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Volume 9, Number 3

## Clean Stream Initiative on November Ballot

*Governor uses threat of Measure 38 to lure support for his salmon plan*

Thanks to all the ONDA members and volunteers who helped put the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative—now Measure 38—on the ballot. We set out to raise the issue of water pollution caused by livestock and change the status quo mismanagement of our precious waters. Because of your support and hard work, we are succeeding. See pg. 8 for ways you can help further on this vital issue.

### Governor acknowledges problem

In August, Gov. John Kitzhaber entered the fray on behalf of clean streams, but declined to support Measure 38 at that time. In a speech before the BLM, he claimed the measure was



Measure 38 will improve water quality and salmon habitat by reducing livestock wastes and impacts on polluted public waterways. One cow dumps an average of 55 pounds of manure a day, much of which occurs in or along streams.



divisive and not consistent with his collaborative approach to resolving resource conflicts. However, the governor made it clear that his opposition to Measure 38 depends on whether the livestock industry agree to his “less divisive” plan (i.e., one with fewer teeth). If the industry doesn’t, Kitzhaber is prepared to support Measure 38.

In response to Measure 38, the governor said his goal is to attain water quality standards on grazing lands throughout Oregon in ten years. He is now meeting with industry representatives to develop a plan to attain this goal. Whether the industry will bend to his pressure remains to be seen. Industry leaders face a choice between signing onto plan with fewer (if any) teeth and thereby securing the Governor’s opposition to Measure 38, or digging in their heels and trying to defeat Measure 38 without the Governor’s help. The latter course means they will not be beholden to him in the next legislative session. It poses an interesting dilemma for the livestock industry, but underscores the point: Measure 38 is getting results.

The governor has made a clear political move. He is

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## Livestock Grazing Act Update

*Gingrich brokers "compromise"*

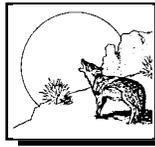
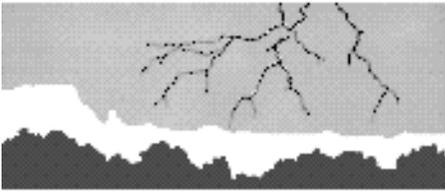
By Gilly Lyons

As reported in our last issue of *Desert Ramblings*, the U.S. Senate approved the Livestock Grazing Act (S. 1459) by only five votes. Since then, this misguided piece of legislation, also known as the Public Rangelands Management Act, went to the House of Representatives for consideration.

In what was portrayed as an effort to improve the bill (vehemently opposed by conservationists, sportspeople, and recreationists), House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Republican House members representing Western ranching interests “requested” Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) to negotiate a “new” grazing bill with the House Resources Committee and the livestock industry. On July 28, the House leadership released the result for public review.

The new “Gingrich Grazing Bill” is touted as a “compromise” version of S. 1459, but it still contains many of the original bill’s flaws. If passed and signed into law, the new S. 1459 would continue public land grazing subsidies and require that our National Forests and BLM lands be managed for the primary benefit of the livestock industry.

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# FROM THE DEN

by Kathi Myron

## Many steps forward on 1,000-mile journey

Chinese philosopher Lao-tse said that a thousand mile journey begins with a single step. Here at the Oregon Natural Desert Association, we believe that the first step toward a healthier land is simply doing what we can, where we can, to clean up past mistakes and limit and reduce current pollution. So we applaud those valiant volunteers and faithful staff who give their energy to bring to fruition visions of a healthy land: to the Hart Mt. "un-fencers," who hauled away three miles of fence (see pg. 10); to the Clean Stream crew for making clean water the voter's choice this November (see pgs. 1, 4-8); and to all who write, fax, call, and/or speak to elected officials on behalf of High Desert protection (see pg. 3 & 12). We are making a difference!

And speaking of volunteers, to meet ONDA's growing needs we are expanding board representation to 15 members. Some of you reading these very words have been suggested by present board or staff members, because we know your heart is with the desert. When you receive the call, please answer from your heart. 



Oregon Natural Desert Association  
16NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701  
VOICE: 541-330-2638 • FAX: 541-385-3370

### Mission

*The purpose of the Oregon Natural Desert Association is to promote the preservation, protection and rehabilitation of Oregon's arid-land environment and to educate the general population on the values of preserving the natural arid-land environment.*

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Editor & Production: Chris Orsinger,  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Please note date change!

## ONDA Annual Meeting Sat-Sun, Oct 5-6

ONDA's Annual Meeting will take place at Hancock Field Station near Fossil. Spend an autumn weekend in the High Desert along the wild and scenic John Day River. Hikes, slide shows, conservation updates, and good company. For information or to register, call Gilly at (541) 330-2638.

### ONDA has a new phone number!

Our office location remains the same, but we now have a direct line. The new number is (541) 330-2638. "Please make a note of it...."

**October 12-13: The 13th Annual Salmon Festival** at Oxbow Park on the Sandy River, near Portland. Arts and crafts, hikes, food, and great information about Northwest salmon. Come visit the ONDA booth!

**October 16: "Tribal Perspectives on Clean Streams and Salmon,"** an *Evenings with Nature* program featuring Rudy Clements, ONDA board member

and public information officer for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. At the Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend. Social at 6:30 pm; program begins at 7 pm. For more information, call Gilly at (541) 330-2638.

**October 24-26 - "Our Home in the Landscape,"** a conference at Central Oregon Community College in Bend. Invited speakers familiar to ONDA members are authors Stephen Trimble (*The Sagebrush Ocean*) and Kathleen Dean Moore (*River Walking*). For more information, call Bill Buck at (541) 383-7523.

**"How to Design An Ecological Reserve System,"** by Stephen C. Trombulak, Ph.D., professor of biology and environmental studies, Middlebury College, provides detailed guidance for non-scientists on how to design science-based ecological reserves. Available for \$5 from Wild Earth, PO Box 455, Richmond, VT 05477.

# Congress moving Livestock Grazing Act

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## Subsidized grazing fees

The revised bill maintains artificially low grazing fees which cost U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars annually. The grazing fee formula in the revised bill won't even generate enough revenue to cover the costs of operating the federal grazing program. Estimates of annual losses to the U.S. Treasury range from \$20 million per year (Congressional Budget Office, 1993) to \$150 million (Government Operations Committee, 1992) to as much as \$400 million (Karl Hess, Cato Institute).

**T**he revised S. 1459 continues public land grazing subsidies and requires that our National Forests and BLM lands be managed for the primary benefit of the livestock industry.

For example, the Congressional Research Service estimates that at most the new formula would have produced a fee in 1995 of \$1.80 per Animal Unit Month (AUM), far less than the \$5.80 per AUM that the Forest Service and BLM estimate as their range management costs. That's a taxpayer loss of \$4.00 for every AUM grazed on our federal forests and public lands! In addition, ranchers pay an average of more than \$10 per AUM to lease private land.

The Gingrich bill continues to subsidize the tiny fraction of livestock operators with federal grazing permits—3% of the nation's cattle operators and 5% of the sheep producers. These subsidies would flow to all federal permittees, including large corporate ranching operations, 4 billionaires, oil companies, min-

ing companies, and a major brewery. And the subsidies are concentrated, with 2% of permittees controlling roughly half of all BLM acreage grazed, according to the General Accounting Office.

## Resource damage

Below-market fees encourage overgrazing and grazing of marginal lands, causing soil erosion, reductions in water quality and quantity, and imperilment of fish, wildlife and plant species. The bill will allow additional resource damage by undercutting existing environmental safeguards designed to protect and restore federal rangelands and associated fish and wildlife habitat. It also limits the application of environmental laws on federal lands, thereby hampering protection of fish and wildlife.

## Limited public input

The Gingrich bill would limit public involvement in agency decisions regarding the management of public lands, at

the same time creating rancher-dominated advisory councils with disproportionate influence over on-the-ground agency decisions. The bill would also restrict the public's ability to appeal unsound grazing management decisions.

Indeed, the new Gingrich Grazing Bill leaves just about as much to be desired as the old version. While it now allows "conservation use" for states as well as permitting selected members of the public to voice objection to (but not actually *appeal*) agency decisions, the bill's minor improvements pale in comparison to its many serious shortcomings. S. 1459 remains one of the most anti-environmental, anti-democratic bills the 104th Congress is considering. Please take action! (See alert below). 

*ONDA thanks The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and the Natural Resources Defense Council for materials on which this article was based and for their tireless efforts in Washington D.C. to help defeat the Livestock Grazing Act.*

## **A**CTIONALERT

### House vote on grazing act imminent

#### Letters and calls needed

The House may vote on this (S. 1459) in late September or early October. Speaker Newt Gingrich will be lobbying for its passage at every opportunity. This so-called "compromise" bill will only compromise the health of our public lands.

#### DeFazio takes action

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Rep. Richard Zimmer (R-NJ) are circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter opposing this legislation. ONDA commends Reps. DeFazio and Zimmer for speaking out against S. 1459 and for asking other representatives to do the same.

#### Action Steps

- 1) Thank Reps. DeFazio and Zimmer for their stand against this sham reform (S. 1459) Urge them to continue fighting it every step of the way.
- 2) Contact your congressperson and Speaker Gingrich today. Ask them to oppose S. 1459, the "revised" Public Rangelands Management Act. Ask them to show their opposition by signing on to Rep. DeFazio's "Dear colleague" letter.
- 3) Urge President Clinton to veto S. 1459 if it comes to his desk.

#### Write or call:

Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 224-3121  
(Capitol Switchboard.)

*Calls before 8 am are less than \$.25/min.*

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
(202) 456-1111 (9am-5pm EDT)  
Fax: 202/456-2883  
president@whitehouse.gov

# Governor uses Measure 38 to press for his salmon plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

navigating some major conflicts in the state, notably the proposed Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings for coastal coho and steelhead salmon (with more salmonid listings due in December for the John Day and Deschutes Rivers). He may also face a hostile, Republican-controlled legislature again in 1997. His offer to oppose Measure 38 requires in return the industry's support for his 1997 budget, which includes millions of dollars for his Coastal Coho Recovery Plan.

The governor's "collaborative" approach depends heavily on voluntary watershed councils similar to the working groups that have found favor with so many ranchers. Though working together sounds good, in our experience working groups don't protect salmon or stream quality when ranchers are asked to give up forage and voluntarily keep their livestock out of public waters.

## Opponents promote voluntary efforts

Meanwhile, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is touting its Watershed Ecosystem Management (WEST) program as a major effort to control water pollution by livestock. Realistically, it can produce only minor results. For starters, most ranchers don't belong to the OCA or subscribe to its agenda. Second, the WEST program does not help watersheds most in need, whereas Measure 38 targets Oregon's most polluted streams. Third, the program is voluntary; ranchers and farmers are not required to participate or invest in improvements to prevent livestock from degrading streams and polluting public waters. Voluntary programs are important, but we need enforcement when education and voluntary efforts fail. How polluted would the Willamette River be today without laws regulating the discharge of industrial wastes and raw sewage into that river?

## 1974: Recovery after four years without grazing



HAROLD WINEGAR

## 1988: Damage after four years of "light" grazing.



HAROLD WINEGAR

**ABOVE:** In 1974, this segment of Bear Creek was protected from livestock for four years, and its riparian vegetation was returning vigorously.

**BELOW:** After its promising recovery, cattle were again allowed to graze Bear Creek. After four years of grazing, livestock had denuded the streamside vegetation, impacting water quality and fish habitat.

Finally, the WEST program is funded through a grant from the EPA and DEQ, the very agencies the OCA is fighting with over Oregon's new water quality standards. Not only is this relationship untenable to many, but long-term funding is questionable given efforts in Congress to slash EPA's budget.

The WEST program is pure public relations; it allows the OCA, at taxpayers expense, to tell the public that education alone is enough to stop livestock pollution of Oregon's public waterways. The WEST program gives the Oregon Cattlemen's Association visibility and may increase their membership, but the bottom line is results: How many miles of streams will it take off DEQ's list of almost 900 polluted streams?

## Time for accountability

In Oregon, it is against the law to dump animal waste from most feedlots into streams. Oregon's 1.2 million cattle defecate 1.3 million tons of manure onto Oregon's range, much of which is deposited directly

into streams or reaches streams in runoff. And then there's the trampling, erosion, sedimentation, and higher water temperatures that result from degraded riparian vegetation. It is time ranchers take responsibility for their livestock that freely roam in and along our streams.

This is not an urban versus rural issue; many farmers and ranchers are as concerned as anyone about providing a legacy of clear, cool streams for future generations. Measure 38 is not divisive; polluted streams are divisive. Measure 38 is not extreme; destroying salmon habitat is extreme. Measure 38 simply requires that livestock operators take responsibility for their impacts on Oregon's precious streams, wild salmon and drinking water. 

**M** Measure 38 is not divisive; polluted streams are divisive. Measure 38 is not extreme; destroying salmon habitat is extreme.

# MEASURE 38

## Reasonable solution to a longstanding problem

By Elaine Rees

Practically everyone agrees: clean drinking water is important and polluted rivers should be cleaned up. And we want bountiful wild salmon, which depend on healthy rivers.

These are some of the obvious reasons for keeping cows out of Oregon's streams. Livestock defecate and urinate in rivers and streams, trample and graze streamside vegetation and destabilize streambanks. They increase stream sedimentation, erosion and runoff, reduce shade and increase water temperature, all of which degrade water quality, as well as fish and wildlife habitat.

Removing livestock will allow natural processes to restore healthy streams, so that they can once again produce, cool, clear, clean water (see photos). In addition to helping restore dwindling wild salmon runs, preventing livestock from damaging streams will ensure safe recreational opportunities, such as swimming, boating and other water sports. Oregon's tourist industry counts on healthy riverine landscapes. Pure water is also essential for the Northwest's growing semiconductor industry and other new and existing businesses.

Yet livestock industry representatives attempt to divert attention away from the vital issues of clean water and healthy fisheries by insisting that Ballot Measure 38 is unfair, unreasonable and divisive. Below we describe the major features of Measure 38 which demonstrate it is a fair, targeted response to a longstanding water pollution problem.

### WHAT MEASURE 38 DOES

#### 1) Measure 38 targets only streams polluted by livestock

Only polluted streams segments are affected by the act. If the type of pollution for which the stream or river is "listed" as polluted by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (e.g. fecal coliform, sediment, temperature) cannot be attributed to livestock, the landowner is under no obligation to fence off the stream, and no lawsuits may be brought. Access points for watering livestock are allowed.



#### 2) Measure 38 is phased in over 10 years

Private landowners will have between 5 and 10 years to protect polluted streams. If the stream in question provides drinking water or contains salmon, steelhead or trout habitat, and it is polluted by livestock, Measure 38 would require private landowners to keep livestock out of the stream and adjacent riparian area (using the state's definition) starting in 2002. Private landowners would have until 2007 to restrict livestock from all other streams. (On public lands, the measure would take effect between 1997 and 2002.)

#### 3) Measure 38 encourages cooperative water quality plans

Ballot Measure 38's provisions don't apply if a river or stream has an DEQ-approved water quality management plan in place. This creates a strong incentive for agencies and landowners to decide on a water quality management plan to clean up a polluted stream. (So far, only one of Oregon's many polluted river systems—the Tualatin—has such a plan in place!) Without incentives and deadlines, it could be decades before significant progress is made. Our dwindling wild salmon don't have decades to spare. Ballot Measure 38 clearly says, "You must start cleaning up the water within the next five to ten years."

Clean water  
and  
wild salmon  
depend on  
healthy  
riparian areas.

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# WHAT MEASURE 38 DOES

1980: Grazing had denuded Mill Creek.



HAROLD WINEGAR

In 1980, livestock had trampled and grazed off streamside vegetation on Mill Creek. The loss of streamside vegetation increases stream temperatures, erosion, sedimentation, harming water quality and fish habitat.

1994: Livestock removal revitalizes Mill Creek.



HAROLD WINEGAR

By 1994, livestock removal had revitalized this segment of Mill Creek. Restored streamside vegetation shades water, provides better fish habitat, and filters sediments and livestock wastes, thereby reducing fecal coliform pollution.

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Livestock operators claim that they prefer cooperative solutions, and don't want the government regulating their operations. Ballot Measure 38 gives livestock operators 5 to 10 years to develop a cooperative water quality management plan with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

#### 4) Measure 38 gives ranchers financial incentives

Measure 38 gives ranchers and farmers financial assistance to improve management of livestock along rivers. First, the measure would extend Oregon's Fish Habitat Improvement Tax Credit (a 25% property tax credit) to individuals who incur expenses to comply with its provisions.

Second, funding would be made available to landowners through the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board (GWEB), provided the proposed project is part of a watershed action plan prepared by a local watershed council. Third, landowners would be given preference for financial assistance through both GWEB and Oregon's Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program, a

\$2 million annual program funded by a surcharge on fishing licences. The state Riparian Tax Law also gives 100% property tax relief for landowners who improve streamside habitat, as required by this measure.

Government inaction on this vital issue prompted concerned citizens to develop Measure 38. In 1993, the Oregon Legislature briefly considered a Grazing Practices Act, similar in intent to the State Forest Practices Act, that would have regulated water pollution caused by livestock grazing. The livestock industry lobbied heavily against it, and the bill died in committee. With industry backing, the 1993 Legislature passed SB 1010, which directs ODA to develop voluntary water quality management plans for each polluted river. But the Legislature chose not to provide adequate funding, and at present funding levels, it will take over a century to establish water quality plans for all of Oregon's polluted rivers.

Should the livestock industry be allowed to pollute public waters, harming drinking water safety and wild salmon? Their vehement opposition to Measure 38 implies their answer is "yes." Instead, say yes to healthy streams, clean drinking water and wild salmon! Vote yes on Measure 38!

**See page 8 to help educate voters about Measure 38. For a copy of the measure's text, call or write, OCSI, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701. (541) 389-8367**

Measure 38 is a reasonable solution that responds to years of legislative inaction, targets only streams polluted by livestock, and simply asks the livestock industry to take responsibility for its waste.

# OPPONENTS SPREAD DISINFORMATION

## Myths and Facts about Measure 38

With the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative now on the November ballot as Measure 38, opponents of the measure are spreading misconceptions and exaggerations about its effect. Opponents, primarily livestock interests, appear unwilling to admit that livestock operations can and do pollute streams and harm salmon and trout habitat. Here are gleanings from their statements in the press and facts that rebut their disinformation.

**MYTH:** “[Measure 38] will force Oregonians to fence almost every stream, pond, creek, lake and spring in Oregon.”

Rahlie Goodell, “Don’t Fence Us Out”/ Wheeler County for Livestock, Fossil, OR, *Condon Times*, July 25, 1996.

**FACTS:** Measure 38 applies only to streams polluted by livestock. Less than 12% (about 12,000 river miles out of the state’s approximately 104,000 river miles) are polluted, or “water quality limited,” according to the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Of those 12,000, DEQ estimates 9,300 river miles are impacted by non-point livestock pollution, more miles than any other source of non-point water pollution. Few ponds and lakes are affected by livestock pollution, except for stock watering ponds, which are not covered by Measure 38.

**MYTH:** “Even a person in a more metropolitan area with a pleasure riding horse on his or her property could face costly restrictions under provisions of the initiative.”

Rick Stevenson, Director of Information Services, Oregon Farm Bureau, *Capital Press*, June 15, 1996.

**FACTS:** Again, Measure 38 applies only to stream segments that the DEQ has shown to be polluted by livestock. If a horse owner pastures his/her animal along a waterway not on DEQ’s list of streams polluted by livestock, the measure does not apply. Unless one’s horse is contributing the specific pollutants for which the river or stream is listed (e.g., sediment, fecal coliform, temperature, etc.), the measure does not apply. It is highly unlikely that metropolitan-area riding horses, which are dispersed over a wide area, are making significant contributions to water pollution.

**MYTH:** “Perhaps the scariest part of the initiative is a ‘bounty hunter provision,’ which states that anyone ‘may commence a civil action in state court against any person, including the State of Oregon, allegedly to be in violation of the act.’”

Rick Stevenson, Director of Information Services, Oregon Farm Bureau, *Capital Press*, June 15, 1996

**FACTS:** Like the federal Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, Ballot Measure 38 does include a citizen enforcement clause. Calling this a “bounty hunter” provision is nonsense. The fact is government agencies have an uneven record enforcing water pollution laws. For example, the DEQ has shown infinite patience with water pollution violations by Senate candidate Gordon Smith’s food processing plant in Pendleton. When governments fail to enforce laws, citizen enforcement provisions give citizens a way to remedy pollution violations. The measure also requires a 30-day notice of intent to sue, which allows time for the violation to be remedied without legal action.

**MYTH:** “The Clean Stream Initiative will promote lawsuits and harassment...while destroying cooperation and management solutions that protect and enhance the water quality of Oregon.”

Arlene Guerin, President, Coos County Livestock Association, *Coos County World*

**FACTS:** Measure 38 actually creates an incentive for cooperation. When landowners and agencies develop an approved water quality management plan for a stream (so far only one polluted Oregon stream has one), Measure 38’s provisions will no longer apply. The measure allows 5 to 10 years to develop these plans before going into effect on private lands. Cooperative solutions are fine if progress is being made toward legally mandated goals. But water quality management plans are not being developed for numer-

**9,300**  
stream miles are impacted by  
livestock grazing, more miles than  
any other source of non-point  
water pollution in the state.  
*Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality*

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# MYTHS & FACTS



DENNIS TODD

DENNIS TODD

Algal blooms line the banks of a stream in the Chewaucan watershed. Nutrient-loaded livestock wastes can stimulate excessive algal growth. When the algae decomposes, it consumes available dissolved oxygen, threatening fish and other aquatic species. **INSET:** Close-up of algal bloom.

balance of nutrients. Additional nutrients are not only unnecessary, but also harmful because they can produce "algal blooms" (unnaturally high rates of algae growth). When the algae dies, it consumes dissolved oxygen on which the fish rely. The result? Suffocated fish.

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ous polluted ("water quality limited") rivers and streams in Oregon because there are few incentives and no deadlines.

**MYTH:** "A cow standing in a stream...its nutrients go into the water and help things that grow along streams, like the bugs that fish eat."

Sharon Beck, President-elect, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, *Eugene Weekly*, April 18, 1996.

**FACTS:** According to DEQ (and common sense), any river or stream which has historically supported native fish naturally provides the proper

Taken together, the arguments posed by opponents to Measure 38 imply that ranchers should have the right to continue fouling public streams, polluting our drinking water and harming fish habitat. The DEQ says 9,300 stream miles are impacted by livestock grazing, more miles than any other non-point pollution source in Oregon. Measure 38 is a reasonable solution that targets only those streams polluted by livestock, and responds to years of legislative inaction. Measure 38 simply asks the livestock industry to take responsibility for its waste.



## SALMON CAN'T WAIT: YES ON 38!

### The Oregon Clean Stream Initiative

Please return this form to OCSI ASAP (October 15 at the latest)

**LEND A HAND!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to help (check all that interest you):**

- I'll send my political action tax credit (\$50/individual, \$100/couple).
- I'll purchase & wear an Oregon Clean Stream T-shirt.  
(Enclose \$ 15 per shirt and circle size: L XL.)
- I'll write a letter to the editor of local papers each month (Sept-Nov).
- I'll collect the signatures of 10 registered voters who will vote Yes on 38!
- I'll \_\_\_ put up a yard sign or \_\_\_ coordinate yard sign distribution.
- I'll \_\_\_ staff \_\_\_ coordinate a table at a busy location to educate voters.
- I'll \_\_\_ participate in \_\_\_ coordinate a phone bank to educate voters.
- I'll \_\_\_ participate in \_\_\_ coordinate a door-to-door canvass to educate voters.
- I'll coordinate an event for a Clean Stream speaker in my community.
- I'll host a house party in my home to raise money for Measure 38.

**CUT OUT & MAIL TO: OCSI, 16 NW Kansas Ave., Bend, OR 97701**

*These poems were read at the Second Annual Desert Poetry Festival at Desert Conference XVIII last April.*

**HAIKU**

Wild flowers, bright red  
 Indian paintbrush meadows,  
 Gusty breeze blows through!

*-Lola Milholland*



**RELEVANCE**

Somewhere, a cloud forms,  
 Traveling east over lush, gifted lands.  
 Mountains fade and drown,  
 Beneath the hurry.

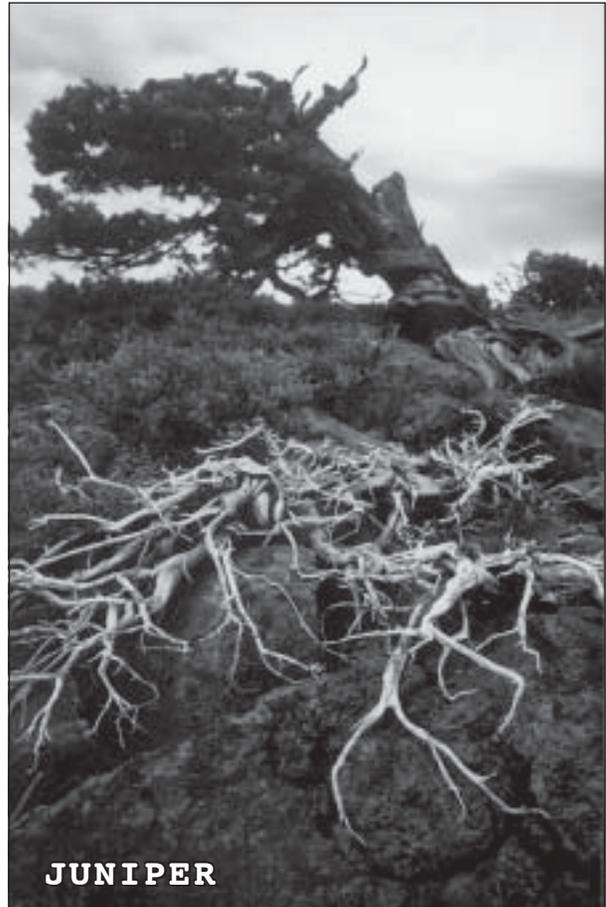
The cloud rests and gathers,  
 dropping but some tears of promise.  
 Sustained and provided,  
 The desert waits with patience.

Beside the mighty river's roar,  
 Silent eddies pause.  
 These sands and ebony rock  
 Are eddies on the earth.

Desert is a preservative.  
 Because things come slowly  
 They hide and guard,  
 But the flowers rampage.

*- Doug Troutman*

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**JUNIPER**

Gnarled,  
 broken,  
 burned  
 but alive,  
 i find a tree  
 ancient  
 on the ridge,  
 accepting sun,  
 being shelter.

*- from "Desert Light" by Rick Demmer*

© ELAINE REES

**ADAPTATION**

To live in the desert  
 be patient,  
 let your skin darken,  
 peer through lidded slits,  
 and learn to breathe deep  
 in the morning.

*- from "Desert Light" by Rick Demmer*

# Pronghorn fawn survival improves on Hart Mountain

by Gilly Lyon and Elaine Rees

In January, in response to a falling pronghorn antelope population on Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a plan to shoot coyotes from helicopters. Conservation groups (including ONDA), animal welfare organizations, and wildlife biologists strongly criticized the plan for using inconclusive data and failing to fully consider other possible sources of fawn mortality, such as drought, harsh winters, and degraded habitat. Some also challenged the USFWS's assertion that fawn populations were "dangerously low." Subsequently, the agency shelved the coyote shoot until a more thorough two-year study of fawn populations could be conducted.

The study is now in full swing and initial data are in, according to Dan Alonzo, Hart Mountain Refuge Manager. In 1995, only 0.8 fawns survived per 100 does. In 1996, 17 fawns per 100 does survived. (Refuge biologists consider "maintenance level" to be 25 fawns per 100 does.) Preliminary data suggest the majority of this spring's dead fawns were indeed killed by coyotes. However, it's unclear whether predation rates are higher due to poor nutrition or reduced vigor among the pronghorn or whether the increase is caused by too many coyotes. USFWS will survey vegetation to determine if nutrition is a factor.

Alonzo concedes that natural fluctuations in pronghorn populations could help explain the apparently low fawn numbers at Hart Mountain, and admits that over the next few years, predator and prey numbers may stabilize on their own.

For now, the coyotes at Hart Mountain have been granted a temporary reprieve. As refuge biologists pursue their research, ONDA will offer updates on their findings. We're looking forward to a decision in 1998 that is based upon sound science and careful consideration of all the relevant factors.



ONDA volunteers removed three miles of fence at Hart Mt. Wildlife Refuge.

## Barbed Wire Round-Up a Success

By Gilly Lyon

It was hot. It was dry. And threat of minor puncture wounds was high. But that didn't stop twenty dedicated ONDA members from spending a late July weekend pulling up fences at Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.

This year's Barbed Wire Round-Up was our most productive to date. We removed more than three miles of the unneeded barbed wire fences that criss-cross the refuge. The fences became obsolete in 1990 when ONDA and other conservation groups successfully pressured the US Fish and Wildlife Service to end livestock grazing on the 277,000-acre refuge.

Participants agreed: the refuge looks more beautiful than ever. Five years without livestock grazing have yielded healthier grasslands, rejuvenated streams, and lush riparian areas.

Thanks to all who took part in this year's Round-Up. Our hard work is much appreciated by the pronghorn antelope roaming the refuge.

## Volunteer Profile

### Kris Balliet & Jack Sterne



Jack Sterne, Kris Balliet and their son River.

By Gilly Lyons

ONDA is thrice blessed to have in our midst volunteers Kris Balliet, Jack Sterne, and their newly-ambulatory toddler, River. While Kris and Jack worked toward their law degrees at Lewis and Clark College, they volunteered doing legal work for ONDA and gaining at the same time an affinity for sagebrush country. "The high desert was the first place I visited when I moved to Oregon," recalls Jack. "I found it entirely magical, and I've been fighting for it ever since."

River's parents reside in Sisters, where Kris is a community organizer and Jack is a land use attorney. Now, Kris helps ONDA with fundraising and grant writing, and Jack handles appeals, protests, and lawsuits.

"Working with ONDA," says Kris, "is one way for me to stay involved with the issues that affect the high desert, and it's a way for me to help diffuse some the threats that abound here."

Many thanks to Jack and Kris for all their hard work—and to River for re-organizing ONDA's paper clip collection and sorting the recycling paper by flavor.

# M ARKETPLACE

## Books

- The Sagebrush Ocean: A Natural History of the Great Basin*  
by Stephen Trimble ..... \$24
- Waste of the West: Public Lands Ranching*  
by Lynn Jacobs ..... \$28
- Sacred Cows at the Public Trough*  
by Denzel & Nancy Ferguson ..... \$9
- Hole in the Sky*  
by William Kittredge ..... \$20

## T-Shirts/Sweatshirts

- ONDA T-shirts (short sleeve) ..... \$12
- ONDA Sweatshirts (long sleeve) \$22  
*Specify size (L or XL only) and color (Grey or sage only).*
- "Boycott Beef" T-shirt (short sleeve) ..... \$12

## Etc.

- Stunning 18"x 28" color poster of Big Indian Gorge ..... \$10
- Road Map to OHDPA lands ..... \$5
- "Cows Kill Salmon" bumper sticker ..... \$1

**Spread the truth!**  
**Bumper Stickers only \$1 each**



## ONDA Marketplace Order Form

| ITEM DESCRIPTION   | COLOR (1st & 2nd choice) | SIZE | QUANTITY | ITEM PRICE | TOTAL |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------|
|                    |                          |      |          | x          | =     |
|                    |                          |      |          | x          | =     |
|                    |                          |      |          | x          | =     |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> |                          |      |          |            |       |

## YES!! I'LL JOIN OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION!

### Annual membership levels:

- \$25    
  \$50    
  \$100    
  \$250    
  \$500

### The High Desert Defense Fund Monthly Contribution Program:

Automatic bank deductions are convenient, cut down on paper use and mail solicitations, and are hassle free. Deductions from your account may be stopped or adjusted at any time by simply sending a written notice or by phoning ONDA at (541) 330-2638.

High Desert Defense Fund monthly membership levels: (enclose a signed, voided check)

- \$5    
  \$10    
  \$25    
  \$50    
  \$100

### Pass my name to the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative so I can help educate voters:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with check to ONDA, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701

## CHECK MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION  
16 NW KANSAS STREET  
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### Comments needed on Interior Columbia Basin Study

The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be released later this fall (conveniently after the elections). This eastside range and forest plan will be roughly equivalent in nature to President Clinton's westside Forest Plan, but will address eastside forests, high desert grasslands, and streams. Congress has attempted to cut off funds for this project, appearing afraid to know what objective science may say about the health of our high desert grasslands and forests. The DEIS's ecological information is supposed to guide future management of our public lands. We need people to familiarize themselves with this document and the issues, and to make comments on it. Please request a summary of the ICBEMP Draft EIS by writing: ICBEMP, 112 E. Poplar, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

### ONDA Teams Up with EFO

Last year ONDA became a member of the Environmental Federation of Oregon (EFO), an umbrella organization that raises funds for Oregon environmental groups through workplace giving programs. EFO has helped protect Oregon's natural splendor through its payroll deduction programs, raising over \$1.5 million for two dozen member groups since its inception in 1989.

Workplace giving is a convenient way to support environmental groups and issues that are important to you. EFO's 24 member groups represent a broad spectrum of environmental activity, and you can specify which organizations your contributions will assist (such as ONDA!). Contributions through EFO entitle you to membership benefits within the organization(s) of your choice, and are fully tax deductible.

Whether you contribute monthly, quarterly, or annually, EFO will work with your company to make workplace giving easy. If you'd like more information, or would like to see EFO become a part of your company's workplace giving program, please call EFO in Portland at (503) 223-9015.

**DATE CHANGE!!! DATE CHANGE!!! DATE CHANGE!!!**

ONDA's Annual Meeting will now be held  
**Sat - Sun, Oct. 5-6**

For more info, see pg. 2 or call Gilly (541) 330-2638