



Hells Bells - August 2026



Board Member Lindsay Schuelke embraces a friend and fellow salmon advocate at Salmon Springs during our annual Salmon Life Cycle ride in Portland.

We've Been Out and About This Summer...



Nash at the BMT booth along the Columbia River in Cascade Locks, WA.

The BMT at Pacific Crest Trail Days

We had such a wonderful time connecting with the long-distance hikers and community members at Pacific Crest Trail Days this year in Cascade Locks, WA. We get such a boost from sharing info on what makes our region so special and worth experiencing via the Blue Mountains Trail. Thank you to all those who stopped by the BMT booth and participated in our (very!) challenging quiz. The questions invited folks to puzzle over some of the most special and remarkable features of the trail.

Realizing that most people hiking in the Blues won't plan to thru-hike the full BMT route, we have published day hikes and shorter backpacking trips that connect to the Blue Mountains Trail.

Short Trips on the BMT

A very special thank you to our generous business sponsors who made our giveaway so exciting! [Zenbivy](#), [Mountain Shop](#), [Aarn](#), [Minimal Gear](#), [Farpointe](#), [Gossamer Gear](#), [Mountain House](#), [Sawyer](#), [Hyperlite Mountain Gear](#), and [Oboz Footwear](#).



A smiling volunteer places a log during the construction of a post-less beaver dam analog on the Wallowa River.

Summer Beaver Coexistence Work

This summer, stewardship manager Ian Wilson and volunteers from Halfway, Wallowa County, Walla Walla, and beyond built a post-less beaver dam on the Wallowa River using mud, sticks, and rocks to mimic the way beavers themselves build dams. The structure successfully held water, reactivating a side channel and attracting beavers a few weeks post-construction to add their own touches. Ian also got the call to Titus Creek in Walla Walla, where beavers had picked a dam site with an unfortunate side effect: a flooded campus basement at Walla Walla Community College. There, he installed a pond leveler that keeps the water low enough for people and high enough for beavers, exemplifying successful human-beaver conflict mediation. [Read the full story on our blog.](#)



Our youngest ride participant and salmon advocate at the Salmon Life Cycle rides up front.

Third Annual Salmon Life Cycle Bike Ride

It was wonderful to host a sea of salmon advocates biking together for salmon recovery and the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams this month. Thank you to all the riders who showed up for this special event hosted in partnership with Save Our Wild Salmon, and Pacific Rivers.

We talked about the unique life cycle of salmon, the critical role they play in environments across the Northwest, and the threats that they face along their migration. Today, salmon and steelhead face dramatically decreased survival rates, largely due to the dams and reservoirs in the Columbia River Basin. Currently, wild salmon in the Snake River Basin are returning at only 0.1-2% of their historical abundance.

In order to honor Tribal rights and treaty obligations, we must restore healthy and abundant salmon populations. Special thanks to Jonas Angelet with the [Native Arts and Cultures Foundation](#), who shared the story and significance of the beautiful, block-long mural painted on the street in front of the center. Every year, this event allows us the opportunity to connect with the wonderful community of people who care deeply about salmon recovery and free-flowing rivers. This year was no exception — thank you for your important work, NACF!

In case you missed the opportunity, you can take action to support salmon recovery and environmental justice at this link provided by Save Our Wild Salmon.

Support Six Sovereigns' Appropriations Request

Opportunities to Take Action

Comment Period on the Blues Forest Plans Open Until Sept 30th

We are just over halfway through the comment period for the new proposed plans for the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur National Forests. If the Forest Service moves forward with their preferred option, we will see massive rollbacks in protections for old-growth forests, roadless areas, and sensitive species like elk and salmon.

Whether you have one minute or ten, we have several options for you to submit public comment here: [The Most Important Comment Period for Blues Forest Planning is Live.](#)

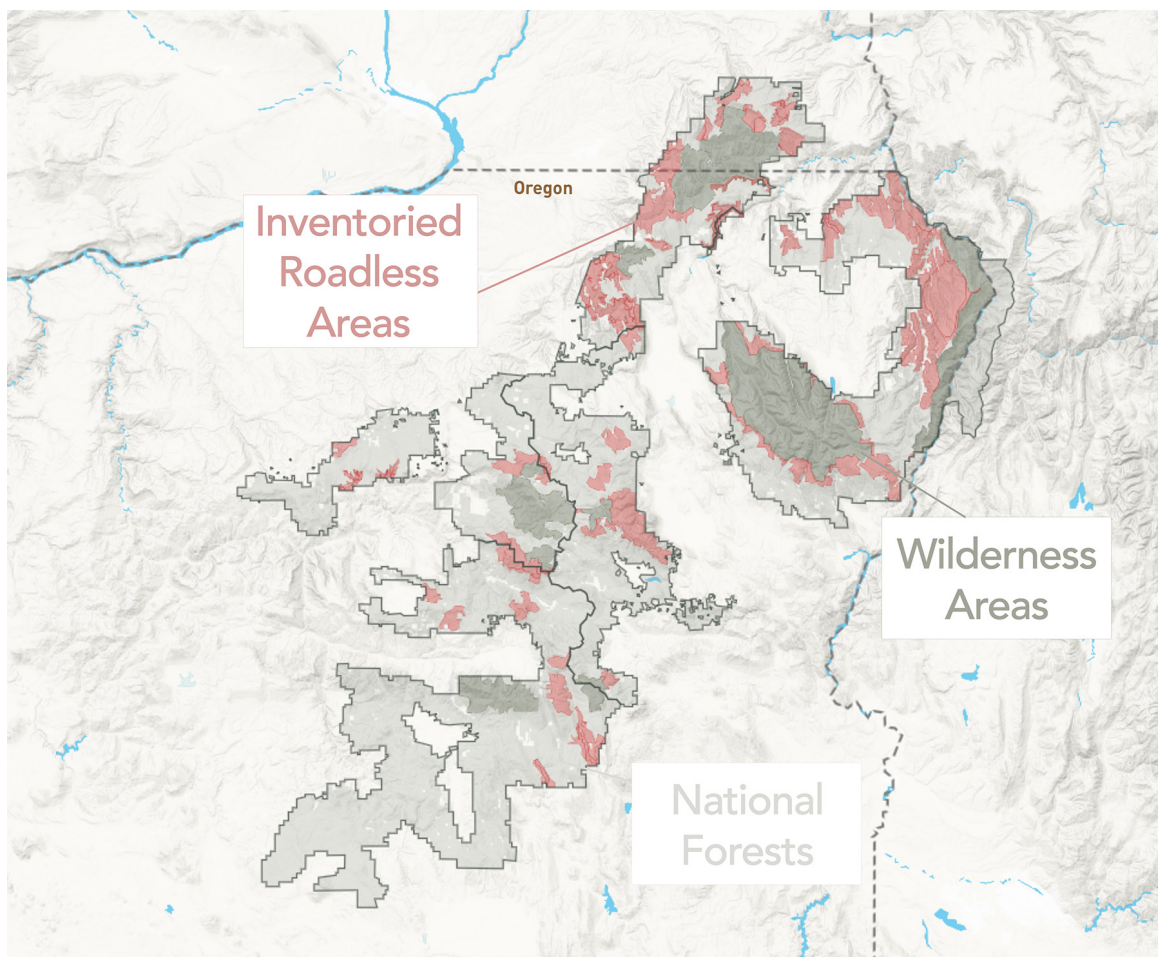
To learn more, visit our events section below for an opportunity to join Conservation Director Jamie Dawson on an Oregon Wild webcast about the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revisions.

[Submit Your Comment](#)

Roadless Rule Comment Period Now Open

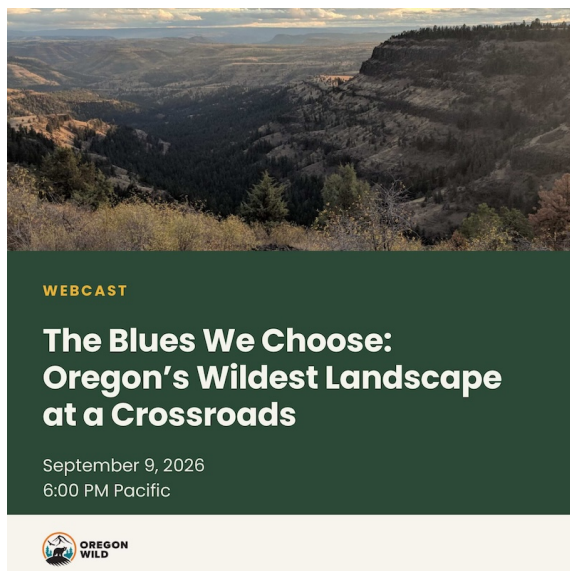
One of the final opportunities to oppose the repeal of the Roadless Rule is upon us. Last week, the Forest Service published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which shows their intent to formally remove protections for over 45 million acres of undeveloped backcountry public lands.

This has big implications for our mission area, which contains over 700,000 acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas. This includes nearly half of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and countless special landscapes around Joseph Canyon, the Wallowas, the Elkhorns, and more. See an interactive map [here](#).



If you have one minute to comment, you can submit a pre-written comment [here](#). If you have five minutes, you can submit a unique comment [here](#).

Connect With Us at an Upcoming Event



The Blues We Choose: Oregon's Wildest Landscape at a Crossroads | September 9 @ 6pm | Walla Walla, WA

Join Oregon Wild and Jamie Dawson for a discussion on the values, threats, and opportunities facing the Blue Mountains.

The Blues are Oregon's largest eco-region and one of the most significant conservation opportunities in the Lower 48 — home to the deepest river gorge in North America, the state's most complete assemblage of big wildlife, the largest intact bunchgrass prairie in the country, and the only forested corridor linking the Rockies to the Cascades.

Advocates from Wallowa County will share why they love this place, what's at stake, and what

you can do to help protect it.

Sign Up

Refugia

OF THE BLUE
MOUNTAINS



Photography by
Tara J Graves

Stevens Art Gallery

Reid Campus Center
280 Boyer Ave. Walla Walla



Thursday, September 17
4:30-6:30
Artist Talk 5:30

Refugia of the Blue Mountains — Wild Blues AiR Artist Reception | September 17 | Walla Walla, WA

Please join us for an artist reception celebrating
Tara J Graves, Greater Hells Canyon Council's
2026 Wild Blues Artist-in-Residence.

Tara's photography explores the theme of
Refugia in the Blue Mountains by moving
between sweeping landscape views and
intimate macro details to help viewers see the
many small pieces that make up the natural
world.

Tara's work will be on display throughout
September at the Stevens Gallery, Whitman
College, Walla Walla, WA.



GHCC's Annual Fall Gala and Community Dinner | October 3 | La Grande, OR

Mark your calendars for GHCC's annual fall gala
in La Grande! This is a celebration and
opportunity to gather with friends both new and
old. This community dinner is a great way to
connect with us and to learn how to get involved
in the work ahead.

This year's event takes place immediately
following the close of a very important public
comment period for the Blue Mountains Forest
Plan. Please make sure to submit your
comments on the proposed plans by September
30th! The future of the Blues depends on those
who stand up for them! [Submit your comment
today.](#)

Get Your Tickets

Other News We're following...

[Stakeholders weigh in on Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision](#)

Last week, GHCC's conservation director Jamie Dawson was interviewed along with a representative from American Forest Resource Council and from Oregon Hunters Association on Think Out Loud. The piece represents some of the stakeholder interests involved in the future of the Blue Mountains forests and how/what objectives they will be managed for.

[The Forest Service Is Moving Toward Unrestricted Motorized Access to an Iconic Western Elk Herd. Hunters 'Have No Idea What's Coming'](#)

The Forest Service's draft plan for 4.9 million acres in the Blue Mountains leaves out any motorized-access rules, and wildlife managers warn unregulated roads and OHVs will keep pushing elk off public land and onto private ground.

[Study: Breaching dams would not hurt economies of Asotin, Nez Perce countries](#)

A new economic study commissioned by Idaho Rivers United finds that breaching the four lower Snake River dams wouldn't meaningfully damage the economies of Nez Perce and Asotin counties, which already lag the broader region on growth. The group will present the findings at public meetings in Lewiston and Clarkston as the decades-long fight over dams versus salmon grinds on.

[More e-bikes and ATVs could be allowed in national forests under a federal proposal](#)

NE Oregon has some of the last National Forests without "travel management" plans. This week, federal agencies announced that they are looking into a nationwide removal of restrictions on motorized travel on public lands.

Let's Protect the Greater Hells Canyon Region Together



Legacy Giving



Monthly Sustainer



Donate Now

Greater Hells Canyon Council
PO Box 607
Enterprise, OR 97828
United States



If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews) .