













OREGON'S DISTINCTIVE DESERT

Oregon's high desert is a distinctive landscape holding impressive rivers, craggy canyons, broad peaks, undulating hills and ancient junipers. Innumerable petroglyphs and pictographs record Indigenous presence since time immemorial. By day, you can watch clouds sweep over the Sagebrush Sea. At night, the dark skies sparkle with a multitude of stars.

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) is the only conservation organization dedicated exclusively to this remarkable region. ONDA aims to preserve the wonders of Oregon's high desert for future generations to know and love

ONDA helps people throughout Oregon and beyond connect with this incredible wild desert, and ensures that they have a say in how these public lands are managed. Thousands of dedicated donors, passionate advocates and steadfast volunteers take part in ONDA's thoughtful conservation campaigns, continuous policy vigilance and ambitious restoration work each year, working together to keep Oregon's desert natural, wild and thriving.

GRATITUDE

just as we do today.

Special thanks for this publication go to the 100+ photographers who submitted images for consideration, our featured photographers, all of the naturalists who share phenological observations, and our highly dedicated calendar committee:

Scott Bowler, Greg Burke, Dave Caplan, Mark Chidlaw, Jim Davis, Helen Harbin and Wendy Wheeler-Jacobs.

Copyright to all photographs herein belongs to the photographers who generously donated these images.

ROW 1 (L-R): Boys gazing in Leslie Gulch. Photo: Tom Gattiker. Stewardship volunteers hike across river to finish riparian fencing around an inholding within the South Fork Crooked WSA. Photo: Jefferson Jacobs. Owyhee River kayaker. Photo: John Aylward.

ROW 2 (L-R): Twelve volunteers joined ONDA in the lush McDermitt Caldera, where they helped document resources that may be threatened by lithium mining. Photo: Anne White. Gravel cycling Leslie Gulch in September. Photo: Linda English / Dirty Freehub. Tribal Stewards Kiari and Jordan in Malheur Refuge. Photo: Beth Macinko.

ROW 3 (L-R): Volunteer heading to plant trees along the South Fork Crooked River to support habitat restoration. *Photo: Nancy Floyd.* Ouzel Outfitters spring river guides on the Owyhee River. *Photo: John Aylward.* Juniper Gulch Trail hiker in spring. *Photo: Gina Bringman.*

ROW 4 (L-R): Pamela Gilmer plants culturally significant species at Beech Creek in partnership with Burns Paiute Tribe. *Photo: Gena Goodman-Campbell.* Laying down in fall foliage in the Steens. *Photo: James Parsons.* Owyhee hiker takes in the canyon from above. *Photo: John Aylward.*

CONSERVING OREGON'S DESERT PUBLIC LANDS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE

From stately bighorn sheep to diminutive horned lizards, a wide range of birds, plants, fish, insects and animals live in Oregon's high desert, with many species dependent on its vast expanses of unbroken sagebrush steppe to survive.

ONDA has worked to protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert public lands since 1987. By partnering with tribes, land management agencies, landowners, elected officials and people like you, ONDA is a strong voice for conservation in Oregon's high desert. We hope your passion for restoring and conserving the desert's essential landscapes is reignited each month as you page through the breathtaking scenery in this Wild Desert Calendar.

WHERE ONDA WORKS

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS

Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands is the largest undeveloped, unprotected expanse in the lower 48 states. Its red rock canyons, vital rivers and array of wildlife—including the imperiled greater sage-grouse—are unlike anything else in Oregon. Protecting the Owyhee is a top priority for the ONDA community. See May, June, July and August.

CENTRAL OREGON BACKCOUNTRY

With rolling sagebrush plains and dramatic river canyons, this gateway into Oregon's dry side offers world-class fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and more, all just a few miles outside city limits. Many of its waterways are critical spawning grounds for salmon and steelhead. ONDA works with community members to conserve the natural beauty of beloved wild areas of Central Oregon.

JOHN DAY RIVER BASIN

Without dams to block their path from the sea, the John Day River provides safe passage for summer steelhead and Chinook salmon. The surrounding landscape offers critical habitat for mule deer, elk and more, with exceptional recreational opportunities too. ONDA's dedication to conserving the area was instrumental in a community-driven proposal to protect Sutton Mountain being introduced in the Senate. See November and December.

GREATER HART-SHELDON

Spanning more than 3 million acres of Oregon and Nevada, the Greater Hart-Sheldon is a diverse expanse of mountains, wetlands, sagebrush steppe and canyons that provide a safe haven for wildlife. More than 300 species thrive here, including migrating waterfowl, pronghorn antelope and the imperiled greater sage-grouse. ONDA spends many hours monitoring and restoring wildlands in this region each year. See March, May and September.

STEENS MOUNTAIN

With wild rivers coursing through broad gorges, golden aspen groves and lush wildflower meadows, Steens Mountain is simply stunning. ONDA played a critical role in securing wilderness designation for Steens and continues to serve as a vigilant advocate for this iconic mountain today. From challenging "right idea, wrong place" industrial scale energy development to preventing unnecessary roads, we continue to protect this jewel of the Oregon desert, and care for the nearby Alvord Desert and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. See January, February, April and October.

OREGON DESERT TRAIL

With long stretches of cross-country travel stitched together by pieces of defined trail, the Oregon Desert Trail is a long-distance hiking route like no other. Whether you head out for a day, a week, or a month, this route through eastern Oregon's public lands will grant you an intimate connection to the wildest stretches of Oregon's high desert. See March, April, June, July, August, September and October.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Oregon's high desert holds the traditional, since time immemorial, homelands of the Northern Paiute, Shoshone, Bannock, Wasco and Warm Springs peoples. Many Indigenous people live in this region today, including members of the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Wasco, Warm Springs and Paiute), the Klamath Tribes (Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin), the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation.





FRIDAY

SATURDAY

JANUARY



Coyote. Photo: Sean Grasso

SUNDAY

28

MONDAY

TUESDAY

"From a distance, coyote surveils the brooding human and, without hesitation, aiming nose to sky, howls yip yip, hey, you, you—do all you can to secure the future this high desert embraces."

ELLEN WATERSTON

Picture This

New Year's Eve	New Year's Day Last day of Kwanzaa	Perihelion (Earth closest to Sun) 4:38 p.m. PST	Quadrantid meteor shower (40/hour)		ONDA incorporated, 1989	
7	8	9	10	• 1′	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observed	16	• 17	18	3 19	20
21	22	23	24	° 25	5 26	27

30

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Coyotes prowl their territories all year, ranging widely in search of prey, such as the abundant voles, mice, gophers and ground squirrels they hunt beneath the snow. Since American pika don't hibernate, they must stay active throughout the winter, busily scampering between their hay caches in their rock and scree piles—secure from most predators except weasels. Hot springs in the desert are especially wonderful to explore for their spectacular ice and steam displays. Snowfall brings a golden opportunity to observe and learn about tracking a wide variety of animals, especially first thing in the morning.



FEBRUARY



Alvord Desert, playa detail. Photo: Bruce Couch

"The Sheepshead Mountains are mostly known to people who drive by them on their way elsewhere."

ANDY KERR

Oregon Desert Guide

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	Black History Month	• 9	10
						Lunar New Year
11	12	13	14	15	• 16	17
18	19	20	Ash Wednesday 21	22	23	° 24
25	Presidents' Day	27	28	29	1	2

Sagebrush and juniper stands provide vital winter shelter and food for pygmy rabbits, greater sage-grouse, mule deer and elk, and many resident birds. ♦ Look for open water, which will often be filled with waterfowl overwintering here—and their predators, particularly bald eagles. ♦ In the growing sunlight and warmth, especially during warm spells, hardy plants like bitterbrush and pines will begin sprouting from forgotten seed stashes made by jays in an earlier season. ♦ Perennial mosses and lichens begin to color up, and in sunny spells a few hardy wildflowers may begin to bloom on warmer exposures. ♦ Manzanita shrubs may start blooming.



MARCH



American avocet. Photo: Shannon Phifer

"I am always absorbed in the stunning beauty and primordial nature of this place, where geology, biology, and history come to the surface in stark relief."

MELVIN R. ADAMS

on Lake Abert – Remote Wonders, An Explorer's Guide to Southeast Oregon

As snow melt soaks in and soils start to warm, many hardy perennial grasses and forbs resume growing. This includes Idaho fescue, Great Basin rye, sagebrush buttercup, yellow bells and grass widows, as well as various Lomatiums and Lewissia. ♦ Found only in the American West, mountain mahogany trees wake up, with both the leaves and blossoms emitting a lovely smell. ♦ Shorebirds, such as American avocet and killdeer, begin to arrive on their quest to find enough food to sustain a brood. Look for them around our lakes and marshes, especially Lake Abert, Summer Lake and Harney Basin. ♦ Ungulate herds begin to move off their winter ranges, as the does start their search for safe birthing spots. ♦ Abundant side-blotched lizards, with thin, flat bodies that heat quickly, perch on sun-bathed rocks—our first reptile species to become active in spring. ♦ Greater sage-grouse males begin their spectacular courting on their leks, performing elaborate dances to attract females.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	28	Meteorological Spring Begins	2
• 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
First day of Ramadan Daylight Saving Time begins, 2 A.M.	11	12	13	14	15	• 16
17	18	Spring Equinox, 8:06p.M. PDT	20	21	22	23
24/ ₃₁	° 25	26	27	28	29	Oregon Badlands & Spring Basin wilderness areas designated, 2009



APRIL



Greater sage-grouse. Photo: Shannon Phifer

"Sage-grouse are the charismatic ambassadors of the Sagebrush Sea. No species more perfectly represents the health—or loss—of sagebrush habitats. If we are willing to do what is necessary to save sage-grouse, we will not only preserve this iconic creature for future generations to enjoy, but also hundreds of other species of flora and fauna that depend on this vital desert ecosystem."

MARK SALVO

ONDA Conservation Director

Turkey vultures may begin to arrive, searching for winterkilled animals and roadkill, feasting on the placentas left behind from ungulate births. ♦ As lake ice melts and desert waterways rise towards peak flows, cold water fish are waking up hungry. ♦ The waterfowl migration northward begins in earnest, with tens of thousands of geese—snow, greater white-fronted, and Ross' gathering in wetlands like the Harney Basin and Warner Wetlands. ♦ On exposed rocky ridge lines, the fabulous magenta blooms of pediocactus pop out atop their thorny barrels. They're joined by balsamroot, paintbrush, lupine, sand lilies, varieties of Lomatim and many more showy blooms. ♦ On warm, sunny days, hungry rattlesnakes emerge from hibernation to bask at rocky den sites and explore for prey. ♦ Pronghorn begin to give birth, often to twins. ♦ Oregon Desert Trail (ODT) hikers begin their transit of the 750 mile route.

SUNDAY	MON	NDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	•	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	•	8	9 Last day of Ramadan	10	11	12	13
14	•	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	Lyrid mete (20/l	gins at sunset)	° 23	24	25	26	27
28		29	30 Last day of Passover	• 1	2	3	4



MAY

	LW O	No
2		
		3

Bitterroot. Photo: Jess Beauchemin

"The flat, sagebrush covered valleys along the major highways provide little hint of the diversity to be found along the less well-traveled paths."

BRUCE HAYSE

Unobscured Horizons, Untraveled Trails, hiking the Oregon high desert (1979)

It's prime high desert hiking season now, with the moist soil and warm sun encouraging hundreds of flowers to bloom. Get out there before noxious cheatgrass seeds begin to infest one's socks and shoes. ♦ Lewissia now blooms on rocky outcrops, the fleshy green leaves from earlier in spring giving way to glorious white and pink flowers. Great displays of closely related balsamroot and Wyethia color vast swaths of the landscape a bright yellow, with purple lupine providing a lovely counterpoint. Other wildflowers now include bighead clover, sand lily, dwarf magenta monkeyflowers, white eyelash-weed, ballhead waterleaf, pink and white phlox, red and yellow Indian paintbrush, and varieties of Collinsia. ♦ In aquatic habitats, the eggs of frogs, toads and salamanders hatch, attracting garter snakes, herons, and white faced ibis to feed on the plump tadpoles. • A great variety of swallows, warblers, tanagers and shorebirds arrive on newly defrosted wetlands to feed and breed. Hotspots include Lake Abert, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Warner Wetlands and Summer Lake.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	Asian American and Pacific	2	3	4
5	Eta Aquarid meteor shower (30/hour)	• 7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	• 15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	° 23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	• 30	31	1



JUNE



Pronghorn. Photo: Gary Calicott

"When we lose our connection to the land, we all suffer. When we embrace our connection and treat the land with respect, we all benefit. Take care of the land, take care of ourselves. We are all land."

PEOPLE OF RED MOUNTAIN

Running on Sagebrush Time

Abundant flying insects attract and support numerous
species of birds, such as swallows, flycatchers and warblers
as well as our various bat species. ♦ The nests of resident
shorebirds, such as the black-necked stilt, snowy plover,
avocet, and spotted sandpiper, are filled with eggs, the
downy chicks arriving soon. ♦ As rivers warm up and water
levels drop, many cold-loving fish migrate upstream, and/
or hunker down in deeper pools. ♦ If you missed your
favorite wildflowers earlier in the spring, hike out now to
look for them in bloom at higher elevations – especially
hot spots like Sutton Mountain and Pat's Cabin Wilderness
Study Areas, Hart and Steens mountains, Beatys Butte,
and atop ranges like the Pueblo, Trout Creek, and Oregon
Canyon mountains. Many sections of the Oregon Desert
Trail also provide great access to gorgeous displays.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	LGBTQ+ Pride Month Meteorological Summer
2	3	4	5	• 6	7	Meteorological Summer Begins 8
9	10	11	12	• 13	14	15
First day of Eid al-Adha Father's Day	17	18	19 Last day of Eid al-Adha Juneteenth	Summer Solstice, 1:50p.m. PDT	° 21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29



JULY



Long-nosed Leopard Lizard. Photo: Al St. John

"To those people that have never come into the wilds of Oregon, or into the wilds that are left across the nation, to explore and to see the beauty of land in its natural state are missing out on something that could nurture them for the rest of their life."

WILSON WEWA

Warm Springs Paiute oral historian and leader— ONDA High Desert Speaker Series

All of our reptiles are out and about now, including horned lizards, whiptails, and the long nosed leopard lizard—an active hunter often seen climbing into and atop bushes after insects. ♦ Summer wildflower species include: endemic Steens Mtn. thistle, blazing star, scarlet gilia, shooting stars, bear-grass, sky pilot, pink elephant's head, deep blue gentian, sedums, several monkeyflowers, many varieties of orchids, and a great abundance of the Composite, Collomia and Penstemon families. ♦ Baby rodents, lagomorphs and ungulates are out and about, learning from their parents, honing survival skills, and often feeding their mammalian predators like coyotes, bobcats, cougars and various raptors and owls. ♦ Insects abound too, with abundant moths, beetles, mosquitoes, mayflies and other aquatics, and many species of bees. An amazing variety of gorgeous dragonflies are at peak population now, eating one another as well as supplying their predators with a steady food source. Grasshoppers can be very abundant as well, with many types historically gathered for food by various Native tribes. In certain places and years, the desert experiences swarms of "Mormon crickets" that can grow up to 3 inches long.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	Independence Day Aphelion (Earth farthest from Sun), 10:06 P.M. PDT	• 5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	• 13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
° 21	22	23	24	25	26	• 27
Delta Aquarid meteor shower (20/hour)	29	30	31	1	2	3



AUGUST



Checkerspot butterfly. Photo: Sue Anderson

"The good photograph is not the object, the consequences of the photograph are the objects. So that no one would say, how did you do it, where did you find it, but they would say that such things could be."

DOROTHEA LANGE

Daring to Look: Dorothea Lange's Photographs and Reports from the Field

Checkerspot butterflies, as well as many other species ranging in size from little skippers and blues to the huge swallowtails and monarchs, are busy "nectaring" on favored blooms and laying eggs on the host species for their caterpillars to feed upon. ♦ Seeking respite from lowland heat and seeking greener forage, many of the desert's hoofed mammals move to higher elevations as summer progresses. ♦ Green rabbitbrush are offering up its bright yellow blooms all across the high desert now, to be followed next month by the grey rabbitbrush. ♦ Many subalpine wildflowers—including bog and rein orchids, innumerable daisy and aster species, senecio, buckwheats and frasera—are reaching their peak. Find them in the upper meadows and gorges of highlands like Steens, Hart, Pueblo, Trout Creek and Oregon Canyon mountains, as well as the Owyhee uplands. • Baby birds of all types are fledged and preparing, even beginning, their southward migration now. ♦ Several interesting flying insects can be seen, including moths, migrating butterflies, and the truly spectacular tarantula hawk wasps, with their shiny black bodies and deep orange wings. ♦ While many reptiles retreat into cooler hiding places at midday, the heat-adapted Great Basin collared lizard can often be seen basking on boulders.

SUNDAY	M	ONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28		29	30	31	1	2	3
• 4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Perseid	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Malheur National Wildlife Refuge established, 1908	0	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	•	26	27	28	29	30	31



SEPTEMBER



Sandhill cranes. Photo: Dan Streiffet

"... maybe there's something about the barrier of a difficult journey that means that only like-minded people make it out to visit and connect, helping to filter out unnecessary distractions".

CASEY SCHREINER
Modern Hiker Newsletter

Sandhill cranes are wide-ranging species throughout the West, with many choosing to breed and reside in Oregon's high desert. Here, they consume grasshoppers, frogs, small rodents, plant roots and seeds, and nestlings of smaller birds, snakes and lizards - the very definition of omnivore. ♦ Aspen, cottonwood, hackberry, chokecherry and willow trees, along with many smaller desert shrubs and perennials, are beginning to show fall colors especially along riparian corridors at middle and higher elevations. • Large numbers of Wilson's phalaropes, eared grebes and American avocets should be stopping at Lake Abert to feast on brine shrimp and brine flies in preparation for their southward migration—if enough water is available. • Gray rabbitbrush is in bloom, feeding the same pollinators that enjoyed green rabbitbrush blooms last month.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUE	SDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Meteorological Autumn Begins	• 2	The Wil pass	derness Act	4	5	6	7
8	9	•	10	11	12	13	14
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)	16	0	17	18	19	20	21
Autumn Equinox, 5:43 a.m. PDT	23	•	24	25	26	27	28
29	30		1	• 2	3	4	5



OCTOBER



Merlin. Photo: Shannon Phifer

"These desert landscapes are uniquely dramatic in their celebration of the seasons. As the blistering heat of summer transitions to the still reality of winter and eventually the vibrant explosions of spring, we marvel at the life that has inhabited these lands for eons."

RYAN HOUSTON

ONDA Executive Director

Raptors are migrating southward now as prey species begin to den up and diminish abundance. As they travel, they can be seen in larger concentrations than at other times of year – watch for them along ridgelines and mountain passes. The huge, gorgeous aspen groves on Hart and Steens mountains, and in other highlands and canyons, begin to change from bright green into autumnal hues of yellow, orange and red. This is mating season for deer, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep. Listen for elk bugling in forested areas. The blooms on most flowering shrubs have long-since faded, but big sagebrush is just coming into bloom. Mushrooms appear across a variety of habitats, especially following rains.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	ТН	URSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	• 2		3	4	5
			Rosh Hashanah (begins at sunset) National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act passed, 1968			Rosh Hashanah (ends at sunset)	
6	7	8	9	•	10	11	12
		John Day Forsil Rode					
		John Day Fossil Beds National Monument established, 1975				Yom Kippur (begins at sunset)	Yom Kippur (ends at sunset)
13	14	15	16	0	17	18	19
	Indigenous Peoples' Day						
20	21	22	23	•	24	25	26
	Orionid meteor shower (20/hour)						
	snower (20/nour)						
27	28	29	30		31	1	• 2
	Omnibus Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act passed, 1988		Steens Mountain Cooperative Management & Protection Act passed, 2000		Diwali		



NOVEMBER



Spotted towhee. Photo: Sean Brown

"The desert is a vital part of Oregon's economy and ecology. It's home to a wide variety of plants and animals, and it provides recreation and tourism opportunities for millions of people each year. The Oregon desert is a special place, and we need to do everything we can to protect it."

SENATOR RON WYDEN

Birds hanging around now are primarily those who winter in Oregon, including the spotted towhee who will forage in and around shrubbery, subsisting mostly on the remaining seeds and insect larvae. ♦ November can be an excellent time to take those last hikes into the high and middle elevations before the serious snows set in, and it's an excellent season to watch animals before the heavier snows drive them down from the high country. In the depths of winter, ungulates will converge along riparian corridors and in more densely vegetated areas, for weather protection as well as water and forage. • American pika have cut, dried and stored enough greens from the growing season to survive until spring—assuming they are not hunted by a weasel, their primary predator, over the winter. • Tundra swans are assessing the temperatures and water remaining, deciding whether they will stay for the entire winter at Summer Lake Wildlife Area and Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, or need to carry on southward. ♦ Mammals have shed their lighter summer pelage in favor of longer and thicker pelts for weather protection. Some, such as snowshoe hares and weasels, change colors to a wintery camouflage.

SUNDAY 27	MONDAY 28	TUESDAY 29	wednesday 30	THURSDAY 31	•	FRIDAY	saturday 2
					Fii de Na He	rst Day of Dia e los Muertos utive American eritage Month	Last Day of Dia de los Muertos
3	4	5	6	7	•	8	9
Daylight Saving Time ends, 2a.m.							
10	11	12	13	14	0	15	16
17 Leonid meteor shower (15/hour)	18	19	20	21	•	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving		29	• 30



DECEMBER



Bighorn sheep. Photo: Shannon Phifer

"We know that mountain lions and desert bighorn sheep and Lahontan cutthroat trout need wilderness. We humans need wild country as well. Wildlands remain the foundation and framework for our relationship with the earth and its plants and creatures."

STEPHEN TRIMBLE

Wild Nevada, Testimonies On Behalf of the Desert

Bighorn sheep can typically be found on many of the steeper and more inaccessible high points in our area and are thus hard to spot. However, winter snows drive them down out of the mountains, so you'll have a much better chance of seeing them in the lowlands below their favored high refuges. ♦ Marmots and bears den up for winter hibernation, conserving energy by lowering body metabolism and relying on stored fats. During warm spells, which are increasing now due to climate change, some hibernators will awaken and possibly emerge briefly to search for food. ♦ Raptors are both scavenging carrion and actively hunting, especially near water sources where geese and ducks overwinter, although the vultures are long gone southward. ♦ Most birds have left our area. A few species remain and tough it out over the winter, including some surprisingly small birds like mountain chickadees, pine siskins, nuthatches and even the occasional hummingbird. They'll subsist on remaining seeds, insect larvae and spiders.

SI	UNDAY	MONDAY 2	TUESDAY 3	wednesday 4	THURSDAY 5	FRIDAY 6	SATURDAY 7
Meteor	rological Winter Begins		International Day of Persons with Disabilities				
•	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Geminid meteor shower (100/hour)	
0	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
							Winter Solstice, 1:20 a.m. PST
•	22	23	25	25	26	27	28
				Christmas	Hanukkah (begins at sunset)		
	29	• 30	31	1	2	3	4
			First Day of Kwanzaa New Year's Fve		Hanukkah (ends at sunset)		

New Year's Eve

(ends at sunset)

OREGON'S HIGH DESERT THROUGH THE SEASONS



JANUARY STEENS MOUNTAIN



FEBRUARY ALVORD DESERT



MARCH LAKE ABERT



APRIL PUEBLO MOUNTAINS



MAY GREATER HART-SHELDON



JUNE McDERMITT CALDERA



JULY OWYHEE CANYONLANDS



AUGUST OWYHEE CANYONLANDS



SEPTEMBER GREATER HART-SHELDON



OCTOBER STEENS MOUNTAIN



NOVEMBER SUTTON MOUNTAIN



DECEMBER JOHN DAY RIVER BASIN

This **Wild Desert Calendar** will drop you into twelve of the most dramatic, soul-lifting landscapes in Oregon's vast high desert. Your experiences will include a bird-song filled marsh in the Summer Lake Wildlife Area, a thunderstorm in the Owyhee Canyonlands, and a pastel sunset in the Oregon Badlands Wilderness. You'll also enjoy a closer look at the wildlife that hide throughout this landscape and can appreciate the courtship displays of American avocets and greater sage-grouse, the precariousness of a days-old pronghorn taking its first steps, the grace of ferruginous hawk in flight and more. Prose, poetry and thoughts from U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, Wilson Wewa, Ellen Waterston and others will inspire contemplation and action. And, with moon phases, meteor showers, wildflower blooms and migratory bird arrivals provided, you can use this calendar as a guide to immersing yourself into Oregon's high desert.

All proceeds benefit Oregon Natural Desert Association. ONDA protects, defends and restores public lands in eastern Oregon in the Owyhee Canyonlands, Central Oregon Backcountry, Greater Hart-Sheldon, John Day River Basin and Steens Mountain. To conserve the desert places you love, visit ONDA.org/give.



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