



**Oregon Natural Desert Association Testimony on Senate Bill 1590
Submitted to the Oregon Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire**

February 3, 2026

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) strongly supports SB 1590 to protect against the privatization of federal public lands in Oregon.

ONDA is a public interest conservation organization with a mission to protect, defend, and restore Oregon's high desert. ONDA maintains offices in Bend and Portland, and represents more than 25,000 members and supporters in Oregon and across the United States.

For nearly 40 years ONDA's members have enjoyed hiking, camping, cycling, hunting, fishing and exploring more than 12 million acres of federal public lands in central and eastern Oregon in the John Day River Basin, Owyhee Canyonlands, Greater Hart-Sheldon, Steens Mountain and beyond. These public lands – include the rivers, streams, canyons, mountains and wildlife they support – are important to Oregon's rich cultural and natural heritage and deeply valued for the social, economic, community and ecological benefits they provide.

In spite of the tremendous value provided by public lands to Oregonians and all Americans, congressional leaders in Washington, D.C., have increasingly sought to sell, transfer and privatize ownership and management of our shared lands, waters and wildlife. This profiteering would eliminate public access and permanently degrade recreational experiences, local economies, and cultural and traditional uses throughout Oregon, and thwart long-term conservation management needed to sustain these resources for generations to come.

It is imperative that Oregon steadfastly resist any attempts by the federal government to privatize our federal public lands.

We urge passage of SB 1590.