

<b>Inside:</b>	
WOLF DE-LISTING .....	3
<b>FEATURE SECTION:</b>	
GRAZING & WEED	
INVASIONS .....	6-8
ODE TO SLOWNESS .....	9
OWYHEE CANYONLANDS	
ALERT .....	12

# Clinton signs Steens Protection Act!

## *Nation's first cow-free desert wilderness among gains in bill*

For ten years, I have worked toward this day when I can tell you ONDA has helped secure the nation's first *cow-free* desert wilderness on Steens Mountain. Yes, there are wilderness areas without cows, but Congress had never before specifically excluded livestock when designating wilderness. We hope the bill serves as a precedent for future BLM wilderness bills in the coming years.



BRIAN MACDONALD

*President Clinton holds a photograph of Steens Mountain with (left to right) Sen. Ron Wyden, John Lesby (Solicitor of the US), Lindsay Slater (Natural Resource Staff to Rep. Greg Walden), Dave Alberswerth (TWS), and Bill Marlett after the signing of the Steens Mountain Protection Act.*

**FROM THE OUTBACK**  
 by Bill Marlett

It came down to the last weeks of this session, but Congress finally approved the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management & Protection Act of 2000 on October 12 and President Clinton signed it into law on October 30. The final bill covers an area of 500,000 acres and designates as wilderness 175,000 acres (100,000 acres cow-free); withdraws 1.2 million

acres, including the entire Alvord Desert, from mineral and geothermal development; designates Little Wildhorse and Wildhorse Creeks, Kiger Creek, and Mud and Ankle Creeks (tributaries to the Blitzen River) as Wild and Scenic; creates a Redband Trout reserve in the Blitzen watershed, and authorizes \$25 million for public land acquisition.

"This Steens legislation is a monumental wilderness triumph," said Sen. Ron Wyden. "It creates for the first time in statute, cow-free wilderness."

Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio called the bill "a breakthrough, in terms of resource protection. It assures, not only for Oregonians today, but for Oregonians forever, that the Steens will be there not only as a unique ecosystem but as a fabulous place to visit."

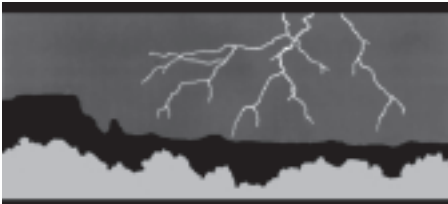
**Difficult road to passage**

As you may recall, over a year ago Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt visited the Steens and announced his intention to recommend to President Clinton that he use his authority under the



ALAN ST. JOHN

*The snow-capped Steens Mountain gained protection in a bill signed by President Clinton in October. ONDA worked for over a decade to secure these gains.*



## Oregon Natural Desert Association

### BEND OFFICE

16 NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701  
VOICE: 541-330-2638 • FAX: 541-385-3370  
E-MAIL: [onda@onda.org](mailto:onda@onda.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.onda.org](http://www.onda.org)

### PORTLAND OFFICE

732 SW 3rd Ave., #407, Portland, OR 97204  
VOICE: 503-525-0193 • FAX: 503-228-9720  
E-MAIL: [info@onda.org](mailto:info@onda.org)

### Mission

*ONDA exists to protect, defend and restore forever the health of Oregon's native deserts.*

### Board of Directors

Lee Christie, President (Corvallis)  
Craig Miller, Vice President & Treasurer (Bend)  
Stu Sugarman, Secretary (Portland)  
Phil Conti (Portland)  
Rudy Clements (Warm Springs)  
Dave Funk (Eugene)  
Alice Elshoff (Frenchglen)  
Craig Lacy (Bend)  
Connie Lonsdale (Waldport)

### Staff

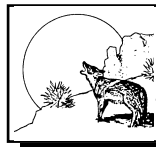
BEND OFFICE:  
Bill Marlett, *Executive Director*  
Daniele McKay, *Membership Coordinator*  
PORTLAND OFFICE:  
Joy Belsky, Ph.D., *Staff Ecologist*  
Gillian Lyons, *Grassroots Coordinator*  
AT-LARGE:  
Stephanie Parent, *Staff Attorney*  
George Wuerthner, *National Outreach*

### Advisory Council

Ron Cronin (Portland)  
Paul Fritz (Boise, ID)  
Steve Herman, Ph.D. (Olympia, WA)  
William Kittredge (Missoula, MT)  
Reed Noss, Ph.D. (Corvallis)  
Al St. John (Bend)  
Harold Winegar (Prineville)

### Newsletter

Chris Orsinger, *Editor*  
Communication Strategies, *Design*  
Emily Semple, *Copy Editor & Layout*



## FROM THE DEN

by Lee Christie

## The little jewels

Over the last decade of living in Oregon I have enjoyed many hours exploring our high desert. Since joining ONDA's board two years ago, I have spent time not just exploring, but learning about the desert. This past summer I received a unique opportunity when asked to ground truth many of the proposed land exchanges on and around Steens Mountain. I saw many "little jewels" that don't show up in guide books and have no trails.

The next time you go to Steens Mountain, check out these obscure but delightful highlights: Carlson Creek (on the east side), Alvord Peak (south), and Slickey Lake (Catlow Valley). I was awestruck by their grandeur, subtleties, and beauty. And there are many other such jewels! While we are fortunate to have passed the Steens Mountain protection bill (see page 1), my unforgettable experiences roaming around Steens have convinced me that many more places within this area truly deserve the highest protection.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Slide Show by Sandy Lonsdale

**Wednesday, November 15**  
**Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend.**

Sandy Lonsdale, acclaimed photographer and High Desert advocate, will present stunning full-color slides that illustrate the recently released "Oregon Desert Guide: 70 Hikes," written by Andy Kerr. This *Evenings with Nature* presentation will begin with refreshments at 6:30 PM followed by the program at 7:00 PM.

keynote speakers, and slide shows. For more information or to register, contact RangeNet 2000 at (503) 646-5674 or [lwalker@rangebiome.org](mailto:lwalker@rangebiome.org).

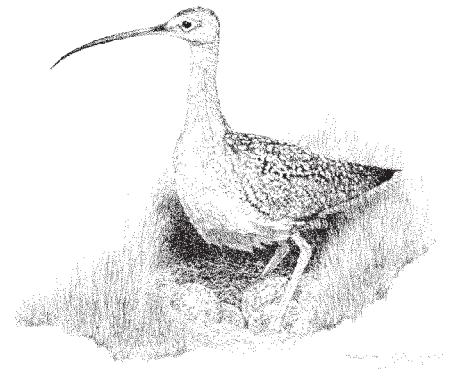
### Bali Tour July 2001

The Mazamas invite you to Bali and the Indonesian islands, July 9-22, 2001. The cost of the trip is \$3,575, which includes all air and ground transportation, meals, lodging and all guide services. Call Harold and Helen Hanson at (503) 254-9465 for details.

### RangeNet 2000 Symposium

**Flamingo Reno Hotel, Reno, NV**  
**Tuesday-Wednesday,**  
**November 28-29**

Join grazing reform advocates from around the country as they gather to explore the possibility of ending live-stock grazing on our public lands. The symposium includes panel discussions,





ONDA FILE PHOTO

*Wolf reintroduction and recovery in Oregon could receive a fatal blow if a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposal to downlist the gray wolf from “endangered” to “threatened.”*

## FWS proposes to downlist wolf

### Plan would undermine wolf recovery in Oregon

By George Wuerthner

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is planning to downlist the gray wolf from “endangered” to “threatened” across the lower 48 states, a move with major implications for Oregon.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 was passed to protect both endangered species that are close to extinction and threatened species that may become endangered. A species on the endangered list receives a full range of protection, including restrictions on killing, harming, taking or transporting an animal. In addition, the federal government is mandated to develop federal species recovery plans, identify and protect “critical habitat” and offer aid to state agencies that cooperate with recovery.

Wolves are native to Oregon, but were wiped out here and elsewhere, primarily to benefit the livestock industry. Wolves are now dispersing into Oregon where thousands could be supported on some of the best potential wolf habitat in the West. However, no efforts to restore wolves to Oregon are underway.

Currently wolves in northwest Montana (which repopulated that area from

Canada) are listed as endangered. By contrast, wolves reintroduced by wildlife agencies to Central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park were given the status of “experimental, nonessential” animals, providing less stringent protection. That means a rancher could shoot a wolf caught attacking a domestic animal, provided he called the Fish and Wildlife Service within 24 hours. It also means the government could give a rancher a permit to shoot or harass a problem wolf.

#### Problems with downlisting

Under this new proposal, all western states would be lumped together as one population. Thus, wolf recovery in the West would depend on and be measured by the success of 30 breeding pairs in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Then, if future wolf recovery in those three states is deemed “successful,” wolves could be removed from the Endangered Species List altogether, even if no wolves inhabited any of the other western states. If wolves are delisted in this way, wolves that might disperse to Oregon would automatically lose any protections, even if Oregon has no viable wolf recovery.

## Take Action!

Please write the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Here are some points you may wish to make:

1. Wolves in the Pacific Coast states, including Washington, Oregon and California, should be reclassified as a distinct population for recovery purposes with its own set of criteria that would determine future delisting, once wolves were reestablished in the region.
2. Provisions that allow wolves to be killed for preying on deer or elk should be removed.
3. Lethal control in the case of livestock depredation should not occur on public lands at all. If ranchers graze their animals on public lands, they should accept potential losses.
4. Lethal control of wolves for livestock depredations on private lands should only be permitted when ranchers demonstrate responsible animal husbandry to reduce potential conflicts.
5. In drought years, domestic livestock should be removed from public lands to reduce forage competition with native prey.

Mail your comments on the wolf management proposal to Content Analysis Enterprise Team, Wolf Comments, P.O. Box 7669, Room 301, Missoula, MT 59807, or via e-mail to [graywolfcomments@fws.gov](mailto:graywolfcomments@fws.gov). The subject line of all e-mail submissions must read: “Wolf Comments.”

In another twist, the proposed rule would allow wolf packs to be moved if they were preying too heavily on big-game animals. In order to benefit hunters, FWS is proposing to “control” wolf populations if they are having an impact upon big game populations.



# Steens Mountain Act

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Antiquities Act to proclaim Steens a national monument. Clinton had already taken this action on the Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument in Utah and was looking to solidify his conservation legacy.

Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), whose district includes Steens Mountain, and local ranchers were motivated by the “threat” of a monument proclamation to ask Babbitt to allow the Oregon delegation come up with an alternative to the proclamation. Secretary Babbitt acquiesced, and over the course of the next twelve months, two citizen committees, followed by an ad hoc collection of legislative staff, wrestled with ideas on how best to protect Steens.

Given that many from Harney County and elsewhere were dead set against any federal action, it was an uphill battle from the start. However, with Secretary Babbitt’s threat hanging over people’s heads, conservationists welcomed this opportunity, knowing that the option for a monument proclamation was likely if a legislative proposal could not be agreed upon.

An odd alliance of ranchers and conservationists, each with his/her own motivations, collaborated to shape and pass the legislation. The Steens-Alvord Coalition represented environmental groups in the negotiations (see sidebar, pg 5).

Frankly, I did not expect we’d end up supporting the bill. The Steens-Alvord Coalition’s yardstick was simple: we’d support legislation if it provided better long-term protection than a national monument. Hundreds of hours were spent trying to craft consensus legislation. The first draft introduced by Rep. Walden fell far short from what the Coalition could support.

Finally, after an August summit of ranchers and conservationists at Roaring Springs Ranch in the shadow of Steens Mountain, a tentative agreement was reached. Then began the tortured process of getting others to sign on and tweaking the bill to address concerns of national conservation groups.



*A view of the east rim of the Steens Mountains with the Alvord Desert a mile below.*

MATREYA

## Land exchanges

Without question, the land exchanges and attendant payments authorized by the bill were the most controversial elements. Up until the vote on the House floor, we were uncertain whether Rep. George Miller (D-CA), the ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee, would support the bill. In spite of the Oregon delegation’s unanimous support, Rep. Miller was the only person who could have derailed this bill. While Rep. Miller is a champion of wilderness and advocate of good stewardship of public lands, he opposed provisions in the bill that authorized what some perceived as unbalanced land exchanges favoring the ranchers. Because federal agencies have in the past given away land of greater value than what they received, Rep. Miller has strongly objected to all federal land exchanges. In the end, Rep. Miller was the only person to voice objections to the bill on the floor. However, as a sign of respect to his colleagues from Oregon, he left the chamber before the vote of the House, which unanimously passed the bill.

As with any compromise, conservationists did not get everything that we hoped for. Another 120,000 acres of BLM Wilderness Study Area lands should be designated wilderness, and eighty percent of the new Steens management area still has livestock grazing.

However, we have positioned our-

selves for another wilderness bill on Steens next year. Hopefully, we can add a voluntary grazing permit retirement provision to allow the purchase of individual grazing permits by conservation groups. Such a provision was dropped from the bill at the last minute due to opposition by national grazing interests.

## Conservation benefits

The combined conservation benefits of public acquisition of key private in-holdings on Steens Mountain, the precedent of the West’s first cow-free desert wilderness (including most of the Blitzen Wild and Scenic watershed), and a commitment from Congress to fund land acquisition tipped the balance in favor of legislation over a monument. One could argue the merits of a monument over the long term, but we felt that Steens was in need of a political boost to help send it down the road to ecological recovery. Someday, a more glamorous status may be desirable or necessary for the Steens. For now, we will continue to press for more wilderness designations on Steens Mountain.

## What next?

Clearly, this bill is the first of many steps needed to afford permanent protection to this splendid landscape. Many future threats loom, including on-going livestock grazing and development on private lands. Only 20 percent of the million acre

management area is cow-free, and 100,000 acres of private lands within the management area is in need of acquisition. Details of how the larger "Cooperative Management and Protection Area" will be managed depend on agency plans yet to be developed.

In the final analysis, we hope this Steens legislation heralds a new herd of conservation bills coming to Oregon's High Desert. ONDA has identified the Owyhee Canyonlands, the Badlands (near Bend) and a second round on Steens as our short list for the delegation to consider in the next session of Congress. Or preferably, our delegation could

deliberate on the Oregon High Desert Protection Act, the 7-million-acre citizens' proposal for all of Oregon's High Desert wilderness lands.

I hope Oregon's congressional delegation will welcome the challenge of designating more desert wilderness. We can move away from legislating in response to perceived threats, such as that of a presidential national monument proclamation, and towards lawmaking rooted in a sincere desire and conviction to do what's best for Oregon's remarkable High Desert lands and waters. ONDA looks forward to meeting that challenge during years to come.

# Thank you!

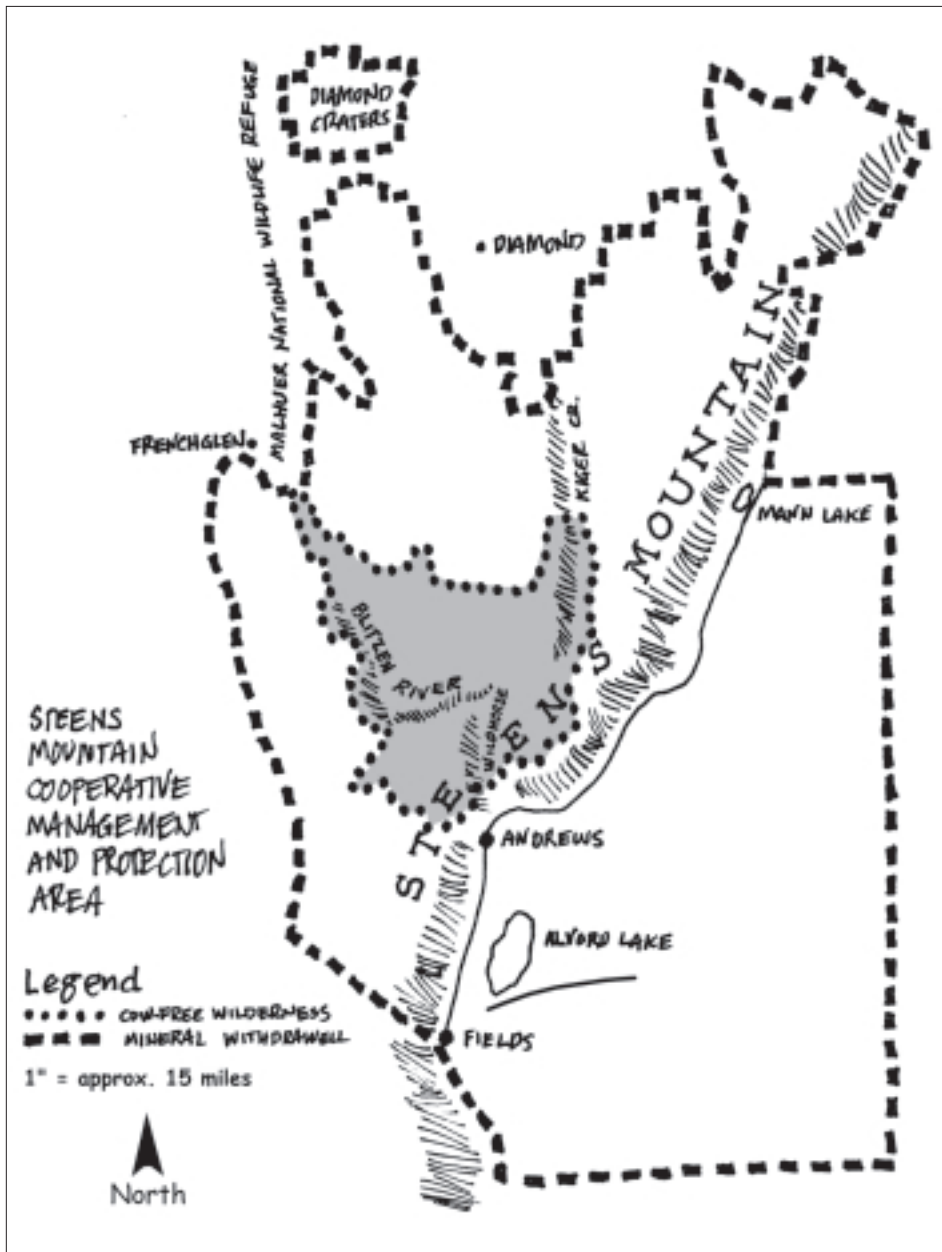
A huge thanks goes out to our partners in the Steens-Alvord Coalition whose steering committee did yeomen's work to secure tangible conservation gains for the Steens. Thanks to Jim Myron and Jason Miner of Oregon Trout, Sybil Ackerman of the Sierra Club (now with the Audubon Society of Portland), Jill Workman and Andrea Bausch of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, Rick Brown with Audubon Society of Portland, Andy Kerr who represented The Wilderness Society, and Gilly Lyons of ONDA.

More thanks go to the following organizations which funded the Steens-Alvord Coalition: Conservation Alliance, Harder Foundation, Lazar Foundation, Mazamas Foundation, Peradam Foundation, Sperling Foundation, Wilberforce Foundation, William Kenney Foundation and Wyss Foundation.

The entire Oregon Congressional delegation, along with Gov. John Kitzhaber, deserves a big thank you for their efforts to improve and pass the Steens bill. In particular I want to thank Rep. Earl Blumenauer for co-sponsoring the bill with Rep. Greg Walden and Rep. Peter Defazio, and for salvaging the bill from the jaws of defeat when the delegation was in gridlock in the final days. Without Rep. DeFazio, who as a senior member on the House Resources Committee and who convinced Rep. George Miller of California to not fight the bill, this bill would have never passed this year. Senator Wyden championed more wilderness and would not let the bill on the Senate floor unless we gave it a thumbs up.

Of course, President Clinton and Interior Secretary Babbitt's willingness to protect the Steens through national monument designation was an essential ingredient to the process that resulted in the passage of this bill.

—Bill Marlette on behalf on ONDA



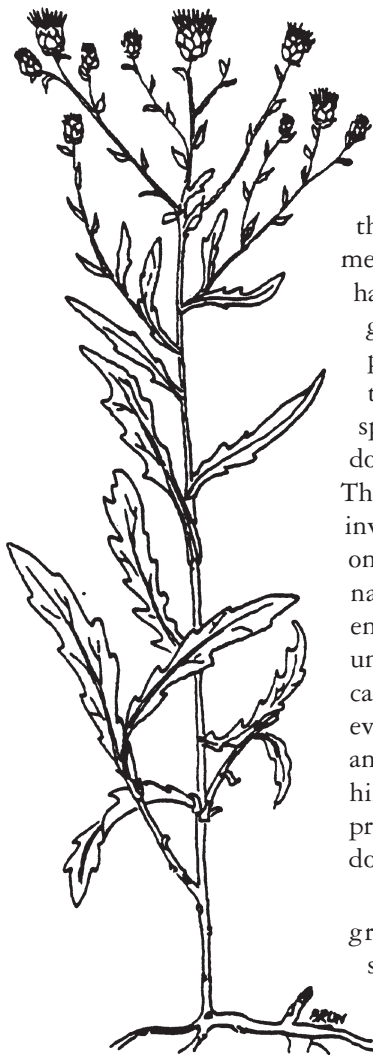
DAVE FUNK

You can view or download several color maps portraying the protections created by the Steens bill, from the BLM's Burns District website: [www.or.blm.gov/steens/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/steens/legislation/legislation.htm)

# LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND WEED INVASIONS IN THE ARID WEST

by Joy Belsky<sup>1</sup>  
and Jonathan L. Gelbard<sup>2</sup>

*This article is based on a scientific research paper entitled “Livestock Grazing and Weed Invasions in the Arid West.” The full report, with nearly 200 scientific references, is available on ONDA’s website (www.onda.org) as a downloadable PDF file. Or you may purchase a copy for \$5 from ONDA, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701.*



Russian knapweed  
*Centaurea repens*

In the midst of the vast expanses of sagebrush and bunchgrass that blanket public lands of the Great Basin, a hiker passes through a livestock allotment in which native grasses have been grazed to the ground. Only non-native plants such as pink bull thistle, yellow leafy spurge, and brown curly dock remain standing tall. The weeds seem poised to invade bare soils that were only recently vegetated by native bunchgrasses tall enough to reach a horse’s underside. Dozens of fresh cattle paddies dot the area, both fouling every breath with the stench of fresh dung and revealing the cause of the damage. The hiker stands witness as livestock initiate a process that turns native grasslands into weed-dominated wastelands.

Exotic weed invasions are possibly the greatest threat facing grasslands and shrublands of the arid West today. Species-rich ecosystems are being converted into monotonous weedlands as aggressive weeds replace native plants and degrade habitat for native wildlife. Some of the

Exotic weed invasions are possibly the greatest threat facing grasslands and shrublands of the arid West today.

most notorious invaders—non-native species such as cheatgrass, medusahead, knapweed, yellow starthistle, and leafy spurge—have already spread over more than 100 million acres of western lands, and are invading new areas at the rate of 5000 acres per day. Indeed, scientists suspect the spread of non-native species (animal and plants) is the main cause following loss of habitat for the listing of threatened and endangered species in the United States.

During the past century, a large number of scientific studies have documented that cattle and sheep are major causes of

weed invasions into grasslands and shrublands of the arid West. First, livestock carry weed seeds on their coats and in their guts. Where these seeds are brushed off the animals or excreted in dung, they grow into mature plants capable of producing hundreds to thousands of seeds. One study in Alberta found that in a single growing season one cow moved 270,000 viable weed seeds around a pasture. Millions of cattle and sheep now grazing our western public lands are annually moving tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions, of weed seeds from weed infested lands into uninfested areas, even on our most remote public lands.

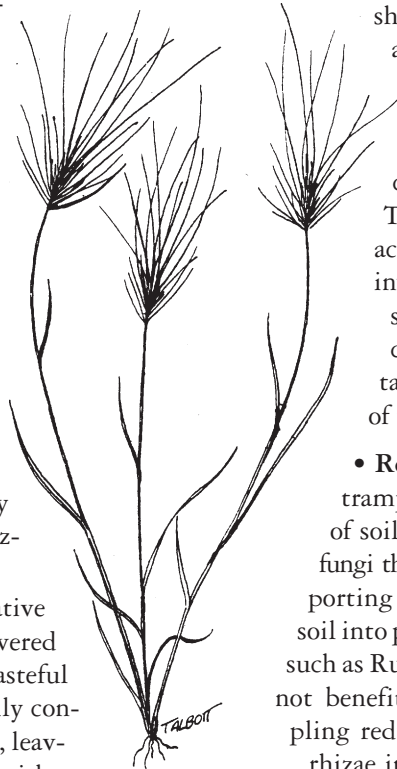
<sup>1</sup>Oregon Natural Desert Association. <sup>2</sup>University of California at Davis.



**Natives taste better**

Second, livestock weaken native plants by grazing them, thus removing their leaves and flowering stems (i.e. their photosynthetic and reproductive organs). Grasses and other plants of the Intermountain West are especially vulnerable to grazing by large herbivores since they evolved in an environment that has not been home to many large grazers over the past 10,000 years. Bison are predominantly a Great Plains species, and only low densities of elk, deer, and pronghorn occupy the arid lands west of the Rocky Mountains. As a result, Great Basin grasses and flowering plants evolved little tolerance of herbivory and are severely damaged by close and repeated grazing.

In addition, livestock prefer native plants to weeds, which are often covered with spines or contain toxic and distasteful compounds. Thus, they preferentially consume native grasses and wildflowers, leaving weeds to grow unharmed and with little competition for water and nutrients. Consequently, weedy species grow large and increase in number while native species decline.



Medusahead

*Taeniatherum caputmedusae*

- **Destroying microbiotic crusts:** Livestock hooves destroy fragile microbiotic crusts, the living crusts that blanket exposed soils in deserts and in arid grasslands and shrublands. These crusts, which are composed of algae, bacteria, lichens, and mosses, enrich the soil with nutrients, especially nitrogen, and increase the vigor of native plants. They also stabilize the soil and act as physical barriers to weed invasions. As the hooves of livestock pulverize the microbiotic crusts, they remove an important defense against the invasion of weeds.

- **Reducing soil fungi:** Livestock trampling also reduces the number of soil mycorrhizae, the microscopic fungi that benefit native plants by transporting nutrients and water from the soil into plant roots. Many exotic weeds, such as Russian thistle and halogeton, do not benefit from these fungi. As trampling reduces concentrations of mycorrhizae in the soil, the ability of native grasses to acquire nutrients and water is reduced, giving exotic weeds a competitive advantage over native plants.

- **Manure “hot spots:”**

Livestock deposit nitrogen on the ground in their urine and feces, literally fertilizing areas that they have just disturbed. These fertilized patches, or nitrogen “hot spots,” are concentrated where livestock congregate, especially near streams, water tanks, and salt licks. They intensify invasions by nitrogen-loving weeds such as cheatgrass and medusahead. Repeatedly, scientists have found that sites that are both disturbed and fertilized are the most severely invaded.

Cattle and sheep are major causes of weed invasions into Western grasslands and shrublands.

**Soil Disturbance**

Finally, livestock contribute to weed invasions by disturbing the soil surface, which increases the invasibility of grasslands and shrublands. Several factors are involved:

- **Trampling:** Livestock trample the soil, creating patches of bare ground that serve as natural seed beds for the germination of weed seeds. Trampling also compacts the soil, damaging the roots of native plants and preventing them from acquiring sufficient water and nutrients for vigorous growth.
- **Erosion:** By reducing plant cover through grazing and disturbing the soil surface with their hooves, livestock enhance wind and water erosion. Dislodged soil particles then bury the weed seeds, increasing their germination rate.

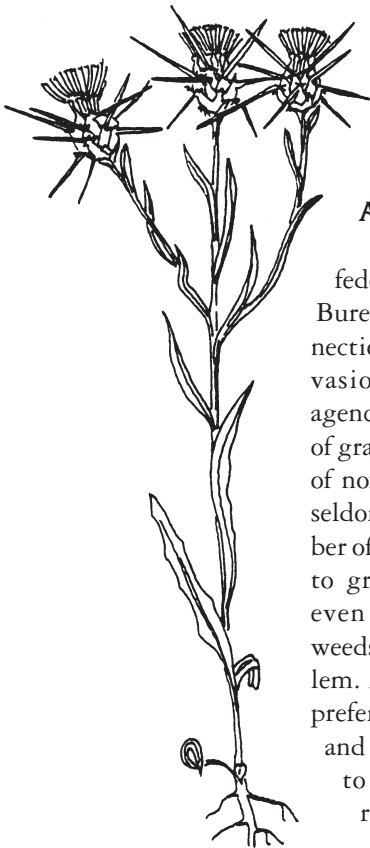
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 ►

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

- **Hotter, drier soils:** By reducing plant and litter cover and compacting the soil, livestock create warmer and drier soils, an impact especially severe in parched deserts where plants are already highly stressed by lack of water. These drier soils reduce the vigor of native plants, while annual weeds simply go dormant.

**Other weed invasion vectors**

Most, but not all, exotic weed species require the type of disturbances and open space created by livestock to germinate and grow vigorously. A few species, however, are able to invade ungrazed, undisturbed plant communities as can be seen in national parks and other natural areas. This is because vehicles, mining activity, native wildlife, hikers, wind and flooding streams can also carry weed seeds into grasslands and disturb the soils. Rarely, however, are these other influences as numerous or as widely distributed as livestock. Studies have shown that in most cases, species that invade undisturbed natural areas are less dense inside the natural areas than outside.



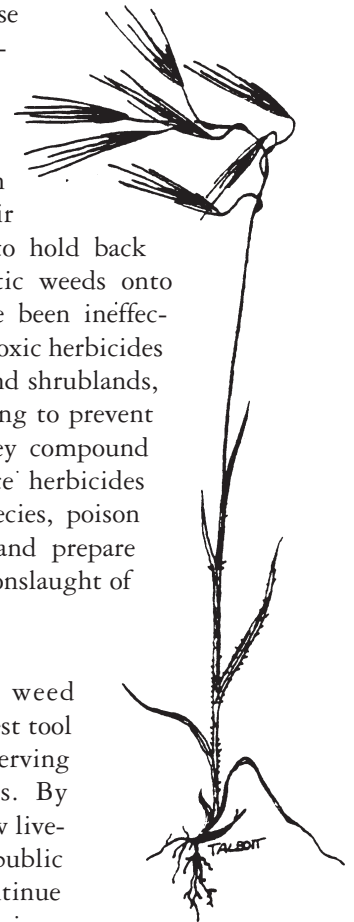
**Yellow Starthistle**  
*Centaurea solstitialis*

**Agencies in denial?**

Many in the livestock industry and in federal agencies such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management ignore the connection between livestock grazing and weed invasions. Since these agencies deny the role of grazing in the spread of noxious weeds, they seldom reduce the number of livestock allowed to graze public lands, even in areas where weeds are a major problem. Agency personnel prefer using herbicides and biocontrol agents to eradicate weeds rather than trying to prevent weed invasions in the

first place. Because they ignore the major cause of weed invasions, which is also the major land use in the western United States, their recent attempts to hold back the flood of exotic weeds onto public lands have been ineffective. By pouring toxic herbicides onto grasslands and shrublands, rather than working to prevent the invasions, they compound the problem since herbicides kill beneficial species, poison soil ecosystems, and prepare soils for the next onslaught of weeds.

Preventing weed invasions is the best tool we have for preserving native grasslands. By continuing to allow livestock grazing on public grasslands, we continue to allow weed invasions and the loss of invaluable and treasured native habitats.



**Cheatgrass**  
*Bromus tectorum*

Many in the livestock industry and federal agencies. . . ignore the connection between livestock grazing and weed invasions.





ALAN ST. JOHN

## **An Ode to Slowness**

**By Terry Tempest Williams**

**Excerpted from an article entitled "An Ode to Slowness,"  
in *Women Outside*, Summer 1999.**

**I want to make my life a ceremony around slowness.  
Time and space.**

**Open space.**

**In the desert there is space.**

**Space is the twin sister of time.**

**If we have open space, then we have open time to breathe,  
to dream, to dare, to play, to move freely, so freely,  
in a world our minds have forgotten but our bodies remember.**

**Time and space.**

**This partnership is holy.**

**In these redrock canyons, time creates space;  
an arch, an eye, this blue eye of sky.**

**We remember why we love the desert;  
it is our tactile response to light, silence, and stillness.**

**Sand on stone—patience.**

**Sand on water—music.**

**Sand raised to the wind—is this the birthplace of inspiration?**

# ONDA welcomes new board members

ONDA welcomes three new board members who are contributing their time and energy to our efforts to preserve and protect Oregon's natural desert lands.

**Bob Spertus**, an attorney residing in the San Francisco Bay Area, is co-founder and currently director of the Peradam Foundation, a small private foundation that offers grants to locally-based conservation groups working to preserve the biodiversity of our public lands. Since he came out west more than thirty years ago, Bob has spent as much time as possible hiking and camping in "the Big Outdoors," particularly in the Sierras and the Mojave and, more recently, in the wondrous high desert terrain so dear to ONDA's heart.

**Greg Holmes** first became involved with ONDA in 1996 as a volunteer at the Hart Mountain fence-out. He owns a small consulting firm that provides research, technical writing and technical litigation support services. Most of his work is in regulatory matters involving power plants, transmission lines, and pipelines. Before mov-

ing to Grants Pass earlier this year, Greg also taught courses in the Environmental Sciences program at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

**Ed Backus** is Director of Community Programs and coordinates Salmon Restoration programs at Ecotrust, based in Portland, Oregon. Ecotrust promotes the emergence of the conservation economy. He is also currently developing new place-based programs with Shorebank Enterprise Pacific, an affiliate non-bank credit and business development non-profit organization. Previously, Ed was the President and co-founder of Interrain, a non-profit conservation information and planning organization, where he led the development of public access GIS (geographic information systems) and projects for the coastal forest bioregion of North America. A native of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Ed grew up in an oceanographic family and has worked as a seabird biologist and a commercial fisherman. He now lives in Charleston, Oregon on the southern coast with his wife Jessica Miller.

# Contribute at Work: An Easy Way to Give



For thousands of Oregonians, the advent of winter means cooler temperatures, plenty of rain, cross-country ski outings — and the arrival of chari-

table fundraising campaigns in their workplace. With the help of donors in the workplace, the Environmental Federation of Oregon's (EFO) thirty-two non-profit conservation organizations receive funds to protect wildlands, restore rivers, wetlands and deserts, ensure clean drinking water, reduce traffic congestion, and much, much more.

The Oregon Natural Desert Association is a proud member of EFO. What does this mean to you? A lot! If your employer participates, you and your fellow employees can have contributions sent automatically to your favorite Oregon conservation groups, including ONDA. Contributions are simply deducted from your paycheck and spread over the course of a year. All gifts are fully tax-deductible. Week by week, paycheck by paycheck, you can make a huge difference to Oregon's High Desert.

If your workplace is not currently involved in an EFO giving program, establishing one is easy. EFO will work with your employer to set up a program that meets your company's needs. Oregon's beauty and livability is legendary. With your contribution to EFO, you can help ensure it stays that way. For more information, please call EFO at (503) 223-9015 or visit their web site at [www.efo.org](http://www.efo.org).

## Charitable Giving Through Estate Gifts



ONDA is pleased to participate in the **Leave A Legacy Program** and its simple goal of educating people from all walks of life to the possibility and importance of making a charitable bequest in their will. This program is supported and implemented by many of the non-profit organizations in Oregon.

Americans annually donate \$150 billion to charities. However, less than 6% of this donated money

comes through bequests from wills or estate gifts. In the United States, over \$15 trillion will be inherited by middle-aged children from their parents during the next forty years. Heirs and charities alike can benefit from a charitable gift to non-profits because such gifts lower the estate taxes owed.

We encourage you to consult your attorney, accountant or financial advisor to help determine the type of gift that is right for you. For more information on how you can include ONDA in your estate plan, please contact Daniele McKay at (541) 330-2638.

## Books

- The Western Range Revisited*  
by Debra Donahue ..... \$17
- Waste of the West: Public Lands Ranching*  
by Lynn Jacobs ..... \$28
- Sacred Cows at the Public Trough*  
by Denzel & Nancy Ferguson ..... \$9
- Oregon's Outback: An Auto Tour Guide  
to Southeast Oregon*  
by Donna Lynn Ikenberry ..... \$15

## Scientific Papers

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

- "Livestock Grazing and Weed Invasions in the Arid West"  
by Joy Belsky and Jonathan Gelbard ..... \$5

## T-Shirts

- ONDA T-shirts (100% organic cotton)  
*Specify size (M, L or XL), style (short or long sleeve), and  
color (sage or natural)*
- Short Sleeve ..... \$12
- Long Sleeve ..... \$15

## Etc.

- Big Indian Gorge: stunning 18"x28" color poster ..... \$10
- "Cows Kill Salmon" bumper sticker ..... \$1
- "Boycott Public Lands Beef" bumper sticker ..... \$1



## 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 SUPPORT OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION!

### Contribution levels:

- \$35 Individual   
  \$50 Family   
  \$100 Advocate   
  \$250 Patron   
  \$15 Living Lightly  
 This gift is a:   
  Special contribution   
  New membership   
  Membership renewal

### Automatic Withdrawal Option:

Automatic bank deductions are convenient and cut down on paper use and mail solicitations. Deductions from your account may be stopped or adjusted at any time simply by sending a written notice or by phoning ONDA at (541) 330-2638. Please enclose a voided check or deposit slip. **Monthly amount to deduct:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Charge my Credit Card:**  Visa:     MC    Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Add my name to the SageNet** (ONDA's electronic action alert and information network)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address (for SageNet electronic action alerts) \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail this form with check (or voided check for automatic withdrawals) to ONDA, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701*



OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION  
*Desert Ramblings*  
16 NW KANSAS STREET  
BEND, OREGON 97701

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EUGENE, OR  
PERMIT NO. 532

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## INSIDE:

- *CLINTON SIGNS STEENS PROTECTION BILL*
- *LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND WEED INVASIONS*



Printed on Recycled Paper

## **A**CTION ALERT

### Urge Clinton to designate the Owyhee-Bruneau Canyonlands National Monument!

Southwestern Idaho's Owyhee-Bruneau Canyonlands consist of deep, sheer-walled canyons, high mountains, and vast reaches of wide-open sagebrush and grassland plateaus that support over 95 species of wildlife. It's the epitome of the Big West, where the sky stretches forever and only the high-pitched calls of hawks break the solitude. The Owyhee-Bruneau Canyonlands region is home to rare fish, wildlife, and plant species; it includes over 700,000 acres of potential Wilderness and 288 miles of Wild and Scenic rivers. The world's largest herd of California bighorn sheep reside here, along with 6,000 pronghorn antelope, seven species of bats, sage grouse, songbirds, redband trout, and longnose snakes. Unique geologic features abound and innumerable archeological and historical sites dot the Canyonlands. Those who have had the pleasure of floating the Owyhee or Bruneau Rivers already know that the Canyonlands comprise a diverse and spectacular paradise.

Preserving the Owyhee-Bruneau Canyonlands as a National Monument will curtail off-road vehicle abuse, end van-

dalism of archeological and historical sites, limit livestock grazing, and halt mining. This paradise is at risk; National Monument status will protect it now and ensure the Owyhee-Bruneau Canyonlands thrive for millennia to come.

Please call or e-mail President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt in support of the campaign to designate the Owyhee-Bruneau Canyonlands as a National Monument.

### CONTACT INFO

#### President Bill Clinton

Phone: (202) 456-1111 Fax: (202) 456-2710  
White House comment line: (888) 750-4897 (toll-free)  
(open 9 am - 5 pm EST)  
E-mail: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

#### Vice President Al Gore

Phone: (202) 456-2326 Fax: (202) 456-7044  
E-mail: [vicepresident@whitehouse.org](mailto:vicepresident@whitehouse.org)

#### Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt

Phone: (202) 208-7351 Fax: (202) 208-6956

For more information, check out:  
<http://www.owyheecanyonlands.org>