

Desert Ramblings

the newsletter of the
Oregon
Natural Desert
association



Volume 8, Number 4

Inside:

- The Cryptobiotic Crust 5
- Clean Stream Photo Essay 6-7
- John Day River .. 8
- Action Alert..... 12



Clean Stream Initiative makes progress

The Oregon Clean Stream Initiative, which would prohibit livestock in or along polluted streams, is making steady progress despite delays due to its opponents. In September, the measure was filed with the Secretary of State and by October was assigned a ballot "title" (see pg. 7). But at the last moment, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association challenged the ballot title in an effort to reduce the time available for gathering signatures.

The Cattlemen's Association argued before the Oregon Supreme Court that, in essence, the public might construe the ballot title as a measure to protect livestock from polluted water (yes, you read that right). We expect the Supreme Court to affirm the title as certified by the Attorney General's Office. Petitions should be available sometime in January.

In recognition of the initiative's public appeal, the Cattlemen's Association says it needs \$1 to 3 million to defeat this measure, according to the *Oregon Cattlemen's Journal*. They know it will take a well-funded media campaign to convince Oregon voters that their livestock should be allowed to continue polluting our public streams. Do they ever consider that perhaps their cows should not be fouling our streams?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 ►



DAN SHERMAN

A just-hatched killdeer chick among desert vegetation.

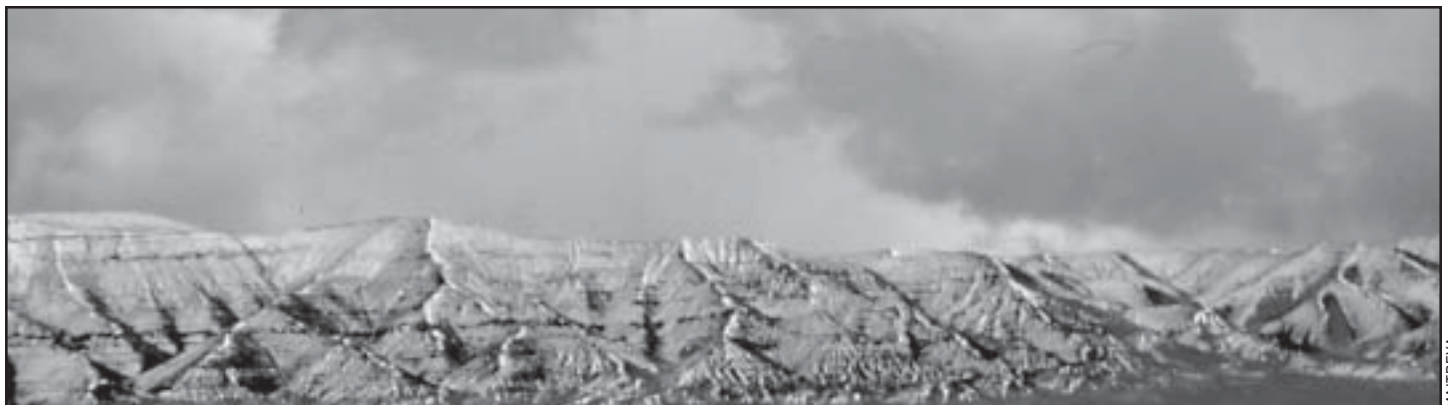
Understanding biodiversity

The term "biodiversity" has become a buzzword in the conservation movement. We use biodiversity to refer to what is being lost due to human activities within the natural world and to label that seemingly unquantifiable ideal we strive to preserve and protect. But just what is "biodiversity"?

Levels of biodiversity

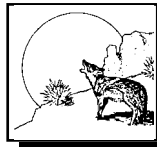
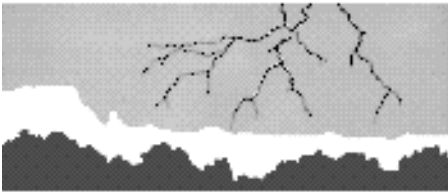
Biodiversity exists at four levels: genetic, species, community, and landscape. Genetic diversity allows species to respond to fluctuating environmental conditions. A large gene pool provides a wide range of possible combinations of traits with which a species is able to cope with environmental changes, such as a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►



MATREYA

A snow-covered ridge in the East Alvord Wilderness Study Area.



FROM THE DEN

by Elaine Rees

Welcome Kathi Myron, ONDA's new president

Like nature herself, the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) is dynamic. Change keeps us fresh and vital. In October, ONDA's board of directors elected a new president, and it is my pleasure to pass the gavel to Kathi Myron, who begins her term in January. Kathi's passion for the desert cannot be overstated. Her commitment to ONDA is evident in her willingness to occasionally step away from her potters' wheel, set aside her camera, and leave her family to chair our Board meetings. She has been active for years working to save the threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in southeast Oregon.

My tenure as board president has been both challenging and rewarding, and I wish to thank all board members for their cooperation and perseverance in negotiating the rapids and eddies of the past two years.

As ONDA continues to grow and evolve, so too must our board. Soon, we will have openings for new Board members. If you have a burning desire (or even just a glowing spark) to contribute your talents to a great grassroots organization, please let us know! As Ed Abbey said, the



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Bend...

"Evenings with Nature" is a series of free programs co-sponsored by ONDA, Central Oregon Audubon Society, Native Plant Society, and Sierra Club. The events are held at the Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16NW Kansas, with refreshments at 6:30 PM and the program at 7 PM.

- **January 17** - "The History and Biology of the Bald Eagle in Oregon," with biologist Ralph Opp.
- **January 31** - "Night in the Desert," with Jerry Niehuser.
- **February 21** - "Animal Secrets in the High Desert," with naturalist and author Jim Anderson.
- **March 20** - "The Holocene in the High Desert: Human Use and Adaptations over 10,000 Years," with archaeologist Paul Claeysens.

Desert Conference XVIII April 25-28

Malheur Field Station, Harney County. See our next issue for more!

Dirty Cow Photo Contest

ONDA is pleased to announce its first (and, if the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative passes in '96, the last) Annual Dirty Cow Photo Contest. We are accepting photos of cows that have been caught in the act of dawdling, defecating or decomposing in a stream. If you suspect that you may have missed your calling as a private eye or photographer for *Weekly World News*, fear not! Here's a chance to take part in a real exposé.

Photos will be accepted for the following, loosely-defined categories: Bovine Bathers, Crapping Cattle, Dead Cows Don't Float, and Muddy Waters. All entries will be exhibited at Desert Conference XVIII. Winners will be chosen by conference attendees and selections published in *Desert Ramblings*.

Please submit color or black & white entries, preferably 8" x 10" enlargements, to "Dirty Cow Photo Contest," c/o ONDA, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701. **Deadline: April 12, 1996.** Questions? Call Gilly at (541) 385-6908.

Oregon Natural Desert Association

16NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701

VOICE: 541-385-6908 • 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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Copy Editor: Elizabeth Claman

Oregon Clean Stream Initiative moves ahead

Livestock industry plans multi-million dollar opposition campaign

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

"Why does the proposed law seek to keep cows out of only polluted streams, instead of all streams?"

Good question. In short, political and practical reasons compelled initiative backers to limit the scope of the measure.

First, it doesn't take a Ph.D. in political science to recognize the widespread public support to clean up polluted streams. Watching a cow defecate in a stream while it grazes the stream bank is a no-brainer; even a six-year old knows she should not drink or swim where cows have been pooping.

Practically, initiative backers won't have to spend enormous sums to educate voters about an issue they can decide for themselves. The imperative to restore a polluted stream is self-evident. Polling data show that most Oregonians know livestock grazing along streams harms water quality. By focusing the debate on the most polluted streams, the burden of proof is on the livestock industry to persuade voters that Oregonians should allow them to continue to trash our public waterways.

Will the initiative solve all the water pollution problems in Oregon's watersheds?

No, but it will be the biggest single step forward, particularly in eastern Oregon, to improve water quality, increase stream flows, restore ecological health, benefit wildlife and enhance struggling salmon, steelhead and trout populations.

How many streams will the initiative protect?

The act only applies to "water quality limited" streams, which is a bureaucratic euphemism for polluted. Technically, these streams don't fully support "beneficial uses," such as drinking, swimming and fishing because they fail to meet state water quality standards for temperature, sedimentation, fecal coliform bacteria, etc. By law, the state is supposed to develop restoration plans to clean up these polluted streams. But




© GREG BURKE

The Oregon Clean Stream Initiative will prohibit cows from polluted streams and their adjacent riparian areas.

the anti-environmental majority in the Oregon Legislature refused to fund these water quality restoration plans; little has been done and the pollution continues largely unabated. Inaction on the problem is one reason ONDA supports the initiative.

Of the 100,000 miles of streams in Oregon, the state has listed about 6,000 miles, or about 6% of the our streams, as "water quality limited." However, earlier this year, the Northwest Environmental Defense Center and Northwest Environmental Advocates sued the state for failing to maintain an accurate list of the state's polluted streams. The new list, recently released in draft form for public comment (see Action Alert, back page), adds about 700 polluted streams, which will also fall under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative if voters approve it on November 5, 1996.

As with any ballot measure, only so much public education can be accomplished during the brief signature collection period coupled with the four month campaign after making it on the ballot. Other things being equal, a successful ballot measure must, for the most part, reflect public sentiment. Unfortunately, things are never equal and most measures that seek to protect the environment are a struggle. Corporate interests

who profit from the status quo generally spend heavily, attempting to defeat such measures. A good example was the 1994 initiative to restrict poisonous cyanide mining: the mining industry outspent the measure's backers 70 to one! 

Volunteers and donations needed!

In the great Oregon tradition, a vigorous grassroot effort will counter the anticipated livestock industry media campaign. Obviously, the Clean Stream Initiative will need all the volunteers and donations its supporters can muster.

During these days of giving, why not give the gift of clean water to our kids? Make a green New Year's resolution to help get the Clean Stream Initiative on the ballot. Make a donation, collect signatures, or even coordinate a team of signature gatherers. To get involved, contact:

PORTLAND AREA:

Donna Rosen: 503-232-8478

SALEM AREA:

Salem Audubon: 503-588-7340

CORVALLIS AREA:

Craig Lacy: 541-758-6148

BEND AND ELSEWHERE:

Ashley Henry: 541-389-8367

Understanding biodiversity

Ability to adapt over time is a critical component of biodiversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gradual increase in mean annual temperature (due to global warming). On the species level, diversity provides a richness that lends stability to biotic communities. Biotic communities shift in distribution and abundance in response to climatic and geologic conditions, thereby providing the necessary resiliency by which ecosystems are maintained. Finally, regional landscapes—the Great Plains, the Kaibab Plateau, and the John Day River Watershed, for example—exist as contiguous clusters of interacting biotic communities or ecosystems.

Natural processes

Nutrient cycling, fire cycles, plant succession and the many other processes that maintain species and communities in the natural environment are a necessary part of the definition of biodiversity. On the desert, the hydrological (water) cycle is an obvious process impinging upon all living organisms. Disturbance regimes such as fire and flood events are not only natural, but in some cases are essential to certain communities within desert ecosystems (e.g., cottonwood trees require a scoured but wet seedbed to establish new seedlings). Energy flow, equilibrium processes, feedback and homeostatic systems are also vital to the lives of individual organisms, species, communities, and ecosystems.

The ability to adapt or change over time is a critical component of biodiversity. Current concepts of biodiversity thus recognize that species and ecosystems change in response to shifting climate and other physical and biological changes.

Biodiversity versus species richness

Biodiversity is often confused with the total num-

ber of species in an area. This confusion sometimes leads to inaccurate claims that biodiversity is increasing when, in fact, just the opposite is occurring. Adding new species to an ecosystem does not necessarily increase biodiversity, especially when the new species are not native to the region. The introduction of non-native grasses, the increase of a “preferred species” (usually big game) to the detriment of one or more less charismatic life forms, and the colonization of a habitat by a common native species at the expense of rare species are instances in which the overall number of species within a community may increase, but the actual biodiversity of the region may decrease.

Ecologists distinguish between species richness, which is a simple measure of the total number of species in a given area, and biodiversity, which is a more conceptual term referring to the variability of native species and the natural processes of which they are a part.

Biodiversity defined

Conservation biologists have crafted a comprehensive definition of biodiversity which emphasizes the importance of native species and communities and which provides a framework for scientific quantification.

“Biodiversity is the aggregate of native species assemblages (communities), individual (native) species, and genetic variation within such species, and the processes by which these components interact within and among themselves; for classification purposes, biodiversity exists at four levels: (1) regional landscape diversity, (2) community diversity (habitat, ecosystem), (3) species diversity, and (4) genetic diversity within a species; all four levels change through time.”

It has been suggested that biodiversity is merely a new term for “nature” and that what used to be called “nature conservation” is now called biodiversity con-

Biodiversity is much more than the sum of its parts. (Garter snake and butterfly photos by Elaine Rees; ground squirrel photo by Dan Sherman.)

and ecosys-

The cryptobiotic crust

The glue that binds desert soils

By Peggy Robinson

Before settlers and their domestic grazing animals arrived in the arid West, the spaces between the bunchgrasses, sagebrush, and juniper trees were covered by what scientists now call "cryptobiotic crusts."

The term "cryptobiotic" means "hidden life," referring to the inconspicuous nature of the crust's components (algae, cyanobacteria, mosses, lichens, and microfungi). In the last 150 years, much of this crust of hidden life has been destroyed, primarily by the trampling hooves of sheep and cattle on the range, leaving these spaces filled with highly erodible sand and dust.

Functions of the crust

The cryptobiotic crust serves several important ecological functions.

- The crust acts like a sponge, absorbing up to eight times its own weight in precious water from the scarce rains and holding it in the soil. The crust's rough surface also slows runoff of any unabsorbed water, reducing erosion.
- The cyanobacteria and some of the algae bound into the lichens fix essential nitrogen into the soil, enhancing plant survival and productivity. Cryptobiotic crusts also contribute organic matter and other important nutrients, such as phosphorus, potassium, iron, calcium, magnesium, and manganese, to desert soils.
- In Oregon's high desert, most of the precipitation falls during the cold winter months; the dark cryptobiotic crust retains solar heat, facilitat-

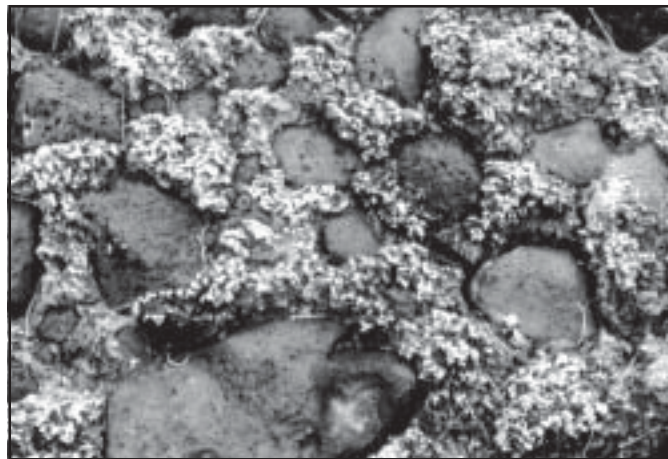
ing plant germination and the uptake of nutrients.

Losing the crust

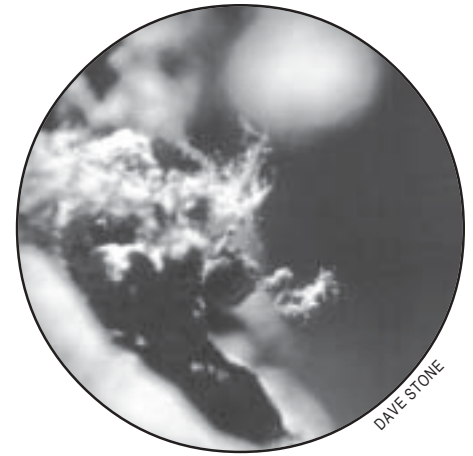
When dry (during most of the year), the soil-binding filaments of cyanobacteria in the crust are very brittle and shatter easily when trampled by livestock, humans or vehicles. Thus the integrity of the crust is destroyed, and the soil be-

The crust acts like a sponge, absorbing up to eight times its own weight in precious water.

comes susceptible to wind and water erosion, consequently lowering soil fertility and plant productivity. Scientists have also observed that where the cryptobiotic crust has been damaged or destroyed, exotic



The fragile, uneven cryptobiotic crust covers the soils between these stones. The crust absorbs and retains scarce rains, supplies nutrients to the soil and prevents erosion.



A magnified view of the cryptobiotic crust's filaments that bind soil particles together, preventing erosion.

plants such as cheatgrass commonly become established.

Perhaps the most frightening potential effect of the widespread removal of the crust is its impact on regional weather patterns due to changes in the earth's "albedo" (reflectivity). Well-crusting desert soils are brown or black, absorbing heat, while bare desert soils are light-colored, reflecting more heat into the atmosphere. The long-range effects of such climactic changes are unknown.

Restoration and recovery

It appears that in some areas, the cryptobiotic crust may begin to re-establish itself within a year of rest from disturbance, although nitrogen fixation occurs at only a fraction of its rate before destruction. But the underlying structure may take up to a century to fully recover. Recovery rates are determined by such factors as the type and extent of disturbance and the availability of nearby crust to inoculate the denuded areas. Temperature and precipitation in the period following disturbance is also a variable, with wetter periods stimulating faster recovery.

Dr. Jane Belnap of the U.S. Biological Survey has

been studying cryptobiotic crusts in Utah for the National Park Ser-

Livestock pollute streams, harm fisheries



ONDA FILE PHOTO

◀ In the desert, cattle, a species that evolved in a more humid climate, tend to congregate in streams, exacerbating the damage to this critical part of the arid ecosystem.

Livestock can completely destroy critical riparian (streamside) vegetation, thereby increasing water temperatures and sedimentation that harms salmon and trout.



ONDA FILE PHOTO



JOHN KELLY

◀ Where grazing occurs on the vast public lands in eastern Oregon, cattle may be left to die and decompose in our public waterways.

TO HELP COLLECT SIGNATURES:

Portland Area:

Donna Rosen: 503-232-8478

Salem Area:

Salem Audubon Society: 503-588-7340

Corvallis Area:

Craig Lacy: 541-758-6148

Bend and elsewhere:

Ashley Henry: 541-389-8367

Removing livestock revitalizes streams

Oregon Clean Stream Initiative Ballot Title

Prohibits Livestock in Certain Polluted Waters or on Adjacent Lands

Result of "YES" Vote: Vote "yes" to prohibit livestock in or along certain polluted waters in state, with exceptions.

Result of "NO" Vote: Vote "no" to reject law prohibiting livestock in or along certain polluted waters in state.

Summary: Measure would prohibit livestock in certain waters in Oregon, and on adjacent land, if waters do not meet state water quality standards and the livestock would contribute to poor water quality. State Department of Agriculture may allow exemptions if certain criteria are met. Any person may sue to enforce law. Measure applies to state, federal and private waters and land. Persons required to comply may receive tax credit and state funding. Measure's operative dates are delayed, depending on land ownership and type of habitat affected."

Chief Petitioners: Debbie Davis, Patrick Shipsey, M.D., Nelson Wallulatum



ELAINE REES

▲ A healthy riparian zone's vegetation filters and converts pollutants, keeping water clean and clear.



ELAINE REES

▲ After livestock are removed, desert streams can recover their riparian vegetation, improving water quality, salmon and trout habitat, recreational opportunities and drinking water quality.

Our children and grandchildren will benefit if we act to protect and restore our streams by passing the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative. ▶



ONDA FILE PHOTO

The John Day River: A Voyage of the Soul

In the spring of 1969, Brock Evans (now vice president of the National Audubon Society) floated Oregon's John Day River, inspiring him to record his impressions of this enchanting desert waterway. Today the river remains wild (with portions designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River). Still, widespread livestock grazing causes bacterial pollution, sedimentation, and elevated water temperatures, all of which impair the river's ability to sustain a fishery, support native wildlife, and provide clean water for other human uses. We have excerpted from Brock's article first published in The Conifer over two decades ago.

by Brock Evans

The John Day flows through a serene and strange country, the Oregon High Desert, with barren hills and fantastic eroded shapes. Off in the distance from the river, we see the bare hills, green now from recent rains, and topped by curious mesas and buttes. And down here by the river—life; the only place in this land where there really is life, teeming and full. Yet, twenty feet away, the stark desert begins.

Basalt—massive columns rise right out of the water, great stone shapes—something speaks here of such power, of the time when the earth was formed. We see the in-



ERIC SCHULZ

Eastern Oregon's John Day River is one of the few undammed tributaries in the Columbia Basin.

credible changes and patterns of stone as we round a bend; who can imagine the stresses in the earth as these huge layers, one on top of the other, cooled. There are overhangs and flowers—life growing right in among them on the sheerest cliffs, seeking out even the tiniest ledge to grow on.

My soul deepens and wanders into depths scarcely known or explored. Now, a vast healing does truly begin. I cannot even remember the date; there is only the rise and set of the sun, the light and shadow, and the endless pure crystal sky drenched and sprinkled with stars and night.

There is also the heat, the eternal sun, burning as soon as it touches you, weaving slowly across the blazing blue sky. Yet it burns clean and nicely and it is cool when you are on the river....

And high up, an eagle's nest in the great cliffs; and right

over the river, millions of cliff swallows make their curious mud nests. There is about this place a spell, a sense of the utter primeval and of ancient things: of old men and forgotten peoples, campfires and death and lives from long ago.

I have heard nothing yet in all

I have heard nothing yet in all my life so pure and indescribably sweet as the song of the canyon wrens, deep down in the gorges, echoing off the walls.

my life so pure and indescribably sweet as the song of the canyon wrens, deep down in the gorges, echoing off the walls.... A pair of prairie falcons wheel and arc high in the intense sky, soaring across the river and battlements, calling to each other and dancing on the wind for the fierce joy of life and song.



LYNN PRENSELAAAR

Columnar basalt along the John Day River.



Aldo Leopold

Aldo Leopold, born in 1887, was a forester early in his career, but is remembered as the founder of the profession of wildlife management and as co-founder of The Wilderness Society. As a rural landowner in Wisconsin, Leopold recorded his observations of the natural world and solidified his philosophy on the proper human relationship to the land. A year after his death in 1948, his writings were compiled by his son, Luna, into a book entitled A Sand County Almanac. We offer here excerpts from this classic.

“...we asked the farmer to do what he conveniently could to save his soil, and he has done just that, and only that. The farmer who clears the woods of a 75 percent slope, turns his cows into the clearing, and dumps its rainfall, rocks, and soil into the community creek, is still a respected member of society.... Obligations have no meaning without conscience, and the problem we face is the extension of the social conscience from people to land.”

From “The Land Ethic”



“Industrial landowners and users, especially lumbermen and stockmen, are inclined to wail long and loudly about the extension of government ownership and regulation to land, but (with notable exceptions) they show little disposition to develop the only visible alternative: the voluntary practice of conservation on their own lands.”

From “The Land Ethic”



“There is, as yet, no sense of pride in the husbandry of wild plants and animals, no sense of shame in the proprietorship of a sick landscape.”

From “Oregon and Utah”

These poems were read at Desert Conference last spring as part of the First Annual Desert Poetry Festival.

Celilo

By Debra Kronenberg

I am rushing home
To sagebrush, rabbit brush, bitterbrush
Leaving behind
A full moon
Setting in a thick maritime fog
Past cormorants standing sentinel
Over a pool of widgeons
Flocks of geese paused briefly
In their fall migration
Past sacred Celilo
Where once geography
And spirit
Came together in a great falls
Its rush of salmon
Obscured now, inundated
For aluminum
And yet another false lake
Of sockeye and chinook
Strangled in slack water

High Noon at the Tire Store

By Debra Kronenberg

It was a modern Western standoff
I, the trail-hiker, in my dusty shorts
Tank top, faded canvas shirt
And well-worn hiking boots
Red faced, red necked
Hot spring bathed
And there he was holding the door for me
Sporting a waxed handle bar mustache
Just like in the movies
Summer Stetson
Big silver rodeo belt buckle
And lace up, two toned cowboy boots
Caught by a camera
We'd have made a fine testimonial
I said thanks, he nodded
We both should have said more

Dave Stone celebrates ONDA

Long-time ONDA volunteer Dave Stone added his colorful presence to this year's Eugene Celebration by donning a sagebrush and juniper headdress and marching in the Celebration Parade. As our representative in the Environmental Federation of Oregon's parade entry, Dave waved a "Save the Cryptobiotic Crust" sign, piquing the interest of many parade watchers (see article on pg. 1).

Dave also helped staff the ONDA booth, where he emceed "Oregon's High Desert in Jeopardy," an educational game he created for the event. (Move over, Alex Trebek.)

Representing ONDA at the Eugene Celebration, says Dave, "is a way to show ourselves as a part of the wider community." Working the booth gives him the opportunity to meet with other Eugeneans who care about the desert. "It's easy to feel isolated working on desert issues in Eugene, but you discover lots of people here care about the desert when you volunteer at a booth."



Dave Stone crowned with sagebrush and juniper in the Eugene Celebration Parade.

Clean Stream Speakers Bureau opens

by Gilly Lyons

The Oregon Clean Stream Initiative has developed the Clean Stream Speakers' Bureau. Knowledgeable clean water activists, desert rats, and Clean Stream Campaign volunteers are available to speak at public or private events on the myriad benefits of healthy streams and rivers. Speakers will also focus on the impact of livestock grazing on water quality, native fish habitat, and human health.

Presentations are free. If you'd like to schedule a speaker for your organization's next meeting, a community gathering, classroom, or other event or venue, please contact the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative. In the Portland area, call Donna at (503) 232-8478. Outside Portland, call Ashley at (541) 389-8367.

Marlett receives conservation award

Bill Marlett, ONDA's executive director, has been named "Outstanding Grassroots Grazing Reform Organizer" for 1995 by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies. Marlett received the award in recognition of his efforts to establish a coalition of western environmentalists to introduce cow-free wilderness legislation on a regional scale. Congratulations, Bill!



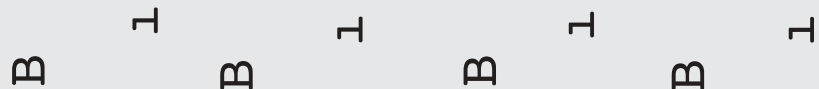
Hearty Thanks!

ONDA would like to extend a warm thank you to **Dan Casali** of Ketchum, ID, for donating an Apple Macintosh computer, and to **Madeline and Tom Landis** of Camp Sherman, OR, for donating a Hewlett Packard printer. Both contributions are much appreciated—especially in the aftermath of the September burglary of our office. Thanks, Dan, Mad, and Tom!

ONDA's Winter Wish List

Speaking of donated equipment, the following items would be welcome additions to our office and increase our effectiveness. If you can help shorten our list, please call Gilly at (541) 385-6908.

- Macintosh computer equipment (particularly a video monitor)
- File cabinets
- Shelves
- Tables
- Desks
- Telephones
- Desk lamps



Tracks from beaver, which play an important role in healthy desert streams.

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 (S, M, L, XL) and color (Grey, navy, sage or white).
- "Boycott Beef" T-shirt (short sleeve) \$12

Etc.

- Stunning 18"x28" color poster of Big Indian Gorge ... \$10
- Road Map to OHDP 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	=
GRAND TOTAL					

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 (503) 385-6908.

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 collect signatures

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____

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



Help clean up Oregon's streams

Send letters now!

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which designates which streams are "polluted," is about to release an updated list of waterways which fail to meet federal clean water standards. As we go to press, the list is due to be released by Dec. 31.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association, the Oregon Farm Bureau and other agricultural interests are pressuring DEQ not to list many of the waterways which clearly do not fully support beneficial uses such as drinking water and fish habitat. These interests are particularly opposed to new requirements that set maximum stream water temperatures at 64 degrees. On some streams, the maximum would be 55 degrees during salmon and steelhead trout spawning and rearing seasons. (Higher temperatures are associated with higher fish mortality.)

Streams deleted from the list will not receive the protections proposed by the Oregon Clean Stream Initiative (see pg. 1).

Urgent Action Needed

Write DEQ urging them to list all qualifying rivers and streams.

- Tell them you **support the proposed temperature standards** and efforts to protect salmon, steelhead and trout fisheries.
- Also, **mention specific waterways** of concern to you—rivers and streams you know to be polluted from grazing or other activities.
- If you are able, **cite specific anecdotal evidence** (dead fish, algae blooms, feedlot smell, high water temperatures, etc.).

Mail letters by Jan. 10 to:
 Environmental Quality Commission
 Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
 Water Quality Division
 811 SW 6th Ave.
 Portland, OR 97204

CHECK MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION
16 NW KANSAS STREET
BEND, OREGON 97701

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
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