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Volume 11, Number 4

Court reverses clean water ruling 1996 Camp Creek decision overturned

ONDA's important 1996 legal victory for clean water has been unexpectedly overturned. In July, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a District Court's ruling known as the "Camp Creek Decision," which asserted that the federal Clean Water Act gave states the ability to regulate "nonpoint" sources of pollution on federal lands.

Background

In 1994, ONDA and other conservation, fishing and tribal groups sued the Forest Service for issuing a permit for the Camp Creek Grazing Allotment without requiring state certification that the grazing activity would not degrade water quality. (Camp Creek is a tributary of eastern Oregon's John Day River.) In a precedent setting decision, a federal District Court judge ruled in September 1996 that Sec. 401 of the Clean Water Act did indeed apply to "nonpoint" sources of pollution like livestock grazing, and therefore state certification (assuring that water quality standards would be met) is required before a federal grazing permit can be issued.

The U.S. Justice Department, at the behest of the U.S. Forest Service, appealed this decision. On July 22, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the 1996 decision, asserting that Sec. 401 applies only to "point" sources of pollution (like pipes or factory outfalls). Consequently, the only tool states might have had to restrict livestock pollution on federal lands has been removed.



ERIC SCHULZ

The John Day River and other Oregon rivers impacted by "nonpoint" pollution from activities on federal lands would have benefitted from cleaner water if the "Camp Creek decision" had been upheld. ONDA is seeking a rehearing and may appeal the case.

Grazing permit retirement Several options explored for protecting habitat

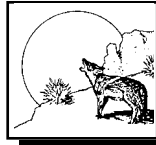
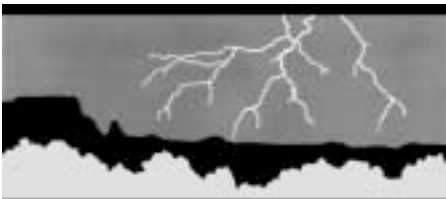
A recent court decision has given a limited boost to the emerging concept of permanently retiring grazing permits.

In 1995, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt adopted new standards for improving the ecological condition of the 170 million acres in the West controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. The rules, known as "Rangeland Reform," were immediately challenged by the livestock industry in federal District Court, where the judge overturned four of the new regulations.



FROM THE OUTBACK by Bill Marlett

Secretary Babbitt appealed the decision to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed the lower court's order and reinstated three of the four rules. While the appeals court acknowledged the need to terminate livestock grazing on rangelands in order to meet conservation goals, it prohibited the government from defining a grazing permit to include conservation use (i.e., non-use) to achieve this end. Thus, the option of securing a grazing permit from a rancher to discontinue livestock grazing on federal lands is still not available. While it is now legal for an individual or group (such as ONDA) to hold a grazing permit, if we want to permanently rest a grazing allotment,



FROM THE DEN

by Craig Miller

Oregon Natural Desert Association

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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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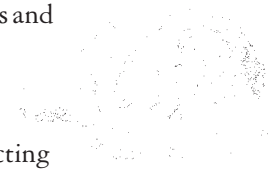
Effectiveness stimulates growth

Among environmental groups, ONDA has distinguished itself by its combination of passion and effectiveness. Our passion comes from our connection with the land and people who love it; our effectiveness is based on our credibility and knowledge. The inclusion on our staff of a grassroots coordinator *and* a Ph.D. ecologist reflects our commitment to effectiveness and credibility.

With our continued success and given the ever-increasing threats to desert ecosystems, ONDA needs to expand its staff. We are seeking now to hire an administrative/development director to perform many of the fundraising and office leadership tasks necessary to keep ONDA operating smoothly, thereby allowing Bill Marlett, our executive director, to focus even more potently on conservation issues.

In addition, George Wuerthner, well-known author and expert on the environmental effects of livestock grazing, will move from ONDA's advisory board to staff as our national outreach coordinator. Many of you are already familiar with George from his lively presentations at past Desert Conferences and his contributions to *Desert Ramblings*.

Join us in welcoming George. We're confident that he'll enhance our credibility and effectiveness, not to mention bring to ONDA his own passionate commitment to protecting Oregon's high desert.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONDA opposes Measure 65

In addition to lending our support to the two ballot measures described in the sidebar on page 3, ONDA strongly opposes Measure 65. Measure 65 would create an entirely new and unnecessary process for changing administrative rules. Administrative rules are written by state agencies to implement laws passed by the legislature. Measure 65 would allow any group or individual to refer an adopted administrative rule to the legislature by collecting only 25,000 signatures (far less than the number needed to place a measure on the ballot). If the rule (or rules—a single petition could be used to refer multiple rules) is not explicitly re-approved by the legislature, it will be abolished. This could spell disaster for Oregon's pioneering land use planning program, the Oregon Health Plan, and countless other sensible and valued statewide programs.

For more information about the No on Measure 65 Campaign, please contact Gilly at glyons@onda.org or (503) 525-0193.

Malheur Refuge Conservation Outing

Fri-Sun, Nov. 6-8

Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

Join ONDA members and staff for a weekend of wildlife habitat restoration on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge's newly-acquired southern unit, as well as autumnal hikes along the Wild and Scenic Donner und Blitzen River at the base of Steens Mountain. If you missed our fence-pulling shindig at Hart Mountain in July (see pg. 10), here's a great way to get a taste of pulling barbed wire to benefit wildlife. For more info, contact Gilly at glyons@onda.org or call (503) 525-0193.

Retiring grazing permits: Methods and issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we will have to convince BLM to amend its land use plan to reflect this change of use. Making such an amendment is a politically encumbered process that BLM is loathe to do. Clearly then, our attention must turn toward influencing Congress to make the changes needed to allow the land to be rested.

Anticipating this need, conservation activists from around the nation gathered in Utah in June to discuss strategies to reform livestock grazing on our public lands. Much attention centered on proposals to permanently "retire" federal lands grazing permits. While the question of whether livestock grazing should even be allowed on our public lands continues to be debated, conference attendees agreed on the need for a mechanism for voluntary and, in some cases, mandatory retirement of grazing permits.

Government buy-out

Congress could pass legislation authorizing a government buy-out of permits to protect specific habitats, such as critical salmon spawning streams. Several precedents argue for such a buy-out.

For example, a whole dairy herd buy-out in the 1980's addressed the glut of milk on the market. More recently the federal government retired commercial fishing permits on the Atlantic Coast in the face of a depleted fishery.

A grazing permit is a privilege, not a property right.


Of course, it is awkward for the government to buy what it already owns. A grazing permit is a privilege granted to a rancher, not a property right that could qualify for compensation under the U.S. Constitution's "takings" clause.

Another problem is that future attempts by a government agency to reduce grazing on other allotments may be met with demands from ranchers for compensation. In the face of such demands, federal agencies would likely back down, having the effect of locking in the status quo on lands not targeted for retirement. This could be partially resolved by limiting buy-outs to specific areas such as national parks or wilderness areas.

A government buy-out strategy would, of course, only be effective if Congress provided adequate funding. If we look at Congressional appropriations to the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (used to acquire land by federal agencies), funding would be anything but sufficient or reliable. But enough "demand" from ranchers wanting to be bought out could create a Congressional will to adequately fund such an effort.

Donating Permits

Permit donation is a second option (not mutually exclusive of a buy-out) recently used to retire grazing permits in Nevada's Great Basin National Park. Ranchers holding grazing permits within this park wanted out, but only if they were compensated for the fair market value of their permits. So in 1996, Congress approved language that allowed the grazing permits to be "donated" to the Park, and directed the Park Service to retire any donated permits received. Working in the background, the Conservation Fund, a private non-profit organization, struck a deal with the ranchers where, in exchange for an undisclosed sum, the ranchers would donate their permits to the Park. The beauty of this option is that it avoids the appearance of the government buying back something it already owns, since taxpayer dollars are not used to purchase the permits. The downside is it relies on the precarious funding of non-profit organizations whose budgets would be limited to buying only a fraction of the \$1 billion worth of permits that exists on public lands.

While I'm less than optimistic that we can find enough money to buy all grazing permits, I'm downright pessimistic about getting Congress to make ecological health a priority over cowboy welfare. Money is cheap compared to the cost of losing salmon or sage grouse. The courts seem to be the only arena where impacts of grazing are addressed with any fairness. Nevertheless, we must advance proposals in the political arena in spite of that hallowed cultural icon, the (supposedly) self-reliant cowboy. 

ONDA endorses Measures 64 & 66

ONDA is pleased to lend our support to two measures that will appear on Oregon's November '98 ballot: Measure 64 and Measure 66.

Measure 64, the 1998 Forest Conservation Initiative, bans clearcutting in Oregon's public and private forests, prohibits the use of chemical pesticides, protects old growth by mandating that trees over 30 inches in diameter be left standing, and requires that cut forests be replanted with genetically diverse, native species.

Measure 66, the Campaign for Parks and Salmon, would dedicate 15% of Oregon's lottery revenues to funding state parks and salmon restoration efforts. If successful, Measure 66 would direct about \$40 million per year toward state park maintenance, expansion of Oregon's state park system, acquisition of critical fish and wildlife habitat, restoration of water quality, and protection of struggling native fish populations.

For more information or to find out how you can lend a hand, please call Oregonians for Labor Intensive Forest Economics (Measure 64) at (503) 235-5895 and/or Campaign for Parks and Salmon (Measure 66) at (503) 279-8343.

Clean water decision struck down

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1


Obviously, the reason Congress gave certification authority to the states was to help clean up water quality limited (polluted) streams and rivers, including critical salmon habitat, on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. While the states could have required measures to restore hot, muddy creeks back to cool, clear streams, the creation of the certification mechanism assumed that the states in fact would take on this responsibility. However, the state of Oregon required little in the way of effective management changes during the two years the certifications were required.

Irony and contradiction

The Ninth Circuit's reversal comes on the heels of President Clinton's Clean Water Action Initiative, a plan to spend hundreds of millions of dollars nationwide to address nonpoint source pollution, now the largest source of water pollution in the United States. Ironically, the lower court's decision has foreclosed the ability of the states to address nonpoint water pollution on federal lands where federal agencies were remiss.

In addition, Mike Dombeck, Chief of the Forest Service, has made watershed health the Forest Service's number one priority. The Camp Creek decision could have promoted Dombeck's watershed health agenda while fostering a partnership between the states and federal land managing agencies. Instead, his agency lobbied the Department of Justice to appeal the Camp Creek decision.

What's next?

Citing inconsistencies in the Ninth Circuit's ruling, the Western Environmental Law Center (representing ONDA and the other conservation groups involved in the suit) has asked the court to reconsider its decision. If the court refuses, ONDA and the other plaintiffs will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. 



COURTESY OF WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

Camp Creek, a tributary of the John Day River. Grazing along streams like this that run through Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management allotments produces "non-point" pollution that contributes to violations of water quality standards.

ONDA wins FOIA suit BLM to disclose names of trespassers

After two years of legal wrangling, ONDA won its suit against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for refusing to disclose the names of permittees whose cattle trespassed on the Pueblo-Lone Mountain Allotment in southern Harney County in 1996. U.S. District Judge Malcolm Marsh recently ordered the Burns District BLM to release to ONDA, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the names of these permittees. (At press time, these names were still not made available.)

The judge ruled that, as federal contractors, permittees have a reduced expectation of privacy and that public interest in the fair enforcement of federal environmental law outweighs any privacy the permittees might have to protect their identities. The ruling also found that BLM had violated the FOIA by refusing to give ONDA a fee waiver for documents it had requested on the monitoring of the allotment. BLM was ordered to provide those documents without charge. BLM also agreed to pay ONDA's attorney fees for bringing the case.

ONDA's information request followed two separate cattle trespass incidents involving two different permittees—one involving 34 cows in the "McDade Pasture," the other involving about 200 cows in the "Colony Seeding."

The extent of intentional cattle trespass on remote BLM rangelands is poorly documented. The ranchers at fault rarely pay fines or compensate the agency for the forage taken or damage done to areas which are supposedly being rested from grazing.

ONDA thanks attorneys Jack Sterne and David Bahr for their fine work on behalf of citizen access to information regarding violations of public land grazing regulations.

If left unchallenged, the Camp Creek decision could have promoted the Forest Service's watershed health agenda while fostering a partnership between the states and federal land managing agencies.

Steens water quality plan woefully inadequate

Draft plan affects eight streams draining South Steens Mountain

By Jack Sterne

In July, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released a woefully inadequate plan to protect water quality for eight streams that drain South Steens Mountain. The purpose of the draft “South Steens Total Maximum Daily Load” (TMDL) and its companion “Water Quality Management Plan” (WQMP) is to bring the eight streams—Ankle Creek, Big Indian Creek, Deep Creek, Home Creek, Indian Creek, Mud Creek, Skull Creek, and the South Fork Donner und Blitzen River—into compliance with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). All of the streams currently

violate state water quality standards for temperature and are therefore listed as water quality limited streams under Section 303(d) of the CWA.

violate state water quality standards for temperature and are therefore listed as water quality limited streams under Section 303(d) of the CWA. All of the streams currently dation caused by cattle. The South Steens TMDL and WQMP, however, fall far short of the standards established by EPA and DEQ for such plans. For instance, while the purpose of these plans is to meet water quality standards, the TMDL and WQMP rely on two other plans for its grazing system and water quality goals—the “South Steens Allotment Management Plan” (SSAMP) and the “Catlow Conservation Agreement” (CCA). Neither one of those plans has as its goal the achievement of Oregon's water quality standards. In fact, neither the SSAMP nor the CCA contain any explicit discussion of the impacts of those plans on state water quality standards. Both plans are geared more at finding a way to keep cattle on the land than in achieving the fastest possible recovery for the listed streams.

Despite explicit directives in EPA and DEQ guidance, the TMDL and WQMP also fail to contain a data-based analysis showing that the measures proposed in the plans have been shown to be effective at achieving watershed restoration. This is significant because the SSAMP depends heavily on the effectiveness of ranch hands on horseback to herd cattle to prevent stream degradation, despite an admission in the SSAMP that riders have been of questionable effectiveness in the past.

ONDA applauds DEQ for undertaking the difficult job of developing grazing TMDLs. However, the South Steens plans obviously need a great deal more work. As always, we will be working to strengthen the plans through the administrative process and, if necessary, through the courts. 🐾



Big Indian Gorge, which is drained by Big Indian Creek, one of eight water quality limited streams addressed in the South Steens TMDL plan.

The South Steens TMDL is the first in Oregon that attempts to correct “nonpoint” source water quality problems.

violate state water quality standards for temperature and are therefore listed as water quality limited streams under Section 303(d) of the CWA.

A TMDL plan establishes maximum amounts of pollutants or polluting activity that will be allowed along or near a stream that is listed as “water quality limited” (polluted) by the DEQ.

The South Steens TMDL is the first in Oregon that attempts to correct “nonpoint” source water quality problems. Nonpoint sources are those which cannot be traced to a single discharge point such as a pipe. The most obvious types of nonpoint source pollution are runoff from agricultural operations, erosion from logging and watershed degra-

The South Steens TMDL is based on other plans that are geared more to finding a way to continue grazing than meeting state water quality standards.

What you said about ONDA...

ONDA members ranked the Steens Mountain/Donner und Blitzen River area as the most important geographic area for our protection efforts.

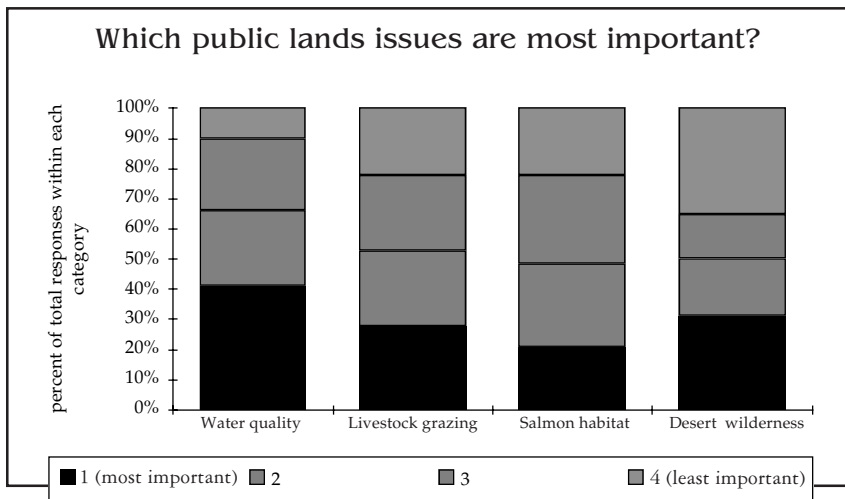


ALAN ST. JOHN

In March, ONDA surveyed our membership to seek input in shaping ONDA's future conservation priorities and methods. Thanks to the over 400 of you who took the time to respond. While the sample is not a statistically representative random sample, the results do provide significant and interesting feedback that will help guide ONDA's future planning. Your input and comments are much appreciated. The results have been tabulated (thanks to Katherine Chou and Graden Oeblerich), and some of the most significant findings are presented here.

ONDA's Programs

When asked to rate eight of ONDA's programs on a scale spanning "Very Important" to "Not Important," protecting water quality and salmon habitat by eliminating grazing along streams received the highest percentage of "Very Important" responses. Watchdogging federal and state agencies, protecting desert wildlands through wilderness designation, and public education all proved to be popular programs, too. It appears members support grazing reform focused on stream and watershed protection over seeking an outright ban on all public land grazing, as "Eliminat[ing] grazing on public lands" got the highest percentage of "Not Important" responses.



What places to protect?

Most survey respondents rated Steens Mountain and its Donner und Blitzen River as the most important geographic area deserving of ONDA's protection efforts. The John Day Wild and Scenic River, the Owyhee Canyonlands, and the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge received similar degrees of support as areas of next highest concern.

Member feedback to guide programs

Enforcing environmental laws

Over half of the respondents stated that they would be equally supportive—and 30% would be more supportive—if ONDA expanded its litigation program. These responses indicate that ONDA members view litigation as an effective tool to protect desert lands and waters.


Desert Ramblings

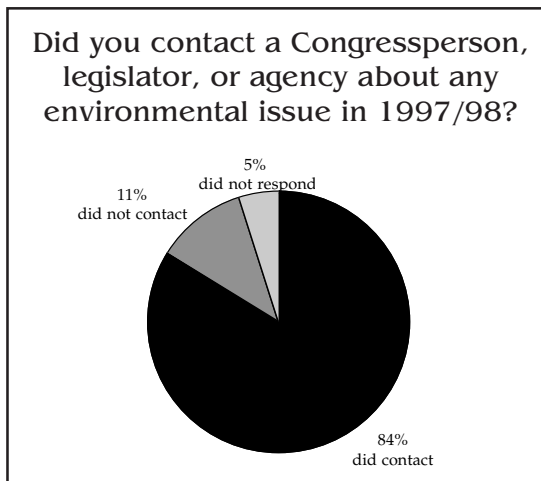
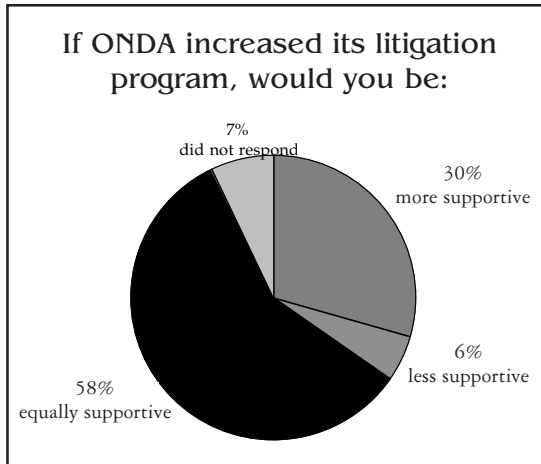
From the survey, it appears that most members prefer ONDA to communicate to them via our *Desert Ramblings* newsletter. On a 10 point scale (with 10 being excellent), over three quarters of respondents ranked *Desert Ramblings* as an 8, 9 or 10. The average of all ratings was 7.3., with approximately 75% of you reading all or most of each issue and 59% claiming to share your newsletter with others!

Member activism

The survey definitely shows that ONDA members are activists. A full 84% of those who responded to the survey contacted a legislator or agency about an environmental issue in 1997/98. A whopping 81% of you said you would recommend to your friends that they support ONDA! (Please do so!)

Why support ONDA?

Many of you pointed out that ONDA's size, expertise, and focus on a specific region are features that make us stand out from other groups; these are also among the reasons you support us. Several of you mentioned the dedication of our (small) staff and our aggressiveness and tenacity as making us worthy of your support. By far the reason mentioned most often for supporting ONDA was, "I love the desert." And, of course, so do we. Demonstrating that love by protecting the desert is why we're here! 



Did you say this?

I support ONDA because...

- "...ONDA does effective grassroots work."
- "...I believe ONDA has excellent ideas and follow-through."
- "...I live in and love the high desert."
- "...ONDA knows local areas, not just well-known points of interest."

ONDA is different from other groups because...

- "...you sent out a questionnaire without asking for money."
- "...you concentrate on a few issues and get things done."
- "...it is more radical and more dogmatic."
- "...it has an acronym that you can actually say."

Three words that describe ONDA are...

- "...persistent, practical, feisty."
- "...vain, glory-grabbing, confrontational."
- "...integrity, competence, friendliness."
- "...rambling, desert-rambling pronghorns."

Fort Rock's backcountry

Ancient Lakes, Sand Dunes and Lava Tubes

By William L. Sullivan

The Ice Age brought rain, not snow, to Eastern Oregon's high desert. A vast lake filled Fort Rock Valley. Then, as the climate dried, the lake vanished. Today hikers can still explore the sand dunes of its dry beaches and the lava oddities that erupted along its shore. Much of this geological wonderland was included in the BLM's wilderness review, and the Oregon High Desert Protection Act recommends that 93,000 acres of the lava flow area become a new national monument.

Sand Dunes

GETTING THERE: From Bend, drive 25 miles south on Highway 97, turn left onto Highway 31 at a "Silver Lake" pointer. Continue for 29.2 miles, then turn left at a "Fort Rock" sign. Drive east another 33.5 paved, zig-zagging miles following signs to the town of Christmas Valley. Then continue straight 8 miles to a 4-way junction. Following "Sand Dunes" pointers, turn left on paved Road 5-14D for 8 miles to a T-shaped junction and turn right on gravel Road 5-14E for 3.3 miles. The main road turns left here, but go straight, passing a "Rough Road Ahead" sign.

In fact, this narrow, sandy track can be impassable in wet weather. If it's dry, keep straight for 4.4 miles until you reach a railed parking area at a T-shaped junction. Park here and walk along the sandy road to the right 0.4 mile. When you can see the dunes clearly, leave the road and hike 0.3 mile southwest across the open desert. Then hike into the dunes as far as you like. [A caveat: On Memorial Day weekend, the sand dunes are used heavily by off-road vehicles -Ed.]

Crack in the Ground

Next visit one of the area's lava oddities: Crack in the Ground, a two-mile long fissure in the lava flow. Crack in the Ground opened a few thousand years ago when the cinder cones erupted nearby. Their activity emptied an underground magma chamber. The ground settled, and a tension crack formed along the edge of a broad depression.

GETTING THERE: Start by driving back to Christmas Valley. On the eastern edge of this sprawling desert town, turn right at a "Crack in the Ground" pointer for 7.2 gravel miles to a signed parking area. A wide trail leads 0.2 mile



Fort Rock in Central Oregon exhibits Oregon's volcanic past.

ALAN D. ST. JOHN

to the lava crack, a rock chasm so narrow that boulders sometimes hang wedged overhead.

Lava Tubes

Finally drive on to visit Derrick Cave, a lava tube in the rugged Devils Garden Lava Bed (also a Wilderness Study Area). The cave extends for nearly a quarter mile, passing two natural "skylights" — jagged holes in the ceiling. At cave's end a river of lava rock is frozen in place, puddled up on the floor like freshly poured cake batter.

GETTING THERE: The shortest route from Crack in the Ground is rough and poorly signed. A longer, easier route begins from the main paved road between Fort Rock and Christmas Valley. At a sharp corner in the road 5.8 miles east of Fort Rock, turn east on Road 5-12. Stick to this paved, zigzagging road for 9.1 miles to the Fort Rock Guard Station entrance, and continue straight on gravel 6.8 miles to Derrick Cave's signed parking area. Hike along a closed road 0.2 mile to the cave entrance (bring a flashlight).

William L. Sullivan is the author of Exploring Oregon's Wild Areas and a popular series of four 100 Hikes guides to Oregon's varied regions. This article is adapted from his upcoming book, Hiking Oregon's History, to be published in April, 1999.



CRAIG MILLER

Crack in the Ground.

Two Poems

by William Stafford

William Stafford (1914-1993) was named Oregon's Poet Laureate in 1975.

Outside

The least little sound sets the coyotes walking,
walking the edge of our comfortable earth.
We look inward, but all of them
are looking toward us as they walk the earth.

We need to let animals loose in our houses,
the wolf to escape with a pan in his teeth,
and streams of animals toward the horizon
racing with something silent in each mouth.

For all we have taken into our keeping
and polished with our hands belongs to a truth
greater than ours, in the animals' keeping.
Coyotes are circling around our truth.

*From The Way It Is (Graywolf Press), 1998.
Originally published in West of Your City, 1960.*

Malheur Before Dawn

An owl sound wandered along the road with me.
I didn't hear it—I breathed it into my ears.

Little ones at first, the stars retired, leaving
polished little circles on the sky for awhile.

Then the sun began to shout from below the horizon.
Throngs of birds campaigned, their music a tent of sound.

From across a pond, out of the mist,
one drake made a V and said its name.

Some vast animal of air began to rouse
from the reeds and lean outward.

Frogs discovered their national anthem again.
I didn't know a ditch could hold so much joy.

So magic a time it was that I was both brave and afraid.
Some day like this might save the world.

*From The Way It Is (Graywolf Press), 1998.
Originally published in My Name is William Tell, 1992.*



GRAHAM BOOTH

Volunteers get wired at Hart Mountain Round-Up!

Over thirty ONDA volunteers converged at the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge July 23-26 for our 5th annual Barbed Wire Round-up. In addition to bringing down several miles of obsolete fencing that is hazardous to wildlife, this year's volunteers also assisted refuge personnel in removing invasive Mediterranean sage from refuge lowlands.

An appearance by Jim Yoakum, an expert in the biology of the pronghorn antelope, was a highlight at this year's gathering. Jim, who came from his home in Verdi, Nevada regaled fence-pullers with stories of studying pronghorn under the tutelage of Arthur Einarsen, author of the classic text, "The Pronghorn Antelope and its Management."

Jim emphasized the pronghorns' resiliency as a species and the factors which limit its current populations in the West. "When we started studying antelope [with Einarsen], we realized the range was not in its best condition. That is still true today," he said. "Just killing coyotes is not going to increase the pronghorn popu-

lation. The carrying capacity of the range should be increased by better vegetation management."

If you haven't yet experienced a Barbed Wire Round-up and Weekend Social, think about joining us next July in Oregon's largest cow-free piece of high desert!

Why come to a Barbed Wire Round-Up?

"It's a very small thing, pulling fence, but you know it is going to be productive. I get tired of just writing letters." – *Karen Sjogren, Salem.*

"Just being out here is great, man. I love the drive out here. I love meeting the people and pulling fence." – *Justin Liversidge, Bend.*

"It's a great time!" – *Greg Holmes, Klamath Falls.*

"It's hard work taking down the fence, but I like seeing it down and the feeling I get about helping clean the place up." – *Richard Gambino, Eugene.*

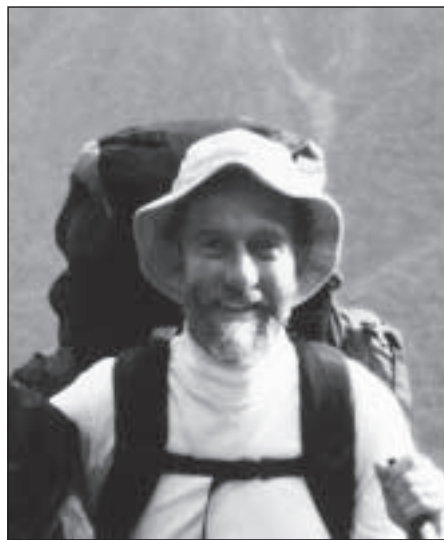


GREG BURKE

Carrie Stihwell totes barbed wire, a vestige of grazing days, cleared from Hart Mt. Wildlife refuge during ONDA's 1998 Barbed Wire Round-up. (Warner Valley's basin lakes are in the background.)

Passing of a Wilderness Friend

It is with regret that we inform our members that former BLM Wilderness Specialist (Prineville District) Roy Pearl passed away while vacationing in Norway in August. Roy was a real warrior when it came to standing up for and defending desert wilderness, and his work to ensure that the Sutton Mountain area be added to the BLM's wilderness recommendation was pivotal. Longtime friend Scott Moore ventures that "...when official wilderness designation becomes a reality in central and eastern Oregon, Roy will be smiling and his sprite will most likely be celebrating." Roy, we will miss you.



SCOTT MOORE

The late Roy Pearl, former BLM Wilderness Specialist, while hiking in Peru.

Many Thanks!

ONDA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the **Foundation for Deep Ecology** and **3 Fools Foundation**. Grants from these two foundations will help ONDA in our on-going efforts to protect our public lands from damage caused by livestock grazing.

Workplace Giving

Like toaster ovens and ATMs, "workplace giving" is one of those late-20th century innovations that truly makes life easier.



Member
*Environmental
Federation
of Oregon*

ONDA is proud to be a member of the Environmental Federation of Oregon (EFO), a workplace giving program that supports the crucial work of 28 Oregon-based conservation groups. Workplace giving is a simple, convenient way to help organizations like ONDA protect Oregon's outstanding natural heritage. Through EFO, you may specify how much you would like to have deducted from each paycheck, and your contribution entitles you to full member benefits to the organization you specify. If you would like to give to ONDA through EFO or make EFO a part of your company's workplace giving campaign, please call EFO at (503) 223-9015.

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

Scientific Papers

- “Survey of Livestock Influences on Stream and Riparian
Ecosystems in the Western United States”
by Joy Belsky, A. Matzke, and S. Uselman \$5
- “Effects of Livestock Grazing on Stand Dynamics in Upland
Forests of the Interior West”
by Joy Belsky and Dana Blumenthal \$1 (for postage)

T-Shirts

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- "Boycott Beef" T-shirt (short sleeve) \$12

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- Clean Stream Initiative T-Shirts (w/salmon art)
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- Long sleeve (XL only) \$8

Etc.

- Stunning 18"x 28" color poster of Big Indian Gorge \$10
- Road Map to OHDP lands \$5
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CLEAN WATER RULING REVERSED

(SEE PG. 1)

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Fight the "Grazing Rider"

Senate attaches anti-environmental amendments to Interior Appropriations bill

In late July, the House of Representatives passed the now-infamous Interior Appropriations bill with many of its anti-environmental riders intact. Newspapers and opinion leaders across the country have denounced the riders as bad news for the environment and an unscrupulous way to legislate, but to no avail.

Of particular interest to grazing activists is a "Grazing Rider" that would allow the Bureau of Land Management to waive compliance with all environmental laws when BLM grazing permits come up for renewal. The rationale for this grasslands version of the Salvage Logging Rider is that BLM has 4,500 permits coming up for renewal in 1999, and the agency knows it lacks the resources to complete the required analyses, suitability reviews, and Endangered Species Act consultations on all the expiring permits. So, forget environmental laws and let the cows graze wherever.

What's next

Having cleared the House, the Interior spending bill may be voted on by the Senate as you receive this. President Clinton may veto the bill if it arrives on his desk with the current array of anti-environmental riders intact. Although Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) has offered an amendment that would strip 13 riders from the Interior bill, the BLM Grazing Rider is not among these.

What you can do: Calls and e-mails needed today

Contact your senators and President Clinton today.

Ask your Senators to: 1) support an amendment that would strip the riders in their entirety from the Interior Appropriations bill; 2) take a stand supporting removal of the BLM Grazing Rider; and 3) oppose any final version of the bill that includes the current roster of environmentally-despicable riders.

Urge President Clinton to veto the Interior Appropriations bill if it contains any of the anti-environmental riders.

Senator Ron Wyden
Phone: 202/224-5244
E-mail: senator@wyden.senate.gov

Senator Gordon Smith
Phone: 202/224-3753
E-mail: oregon@gsmith.senate.gov

President Bill Clinton
Phone: 202/456-1414
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov