

WILD CONNECTIONS

Coming Together for a
Climate-Resilient Future



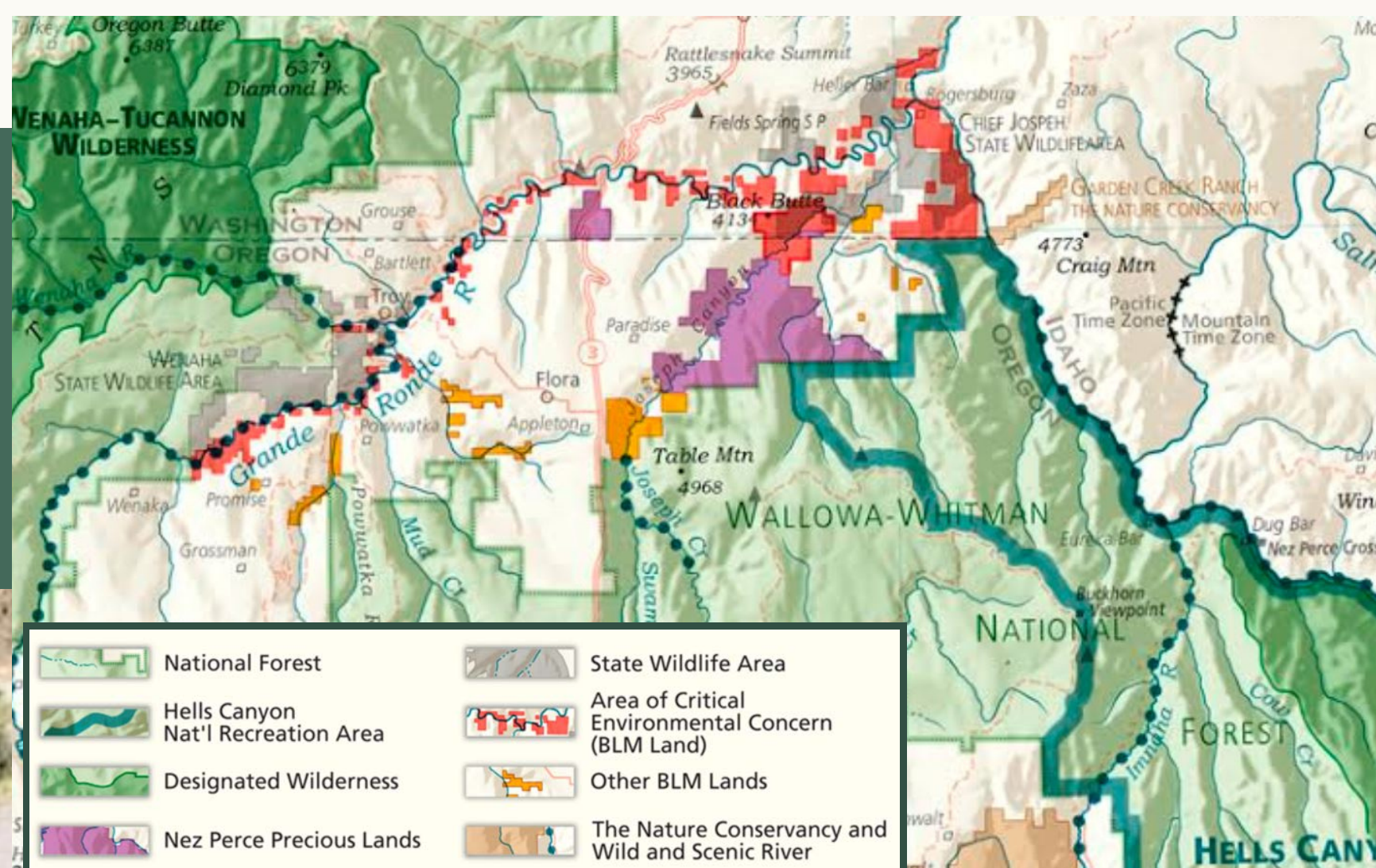
Half of all species on earth are on the move as a result of climate change, and we must protect and support their ability to migrate. The Greater Hells Canyon Region, ideally situated at the crux of four ecoregions, is a hub for species' movement. Our Wild Connections program focuses on protecting and restoring resilient waterways—important connectivity corridors for most species in our steep home landscape.

To succeed, we are crafting strong collaborations between all who love and depend upon these lands and waters, from the Tribes who have stewarded this place since time immemorial, to farmers, town-dwellers, hikers on the Blue Mountains Trail, and others.

We are doing our part, alongside our communities, to make sure that the spectacular place we call home is a resilient refuge for an uncertain future.

**Christina de Villier,
Connections Coordinator**

The goal of Wild Connections is to strengthen our region's ecological connectivity—the ease with which creatures (besides humans) move through the landscape. Our focal watershed is the lower Grande Ronde River.



As animals move seasonally and in response to climate change, they depend on connectivity across a patchwork of public, private, and Tribal lands between the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness and Hells Canyon. Waterways are the vital corridors.



Thinking Like a River

Wild Connections Featured Projects

We strive for interconnected watersheds in a time of great ecological change. As the climate heats up, animals are on the move in search of cooler habitats. Wildlife migration predictions show many pathways converging in the Greater Hells Canyon region. Our collaborative work to protect movement makes a difference between survival and extinction.

Northeast Oregon Beaver Survey

Teaming up with agency, nonprofit and community science partners, we're locating beavers in our watersheds and studying their habits and distribution. Beavers are superstar ecosystem engineers: storing water, slowing floods and fires, and creating riparian habitat. Once nearly extirpated by trapping, their return is essential for climate resilience.

Camas to Condors

We are founding partners in an ecocultural planning effort centered on the Joseph Creek watershed and led by the Nez Perce Tribe. "Camas to Condors" and the "Seasonal Round Trail" are the first projects of the Blues to Bitterroots Coalition. Together, we are working to ensure that cultural survival goes hand in hand with protecting lands, waters, and connectivity in our shared home.

Restore the Lower Snake River

The steelhead that spawn in Joseph Creek, and the salmon that return to other tributaries of the Grande Ronde, must survive passage over eight dams on their journey from the ocean up the Columbia and Snake rivers. We're partners in a region-wide push to restore the lower Snake River by breaching its four dams: the single best thing we can do to ensure a future for wild salmon and steelhead in our home.



Native plant meadow offers roots for traditional harvest.

Intimate reciprocal relationships have supported the mutual thriving of humans and other species in this landscape for at least 16,000 years. Empowering traditional ecological knowledge keepers in conservation is foundational to the Blues to Bitterroots vision of resilience.



Joseph Creek supports one of the most robust populations of wild steelhead in the interior west.

Want to be a Wild Connector?

We are looking for community scientists to help address regional knowledge gaps. Volunteer for beaver surveys and a yearly bumblebee inventory.

BECOME A GREATER HELLS CANYON COUNCIL MEMBER TODAY

We work to connect, protect, and restore the wild lands, waters, native species and habitats of the Greater Hells Canyon Region. Thank you for donating, joining, renewing your membership, or volunteering.

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