

Desert Ramblings

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Oregon
Natural Desert
association

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PROFILE OF PLACE

by Elaine Rees

Lone Mountain is one of southeast Oregon's best kept secrets. Known to canyon wrens as an oasis among the sage and to rattlesnakes as a sunbathing paradise, Lone Mt. is mainly known to humans as a place to bag a few chukar in the fall.

Lone Mountain's anonymity is due primarily to its location. While many desert enthusiasts could point to Catlow Rim on a map, they would most likely be unaware that just south of this spectacular scarp is an east-west trending mini range with its own brand of scenery and solitude. Not only does Lone Mt. lie in the shadow of Catlow Rim (more figuratively than literally), it is not the kind of place you can think of in terms of an afternoon picnic. From Bend it's about 250 highway miles and an additional 20 miles on gravel roads. But even though it is remote, you don't need four-wheel drive or even a high clearance vehicle to get there. Your Honda Civic—and a little patience—will get you there just fine.

Why Lone Mountain? In the broad expanse of sagebrush steppeland encompassed in the proposed Oregon Grasslands Wilderness, Lone Mt. offers a different landscape—reddish basaltic outcrops forming a maze of pinnacles, box-like canyons, and tilted strata that lend an inherent sense of motion to the otherwise immutable stone. It is a magical, if not hallucinogenic, place. An ancient cowpoke from Lakeview once told me he saw a petrified whale among those rocks.

In June of this year three of us camped near Scotts Cache Spring on the south slope of the mountain. The season was dry, but the weekend was wet. Sleet

and rain came each afternoon. Mornings were great for hiking, though, and we enjoyed sitting on sculpted pedestals, listening to the cascading song of the canyon wren and watching kestrel watching us.

In wetter years the rocky mazes harbor miniature gardens of moss, fern, and wildflowers. Rock aster blue, balsamroot yellow, and the scarlets, oranges, and pinks of Indian paintbrush decorate the landscape. There are also a few scattered specimens of desert sweet, a fragrant shrub more common in the lava flows around Fort Rock.

Besides Scotts Cache there are two other springs in the vicinity. Juniper Spring is just that—a clear flow of water (but boil it before drinking) amidst a grove of juniper trees. Except for a stand of mountain mahogany a few miles away, these trees are the only ones for some distance. The nearest juniper may well be on Steens Mt. Granite Spring is a little further up the slope. It is on private land and generally shows considerable livestock use.

A hike eastward from these springs along the south flank of Lone Mt. would take you to a high and lonely plateau called Oregon End Table. The shallow drainage you would cross would be worth exploring; it is rumored to harbor some fascinating petroglyphs. From this drainage it is a challenging climb to the top of the plateau. Here you will find a spectacular view of the Pueblos, Nevada's Pine Forest Range, Hawk Mountain and the tablelands stretching to the Nevada border. Oregon End Table is almost untouched by livestock, the sink lakes are unmarred by excavated waterholes. You might want to make this an overnight backpack in order to savor the scenery and the solitude.

Lone Mt. and Oregon End Table are the southern portion of BLMs Rincon Wilderness Study Area. The Oregon High Desert Protection Act includes all

(continued on pg. 3)



DESERT NOTEBOOK

by Eric Schulz

CURIOUS AFFAIR AT BRIDGE CREEK

Is it anomalous, or oxymoronic, or just embarrassing when an agency focuses thousands of volunteer hours and tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars to restore fish habitat, then diverts water from that habitat? If none of the above, it is at least curious.

To savor the moment of curiosity, a small band of the public met with a small band of the government at the picnic oasis nestled in the John Day Fossil Beds Monument – a brilliant meeting of the minds in riparian verdance surrounded by the high noon yellow grass, silver sage, and spotted knapweed drought of July 8, 1992. Breaking bread were ONDA, ODFW, WaterWatch, Sierra Club, Oregon Trout and the BLM, or representatives thereof.

Two years after Cy Jameson had bent his back to a rock drill while five hundred volunteers representing thirty different groups joined in thirteen types of riparian related projects communicating in a veritable assault on streamside degradation with one hundred walkie talkies for the express purpose of RESTORING BRIDGE CREEK – only two years after all this attention, the BLM was diverting water from the project area to irrigate hay and alfalfa.

As Harry Cosgriff, Resource Manager, explained, you have to use it or lose it. Hmmm. ORS 537.332 defines an instream water right; 537.336 authorizes state agencies to request an instream water right; 537.341 describes certification; 537.346 guarantees priority date; and 537.350 locks it in Fort Knox. Curious.

Brad Keller, Wildlife Biologist, remembered that the ODFW wanted alfalfa for the mulies. Hmmm. It seems that, last time I looked, mulies are wild deer. Just what does wild mean? I know the difference between hatchery and wild fish. No one I know has suggested feeding wild fish. Curious.

The knapweed is coming! The knapweed is coming! Hmmm. It seems that the knapweed was thicker in areas where water gathered along the roadside and near the fish screen than it was in the drier uplands. I wonder if this means watering might be dysfunctional? Curious.

But the cream of arguments rose to the surface: these lands came with strings, as well as water rights, attached. The property was acquired two years ago as part of the Sutton Mountain Land Exchange. To

encourage neighborly cooperation with the local ranchers and county tax assessors, the BLM's policy is to continue the leases and sub leases of the original owners. The leases for these irrigated lands expire this year. What may be curious about this argument is that the management of these fields will be recommended by a group of folks who are mostly lessees.

As you make the last turn past Meyer's Canyon on the Bridge Creek Road, you glimpse the Fossil Monument Area to the northwest. To the northeast there is a photogenic bare polychrome hill with Sutton Mountain rising in the distance. Between the road and the Monument area are a few more than a hundred acres: 46 are sheep grazed knapweed fields; 46 are alfalfa; 18 are co-managed hay fields. Between the fields and the bare hills of the fossil beds flows Bridge Creek. It's the area with riparian plants growing six feet beneath the cutbanks.

Complete with rotary drum fish screen and trap, the diversion carries irrigation water in a pipe the length of the valley to the Monument spur. The pipe is relatively new and has conserved water while sabotaging pesky beaver instincts.

Harry wrote Bill Marlett, after this meeting, that irrigation will be discontinued from August 1st until this fall. What happens this fall is subject to "consideration of all multiple use factors including availability of water." The long term management of these fields will be determined by the Sutton Mountain CRMP (not to cramp public values, CRMP is the Cooperative Resource Management Program peopled by concerned locals. aka Cows Remain Most Protected).

To their credit, the Prineville District of the BLM has managed to consolidate 62,000 acres of a single watershed. Redd counts in Bridge Creek are above the average for similar John Day tributaries (3+ vs. 2 per mile). Beavers are returning to the stream. Many riparian areas are healing. Some grazing allotments have been converted from cow to sheep. Other grazing allotments have been reduced.

But then there are no plans for complete cattle exclusion in any subbasin of the watershed. When temperatures reached a lethal 90o F., water was still taken out of the stream. Trespass occurs.

Will the 100 acre Bridge Creek effort make a dent in the spotted knapweed problem which exceeds 4,694,980 acres? Will the BLM convert to instream water rights? Can the mulies survive without alfalfa?

ADDENDUM: Since this article was drafted, the BLM has pursued conversion of these water rights to instream use.



DEQ Mining Rule Update

by Valerie Kitchen, The Wilderness Society

The Environmental Quality Commission (Commission) held a special session Friday, August 7 regarding the Department of Environmental Quality's Chemical Mining Rules. As you may recall, the rules were to have been adopted during a Commission meeting December 13, 1991. However, at the last minute and under extreme industry pressure, the Commission decided to seek review by an "independent" third-party contractor of three specific technical areas of the rules. A contractor was soon hired and has since produced a report. Commissioners spent all day August 7 attempting to make final decisions regarding the three technical issues in question. Here are the results:

Issue 3: Should the heap and tailings facilities be covered, in addition to being detoxified, upon closure of the mine? The Commission spent about three minutes on this question and unanimously decided that the tailings and heaps *should* be covered, even after detoxification, to protect against the possibility of acid mine drainage and escape to the environment of residual cyanide in the heaps.

Issue 2: Should cyanide removed from the mill tailings be reused? This issue took the bulk of the Commission's time. They were not convinced there would be "a net environmental gain" by requiring removal *and* reuse, since the process for reuse raises some environmental concerns. In the end, the Commission decided to require "removal, reuse, *or* destruction" (via chemical oxidation) of the cyanide.

Issue 1: Should the triple line design for the heap leach pad be retained as initially proposed or modified based on information presented in the Contractor's report? The Commission remained concerned that by adopting ultra-specific liner requirements, they would preclude use of new technologies. They therefore agreed that the protection provided by the triple liner system should be retained but that the industry should have some flexibility to propose alternative technologies. This is a difficult concept, and since it was getting late in the day, the Commission opted to take additional time to draft language.

The Commission met again September 1, in a special telephone conference call meeting. They briefly discussed the new language developed regarding liner system design and unanimously adopted the

language, as they did the entire set of rules. The adopted liner system language is reflective of the concept discussed during the Commission's August 7 special meeting. Although the language does provide for some flexibility in the liner system design on the part of the mine applicant, it is very clear on the high level of protection that is required. The Commission also adopted a strengthening amendment to the backfilling provision of the rule. We had hoped the Commission would commit to future action on this item, but had not anticipated such immediacy. Nevertheless, we were very pleased!

All things considered, we have done well. Consider that the industry wanted: 1) the Commission to throw out the entire set of rules (and re-write them to the industry's satisfaction); 2) an economic (cost-benefit) study out of the rule review process; 3) detoxification to suffice, in lieu of capping the tailings and heaps; and 4) the acceptable level of WAD cyanide concentration to be raised from 30 ppm to 50 ppm. Out of four "want" items, they got zero. Additionally, the Commission will continue to consider *lowering* the acceptable level of cyanide from 30 ppm to 20 ppm.

Thanks to everyone, especially Carolyn and Gary Brown, for all of the hard work over the last two years in support of a strong set of chemical mining rules. We've come a long way.

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(Profile, continued from pg. 1)

of the Rincon WSA as the Lone Mt. Unit of the Oregon Grasslands Wilderness Complex. Along with Hawksie Walksie, Basque Hills, Bald Mt., and Beattys Butte units it comprises a 524,300 acre proposal.

Here's how to get to Lone Mt.: Drive east on Highway 140 to the gravel road heading north just before the Oregon/Nevada stateline. It's marked with a sign reading "South Corral Spring" and "Hawk Valley Seeding." Once you turn onto this road you will see a BLM Road 6176 sign. Drive northward to a fork—keep to the right (6126). Thirteen and one-half miles from the highway you will crest Acty Pass. Follow the road down to the Hawk Valley Seeding (don't take the left fork to South Corral Spring). The road across the seeding is straight and heads almost due east. At the eastern edge of the seeding there is a waterhole on the south side of the road. It is unsightly, but widgeons, mallards and avocets, as well as antelope, mule deer, feral horses and coyotes have been seen there. On the north side of the road a track leads toward the springs of Lone Mt. Check out the condition of this track on foot before driving in to find a parking/camping spot.

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CONSERVATION CORNER by Craig Miller

ABERT LAKE HYDRO PROJECT

A quixotic scheme to help satisfy Colorado and southern California's energy greed has been conceived at the expense of Oregon's scenic and biologically unique Abert Lake and Abert Rim. A California engineer has applied for permission for a \$2 million study to determine the feasibility of the project.

The concept of the project is relatively simple, but the magnitude is stunning. Water would be pumped to the top of Abert Rim during times that more energy is available than is being used from nearby power lines. Then, during times of energy shortage the water would be released back to Abert Lake to produce electricity. If the project were to go forward Abert Lake would undergo the following changes. The lake would be transected into three ponds separated by 30 foot high dikes totaling about six miles in length. Water would be pumped from one section into another part of the lake then filled with fresh water (Abert Lake is more saline than the ocean). Abert Rim (a Wilderness Study Area recommended for Wilderness designation by BLM) would undergo even more drastic alterations. Two 36 foot diameter "power shafts," two large diameter "surge shafts" and one 30 foot diameter access shaft (containing an elevator, stairway, ventilating conduits and high voltage line conduits) would extend from the base of the rim to the top of the rim 1600 feet higher. A 500 foot by 100 foot cavern would be mined beneath the rim for the powerhouse and would be 200 feet high. Several tunnels would be carved from the powerhouse to the lake, one housing a paved two lane road 1.5 miles in length. On top of the rim a converter station, 46 miles of power lines, 23 miles of road and Oregon's largest dam away from the Columbia River would be constructed.



Abert Lake hosts Oregon's highest concentration of nesting Snowy Plover, a State listed Threatened Species. It provides brine shrimp, alkali flies and algae for countless numbers of migratory shorebirds, waterfowl and other wildlife. Peregrine Falcons (a Federal Endangered Species) use and may nest in the area. Bighorn sheep are also found in the area. The proposed project would seriously jeopardize these animals because the habitat would be irreparably harmed.

In recognition of its unique and important values the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has recommended that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) deny the exploratory application and has proposed that Abert Lake be designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. ONDA has requested intervenor status in the permit process. Although the project appears ludicrously grandiose it cannot be ignored. ONDA will watch the process closely and will litigate if necessary.

What can you do to help? The most important thing you can do is to visit Abert Lake and Abert Rim and record the dates and purpose of these visits. In order for ONDA to have status as an "interested party" and therefore in order to be able to appeal or litigate we must be able to show that our members use and enjoy the area. Please send ONDA any documentation you might have of these visits and they will be kept on file.

ONDA WINS STEENS MOUNTAIN ROAD APPEAL

As noted in the last issue of *Desert Ramblings* ONDA protested BLM's million dollar plan to upgrade a portion of the Steens Mountain loop road. BLM denied the protest almost before it was sent. One BLM employee was quoted as saying, "Hurry up and send us your protest so we can deny it." A protest is the first of several steps necessary before litigation can be brought into play. If the protest is denied (as it has been in this case) the next step in the process is an appeal. The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) HAS DISMISSED BLM's MOTION TO DENY ONDA's APPEAL.

At stake is the very heart of the Steens Mountain experience. BLM has failed to analyze important environmental issues and has attempted to exclude the public from giving their input into this massive project. BLM's goal is to bring the road to a high standard that will accelerate deterioration of the fragile ecosystem of Steens Mountain because of uncontrolled human impact. Gone will be the solitude, quiet and escape previously offered by a visit to the Steens.

The project has been effectively halted for 1992. However, BLM is sure to be at it again next year. In anticipation that an EA will indeed be required, BLM has already begun a scoping process for an EA to amend the Andrews Framework Management Plan to allow for "reconstruction" of the whole Loop Road. The Andrews Framework Management Plan is a document that is meant to guide BLM activity, and it indicates that the road will not be upgraded, and even suggests closing a portion of the Loop Road. A public

meeting has already been held in Bend to discuss the issues involved. The comment period ends September 30 and BLM would be delighted to hear from you whether you can meet the deadline or not. A copy of the proposed EA is available from the BLM office in Burns:

BLM BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE
HC 74-12533 HWY 20 WEST
HINES OR 97738
(503) 573-5241

Let BLM know that you don't want the Steens to become a Disneyland and RV park. Tell BLM to take the million dollars and give it back to the taxpayers who can no doubt make better use of their money. ☐



From the Outback

by Bill Marlett

This past month Rest the West and the Committee for Idaho's High Desert hosted the First Annual National Grazing conference in Boise, Idaho. The gathering at Boise State University was an incredible success attended by 100 activists from around the west. Speakers gave one horror story after another about BLM and FS mismanagement of livestock and what might be done to begin a proactive strategy to address the West's most pervasive and destructive land use on public lands: livestock grazing. A big thanks goes to Bruce Apple of Rest the West (RTW) and Randy Morris of The Committee for Idaho's High Desert (CIHD) for sponsoring the event. At the conference, CIHD unveiled their proposal for Idaho Desert Protection Act (modelled after Oregon's High Desert Protection Act) and RTW pledged to help other grassroots conservation groups around the West to develop cow-free desert wilderness proposals based on Oregon's High Desert Protection Act.



ONDA's contribution to the program was an unveiling of The Public Land Restoration and Community Stability Act – a simple strategy to remove livestock from our public lands that would work in concert with the on-going Public Lands Beef Boycott. Because ONDA is dedicated to restoring the ecologic health on our public lands with emphasis on watershed, soils, wildlife, biological integrity and wilderness, we believe that only by adopting a national policy of total removal of livestock from our public lands, while helping ranchers transition to a more benign lifestyle, will the ecologic destruction stop. To that end,

ONDA is proposing this Act to address the problem of livestock grazing on public lands as the demand under the Beef Boycott. The Beef Boycott gives people the chance to raise the issue of public lands grazing with the general public while at the same time, giving the opportunity to push for the Act as one way of addressing the problem. In short, boycott beef until the cows come off public lands (or until cows jump over the moon, whichever comes first!!).

The Public Land Restoration and Community Stability Act would:

- ☐ Terminate all grazing on public lands within two years from enactment:
 - a. in unsatisfactory or fair to poor ecological condition
 - b. that provide habitat for T and E species
 - c. within riparian areas
 - d. in the national park, wilderness and wildlife refuge systems.
- ☐ Terminate all remaining grazing permits within ten years after enactment.
- ☐ PLRCSA would provide \$50 into a transition fund for each terminated AUM (at the time of termination) to the affected county under this Act. Direct compensation to the permittees for their grazing privileges would be provided if a ranch appraisal (at the time the ranch was originally purchased) included a value for the public lands permit.
- ☐ PLRCSA would direct all grazing program funds into restoration work: tearing down fences, repairing streams, and restoring fish and wildlife habitat (over 30 million dollars). Job preference would be given to former grazing permit holders and their former employees.
- ☐ PLRCSA would terminate all Animal Damage Control activities on public lands (except in cases involving ecologic or public health and safety issues).

Because previous public land management laws recognize community stability as a goal and in recognition of the fair market value that grazing privileges have in the buying and selling of ranch properties, ONDA believes it fair to provide some form of relief in order for a smooth transition to occur to non public land dependent lifestyles. With roughly 30 million AUMs on public lands, this would cost taxpayers \$1.5 billion over 10 years. Counties would have full discretion in allocating transition funds. For example, a county may wish to spend the money on direct employment or for job retraining assistance in the local community for the public lands ranchers who cannot find gainful employment when their permits are phased out under PLRCSA.

(continued on pg. 6)

(continued from pg. 5)

The reason the money would go into a county fund as opposed to individual permittees would be to keep the money from leaving the local community. Many of the public lands grazing permits are held by corporate cowboys like Getty Oil and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (the top 20 permittees control 10% of the public lands grazing permits in the West!). With corporate offices in the big cities, paying them directly would undermine the goal of community stability. For example, up until last month in Oregon, nearly one quarter of the grazing permits on public lands were controlled by wealthy out-of-state corporations.

The Public Land Restoration and Community Stability Act will not get introduced in Congress on its own given the intransigence of Congress (in particular western Senators) in their support of public lands ranchers. (You may have noted that Congress just recently failed to pass a grazing fee increase on public lands. If they can't even deal with something simple like grazing fees, how can we ever expect them to pass a major reform like PLRCSA?). ONDA therefore believes that an end run around Congress is necessary and that the Beef Boycott is the way to do it.

The Beef Boycott gives the ecologically aware public the opportunity to educate friends and family about the livestock scorching occurring on our public lands. It also provides the media an opportunity to inform the public about why a Beef Boycott has been called for and gives lawmakers and private lands ranchers (98% of the beef is raised on private lands!) incentive to at least begin a dialogue of the merits of the Public Lands Restoration Act.

Here are some general questions and answers about the Beef Boycott:

How does an individual participate in the beef boycott?

- Don't eat any beef unless you know the beef was not grazed on public lands (in other words, stop eating beef!).
- Place a "Boycott Beef" bumper sticker on your vehicle or in any conspicuous publicly approved location. (see order form in back of newsletter)
- Wear a NO COWS T-shirt. (see order form in back of newsletter)
- Ask: "Is this beef from public lands?"
- Write letters to Burger King and the other beef consuming giants.

Will a boycott of public lands beef work?

YES! The public lands ranching industry, while politically powerful are *market weak*. Less than 30,000 permittees—less than 2% of the nation's livestock producers—hold grazing permits on public land. Their names and the names of their corporations are public record. It will be easy for the meat packing houses or anyone else to identify who is selling tainted public lands beef and isolate them in the marketplace.

Further, *private* beef producers have two good reasons to urge Congress to eliminate public lands ranching: it flies in the face of their "beef for healthy people" image ("healthy people" will not eat beef that is destroying their favorite wilderness area); and, it will rid the market of unfair competition (private lands ranchers have long felt cheated by these public lands ranchers who graze livestock at 20% of what it costs to run livestock on private lands). Finally, with only 2% of all forage for beef in the United States coming from public lands and given the downward trend in per capita beef consumption by the American public, the industry and the public will never miss it.

What about the ranchers?

We are *not* going to run family ranchers out of business. Most small, family ranches that depend exclusively on raising livestock on public lands have long since evaporated; victims of the same economic and market forces that make growing bananas in Alaska unprofitable. When PLRCSA passes, displaced ranchers and cowboys will be given financial help.

What about impacts to public lands ranching communities?

The future of the west's dying ranching communities lies not in ravaging the public lands by livestock grazing but in supporting business opportunities in information-based businesses, tourism, recreation and retirement. Tourism is not only the fastest growing, but in some cases the only growth industry in many western states. For example, in Oregon, 23 out of 36 counties have chosen tourism as their regional economic development strategy. Under PLRCSA, counties would receive transition funds to compensate for the loss of public land grazing privileges.

Any comments from our readers regarding either the Public Land Restoration and Community Stability Act or the Public Lands Beef Boycott would be welcome. ONDA will be soliciting comments from other organizations around the country as well and will keep you posted.



A Message of Thanks!

by Curtis Fisher

For those of you I have not met this summer, I was the legal intern for you and other members of ONDA. Briefly, I am now a third year law student attending the University of Oregon School of Law, studying to become an environmental attorney. I want to thank you, the members of ONDA, and especially Bill Marlett, Alice Elshoff, and Craig Miller (who provided a place for me to stay during the summer). I had a great summer!

In the last ten weeks, I worked on a variety of both legal and nonlegal issues. One of my major projects was to protest and then appeal the BLMs decision to gravel the Loop Road on Steens Mt. without a proper environmental analysis. Even though on first impression this issue does not sound glamorous, this project was the most challenging and interesting project of the summer. In this case, the BLM is attempting to gravel the Loop Road without any environmental analysis. The current road condition has been the main obstacle to unlimited access of the Steens. Without any environmental analysis, unplanned development of the area will damage the very reasons why ONDA is supporting the initiative to designate the Steens a National Park and Preserve.

Another important issue this summer was livestock trespass. It is rampant. As we often state in our letters to the BLM: trespass converts public lands into private lands. After a trip to Sutton Mt. (my only field trip, short but sweet), ONDA attempted to gain status as an "affected interest" in the trespass action in order to try to get heavier fines than what appears to be standard operating procedure; i.e., no fine or simply the cost of the illegally eaten forage. This is like shoplifters only having to pay for the stolen goods and only if they are caught. This is clearly unacceptable. Our attempt to gain affected interest in this case was not successful, however our involvement taught us the need to do more on this issue. ONDA must play an active role in educating the public on this abuse of our lands and monies and create new ways to participate in these trespass proceedings.

My other projects have included an attempt to save the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout by petitioning the BLM to prepare an environmental analysis under NEPA on the grazing levels in the McCormick and 15-mile allotments. Currently, only the Whitehorse allotment has an environmental assessment on allotments in the Trout Creek Mountains. This hopefully will preclude grazing while the environmental analysis is completed. Also, I have prepared a Freedom of Information request, I am presently appealing the

BLMs decision to build a fence in the non-use area in the high Steens, I wrote the comments for the Donner and Blitzen River Draft Management Plan, and did the daily kinds of things that were required as each day happened.

I would love to have met with all of you. Hopefully, I will be able to continue some kind of working relationship with ONDA. I am impressed with the volunteer ethic of this organization, and I hope that I will be lucky enough to be able to work on issues as important as the ones I worked on this summer and be able to work with people as dedicated and fun as ONDA members. □

HISTORIC VICTORY FOR 1872 REFORM!!!!

H.R. 918, "The Mineral Exploration and Development Act of 1992," the comprehensive bill to reform the 1872 Mining Law contains many strong points: an end to patenting, tight reclamation requirements, a reclamation fund for hardrock mines (with important new funding from one-half of the royalty receipts), and enforcement provisions. For a complete text, contact

Mineral Policy Center
Room 550
1325 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

The voting in the House Interior Committee was complicated by last-minute efforts of opponents to weaken or kill the bill. There were four crucial votes:

1. **Recall Bill** was the crucial vote to recall the bill from Subcommittee to the full Interior Committee so it could be debated, amended, and voted on.
2. **Royalty** was vote to amend the basic H.R. 918 to add an 8% royalty charge on the value of metals taken from public lands. Offered by Rep. DeFazio
3. **Strike Title II** was an amendment proposed which would have deleted all environmental regulation from the new Mining Law bill.
4. **Final Pass** was the key final vote to pass the bill out of the Committee and on to the full House of Representatives.

KEY: "Y" or "y" are Yes votes. "N" or "n" are No votes. Capital letters indicate a pro-environmental vote, lower-case letters are anti-environmental votes.

DeFazio, Peter (D-OR): 1: Y; 2: Y; 3: N; 4: Y
Smith, Bob (R-OR): 1: n; 2: n; 3: y; 4: n

We are sure both Representatives would enjoy hearing from you. □



MARKETPLACE

ONDA shirts, short-sleeve and long-sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts, just in time for Christmas. Colors available are grey, navy, peach, or white. Sizes available are *small, medium, large, and extra-large*.

Prices:	Sweatshirts	\$22.00
	Short-sleeve t-shirt	\$12.00
	Long-sleeve t-shirt	\$16.00
	Boycott Beef T-Shirt	\$12.00

In addition to the **ONDA** logo shirts, we are offering some very special books to members. *The Sagebrush Ocean: A Natural History of the Great Basin* by Stephen Trimble is available for \$34.95. Forward by Barry Lopez.

This is the best general introduction to the ecology and spirit of the Great Basin, a place where the desert almost seems to mirror the sky in size, where mountains hold ravens, bristlecone pines, winter stillness and unseen, but satisfying, the possibility of bighorn sheep.

Other books: *Waste of the West*, Lynn Jacobs: \$28.00

Sacred Cows at the Public Trough, Denzel Ferguson: \$9.00

NEW!! High Desert Poster (18x28) \$15.00 – stunning high desert poster by **ONDA** Board Member, Ron Cronin

NEW!! High Desert Postcard (pack of 10) of the High Desert Poster Scene: \$5.00

NEW!! Road Map, *A Visitor's Guide to Oregon's High Desert*: \$5.00

NEW!! 12-page Tabloid, *Desert Notes*: \$5.00 for 20 copies.

If you would like to become a member of **ONDA** or if you are due to renew your membership, please use the form on the opposite side of this page.

Check the Date on the Mailing Label for your Membership Expiration Date.

ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ITEM	COLOR (NOTE CHOICE 1 and CHOICE 2)	SIZE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
5 BOYCOTT-BEEF BUMPER STICKERS NO CHARGE - ADD \$2.00 SHIPPING			XXXXX	XXXXXXX
MAIL TO: ONDA 16 N.W. KANSAS BEND, OREGON 97701			SHIPPING/HANDLING	\$2.00
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ONDA			TOTAL:	

STANDING – THE LIFE BLOOD OF LITIGATION

A WAKE-UP CALL TO ONDA MEMBERS

Over the last five years the U.S. Supreme Court (Judge Scalia) has attempted to limit the ability of environmental groups to bring lawsuits against the government. In one case, the National Wildlife Federation was denied standing because their members only alleged that they backpack in a Wilderness area that was affected by an agency decision. More recently, the Court (again Justice Scalia) denied standing to the Defenders of Wildlife because they did not state their members would ever use the area again.

It is clear that as **ONDA** becomes more active in litigation both in administrative proceedings and in federal court, **WE WILL HAVE TO PROVE OUR STANDING** in order to pursue a wide variety of public land issues.

Most of us keep diaries and field notes when we are out and that information has taken on a new importance. Please use the bottom of this form and list all the places you have visited in the past that are substantiated by your notes. Use the *Wilderness Area* and *Wild River* numbers and *Other Area* letters as listed in the accompanying OHDPA brochure. Then drop it in the mail to **ONDA**. Thanks in advance.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

WILDERNESS AREA NUMBERS:

OTHER AREA LETTER:

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER NUMBERS:

OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I'd like to join the Oregon Natural Desert Association and receive the quarterly newsletter and desert action alerts.

___ Regular Membership : \$20.00

: \$35 (includes Visitor Guide)

: \$50.00 (includes poster)

: \$100.00 includes *The Sagebrush Ocean* _____

or (choose one)

Waste of the West _____

: \$250.00 includes autographed copy of William Kittredge's new book,
"A Hole in the Sky"

MAIL TO:

ONDA

16 N.W. KANSAS

BEND, OREGON 97701

I'LL VOLUNTEER TO: ___ Adopt a Wilderness Area ___ Write Letters ___ Lead/Organize Field Trips

___ Distribute Literature ___ Organize Other Activists

___ Office Work (Bend, only)

___ Other (Specify): _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

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