



2025 Director's Note

Northeast Oregon holds a special place in all of our hearts, and that connection ties us together. We have a shared understanding of what it feels like to stand on the rim of Hells Canyon, to hike through the unexpectedly mossy, moist forest of the North Fork John Day, to traverse through the Elkhorns and Wallowa Mountains to see our reflection in the clear, cold water of an alpine lake. In a time when community, laughter, and the healing power of nature are more important than ever, the responsibility to stand strong against so many threats weighs heavy. Knowing that you are with us means so much; it feeds our resolve.

2025 was quite a year. We at Greater Hells Canyon Council do all of our work through the lens of connection: connecting place to place, people to place, and people to people. This is a time to gather our allies and find new ones. I'm proud of the progress we have made in relationship building through our programs. Each allows us to show up authentically in different spaces to nurture a shared vision with as many voices as possible. I encourage you to dive deeper to see how we work - [Camas to Condors](#), [Blue Mountains Trail](#), [Wild Blues Artist-in-Residence](#), and a slate of [events and outings](#) getting folks on the ground and connected to these lands.

The backbone of our work has always been in advocacy and public engagement. This year marked a new and rising high-water mark for large-scale projects and wide-reaching policies affecting the management of our public lands. [Conservation Director Jamie Dawson gives a broad overview in her recent blog.](#)

The launch of our new [Stewardship Program](#) was a highlight this year. With a focus on the importance of river corridors - from the high alpine streams to the winding waters on the valley floors - this effort is being led by the incredible Ian Wilson, who brings decades of experience in restoration, fisheries, and beaver coexistence as well as a warm personality and depth of knowledge to our team. We are thrilled to add a new avenue for connection to our programming.

Across all of our programs, we've been humbled by the engagement of our community of supporters and advocates who have attended events, submitted comments, and provided expertise and resources to aid our efforts. We appreciate all of you!

With the end of the year approaching, you'll see us making a few final fundraising requests to hit our goal for the year. GHCC is committed to providing a voice for the wildlands and wildlife that will continue to face innumerable threats under this administration and political climate. Your support is invaluable in ensuring we can continue to influence land management decisions in service of a region of abundant, biodiverse, and connected lands and waters where all wild species and human communities thrive.

Thank You!

Emily Cain
Executive Director

[Donate Now](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to volunteer with GHCC and the Blue Mountains Trail. We are always thrilled to work with our members, supporters, and fellow conservation advocates.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, be it at a trail stewardship event, doing wildlife and wilderness surveys, monitoring and community science projects, or joining us on a GHCC-led outing, we've created a survey that will help us know where to direct you and which opportunities to send your way. Completing this survey should take 2 minutes or less of your time. Thank you — we look forward to spending time with you!

[Volunteer with GHCC](#)

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