



Save the Date!

The future of the **Eastside Screens** will be decided at a court hearing in Pendleton on **May 1st**. We'll be there and we hope you can join us!

Email jamie@hellscanyon.org for more details



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Hells Bells - March 2023

Update on the Eastside Screens

You may recall that the Forest Service announced in 2020 that they were beginning a public process to amend the “Eastside Screens”, an imperfect (but still very important) rule that protected mature and old-growth trees across 7 million acres of Eastern Oregon and Washington. After decades of intense logging that devastated PNW forests and removed nearly all old growth, the Screens were created as a stop-gap measure to protect what little big and old trees remained. The intention was that this would eventually be replaced by a permanent rule, but that permanent rule never came.

What did come, however, were relentless attacks on the Screens from the day they took effect. They became a common talking point at former Rep. Greg Walden’s town halls as something to be struck down. They were blamed for increasing fire risk, threatening “desirable” trees, and a smorgasbord of other offenses. And the nuanced and complex discussions about the Screens that truly needed to happen never did. Especially since the Forest Service weakened them through an unbelievably rushed and incomplete public

process.

That brings us to today, and [the lawsuit that we wished we never had to file](#). Last June, GHCC and five other conservation organizations filed a legal challenge against the Forest Service's decision to weaken the Screens. This spring, the fate of the Screens and the future of our public forests will be decided at a court in Pendleton on May 1st.

How the Judge will rule is out of our hands, but we hope they will truly consider the context that led us to this moment: despite broad public support and the advice of [over 100 independent scientists](#), decades of political opposition and timber industry pressure found a willing partner at the tail end of the Trump administration. A partner that was ready and willing to execute their will, despite the costs. That certainly doesn't feel like a durable solution to us.

Regardless of the results, we hope you'll join us in Pendleton on May 1st, and keep an eye out on our website for more updates on the case. If you have any questions or are thinking of attending please contact [Jamie Dawson](#).

Morgan Nesbit Project Update

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is accepting scoping comments on their proposed [“Morgan Nesbit Forest Resiliency Project”](#) - a logging project in spectacular forest and canyonlands 20 miles southeast of Joseph, right next to the Eagle Cap Wilderness. For project details and information on how to engage read the full [blog post by Jamie Dawson](#).

Worthy Brewing Benefit for GHCC



Board President, Marina Richie presents at Worthy Brewing in Bend, OR.

A note from Board President, Marina Richie:

I was delighted to present "Beers, Books, & Belted Kingfishers" as a benefit for GHCC at Worthy Brewing as part of the Worthy Environmental Speaking Series, March 15th in Bend.

There's nothing like trivia questions and great swag from GHCC (MiiR mugs, growlers, Robin Coen notecards, and posters) to liven up a crowd. And \$1 of every beer sold went to GHCC too. About 30 people attended for an evening of good cheer. They got the message on both the magnificence of the region and the importance for 'Bendites' to support our grassroots group speaking up for wildlife and wildlands across more than 4 million acres.

As belted kingfishers remind us--as messengers of wild, fish-filled waterways--we're all connected. The travels of Wolf OR-7 "Journey" showed directly the significance of connected wilds and big trees from Hells Canyon all the way to Northern California (one of the trivia questions). I've included one trivia question below which stumped every participant except Renee Patrick--the first solo thru-hiker of the Blue Mountains Trail.

Thanks to all the fine folks who showed up and for their support.

**■ TRIVIA QUESTION
10**

**■ THE BLUE MOUNTAINS TRAIL
GOES THROUGH HOW MANY
WILDERNESS AREAS?**

**■ BONUS: CAN YOU NAME
THEM?**





Earth Day Oregon 2023

GHCC is proud to partner with [Earth Day Oregon](#) for the second year in a row! Earth Day Oregon amplifies attention and donations on April 22 for Oregon nonprofits who are working to create a more just, livable, and sustainable world. We've partnered with five Oregon businesses for this year's celebration. Please join us and our network of partners this Earth Day to support GHCC and the many other nonprofits in Oregon that are making a critical impact towards enhancing climate resilience.

Since their inaugural year, Earth Day Oregon has facilitated over \$700,000 in donations to carefully selected non profits across Oregon. We are extremely proud to be one such non-profit!

Check out GHCC's [Earth Day Oregon partners](#).

EARTH DAY OREGON BUSINESS PARTNERS



Other News We're Following...

Wolverine spotted near Portland!

[Read the full article on NPR.](#)

New Tribally lead monument designations - hope for other special places?

[Read the full article on NPR.](#)

Exciting co-management model gaining momentum within the Biden Administration.

[Read the full article on Huff Post.](#)

Arguments for the value of keeping old and mature trees standing continue to gain followers.

[Read the full article on The Conversation.](#)

Oregon Supreme Court Affirms B2H decision.

[Read the full article on Capital Press.](#)



GHCC works to protect, connect, and restore the lands, waters, native species, and climate resiliency of the ecologically magnificent Greater Hells Canyon Region.

We have a big vision for the future of the Greater Hells Canyon Region, and your support is critical to making it happen. [Join us!](#)
- Emily Cain, GHCC Executive Director

By joining GHCC's River Runner program for \$10/month or more, we'll include a special gift celebrating GHCC and the Greater Hells Canyon Region.

[Find out more here, and sign up today!](#)

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