



## Hells Bells - July 2021

### Come Join Us!

This month, we're spending less time in the office and more time in the field, and that means July's Hells Bells newsletter is shorter than usual. From opportunities to meet our staff and board, hike the Blue Mountains Trail, or to join our team as our next Office Administrator, read on below for the latest ways to get involved in the work of Greater Hells Canyon Council!

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## We're Hiring

### Office Administrator Job Opening

We recently announced that Danae Yurgel, GHCC's Office Administrator for the past 14 years, will retire once we've hired and trained her replacement. She will be deeply missed, and we are so thankful when she says she will be "continuing the work in another way." With this news, GHCC is recruiting for our next staffer. If, like Danae, you are a supporter of GHCC's work and you share her host of amazing skills, please give our job description a look and/or share it with others.

We'll keep the position open until we fill this crucial role. You can [find the full job description here](#).

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Baldy Lake beneath Mt Ireland on the Blue Mountains Trail. Photo by Jared Kennedy.

## Summer on the Blue Mountains Trail

With the start and spread of the [Elbow Creek Fire](#) near Troy, the Umatilla National Forest was closed indefinitely starting July 16. This means Section 3 and much of Section 6 of the Blue Mountains Trail cannot be accessed while this closure is in effect, but other trail sections outside of the Umatilla National Forest remain open. More information on the Umatilla closure is available [here](#). We will continue to monitor the fires and access information from the Umatilla National Forest, and we will post updates on our [Facebook page](#).

Prior to the closure, we shared a summer Blue Mountains Trail update on our blog. While the best weather conditions to start a thru-hike generally arrive in September, this is a great time to plan some section hikes. We have begun to mark some of the more challenging cross country routes and will be in the field for much of the next month to help clarify route-finding and make other improvements. [Catch up on all of the great the work that has happened since our spring update](#).

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## Beaver Survey Time!

Join our Northeast Oregon Beaver Survey Crew





We invite you to join our efforts to monitor and survey beavers in Northeast Oregon. Visit our [Beaver Surveys!](#) page to watch this tutorial from Connections Coordinator Christina deVillier explaining how to take part in this exciting work.

## Find us at PCT Days

A poster for the Pacific Crest Trail Days Summer Festival. The top part features a stylized mountain range in shades of purple and pink against a light orange sky. Below the mountains is a blue lake with a small boat. The text "PACIFIC CREST TRAIL DAYS" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, in smaller white text, it says "CASCADE LOCKS, OR" and "AUGUST 20-22, 2021". At the bottom of the poster, there is a grid of logos for various sponsors, categorized into Title Sponsors, Headline Sponsors, Summit Sponsors, Basecamp Sponsors, and Trailhead Sponsors. The logos include brands like Next Adventure, Backpacker, Merrell, Chaco, Gerber, Goats, Sawyer, Hoka, and many others. At the very bottom, a dark purple banner contains the text "OUTDOOR EXPO • GEAR SALE • RAFFLE • ACTIVITIES • PCTDAYS.COM" in white.

[PCT Days](#) is an annual celebration of hiking in all forms in Cascade Locks, Oregon, where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses from Oregon to Washington. After having to cancel the event in 2020, this year it's back, and we'll be there! **Come join us on August 20 - 22**, and meet some of the thru-hikers who completed the route last year. The event is free.

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## GHCC Potluck in Enterprise

As we gather for our annual board and staff retreat next month, we hope to gather with all of you who are going to be in Wallowa County for a night of celebration.



**Date and time:** Monday, August 16, 2021 at 5:00pm

**Location:** Barking Mad Farm, 65156 Powers Rd, Enterprise, OR 97828

We hope you can join GHCC's staff and board members to catch up and celebrate the work we've accomplished this past year. At this time, as we return to in-person activities, **we are requiring that everyone be vaccinated to attend.**

If you are able to join us, please [RSVP using this link](#). Let us know what you plan to bring with you so we can plan additional food and drinks as needed.

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

*[Join us](#) in protecting the Greater Hells Canyon Region today and for future generations!*

*Darilyn Parry Brown, GHCC Executive Director*

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