

WORKING TO

# PROTECT, DEFEND AND RESTORE OREGON'S HIGH DESERT

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



OREGON  
NATURAL  
DESERT  
ASSOCIATION

Dear desert supporters,

We all have our own special connection to Oregon’s high desert. Perhaps you are inspired by the wildlife or the desert’s stark beauty. Or maybe it is the sense of wonder that comes from exploring new areas that connect you to this landscape.

Here at the Oregon Natural Desert Association, we are dedicated to protecting, defending and restoring the desert you love. No matter the challenge—be it climate change, regressive new policies, or threats from industrial development—we continue to show up on your behalf to conserve eastern Oregon’s public lands, waters and wildlife.

As I look back on what we accomplished in 2024, the first thing I see is all the ways in which you supported critical conservation initiatives. You spurred decision-makers to action with your unwavering advocacy. You tallied thousands of volunteer hours. And, you contributed time and again to ensure Oregon’s high desert has a strong, vocal community advocating on its behalf.

Your sustained engagement as advocates, volunteers and donors reflects your remarkable generosity, commitment and determination. And because you continue to press for conservation progress, ONDA is making strides for high desert conservation.

Nearly 1.2 million acres of Greater Hart-Sheldon wildlands and wildlife habitat now benefit from dramatically improved conservation management. We amassed our largest ever supporter network in our campaign to protect the iconic Owyhee Canyonlands. And, we partnered with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to launch an ambitious new long-term restoration project that will restore desert rivers and streams across the region. We achieved these milestones, and so much more, all thanks to you.

Oregon’s high desert is an extraordinary landscape cared for by an outstanding community truly dedicated to its future. Please join me in celebrating your accomplishments, and thank you for your continued support.

Together for our desert,



Ryan Houston  
Executive Director



COVER PHOTO: JIM DAVIS  
PHOTOS AT RIGHT, CLOCKWISE: MICHELLE ADAMS; JIM DAVIS; ALLISON LAW; BECKY KUPERSTEIN

# THANK YOU!

Your generous support fuels critical conservation initiatives and secures outcomes that support the health and vitality of Oregon’s high desert lands, waters and wildlife.

Thank you for your invaluable contributions to our exceptional achievements.

## 2024 FINANCIALS

Assets	
Total Current Assets	\$5,266,718
Total Fixed & Other Assets	\$7,960
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,274,678</b>
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	\$545,124
Total Net Assets	\$4,729,554
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,274,678</b>
Revenue	
Total Support & Revenue	\$2,166,085
Non-Operating Income	\$410,732
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,576,817</b>
Expense by Category	
Management & General	\$256,621
Fundraising	\$273,562
Programs	\$1,756,641
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,286,824</b>

## HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS APPLIED

Thanks to you, ONDA made notable conservation progress this year.



# KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACROSS OREGON'S DESERT

To see more highlights from 2024, as well as years past, please visit [onda.org/about-us/accomplishments/](https://onda.org/about-us/accomplishments/)



## Led a Monumental Campaign for the Owyhee

Support for conserving the Owyhee Canyonlands reached new heights when ONDA led a coalition representing 22 million individuals, generating 70,000 petition signatures and producing thousands of letters and advocacy actions in support of our campaign to protect more than one million acres of public land in this region.



## Conserved Over One Million Acres of Habitat

After 26 years of advocacy, ONDA secured protection for more than 1,153,000 acres of public land in the Greater Hart-Sheldon and one of the nation's most essential wildlife migration corridors in the Lakeview Resource Management Plan Amendment. This rolling sagebrush sea is home to pronghorn, sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit and dozens of species of migratory birds.



## Blended Indigenous Knowledge in Restoration

In partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, ONDA launched two new projects on Tribal land in the John Day River Basin. As part of broader efforts to align our work with Tribal conservation priorities, these projects connect Indigenous Knowledge with innovative restoration techniques to restore stream habitat and bolster climate resiliency in the area.



## Spoke Up for Desert Wildlife

ONDA advocated for the wildlife who depend on intact sagebrush steppe habitat. As a result, the Bureau of Land Management identified more wildlands on Steens Mountain deserving of protection, expanding on existing wilderness areas that would connect wildlife habitat on the western flank of the mountain. Additionally, ONDA strengthened protections across 5,400,000 acres of public land for sage-grouse, pronghorn, pygmy rabbit and hundreds of other species of fish and wildlife across Oregon's high desert.



## Fostering an Exceptional Community

You showed up for conservation in so many ways, using your interests, talents and skills to care for Oregon's high desert in 2024:

**2,300+ people took part in advocacy actions**, sending more than 7,600 messages to decision makers to spur them to act.

**138 volunteers** contributed more than 3,474 hours of service in the office, at events and in the desert.

**5,976 donors**, including 650 new members, contributed to significant conservation progress.

**2,600+ people attended ONDA-hosted events** to learn about desert topics and engage with our conservation community.

Thank you for being an active part of this community and for sustaining your dedication throughout 2025.

*Photo: Hank Elholm*

## MISSION

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

## VISION

Eight million acres of public lands are conserved across Oregon's high desert, providing essential habitat for fish and wildlife and wild places for all people to treasure and explore, now and always.

## VALUES

- » We are committed, tenacious, passionate, nimble and unwavering in pursuit of our mission.
- » We are evidence-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.
- » We respectfully consider diverse perspectives while pursuing our vision, mission and goals.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Oregon's high desert is the homeland of 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.

