

## OCRF 2022-39 IMPROVING PRONGHORN MIGRATION PROJECT

### PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

**December 21, 2023**

The goal of the Improving Pronghorn Migration project was to ease passage for pronghorn antelope and other wildlife through key migration corridors by retrofitting barbed wire fence to wildlife-friendly standards and removing obsolete fence.

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) completed two volunteer fence retrofit trips in the Bureau of Land Management's Lakeview District in 2022 during which we retrofitted 4 miles of fence to wildlife-friendly standards.

This project faced several challenges due to weather and partner agency staffing issues. A third fence retrofit trip in 2022 had to be cancelled due to hazardous weather conditions. The trip was then rescheduled for May of 2023, but had to be cancelled because of the departure of the BLM staff person we were working with directly on the project. BLM's Lakeview District Office was ONDA's original partner for the project, however due to ongoing staff vacancies in key positions, they were unable to partner with us on further fence retrofit or removal work during the remainder of the OCRF grant period.



*ONDA volunteer retrofitting fence in the BLM's Lakeview District. Photo: Gena Goodman-Campbell*

In response to this challenge, ONDA reached out to partners at BLM's Prineville District and confirmed that they would be able to facilitate a volunteer fence removal project to fulfill the purpose of this grant in a different location within the Oregon Badlands Wilderness and mapped pronghorn habitat. In the fall of 2023, ONDA coordinated three volunteer trips to remove nearly two miles of obsolete barbed wire fence located just north of an [ODFW Pronghorn Essential and Limited Habitat](#) area, engaging 28 volunteers.

Upon completion of the project, the following objectives were achieved:

- Retrofitted 4 miles of fence to wildlife-friendly standards in, replacing the existing barbed bottom wire with a smooth bottom wire at least 18" from the ground
- Engaged 5 volunteers in fence inventory and 47 volunteers in fence retrofit/removal projects
- Collected and conveyed GIS data to BLM identifying the condition of 25 miles of fence in mapped pronghorn habitat in the Lakeview District
- Worked with BLM and other stakeholders to analyze data to identify priorities for future fence retrofit or removal
- Removed 1.7 miles of identified obsolete barbed wire fence from the Oregon Badlands Wilderness in BLM's Prineville District



*Volunteers rolling up barbed wire for removal, and posing next to one of several caches of fence material removed from the Oregon Badlands Wilderness. Photos: Gena Goodman-Campbell*

We appreciate the support of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund for this project, without which we would not have had the opportunity to remove 1.7 miles of barbed wire fence from the Oregon Badlands Wilderness.