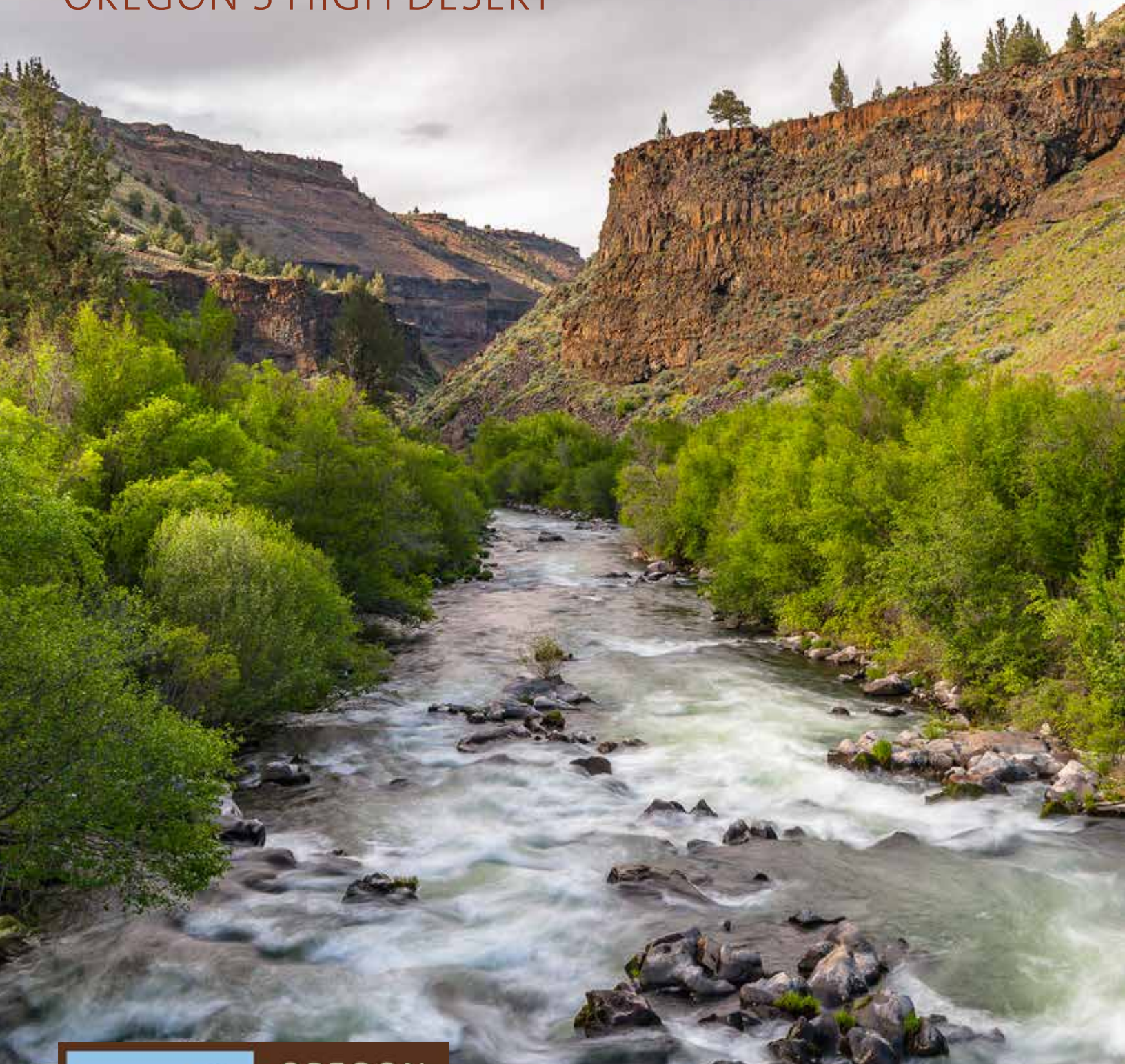


WORKING TO

PROTECT, DEFEND AND RESTORE OREGON'S HIGH DESERT



OREGON
NATURAL
DESERT
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Dear Desert Supporter,

Reflecting back on 2018, your dedication to Oregon's desert is nothing short of awe-inducing.

In 2018, you were a strong and steady voice for Oregon's desert public lands, engaging in the hard work of setting policy, attending planning meetings, speaking up for public lands and enforcing the laws that protect the places we all love.

This was a record year for our stewardship work as 584 dedicated volunteers put more than 12,000 dusty, sweaty, sunburnt hours into restoration projects from the Deschutes to the John Day, Hart-Sheldon to the Steens. Through this work, you are restoring the intricate balances in the sagebrush steppe and preserving all the unique adaptations that allow plants and animals to thrive in Oregon's desert.

And, when called upon, you made generous financial contributions to fuel all this work, and much more.

2018 also brought new staff to ONDA, and we expanded our suite of conservation tools with the launch of the Oregon Desert Land Trust.

Your passion and drive led to progress and success: lands recognized for their wilderness values, a strong campaign to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands and robust work to protect sage-grouse and their habitat.

I'm thrilled to have your support, and I could not be more appreciative of the boundless energy you bring to protecting, defending and restoring Oregon's desert.

You are inspiring.

Together for a wild desert,



Ryan Houston
Executive Director



ON THE COVER: Alder Springs in the Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Study Area.

PHOTO: JAMES PARSONS

PHOTOS AT RIGHT, CLOCKWISE: GREG BURKE, SAGE BROWN, JIM DAVIS, SARAH LYNCH, D. KESSLER, LISA FOSTER

THANK YOU!



Establishing the Oregon Desert Land Trust

ONDA launched a new initiative to preserve the wild character of the high desert.

By year-end, nearly 2,500 acres of land had been conserved.



STEENS
MOUNTAIN
REGION

Restoring the Refuge

Your support removed obsolete fence from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to ensure this special place truly offers a refuge. Our work restoring this refuge started in 1998 and each year we come closer to making it completely fence-free.

YOU POWERED SUCCESS STORIES ACROSS THE DESERT.



JOHN DAY
RIVER BASIN

Supporting Local Leaders

When residents of Mitchell, Oregon, population 124, stepped up to tackle tough questions about how they intend to leverage the Sutton Mountain Wilderness proposal for the benefit of their community, good things happened. Community support for the proposal skyrocketed and reintroduction of a bill to protect this wildlife stronghold is imminent.



GREATER
HART-SHELDON
REGION

Earning Recognition for 1.6 Million Acres of Wild Lands

Your persistence paid off! After decades of work, the Bureau of Land Management recognized the wilderness values of an area larger than Grand Canyon National Park. These lands can now be managed in a way that preserves their wild qualities.



OREGON
DESERT TRAIL

Turning Desert Explorers into Desert Advocates

The Oregon Desert Trail captured the imagination of desert lovers across Oregon and beyond. Today, thanks to you, hundreds of adventurers are connecting with the desert, speaking up for conservation and monitoring public lands along the trail for impacts. ONDA volunteers also completed 1,500 hours of long-overdue trail maintenance.



OWYHEE
CANYONLANDS

Sustaining Momentum for Owyhee Protection

Thanks to you, close to two-thousand people took action to stymie radical management changes that would harm the Owyhee's lands, waters and wildlife. Hundreds of people took advantage of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to weigh in on a resource management planning process.

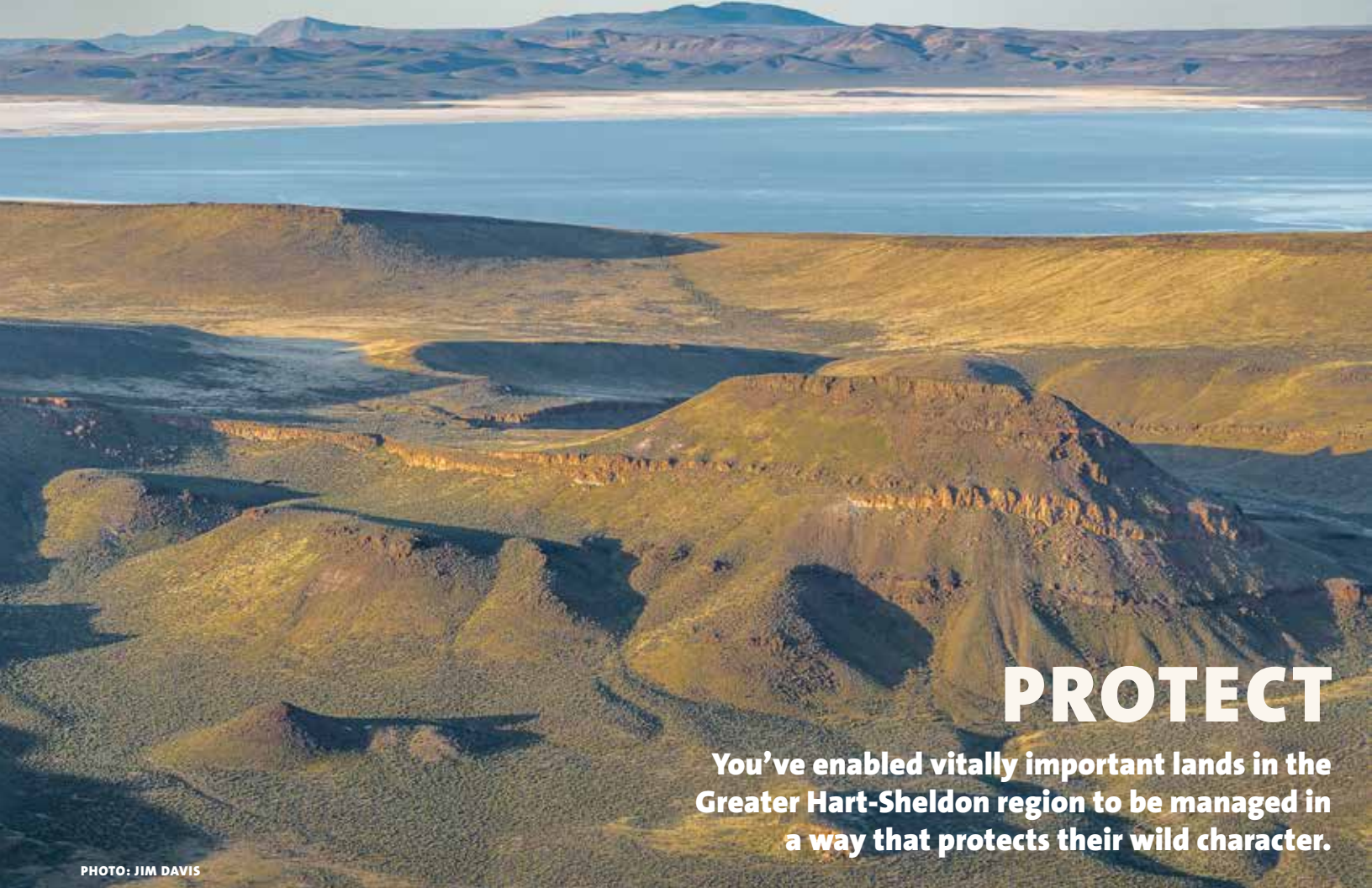


PHOTO: JIM DAVIS

PROTECT

You've enabled vitally important lands in the Greater Hart-Sheldon region to be managed in a way that protects their wild character.



“So proud of ONDA and its members and volunteers. Such hard work. To use an overused word, this is patriotism!”

Michele Frisella
member since 2017

ENERGIZING ADVOCATES FOR WILD LANDS PROTECTION

Your support ensured that decisionmakers heard from thousands of people who want to preserve the desert's wild nature, including hundreds of new advocates who gained the confidence needed to speak up for the rivers, canyons and rolling hills they love.

For more than three decades, ONDA's members have championed the high desert's wild areas — places that offer habitat, solitude and outstanding quiet recreation. Years of travel along bumpy two-track roads and long hikes through the sagebrush led to the most comprehensive citizen inventories of public lands in the country. And, thanks to your persistence, in 2018, we saw the Bureau of Land Management's Lakeview District recognize the wilderness values of more than a million acres of public lands in southeastern Oregon. Planning processes can now move forward to determine how these vitally important lands will be managed and, thanks to you, ONDA can keep speaking on behalf of wildlife and natural values.

RESULTS

1.6 MILLION ACRES

Your persistence led a huge swath of southeastern Oregon to be recognized for its wilderness values.

3,452 MESSAGES

Land managers heard from thousands of eager desert advocates like you.

140,000 ACRES OF SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT

Your support allowed ONDA field staff to monitor and analyze the conditions in key sage-grouse habitat in both spring and fall to ensure that this imperiled bird has the habitat it needs to survive.



PHOTO: BARB RUMER

DEFEND

You're keeping the Steens Mountain Wilderness wild.



“You folks at ONDA really have your stuff together.

Such a well-planned opportunity to comment. As an elder, figuring out how to connect with the gummint is off-putting. You make it work for me.”

Carl Axelsen
Portland, Oregon
member since 1999

PRESERVING HEALTHY, CONNECTED HABITAT

Across the high desert, your support defends public lands from poorly-conceived development and encourages management decisions that benefit wildlife.

In the Malheur and North Fork Malheur Rivers, you fought to save native bull trout from extirpation by challenging the Forest Service’s decisions to continue livestock grazing in this fish’s critical habitat. With only 100 adult bull trout remaining in these rivers, moving this case forward in 2019 is more urgent than ever.

Thanks to you, ONDA’s long legal effort to defend Steens Mountain from a labyrinth of proposed roads moved forward successfully in 2018. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals barred driving or maintenance on miles of non-existent and primitive routes — agreeing with us that Steens Mountain would suffer “irreparable harm” without this immediate protection.

RESULTS

ZERO NEW ROADS ON STEENS

You prevented 121 miles of non-existent or primitive routes from seeing upgrades or motorized use on Steens.

9 LEGAL CHALLENGES

You’re defending sage-grouse, protecting fish habitat, stopping ill-advised energy developments and advocating for thoughtful management planning.



PHOTO: SAM HARTMAN

RESTORE

You're making the John Day River Basin more resilient to a changing climate.



“Yet another faaaaaaaaaaantastic weekend with ONDA! So glad we got to do a trip with you this summer, and now I’m more inspired than ever to start hiking the Oregon Desert Trail in bits and pieces.”

Karen Garber
Sisters, Oregon
volunteer since 2017

DIGGING IN FOR ANIMALS AND DESERT-LOVERS

Fish and wildlife habitat throughout the high desert is healthier, thanks to you. You stewarded and restored conservation properties owned by the Burns Paiute Tribe and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. You made places in the Malheur National Forest and Crooked River Basin more inviting for beavers. And, you took on gnarly barbed-wire fences to give migrating animals safe passage through the John Day Fossil Beds, Oregon Badlands and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

You also made desert exploration safer for hikers, hunters, equestrians and cyclists by maintaining trails on the Fremont-Winema National Forest and on Steens Mountain, and you monitored conditions along the Oregon Desert Trail to check that trail use was not negatively impacting landscape health.

RESULTS

584 VOLUNTEERS

Each stewardship volunteer gained a new appreciation for the high desert’s unique qualities.

11.3 MILES OF BARBED WIRE FENCE

From John Day to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, ONDA volunteers made thousands of acres of wildlife habitat safer by pulling or retrofitting fence.

13,000+ NATIVE PLANTS

ONDA volunteers planted trees and shrubs along key desert waterways to reduce erosion and keep rivers running cool for salmon and all the life that these waters support.



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Allison Crotty
 Development Director
Lisa Foster
 Stewardship
 Coordinator
Gena Goodman-Campbell
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 John Day Coordinator
Corinne Handelman
 Outreach Coordinator
Corie Harlan
 Owyhee Coordinator
Ryan Houston
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PHOTO: SAGE BROWN

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: TERRY BUTLER

"If I have to pick a favorite place in Oregon's high desert, it would be Sutton Mountain, but I'm excited about all of the Wilderness Study Areas," says Terry Butler, adding, "Each is a gem to explore, and I hope they all get protection someday... I love the scale of the physical beauty of the desert."

A search for information about Sutton Mountain led Terry Butler, who splits time between homes in Portland and Prineville, to ONDA's door. He joined his first ONDA stewardship trip – to Logan Valley – in 2014, and his volunteering repertoire soon expanded to attending town halls, leading guided hikes and helping out at events. Terry's love for the high desert runs deep and ONDA is honored to have his support and assistance in protecting and restoring the high desert and to acknowledge his role as a hub in our strong Portland volunteer community.

ALICE ELSHOFF DESERT CONSERVATION AWARD: BARBARA ENGEL



PHOTO: LISA FOSTER

The moment Barbara Engel arrived at her first ONDA stewardship trip – nearly 10 years ago – we knew she had a special connection to the desert. In her words, "I loved that outing as much as a duck loves water."

Barbara brings remarkable enthusiasm and a deep love of the wilds to her volunteer work. Since that first fateful trip, she has attended an impressive 34 stewardship trips, volunteering over 800 hours restoring cherished places throughout eastern Oregon. Her contributions to Oregon's high desert are an incredible gift to us all.

Barbara's greatest hope for the future of Oregon's high desert is to see more people listening to and loving the wilderness. We believe to know Oregon's desert is to love it, and few people embody that phrase more than she does.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Your generous financial contributions support critical conservation work. Thank you!

Here's how your giving adds up to progress for Oregon's high desert.

Income

Assets

Total Current Assets	\$2,504,450
Total Fixed Assets	\$45,896
Total Other Assets	\$6,920
Total Assets	\$2,557,266

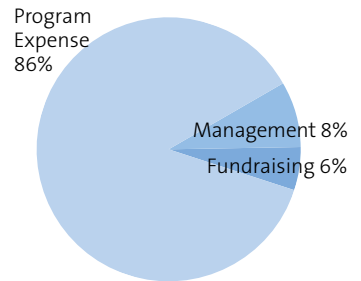
Liabilities & Equity

Total Liabilities	\$17,413
Total Equity	\$2,539,853
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$2,557,266

Revenue

2018 Total Revenue	\$1,956,527
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Expenses



Spending by Program

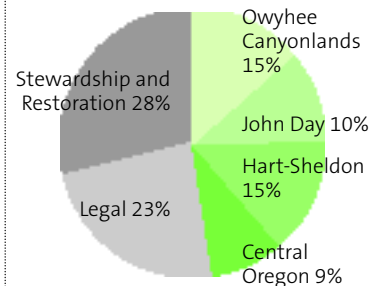




PHOTO: BRUCE COUCH

ONDA'S VISION

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

FOR 2019, OUR KEY GOALS INCLUDE:

Earning strong local support for Wilderness.

ONDA will build grassroots support for preserving essential public lands from Sutton Mountain to the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Preserving our bedrock environmental laws.

ONDA will push to keep the laws and policies that protect people, wildlife, lands, and waters from harm.

Engaging new advocates to speak up for wild places.

ONDA will empower people of all backgrounds to take part in the work to protect eastern Oregon's public lands.

TO CREATE A THRIVING DESERT:

GIVE: Your contribution keeps Oregon's high desert wild. [ONDA.org/give](https://onda.org/give)

INVITE: Take a friend on a hike or to an ONDA event. [ONDA.org/events](https://onda.org/events)

VOLUNTEER: Lend a hand to wild places you love. [ONDA.org/volunteer](https://onda.org/volunteer)

SHOW UP: Gain new insights into desert conservation. [ONDA.org/events](https://onda.org/events)

SPEAK UP: Your voice matters. Use it for the desert. [ONDA.org/takeaction](https://onda.org/takeaction)

THANK YOU

for your steadfast support! Oregon's unique high desert lands, waterways and wildlife are better off because of you.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK YOU SUPPORT, VISIT

[WWW.ONDA.ORG](https://www.onda.org)