



Hells Bells - August 2025



Small crafts assembled at Hells Gate Park for the annual flotilla for the removal of the lower four Snake River Dams and recovery of Columbia Basin salmon.

Snake River Dam Removal - Take Action!

The four Columbia Basin Tribes, along with the states of Washington and Oregon (collectively the Six Sovereigns), are requesting approximately \$370 million in federal funding for 2026 to support critical salmon recovery efforts throughout the Basin, such as increasing fish passage, improving water quality and stream flows, addressing predation, and improving habitat.

You can support these efforts with three simple steps:

1) Write to your members of Congress. Find contact information [here](#).

2) Call your representatives' district offices.

3) Share it on your social media channels:

"I just took action to protect Columbia and Snake River salmon for future generations. These fish are the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest's environment, economies, and cultures — and they are going extinct. Join me in telling Congress to fund crucial recovery actions!"

Your voice helps show Congress that people across the Northwest support bold action to restore these keystone species. Our salmon, our orcas, our Tribal nations, and our communities are counting on it.



High School interns harvesting Pacific Willow (*Salix lasiandra*) in preparation for planting at Wilson Haun ranch.

Planting Trees and Learning to Build Like a Beaver

Ian has been very busy in the field during his first summer season as Stewardship Manager. Each year, he commits to working with high school interns with the Wallowa Resources HAWK program on different aspects of riparian restoration and recently, these outings have included high school student interns from La Grande who work with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed. This year also presented the opportunity to work with Sapooq'is Wiit'as (Ciarra Greene), a Nez Perce Tribal member who supports working with Nez Perce youth in their traditional homelands. [Check out this blog written by Ian about a recent work day at Wilson Haun Ranch!](#)



The BMT at PCT Days

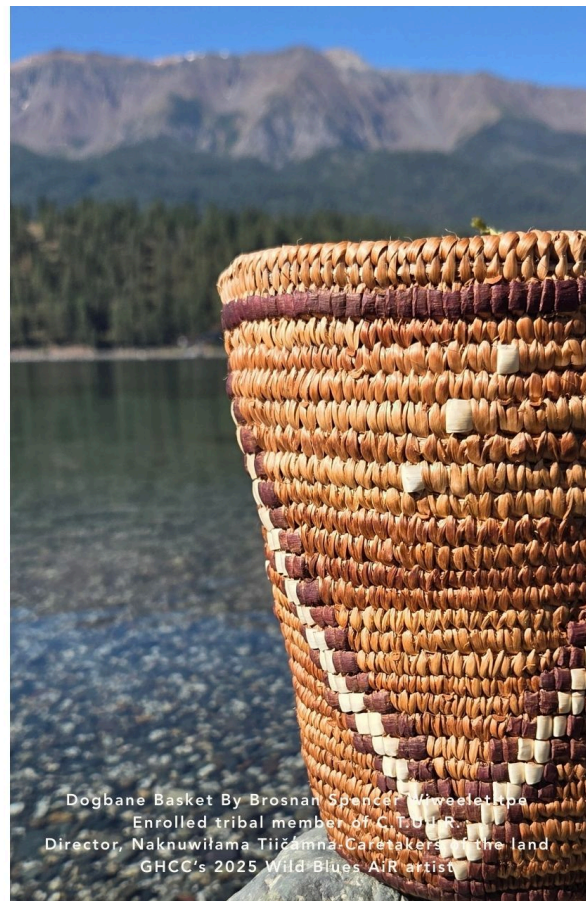
GHCC once again made an appearance at Pacific Crest Trail Days to present the Blue Mountains Trail. This marks the 5th year we've made the trip over to Cascade Locks for the festival, trade show, and educational event focused on one of the largest trail communities in the west. Attendees had the chance to learn all about the BMT, its values, and the important work GHCC is doing to connect people to place. We love talking to hundreds, of people, excited and surprised to hear that there is a long trail in northeast Oregon.

50 YEARS OF A WILD & PROTECTED HELLS CANYON

CELEBRATE WITH
GREATER HELLS
CANYON COUNCIL

FALL GALA

Saturday, October 4
5 pm - 9 pm
Parish Hall
1002 L Avenue, La Grande, OR



Dogbane Basket By Brosnan Spencer, Umatilla
Enrolled tribal member of C. T. Umatilla
Director, Naknuwila Tiičamna Caretakers of the Land
GHCC's 2025 Wild Blues AiR artist

GHCC's Fall Gala in La Grande with Artist Presentation by Caretakers of the Land

The summer has flown by, and our Annual Fall Gala in La Grande is fast approaching! We look forward to connecting with our NE Oregon area friends and supporters every year for this celebration and opportunity to share updates on our work. This year, we will have a special presentation by Caretakers of the Land, our 2025 Wild Blues AiR artist. Caretakers of the Land is led by Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Natives and focuses on revitalizing culturally significant arts, crafts, and lifeways of the Mid-Columbia River Basin and the Blue Mountain Bio-Region, specifically natural basketry, hide tanning, and traditional foodways. The chosen media will be a combination of natural fiber basket-weaving, photography, and storytelling.

As we have weathered so many harrowing news headlines and policy changes, proposed or otherwise, we are (even more than usual!) looking forward to getting together as a community of advocates for the wild heart of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion and all of the connected wildlands and waters that flow from it.

Join us for a local foods dinner (chicken and pork provided by our own Emily and Rob, Barking Mad Farm - yum!), an artist presentation by Caretakers of the Land, updates from our team, and a small silent auction featuring plants, gear, and local goods!

Get Your Tickets!

Upcoming Events



AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 7 Juniper Jam to Pinefest on the BMT

There are a few spots left to join us for a week on the Blue Mountains Trail as we hike between two of NE Oregon's premier music festivals! This is a perfect way to end the summer. If you've been entertaining the idea of joining or if you have any questions, please let us know. We'd love to have you join this fun, musical adventure!

Sign Up!



SEPTEMBER 9 Living with Beavers - A Pub Talk with Ian Wilson in Baker City

On Tuesday, September 9th, Stewardship Manager and champion of beavers, Ian Wilson, will be giving a pub talk at Barley Browns in Baker City! Whether you're already a beaver believer, or you're on the fence, or even potentially dealing with a "problem beaver," this talk is for you! Come see Ian talk about his latest projects and the importance of supporting beavers to remain on the land, fulfilling all of the duties that a keystone species specializes in.



SEPTEMBER 27 Grande Ronde Public Lands Day at Ladd Marsh

We will once again be attending and supporting this great event! Participating in Public Lands Day events in your area is a perfect way to get involved in supporting thriving public lands in your area. With the current administration leveling repeated attacks at our public lands, we need to stand for the places we care about! The event will be held at Ladd Marsh again and will be similar to last year. You can expect a couple of hours of volunteer work or educational opportunities like learning about stream health monitoring with our friend Carrie Caselton-Lowe with the Grande Ronde Community Science Project! We will have lunch provided and a good time with friends.

[Register Here](#)

Other news we're following...

[Longtime environmental journalist Lynda Mapes says farewell and ruminates on future challenges in the Northwest](#)

After nearly three decades covering environment, nature, and Native communities, longtime *Seattle Times* environmental writer Lynda Mapes is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of impactful storytelling on river restoration, climate, and wildlife.

[The Trump administration's repeal of the roadless rule could threaten wildlife](#)

The Trump administration has moved to roll back the 2001 Roadless Rule, potentially opening up nearly 59 million acres of unspoiled national forest to new road construction, logging, and development, raising alarm over threats to biodiversity, carbon storage, and climate resilience. [Support the Roadless Area Conservation Act by submitting this form!](#)

[GHCC board and staff prominently featured in the Oregon Blue Book guide to Hells Canyon](#)

The Oregon Blue Book Guide to Hells Canyon is out, and we're truly honored that Greater Hells Canyon Council staff and board are prominently featured. This recognition reflects GHCC's deep roots in the region and our ongoing work to celebrate and protect the cultural and ecological richness of Hells Canyon and the surrounding communities. Check it out!

[In Washington, 'collaboration' gives way to timber interests](#)

Forest collaboratives in North Central Washington, initially formed to fast-track restoration in wildfire-prone forests, are drawing criticism for allowing timber industry influence to shape planning, raising concerns about transparency and whether public interest or profit is driving projects.

[Qapqapa Wildlife Area State-Tribal Partnership Project near Starkey has been announced](#)

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife received \$22 million in federal funding to acquire over 11,400 acres near Starkey for the Qapqapa Wildlife Area, marking the first time the state and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will co-manage a wildlife area for ecological restoration and cultural stewardship.

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

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



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(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews) .