ONDA Executive Director
and Senior Conservation Advisor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Palm Sunday					Good Friday	First day of Passover
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
John Muir born, 1838 Easter	Lyrid meteor shower (20/hour)					Last day of Passover
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

MARCH	MAY
1 2	1 2 3 4
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31
31	



MAY



Desert evening primrose. Photo: James Parsons

I went to the desert to find the simple and plain in the world and in myself: to find the basic elements of salt, fire, rain, sun, grass, and sage; to find their scents and meanings; to find the primal elements of the desert and myself.

MELVIN ADAMS
Netting the Sun

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

APRIL

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

JUNE

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30



JUNE



Coyote pup. Photo: Judd Rook

When you can read a topo map and translate it to the features you are hiking through, a whole new world opens up. I like to say that the Oregon Desert Trail is 'a suggestion' and I encourage hikers to make the route their own. Climb that mountain, or explore that canyon. Adjust according to your own curiosity.

RENEE PATRICK
ONDA Oregon Desert Trail Coordinator

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	•	3	4	5	6	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Father's Day			Juneteenth		Summer Solstice, 8:54 AM PDT	
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Oregon Wilderness Act passed, 1984	Taylor Grazing Act passed, 1934		

MAY											
	1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25					
26	27	28	29	30	31						

JULY											
	1	2	3	4	5	6					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
28	29	30	31								



JULY



Bighorn ewes. Photo: Greg Burke

About the third day in the desert, the harshness of the environment becomes unbearable... About the fourth day, my mind lets go, my senses let go and in the letting go, I'm no longer in the desert but a part of it. As everyday thought patterns, habits, and concerns fade, my heart becomes full.

CREGG LARGE
ONDA Member

JUNE														AUGUST											
2	3	4	5	6	7	8								4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15								11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22								18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29								25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
30																									

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



AUGUST



Western kingbird. Photo: Greg Burke

Nothing is in a hurry in the desert and life continues its delicate dance of existence inattentive to the outside trivialities of our man-made societies. To sit in silence and watch every second of a sunset in the Oregon high desert is to feel deep in your soul, as (T. E.) Lawrence put it ... clean.

DUSTIN BYERS
ONDA Member

President Theodore Roosevelt
created Malheur National
Wildlife Refuge, 1908

JULY							SEPTEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



SEPTEMBER



Northern desert nightsnake. Photo: Al St. John

As I sat on that cracked earth, I took a huge breath as if I was trying to breathe in all of the wildness around me. ... If you look at a map of Oregon, Steens Mountain is in the middle of an almost blank space. No roads ..., just a few faint lines that guide you to trailheads that in turn lead you deep into one of the last truly wild spaces.

MEAGHAN BULL
ONDA Member

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day	3 Federal Wilderness Act passed, 1964	4	5 ☾	6 President Franklin Roosevelt designated Hart Mountain 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 Wild & Scenic River, 1994	23 Autumn Equinox, 12:50 AM PDT	24	25	26	27	28 ●
29	30 Rosh Hashanah	1	2	3	4	5

AUGUST

	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER

	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



OCTOBER



Juvenile western skink. Photo: Al St. John

The desert is a powerful place. It can present an unassuming face to the world, but don't believe for a second that it's bland or barren or sterile. There's magnificence in its simplicity, something bold and beguiling in its waffle-iron buttes and vast pancake-flat vistas. ... The desert's beauty is found in its subtleties.

JIM WITTY
Meet Me in the Badlands

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

SEPTEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOVEMBER

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act passed, 1968

Congress passed Steens Mountain Cooperative Management & Protection Act, 2000

Yom Kippur

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Orionid meteor shower (20/hour)

Congress passed Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, 1988

Halloween

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument founded, 1974



NOVEMBER



Petroglyph. Photo: Dennis Hanson

I try, in some small measure, to envision the past and consider the implications for the future... For with or without an Aboriginal song, we are traveling through time. ... And what better companions to guide us than the spirits of ancient stones.

ELLEN BISHOP
In Search of Ancient Oregon

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Saving Time ends, 2 AM President Reagan signed Omnibus Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, 1988 Oregon citizens vote to create state Scenic Waterways System, 1970						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Veterans Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Leonid meteor shower (15/hour)	Cows removed from Owyhee Wild & Scenic River, 1999					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Thanksgiving		

OCTOBER

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

DECEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



DECEMBER



Bobcat. Photo: Devlin Holloway

Too many things have been lost. Myths of innocence always point backward, toward simplicities impossible to regain. Yet we need and love them, especially in times as complex and difficult as these.

WILLIAM KITTREDGE
The Snow Never Falls Forever

NOVEMBER								JANUARY							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
					Geminid meteor shower (100/hour)	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						Winter Solstice, 8:19 PM PST
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	First day of Hanukkah		Christmas	First day of Kwanzaa		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Last day of Hanukkah					

OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION **WILD DESERT CALENDAR** 2019



JANUARY **SUTTON MOUNTAIN**



FEBRUARY **OREGON BADLANDS**



MARCH **OWYHEE CANYONLANDS**



APRIL **JOHN DAY RIVER BASIN**



MAY **OWYHEE CANYONLANDS**



JUNE **PUEBLO MOUNTAINS**



JULY **OWYHEE CANYONLANDS**



AUGUST **OREGON CANYON**



SEPTEMBER **STEENS MOUNTAIN**



OCTOBER **OWYHEE CANYONLANDS**



NOVEMBER **ABERT RIM**



DECEMBER **GREATER HART-SHELDON REGION**

Wild Desert Calendar is an **Oregon Natural Desert Association** publication. Copyright to all photographs in this calendar belongs to the photographers. Special thanks to Greg Burke, Jon Cain, Dave Caplan, Mark Chidlaw, Jim Davis, Helen Harbin, Mike Sequeira and our contributing photographers. Many thanks to our ONDA community of members, volunteers and supporters who make this calendar and all our desert conservation work possible. The **Oregon Natural Desert Association** works to protect, defend and restore the beauty and solitude of Oregon's wild desert, including the Owyhee Canyonlands, Central Oregon Backcountry, Greater Hart-Sheldon Region, John Day River Basin and Steens Mountain. Support ONDA's efforts and protect the places you love. Visit www.ONDA.org/give.

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