

WORKING TO
**PROTECT, DEFEND AND RESTORE
OREGON'S HIGH DESERT**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Dear Desert Supporter,

Whenever you crave stark beauty and serenity, you'll find it in Oregon's high desert.

For a literal breath of fresh air, try a stroll through the ponderosa pines along the Malheur River on an August day. For a puzzle, stare down a slot canyon in the Owyhee and try to find a safe route to the river. For perspective, gaze across the undulating hills of the Greater Hart-Sheldon.

In this vast landscape, it's easy to appreciate what's right with the world. But we also know that Oregon's high desert faces numerous threats that demand our attention.

In 2021, ONDA offered many ways for people to participate in caring for this landscape, and we were impressed, but hardly surprised, to see just how many people turned out with their time, talent and financial support. One hundred and four volunteers traveled, on their own, into the far reaches of Oregon's high desert to collect valuable data. Thousands of people wrote to their representatives to demand proactive conservation measures and thousands more joined you in digging deep to donate to conserve the places you cherish.

The people who love Oregon's high desert are feisty, committed and curious. In a word, exceptional. Thank you for being a part of this community that cares so deeply about conservation. Your determination to see long-range plans through to the finish always impresses me.

Your actions are leading to greater resilience to climate change. You are creating places where fish and wildlife can thrive. And, you are ensuring that everyone seeking solitude in Oregon's high desert will find it for decades and centuries to come.

As we offer this look back at the accomplishments from 2021, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude for your significant and enduring support. As one of ONDA's steadfast donors, you are driving conservation forward all across Oregon's high desert.

Thank you!

Together for a wild desert,

Ryan Houston
Executive Director



COVER PHOTO: SUTTON MOUNTAIN BEHIND THE PAINTED HILLS, ANDY BEST. PHOTOS AT RIGHT, CLOCKWISE: SOUTH FORK CROOKED RIVER, ONDA ARCHIVE; HAY CREEK RESTORATION, AARON TANI; HART MOUNTAIN, MARK DARNELL; SUTTON MOUNTAIN, ONDA ARCHIVE.

THANK YOU!

Your generosity powers successful conservation initiatives desert-wide and makes it possible to reach new milestones and realize long-term conservation goals.

Thank you for the role you play in this desert conservation community!

2021 FINANCIALS

Assets	
Total Current Assets	\$5,407,440
Total Fixed Assets	\$5,200
Other Assets	\$6,920
Total Assets	\$5,419,560

Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	\$641,753
Total Equity	\$4,777,807
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$5,419,560

Revenue	
Total Support & Revenue	\$1,634,719
Non-operating Income	\$1,572,160
Total Revenue	\$3,206,879

Expense by Category	
Management	\$154,575
Fundraising	\$190,346
Programs	\$1,475,490
Total Expenses	\$1,820,411

HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS APPLIED

Thanks to you, ONDA is efficient and effective.



- 8.5% on Management
- 10.5% on Fundraising
- 81.0% on Programs



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACROSS OREGON'S DESERT

To see more highlights from 2021, as well as years past, please visit onda.org/about-us/accomplishments/



Setting a Strong Conservation Agenda

ONDA advocated for more than 1,000 miles of desert waterways to be protected as Wild and Scenic Rivers in the River Democracy Act and made great strides in our campaign to preserve a million acres in the Owyhee.

We also defended against misguided management actions by weighing in on issues ranging from wildlife management in the Greater Hart-Sheldon to expanded military training in Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands.



Inspiring & Welcoming Desert Advocates

ONDA encouraged appreciation for the high desert by hosting over a dozen events, producing a short documentary and publishing several multimedia story maps. We hosted another cohort of Tribal Stewards, Indigenous teens and young adults taking part in a paid, career mentorship program, and hired our first Hillis Intern. And, at every juncture, we took steps to build a culture that welcomes everyone who is interested in conserving Oregon's high desert.



Leading Hands-On Restoration

After a pivot to a COVID-safe independent stewardship project model, we surpassed 5,500 volunteer hours contributed to desert public lands.

Our stewardship staff and volunteers planted nearly 17,000 trees, restored more than 500 acres of sagebrush habitat, maintained dozens of miles of trail, restored three miles of critical fish and wildlife habitat, and so much more.



Securing a Monument Proposal

We achieved a major goal in our campaign to protect important wild areas in the John Day River Basin with the introduction of legislation that would establish a Sutton Mountain National Monument.

The new proposal for a 66,000-acre national monument would preserve the rugged country between the Painted Hills and the John Day Fossil Beds.



FIVE WAYS TO CREATE A THRIVING DESERT

GIVE. Your contribution keeps Oregon's high desert wild. [ONDA.org/give](https://onda.org/give)

INVITE. Take a friend to the desert or to an ONDA event. [ONDA.org/events](https://onda.org/events)

VOLUNTEER. Lend a hand to wild places you love. [ONDA.org/volunteer](https://onda.org/volunteer)

SHOW UP. Gain new insights into desert conservation. [ONDA.org/events](https://onda.org/events)

SPEAK UP. Your voice matters. Use it for the desert. [ONDA.org/takeaction](https://onda.org/takeaction)

Owyhee Canyonlands. Photo: Dave Phipps

MISSION

Oregon Natural Desert Association exists to protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert for current and future generations.

VISION

We envision a high desert in Oregon where eight million acres of public lands are conserved to ensure that fish and wildlife thrive and wild places exist for all people to treasure and explore, now and always.

VALUES

- » We are committed, tenacious, passionate, nimble and unwavering in pursuit of our mission.
- » We are science-based and solutions-oriented, bringing innovative, strategic approaches to achieving our conservation goals.
- » We are inclusive and welcoming, and seek to build a strong, diverse and interconnected conservation community throughout our staff, membership, volunteers, board of directors and partnerships.
- » When working with stakeholders, agencies, partner organizations, the public and others, we respectfully consider all perspectives while pursuing our conservation goals.



Learn more at [ONDA.org](https://onda.org).