

**WORKING TO
PROTECT, DEFEND AND RESTORE
OREGON'S HIGH DESERT**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**OREGON
NATURAL
DESERT
ASSOCIATION**

Dear desert supporters,

We're all here for one reason—we've fallen in love with Oregon's high desert. Something about the scenic landscapes and solitude keeps us coming back for more. Time and again, we've committed ourselves to experiencing eastern Oregon's lesser-known desert wonders and have come away with even more affection for our favorite place.

I know this because I see it in the actions of this exceptional community. As I look back on what Oregon Natural Desert Association accomplished in the past year, the first thing I see is what you—our members and supporters—did for the high desert.

Your conservation commitment shattered expectations. This community produced a record-breaking 45,000 Protect the Owyhee campaign petition signatures, plus another 11,000+ advocacy actions to propel other key initiatives forward. We tallied more than 7,000 volunteer hours in the desert, in our offices and at events. And your sustained financial support reflects your remarkable generosity, care and concern.

Your actions led to impactful results.

Together, we campaigned to permanently protect the iconic Owyhee Canyonlands. In a mighty step forward for the Owyhee, we secured more than 400,000 acres of historic wildlands protections. And we're not done yet. We also took a bold step with the launch of our Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument campaign, doggedly pursuing each and every opportunity to press our leaders to take urgent conservation action.

Our stewardship work has made impressive progress toward achieving our vision of healthy streams and habitat across the desert, including completing the decade-long first phase of our restoration work on the South Fork Crooked River. The region's compelling fish, wildlife and plants will flourish thanks to your investment in essential restoration.

Oregon's high desert is an extraordinary landscape cared for by an outstanding community of advocates, donors and volunteers. Please join me in celebrating your accomplishments, and thank you for your continued dedication to the desert.

Together for our desert,



Ryan Houston
Executive Director



COVER PHOTO: JIM DAVIS.
PHOTOS AT RIGHT, CLOCKWISE: ELLEN BISHOP; ELIZABETH
MCLAGAN; ALAN MAJCHROWICZ; GREG BURKE.

THANK YOU!

Your generous support fuels successful conservation initiatives across Oregon's high desert, achieving new milestones and realizing long-term goals.

We deeply appreciate your invaluable contributions to our desert conservation community!

2023 FINANCIALS

Assets	
Total Current Assets	\$5,042,024
Total Fixed & Other Assets	\$9,347
Total Assets	\$5,051,371
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	\$611,810
Total Equity	\$4,439,561
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$5,051,371
Revenue	
Total Support & Revenue	\$1,873,352
Non-Operating Income	\$506,609
Total Revenue	\$2,379,961
Expense by Category	
Management	\$180,622
Fundraising	\$185,408
Programs	\$1,602,729
Total Expenses	\$1,986,759

HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS APPLIED

Thanks to you, ONDA is efficient and effective.



- 9.1% on Management
- 9.3% on Fundraising
- 81.6% on Programs

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACROSS OREGON'S DESERT

To see more highlights from 2023, as well as years past, please visit onda.org/about-us/accomplishments/



Leading the Owyhee Canyonlands Campaign

ONDA led two dynamic campaigns calling for permanent protection of more than 1 million acres in the Owyhee Canyonlands. Together with local, regional and national partners, ONDA launched an impressive national monument campaign, while also leading advocacy initiatives pressing Congress to take action on a conservation proposal initiated by Oregon's Senators. Support for protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands reached new heights. More than 45,000 people have signed our petition and hundreds of businesses, organizations and community groups support these efforts.



Celebrating Restoration Milestones

A decade in the making, ONDA completed the first phase of the South Fork Crooked River restoration project, adding more than 25,000 trees to the river corridor to restore wildlife habitat and improve climate resiliency. The project developed a number of innovative planting techniques that make the project a noteworthy, replicable model—so much so that the Bureau of Land Management recently entered into multi-year partnership with ONDA to implement more restoration in this area.



Securing Historic Wildlands Protections

After more than two decades of ONDA's inventorying, analyses, litigation and advocacy, the Bureau of Land Management released a new plan to protect more than 400,000 acres of public lands in southeastern Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands, the most acreage ever proposed in a single BLM district. These newly protected lands provide intact habitat for hundreds of species and are essential for maintaining biodiversity and mitigating climate change effects.



Speaking Up for Desert Wildlife

ONDA mobilized advocates and worked with tribal communities to oppose an industrial mining proposal that would eliminate habitat for greater sage-grouse, pronghorn, Lahontan cutthroat trout and many other species in southeastern Oregon's McDermitt Caldera. ONDA also secured new state protections for beaver, advocated to protect Lake Abert's migratory bird habitat and spoke up for wildlife protections in seven federal management plans.



An Exceptional Community

Here's how you showed up for Oregon's high desert in 2023:

10,600+ desert advocacy actions taken, plus more than 900 hand-written postcards sent to decision-makers to spur conservation action.

5,800+ donors, including 567 new members, contributed to significant conservation progress.

213 people volunteered to restore priority desert lands for a total of 6,467 hours, planting 6,000 native trees, removing 1.7 miles of fence, and protecting 80 acres of stream-side habitat. Plus, 42 volunteers provided essential office and event support.

3,000+ people attended ONDA-hosted events to learn about desert topics and build our conservation community.

Thank you for your dedication to desert conservation and for sustaining this momentum throughout 2024.

Bitterroot in bloom.

Photo: Devlin Holloway

MISSION

Oregon Natural Desert Association exists to protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert for current and future generations.

VISION

We envision a high desert in Oregon where eight million acres of public lands are conserved to ensure that fish and wildlife thrive and wild places exist for all people to treasure and explore, now and always.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Oregon's high desert is home to a diversity of Indigenous people, including the Northern Paiute, Shoshone, Bannock, Wasco, Warm Springs, Yahooskin, Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla peoples organized within several Tribes. These include the Burns Paiute Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, the Klamath Tribes, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and others.

VALUES

- » We are committed, tenacious, passionate, nimble and unwavering in pursuit of our mission.
- » We are science-based and solutions-oriented, bringing innovative, strategic approaches to achieving our conservation goals.
- » We are inclusive and welcoming, and seek to build a strong, diverse and interconnected conservation community throughout our staff, membership, volunteers, board of directors and partnerships.
- » When working with stakeholders, agencies, partner organizations, the public and others, we respectfully consider all perspectives while pursuing our conservation goals.