With rest, streams can recover from grazing damage

By Jonathan J. Rhodes and Robert L. Beschta

Fish need streams with clear, cold water; stable, well-vegetated banks; abundant cover; frequent pools, and natural sediment levels. Throughout the West, however, native fish haven’t had these needs met because more than a century of livestock grazing has left streamside areas bereft of the vegetation that shades streams, provides cover, and stabilizes banks. This has warmed streams, de-stabilized streambanks, and increased sediment levels. Furthermore, cattle also crush overhanging banks that supply the cover needed by fish because cattle exert more than five times of force per square inch than a bulldozer.

Grazing impacts have vastly reduced the geographic range and numbers of native trout across the West. As one trout expert noted over 30 years ago, watershed damage from cattle grazing is likely the greatest contributor to the loss of western native trout.

Unfortunately, streamside conditions on the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon for a list of their names, see Page 6.

Rancher Ray Clarno, left, retired his grazing permit for the Badlands. At a ceremony to mark the occasion, ONDA presented Clarno with a framed photo of the Badlands by Greg Burke. Also participating in the ceremony were, Teal Purrington of the Prineville BLM office, middle, and ONDA Executive Director Bill Marlett.

Retirement of grazing permit becomes reality

By Bill Marlett

It’s a rare opportunity to talk about conservation success in the current political climate. With Rep. Pombo at the helm of the Resources Committee in Congress, and Secretary Norton steering the Interior Department, proactive public lands conservation legislation and policy are at a standstill.

So it is on a positive note that I can tell you ONDA and the BLM made history recently with the final adoption of the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan. Admittedly, wading through such planning efforts tests one’s ability to remain focused. But with this recent plan, for the first time in history, BLM set out a formal process that gives ranchers the ability to voluntarily relinquish their grazing permits on public lands.

Historically, federal law prohibited the BLM from letting ranchers relinquish their federal grazing permits. If a rancher gave up (or simply did not use) his or her permit, BLM would turn around and give it to someone else. BLM’s doctrine: use it or lose it.
By Craig Miller, President

How does ONDA accomplish so much with so little? Among the important factors are: a dedicated and extraordinarily able staff, a creative and flexible approach to solving problems, an enthusiastic volunteer base, and a highly functional and supportive board.

Several articles in this newsletter issue provide an example of ONDA’s resourceful and multi-faceted approach to a difficult problem, that of the ongoing government tolerance for bad grazing practices on Oregon’s arid public lands.

On a more sober note, we bid adieu to one of our key staff, Chris Egerton, who helped accomplish one of ONDA’s most ambitious programs to date, our photo-documented inventory of more than 7 million acres of unprotected wilderness in Oregon. We also say goodbye to long-time board member Stu Sugarman, and welcome a new board member, Lisa Brown (see articles on page 14).

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

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### Volunteers take inventory of 1.5 million acres

*By Chris Egerton*

It was a clear, hot day in eastern Oregon, typical for this time of year, as our group came across the deep, rugged canyon. We stopped the vehicle and gazed out on the scene, soaking it up with our eyes, and questioning: Is this thing for real? After coming to the conclusion that this seemingly out of place feature – found surrounded by subtle, rolling hills covered in native bunchgrasses and sagebrush – was indeed existent, we excitedly got out to inventory its inner depths all the while thinking: Ahhh ... isn’t it great to be on a wilderness inventory trip?

This past year, ONDA’s Wilderness Research and Rescue Project again ventured into eastern Oregon’s wild landscape to inventory unprotected lands for wilderness values and characteristics. Over 40 volunteers joined us as we explored areas such as Dry Creek Canyon, Merilo Table, Iron Mountain, Rimrock Lake, South Fork Crooked River, Bunnaz Canyon, Cottonwood Creek, and Silvies River. Each place brought new discoveries for everyone and gave each of us a deeper appreciation for the beauty found in unexpected areas. Volunteer Ken Serkownek agrees: “My favorite part of the inventory trip was getting off the beaten path and seeing some remote, beautiful, raw country. I also really enjoyed meeting a variety of different people dedicated to the same cause.”

When all was said and done, these hardy volunteers inventoried nearly 1.5 million acres of unprotected public lands to see if they meet BLM wilderness criteria. These criteria are: 1) the area needs to be a roadless area of 5,000 acres or greater; 2) the area needs to appear primarily affected by the forces of nature; and 3) the area must offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Of the 1.5 million acres, 1.1 million met the criteria, and are being recommended to the BLM to be protected as Wilderness Study Areas.

This is quite a feat and I congratulate all those involved ... we couldn’t have done it without you!

If you would like to learn more about ONDA’s wilderness inventory trips, please visit www.onda.org or call us at 541.330.2638.
Calendar debuts at Mirror Pond Gallery event

ONDA would like to thank everyone who came to the opening party for the 2006 Oregon Wild Desert Calendar at Mirror Pond Gallery in Bend this October. It was wonderful to connect with everyone who made the calendar possible as well as new folks who had never heard of ONDA. The framed, original photographs looked spectacular hanging side by side in the gallery. The calendar has been one of our greatest outreach tools for informing the public about ONDA’s mission and the places ONDA works to protect.

Calendars make great gifts! What better way to mark the passing of time than with a calendar of all of your beloved high desert landscapes? Oregon Wild Desert calendars are currently on sale at more than 20 Bend locations, as well several in Portland. We are always looking for new locations to sell our calendars so if you know of a business in or outside Bend that supports ONDA and would like to sell our calendars, please let us know. For a complete list, please see our website.

If you can’t make it to the store you can always buy the calendar on our website (it’s convenient and secure) – www.onda.org – or see the Market Place section of this newsletter. The framed, original photographs are for sale as well. Please call the ONDA office 541.330.2678 for prices and availability.

Thanks again to all who made the calendar possible and supported ONDA by purchasing a calendar.

Thank you ONDA business members!

This year ONDA created a new category of giving specifically for businesses. We would like to thank the following businesses for their support.

- Grow Insight Ltd., Portland. Employees: Lisa Grow, Ben Patinkin, Stephanie Schwoenger
- J.B. Davis Construction, Bend. www.jbdavisconstruction.com
- McLaughlin Upholstery, 23549 Rickard Road, Bend. 541.388.3620
- Mockingbird Gallery, Inc., Bend.
- Neo Software Inc., Bend.
- Pine Mountain Sports, 255 SW Century Drive, Bend. www.pinemountainsports.com
- Shevlin Commons LLC, Bend. www.shevlincommons.com
- Wheeler Jewelry, 139 Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901; 406.752.6805; wheelerjewelrymt.com
- Wild Birds Unlimited, Forum Center, 2760 NE Hwy 20, Suite 300 Bend, 541.679.8840; www.wbu.com/bend

If you have questions or are interested in becoming an ONDA business member, please contact Kelly O’Brien or Pete Hickok at 541.330.2678 or visit us on the web at www.onda.org.

Oregon Wild Desert calendar

Pine Mountain Sports supports community

ONDA would like to say a special thanks to Pine Mountain Sports for including ONDA in its Pine Mountain Sports Club Card program. Thanks to Pine Mountain’s commitment, 1 percent of all club purchases will go to support nonprofit organizations in Bend, including ONDA. Plus, club members receive 5 percent off all purchases at Pine Mountain Sports for life. Now those of you who live in central Oregon can contribute to the community by keeping your dollars in central Oregon, while supporting local groups such as ONDA. For more information on the Pine Mountain Sports Club, visit Pine Mountain Sports, 255 SW Century Drive, Bend, or call 541.395.8690.

The first annual Badlands Bluegrass Blowout

This October’s Badlands Bluegrass Blowout was a huge success for ONDA and fun for everyone! Bluegrass talents Jackcrew, Blackstrap, Back from the Dead, and Quincy Street joined ONDA for a day of celebrating Oregon’s High Desert at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park. The hoedown was a family event complete with beautiful artwork, pumpkin painting, bula-hop making, cake walking, and, of course, dancing to Oregon’s finest bluegrass music. One lucky winner even got to take home a new guitar, courtesy of Breedlove Guitars. Bend artists, Kay and Gordon Baker were also there to display their magnificent high desert artwork and Gordon was generous enough to donate an original painting as the door prize.

ONDA was also fortunate to have the help of several local businesses:

- The Source newspaper helped us get the word out;
- Silver Moon Brewing Company provided local beers;
- Wild Oats Market cooked up some delicious meals;
- Green Energy Transportation ensured that everyone had a safe, environmentally friendly ride home.

ONDA would like to thank these businesses and ONDA volunteers for helping us make this event happen and thank all of you who helped us celebrate!

Blackstrap, Bend’s very own bluegrass band, fills Aspen Hall with foot-stomping music.

The families made the most of the sunny day by painting pumpkins and twirling bula hoops while listening to the music from outside of Aspen Hall.

Father and son duo Pete and Durbin Hickok help table the event.
There’s more to Oregon than Mt. Hood; add Spring Basin, Badlands to bill
On December 3, 2005, U.S. Representatives Greg Walden and Earl Blumenauer held Mt. Hood Summit III, two public meetings focused on sculpting a plan to protect undeveloped wilderness on Mt. Hood that would appeal to multiple users. Shortly after the second summit, Senator Ron Wyden unveiled his Lewis and Clark Mt. Hood Wilderness Act of 2004, which proposes to increase Mt. Hood Wilderness by 180,000 acres and to add 46 miles to the existing Wild and Scenic River system. In contrast, Blumenauer and Walden propose a mere 75,000 acres (out of 285,000 acres that qualify) of additional wilderness and only 15 miles (out of over 100 miles that qualify) of wild and scenic river designations.

There is still the opportunity for a Senate version of a Mt. Hood bill, co-sponsored by Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, that could lead to greater wilderness protection than the Blumenauer and Walden proposal. In fact, onda and many other conservation organizations would like to see other wilderness proposals, such as Spring Basin and Badlands, added to the Mt. Hood proposal. The proposed Spring Basin Wilderness Area encompasses nearly 9,000 acres along the spectacular Wild and Scenic John Day River. This special place is home to many candidate and endangered species, such as the northern bald eagle, yellow-hairy Indian paintbrush, and transparent milk vetch. Spring Basin also houses several archaeological sites, including a pit house village and associated pictographs.

Stretching 39,000 acres, just 15 miles east of Bend, is the Badlands WSA. Within this wonderful landscape are desert oaks, dry river canyons, castle-like rock formations, pictographs and 1,000-year-old junipers. Bend’s booming population needs to protect these wild places for present and future generations.

Ask Senators Wyden and Smith, and Representatives Blumenauer and Walden to add Spring Basin and Badlands to the Mt. Hood Wilderness proposal.

Make a lasting commitment for the future
Make a lasting commitment for the future. Join the Oregon Natural Desert Association’s High Desert Legacy Society. Membership in the High Desert Legacy Society is open to onda supporters who wish to join us in creating a long-term gift to onda. Society membership is a meaningful way to pass on your commitment for Oregon’s high desert and provides several tax benefits.

Until Dec. 31, special tax benefit available under Hurricane Katrina act
In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the president enacted the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act to help storm victims. Although many of the act’s benefits are only available to those affected by the storm, the act provides generous gift limits for donations to all charities. Until Dec. 31, 2005, you may donate funds to any charitable organization and use the resulting charitable tax deduction to offset up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income (this is double the normal 50 percent limit). This tax benefit also applies to income from appreciated stock or retirement plans, and could considerably reduce your tax liability on such income.

This legislation presents a short-term opportunity to significantly reduce your tax liability. If you would like to use this opportunity to contribute to onda, your contribution must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2005. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Kelly O’Brien at 541.350.2678 or kobrien@onda.org.

Congratulations, Craig!
We are proud to share the news that the East Cascades Bird Conservancy has named Craig Miller, onda board member and GIS specialist, Conservationist of the Year. The East Cascades Bird Conservancy supports bird conservation by engaging the public in volunteer field studies and by supporting projects that advance the knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats. They are a new voice for bird conservation and birding education in Oregon. They train volunteers, conduct surveys, and publish data for everyone to use.

As many people know, Craig is an avid birder and dedicated conservationist. The award couldn’t be better suited. Craig, thank you for all that you do.
STREAMS from page 1

About the Authors

Jonathan J. Rhodes is a consulting hydrologist at Planeto Azul Hydology, Portland, Oregon. For more than 23 years, most of his work has focused on how wildland management affects streams, water quality, and fish habitat.

Robert L. Busch is an emeritus professor of Forest Hydrology at Oregon State University. He has had a long-term interest in assessing the effects of various land use practices (e.g., road building, timber harvesting, grazing, post-fire salvage) on how streams and streamside areas function.

EXAMPLE OF AN EXTRACTED TEXT

In contrast to nearby grazed reaches, streambanks inside this exclusion are highly stable, the channel is continuing to narrow, and deep-rooted, shade-providing, deciduous vegetation is well distributed and vigorous. A boulder dam, extremely common in grazed reaches and an important feature for productive fish habitat, is evident in the center of the photo. Vegetation covers more than 90% of the ground in the streamside area. Livestock grazing has been excluded for more than 20 years along this reach, a tributary to the Wild and Scenic portion of the Malheur River.

Through the diligence of one of the attorney's initial developments in the case were positive despite the legal fight from the Forest Service. Judges in both cases initially ruled that the conditions affected by grazing on the Malheur National Forest required management changes. In response to this litigation, the Forest Service provided rest from grazing and reduced use over extensive areas covered by the lawsuits.

The significance of this rest cannot be underestimated. It is probably more reprieve from grazing than many of these streams and their fish populations have had in more than a century. The response of vegetation was immediate and positive. However, the importance of the brief respite from grazing should not be overlooked. This limited rest is not nearly enough to allow damaged streams to recover significantly. Raw banks, over-widened channels, and deep-rooted streamside vegetation take many years to heal. After short periods of rest, renewed livestock grazing vegetation can easily negate stream and habitat improvements.

Recently, in March 2005, a judge newly appointed to one of the cases dismissed it on a narrow jurisdictional issue; the judge in the other case followed suit. However, one law has appealed both decisions and will argue them before the Ninth Circuit in early 2006.

One law is one of a handful of groups in the West tackling the important issues arising from grazing on public lands, even though this land use represents one of the greatest continuing threats to imperiled native fish and many wildlife species. One law is bringing sound science and law to a simple goal: getting public land managers to comply with existing law, their own regulations, and the ecological need to restore pervasively damaged stream systems.

Although the most recent decisions in the case were not a desired outcome, the litigation provided some on-the-ground relief for aquatic systems. Such relief is perhaps more than any other group has triggered in the Columbia River basin despite more than a decade since the listing of imperiled salmonids under the ESA. This story is not yet over.

“Data from small areas along streams where cattle had been excluded for a decade or more consistently demonstrate that those streams are in far better shape than where grazing has continued.... Field evaluations documented that grazing was damaging streambanks and preventing the recovery of streamside vegetation ...”
Government Accountability Office confirms huge subsidies paid to ranchers

By Mark Salvo and Gretta Anderson

It’s finally, officially confirmed. Ranchers on federal public lands annually receive millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies to graze public lands. In some cases, ranchers could not continue grazing without taxpayer support. In nearly every case, subsidized ranchers pursue their activity at the expense of native flora, fauna and ecosystems on the public domain.

In October 2003, the Government Accountability Office finally released a report that found that ranching on public lands costs taxpayers at least $23 million annually on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands (see the report and additional information at www.gao.gov/products/brhsessubs.html). Overall, in federal departments and agencies spend $244 million dollars annually to manage public lands grazing, while receiving only $5 million per year in grazing fees (which most of these departments contribute into the “Range Betterment Fund” and similar dedicated accounts).

While taxpayers subsidize numerous and worthy government programs, in the case of public lands grazing, only a select few benefit from the public’s largesse. Of the approximately 98,460 livestock producers in the United States, only 2 percent held federal grazing permits/leases.

GAO’s report exposed the galling ubiquity of federal government support for ranching on public lands. The report lists an array of federal departments and agencies that spend millions of dollars to support the federal grazing program, from 8431-Wildlife Services, who contracts with ranchers to kill predators on public lands, to the Department of Justice, which pays lawyers to defend federal grazing policy against citizen lawsuits to protect public lands and resources.

Unfortunately, GAO’s report suffers from some gaping holes in the data. For example, GAO failed to estimate some direct and indirect subsidies (agency planning, range management, etc.) that contribute significantly to the total subsidies received by ranchers. Several agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency, also failed to provide estimates of their grazing related costs to the GAO, even though these agencies are charged with mitigating grazing impacts to soil, water, and vegetation. A study published by the Center for Biological Diversity in 2002 responsibly estimated these missing costs and concluded that the total cost of federal grazing program is closer to $50 million annually. GAO also does not address the environmental costs of livestock grazing on public lands, such as impaired habitat and diminished recreational and aesthetic values. Despite its flaws, the GAO report has finally settled a debate between ranchers and the BLM and Forest Service about whether public lands grazing is a losing proposition for taxpayers. It is, in fact, a rotten deal. Representative of the public lands ranching industry did not dispute the findings in the report. Rather, Jeff Eisenberg, executive director of the Public Lands Council of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, said the numbers don’t reflect the value of maintaining a way of life and keeping land free from development and other forms of “investigation” that reflects decades and decades of public policy. Of course, both contentions are a pile of cow poop. Some people just don’t get it.

Organizations petition to raise federal grazing fee

By Gretta Anderson and Mark Salvo

In November, the Oregon Natural Desert Association joined the Center for Biological Diversity, the Olds Tribe, and the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Group in submitting a petition to the U.S. Forest Service to increase the grazing fee on federal public lands. The request was formally submitted as a petition for agency rulemaking to the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

The federal grazing fee is a pittance. The Government Accountability Office recently confirmed that the low fee fails to recover even a small percentage of the costs of the federal grazing program. The grazing fee charged on National Forest System and BLM lands in 2005 is $2.50 per cow/leaf per month, one-seventh of the average fee charged on equivalent, non-grazed irrigated grazing lands in the 17 western states, where fees ranged from $8 to $53 per animal unit month (APM) on private and state lands. The Forest Service estimate that $80 million in grazing fees are needed to cover the BLM fee is also less than those charged on state lands, where the average fee in 26 western states (excluding Texas) in 2004 was $43.30.

The current Forest Service/BLM fee is based on a flawed formula that was established in the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (PRIA). The formula, which was initially based on economic data from 1966, was set to expire in 1986, but President Reagan extended its use indefinitely via Executive Order. In 1986, the secretaries for the Interior and Agriculture created a formula for a new PRIA. However, in 1991, Congress directed the Forest Service and BLM to re-evaluate the PRIA formula and the resulting “fair market value” study showed the grazing fee was too low to recover program costs.

In 1991, the GAO affirmed that the low fee was the result of a flawed formula, which begins with a low base fee and is adjusted using an index that heavily weights factors such as grazing permits. Because both the Development and the Desert and Land Protection Programs are under the banner of “Bangeland Reform,” which proposed using a new base fee and a slightly different formula for setting the grazing fee. This change would have resulted in a significant increase in the cost recovered by the forest and BLM grazing program, but it was never adopted.

Despite knowing that the formula is flawed and fails to recover program costs, the federal government has refused to raise the fee to allow the grazing program to pay for itself. Citing existing law and policy, our organizations contend that the grazing fee must be both “reasonable” and reflect fair market value of federal forage. While the true costs of degraded wildlife habitat, impaired water quality and other impacts may be impossible to quantify, our petition proposes a new fee formula that would at least move toward recovering the administrative costs of the federal grazing program.
New lawsuit targets
rangeland project in Beaty Butte gulches

On Oct. 21, 2005, onda filed suit against the BLM over the agency’s decision to implement a rangeland project on Beaty Butte in south-east Oregon. The project, which will occur in the East and West Gulches near Beaty Butte’s summit, involves over 13.5 miles of new barbed-wire fence, three new pipelines totaling about 5.5 miles, the new water developments complete with steel storage tanks, and rehabilitation of one road coupled with construction of two miles of new road. The project also calls for development of a modest riparian enclosure in the East Gulch.

During the public comment process, onda had asked the BLM to consider the impacts of the project on wilderness values documented on 122,000 acres of public land in onda’s “Spooling Proposed Rangeland Project in Beaty Butte Area” report. Unfortunately, the BLM refused to consider onda’s significant new information regarding the project process. onda argues the agency has a duty to consider that information, both under NEPA and FWA.

Beaty Butte is a 3,981-foot elevation “sky island” situated within the northern Great Basin, in eastern Oregon’s high desert. Near its summit, the adjoining East Gulch and West Gulches contain locally rare stream and riparian habitats important to sage grouse and other species. The public lands on and around Beaty Butte are significant as a critical swath of relatively intact sage-steppe habitat linking the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, to the north and west, with the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northern Nevada, to the south.

The area exhibits a stunningly diverse landscape, ranging from ridges and hills to table lands, from sagebrush-steppe to playas, lakes, springs, streams and riparian areas, and from scattered old-growth juniper woodlands to the defining landscape feature of Beaty Butte itself. It supports a wide variety of wildlife and includes critical winter and migratory habitat for pygmy rabbits as well as important habitat for sage grouse, pygmy rabbits, Western big-eared bats, furbearing hawks, burrowing owl, desert and short- horned lizards, and countless other birds and mammals.

In addition to claims targeting the wilderness issue, the complaint also targets the BLM’s refusal to consider alternatives that would involve increased herding, reduced grazing, and/or a larger riparian enclosure area. Current grazing practices and the infrastructure required to sustain current levels of use threaten this area’s potential to one day be conserved as wilderness.

Just another day in the field. While inspecting the Middle Fork John Day River in September, onda staffer Mac Lacy and volunteer Chris Christie spotted hundreds of fish stranded in an irrigation ditch. The ditch was dry at the headgate and dry again several miles downstream, meaning the fish had no way out. onda contacted the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, which immediately sent a crew from John Day. The crew was able to salvage 15 Oncorhyncus mykiss (juvenile steelhead or resident redband), mostly from last year’s brood (age 1+), and return them to the Middle Fork. The crew also salvaged thousands of juvenile redside shiners, hundreds of juvenile dace, and a few juvenile suckers. Although the ditch has a functioning fish screen, the O. mykiss may have gotten inshore. The screen was lowered before the irrigation season in April.

Forest Service issues
grazing CEIs fast and furious

Since November, onda has commented on six different Forest Service decisions relying on a congressional appropriations bill language that would allow the agency to “categorically exclude” from NEPA review or grazing permit reauthorization. The rider can be used only if monitoring indicates grazing is meeting or exceeding objectives in the forest plan. This includes acres meeting standards tied to native runoff habitat requirements. onda believes the Forest Service’s use of this rider is inappropriate in most cases we have reviewed so far, because of the agency’s complete lack of monitoring to assess whether past management standards are being met.

onda files new
Freedom of Information Act lawsuit

onda filed suit on Oct. 17, 2005, challenging the BLM and Depart- ment of the Interior’s handling of a two-year old FOIA request asking for documents related to the agency’s consideration and analysis of onda’s wilderness inventory report as part of the Andrews-Steeens RMP planning process. The first targets the BLM’s failure to justify its decision to withhold over 50 pages of responsive documents. onda alleges the BLM failed to provide enough information for onda to assess the legitimacy of the agency’s claim that those documents are subject to the BLM’s “deliberative process” exemption. Simultaneous with the agency’s opening brief, it “voluntarily” elected to release a number of the contested documents. The lawsuit also targets the agency’s use of an improper cutoff date for processing the request. Although the BLM did not complete its response until February 2005, the agency refused to provide documents more recent than August 2003.

As is required by law, onda filed in February 2005 administratively ap- proved both issues. onda was required to have decided onda’s appeal no later than March 30, 2005, but never responded. After four re- minder letters went unheeded, onda was left with no choice but to file suit in federal court. onda’s right to obtain the public information at issue in this action is critical to our ability to assess whether and how adequately the BLM considered our comprehensive wilder- ness inventory report during the Andrews-Steeens RMP process.
Welcome Lisa Brown, board member

Lisa Brown has worked with Northwest conservation groups on watershed and aquatic habitat protection projects for more than a decade, as well as for an aquatic research group at the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Corvallis. Lisa earned a bachelor of science degree in environmental science from Oregon State University, and graduated with honors from Lewis & Clark Law School with a certificate in environmental and natural resources law. She is a staff attorney at WaterWatch of Oregon and is a member of the Oregon Bar. A desert rat at heart, she joined the owna board in 2005 and looks forward to having more excuses to get to the east side.

Welcome Kristin Ruether, staff attorney

Kristin Ruether became owna’s second staff attorney in full 2005, joining Mac Lacy in the Portland office, where she will focus on grazing enforcement in the John Day Basin. She is a recent graduate from Portland’s Lewis & Clark law school. She spent her free time there working with the school’s activist group, Northwest Environmental Defense Center, and the school’s clinic, Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center (where she worked on one of owna’s Malheur grazing cases). She was on the Lewis & Clark team that won the 2004 national environmental moot court competition.

She grew up in the scenic Rust Belt and, as a kid, was lucky to take many camping and canoeing trips with her family to eastern Canada. She received her undergraduate degree in biology from Cornell University. After seeing a roadshow on the Cow/Mallard timber sales, she felt called to the northern Rockies. She worked as forest watch coordinator for Friends of the Clearwater in Moscow, Idaho, for a few years, where she battled timber sales and backpacked as much as possible.

She loves wilderness, running, X-C skiing, cow dogs, and knitting. She is thrilled to work for owna.

Welcome, Pete Hickok, membership coordinator

An owna volunteer once commented that if you are part of the Hickok family, you are required (by family law) to work for owna at some point in your life. Never one to skimp on his requirements, Pete Hickok joined owna in October 2005 as the new Membership Coordinator. Though not originally from Bend, Pete has spent most of his summers either working on the Deschutes River rowing baggage boats for fly-fishing outfitters or exploring the central Oregon Cascades and high desert. Pete figures that he has spent close to a full year of his life in a tent on the banks of the Deschutes. Yes, the fishing was good.

After graduating from Lewis & Clark College in May, Pete’s love for the desert and desire to dry out after 21 long winters in Seattle and Portland led him back to Bend. He enjoys hiking, skiing, fishing, art, tractors, and, when not in the desert, surfing. He is excited to join owna and to get to know all of you members out there.

Farewell Stu Sugarman, board member

Stu Sugarman has completed 12 years of service on owna’s board, most of that time as an officer. Not only has he been a passionate activist for protecting Oregon’s last remaining wild places, but an important voice in guiding owna’s policies and direction. Stu’s whole life has been immersed in social justice and environmental activism, all the way from defending tree-sitters in court to participating in non-violent direct action with the Sea Shepard Society. Stu, although the board will miss your bright humor and intelligent perspectives, we know that you will be with us in spirit as you continue your important fight against injustice.

Farewell Chris Egerton, wildlands coordinator

Chris Egerton, owna’s wildlands coordinator, is moving on to greener pastures. Many of owna’s wilderness volunteers are familiar with Chris’ forays in to Oregon’s desert wildlands where he led owna’s field mapping efforts for the past two years. We’ll miss his dry Midwestern humor and unflappable demeanor around the office. We wish Chris the best of luck in his new adventure!
‘Cars for Conservation’
can help ONDA

Don’t ditch your old car in the desert! Donate your car to the desert and help ONDA’s efforts to secure more wilderness in Oregon’s high deserts! Please consider donating your vehicle(s) to ONDA to be assessed at market value. The car will be sold at auction and ONDA will receive the proceeds from the sale. You, in return, will receive a beneficial tax deduction. The better the condition of the car the better a donation to support ONDA’s efforts.

If you have any questions about the “Cars for Conservation” program or would like to donate your vehicle, please contact Pete Hickok at 541.330.2638 or phickok@onda.org.

Bring Earth Share into your workplace

When Oregonians were asked in a series of surveys and workshops in the 1990s what they wanted in the future, they called – resoundingly – for clean air and water, open space, parklands, natural areas, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Since 1989, Oregonians have been asked every year to stand by that vision of a healthy environment by supporting the groups that work to keep people healthy, preserve wildlife habitat and reduce global warming. ONDA is one of those groups. Our membership in Earth Share of Oregon enables us to reach out to a broad cross-section of the state that might not otherwise learn about our work. This results not only in increased financial support, but helps us build bridges based on understanding the challenges and successes of environmental work.

Here’s how it works: Earth Share cooperates with private and public employers to offer a payroll deduction program through which employees can either donate to Earth Share of Oregon as a whole or to designate a gift for one or more ONDA members.

The key to success for Earth Share members is participation – increasing the number of employers who offer this opportunity to their employees. This is where you can help.

First, find out if your workplace allows employees to donate to Earth Share of Oregon. If you aren’t sure, check the list of Earth Share’s Business Partners at www.earthshare-oregon.org.

Next, if you don’t have an Earth Share campaign, ask your company president or other top leaders if they would consider starting one. Ron Shoals, Earth Share of Oregon’s business development manager, can help you approach your company’s leaders and provide materials for them to review. If you are an owner or leader in your company, it makes adding an Earth Share campaign that much easier!

To learn more about bringing Earth Share to your workplace, call Ron at 503.223.9015 or email him at ron@earthshare-oregon.org.