



Catherine Creek Reflection Pool. Photo courtesy of Dave Jensen.

## Hells Bells - October 2021

October was a busy month at GHCC, and we have many updates to share in this month's Hells Bells. We have great news to report regarding our Camas to Condors collaboration with the Nez Perce Tribe. In the evolving efforts to remove the Lower Snake River Dams, you won't want to miss Connections Coordinator Christina deVillier's presentation on a panel on November 6 with perspectives from Northeast Oregon. We also are thrilled to introduce our newest team member, Brandon Kokinos. Continue reading below for all of these October updates, and more.

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## Thank you for a great Fall Gala Auction!

We are overflowing with gratitude for everyone who took part in the Fall Gala Auction! From our staff and board, we want to thank all of you who bid on auction items, purchased notecards, books and calendars, and donated to support our work. We missed seeing everyone in person, and we hope we can return to live events soon.



It's not too late to [make a Fall Gala Donation, purchase notecards and pre-order the 2022 GHCC wall calendar](#). You may donate and or purchase items for sale until Nov. 7.

We'd like to say a special thank you to our volunteer Fall Gala Committee Members: Emelie Montgomery-Jones, Priscilla Coe, and Linda Garcia, for all of their work putting on this amazing virtual auction. And thank you to this year's Fall Gala Sponsors: Six Moon Designs, Sawyer, Vernier Software & Technologies, Evermine, and Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

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## Nez Perce Tribe Formally Affirms Participation in the Blues to Bitterroots Coalition

On October 12, Nez Perce Chairman Samual Penney signed a resolution formalizing involvement by Nez Perce tribal members and staff in the Blues to Bitterroots Coalition. The Nez Perce Tribe, GHCC, Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands, Nez Perce Wallowa Homelands, Northwest Youth Corps, and Yellowstone-to-Yukon Conservation Initiative have been collaborating for more than two years now to restore indigenous land management practices (and paradigms) that defend and increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change in our shared home. We're thrilled that the Nez Perce Tribe's Executive Council has taken this step to affirm the Tribe's leadership in the Coalition. You can read the full resolution by [clicking here](#) (opens a PDF document).

More information on the Camas to Condors project, the current focus of the Blues to Bitterroots Coalition, is available in this [engaging storymap](#).

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## Christina deVillier in the Wild Salmon Fall Webinar Series on Nov. 4



You won't want to miss **Christina deVillier**, GHCC's **Connections Coordinator**, as she presents on a panel at the [Wild Salmon Webinar Series](#) on Thursday, November 6 from 6:00 - 8:00pm PST. Alongside Nez Perce Tribal member Adam Capetillo and Union County rancher Andrea Malmberg, Christina will discuss Northeast Oregon's stake in the regionwide and accelerating movement to restore a free-flowing lower Snake River and recover our region's iconic salmon and steelhead. The panel will be moderated by Save Our wild Salmon's executive director, Joseph Bogaard.

**Adam Capetillo** is a Nez Perce Tribal member, descending from the Wallowa Band in Northeast Oregon. As an avid fisherman who grew up fishing for salmon throughout Nez Perce country, he and his family live traditionally off of yearly harvested salmon from the Columbia River and smaller tributaries in the lower Snake River basin, including the Lostine and Imnaha Rivers in Northeast Oregon. **Andrea Malmberg** has lived most of her life on the land with livestock and real food in the western United States. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Master of Science in Natural Resource Sciences from Washington State University. With her husband Tony, she has run several regenerative land-based enterprises always with the purpose of honing her skills to enhance the well-being of people, animals, and our planet, now and into the future.

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## Introducing Brandon Kokinos



We are thrilled to welcome Brandon Kokinos, the [newest addition to Greater Hells Canyon Council's staff](#). Brandon serves as our Office Administrator. He will take over from Danae Yurgel who is retiring at the end of the year. Brandon loves the outdoors; he grew up exploring the forests in the Willamette Valley. Six years farming sustainably has led him to respect nature in many facets. With experience in organizing events, Brandon hopes to bring more to the GHCC family. Please join us in giving him a warm welcome!

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## Other news we're following...

### Washington's Senator Murray and Governor Inslee take on the future of the lower Snake River

On Friday, Washington's Governor Jay Inslee and Senator Patty Murray issued a [joint commitment](#) to assess replacing the benefits of the Snake River dams if (when) they are breached. They vow to build on previous work in the region on this topic (including Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson's [Columbia Basin Initiative](#)), and to plan and act on the urgent timeline that saving Snake River fish requires. We applaud their action, and wonder: how do Oregon's Senators [intend to engage](#) in this process? Any durable solution must be regionally-led, collaborative, funded, and most importantly fast, or we'll lose Snake River salmon and steelhead and the many benefits they bring to our Northeast Oregon ecosystems and communities.

### Hundreds of Oregon businesses support the River Democracy Act

Over 250 business from all across Oregon joined together to support the River Democracy Act. The businesses all signed a letter thanking Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkely for their work to protect roughly 4,700 miles of rivers as wild and scenic. You can [read a press release with the](#)

[announcement](#) and the full letter listing the supporting businesses is available [here](#) (opens a PDF document).

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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! A monthly contribution, large or small, adds so much stability to our financial planning and lets us focus our energies on conservation instead of fundraising.*

*Darilyn Parry Brown, GHCC Executive Director*

**By joining GHCC's River Runner program for \$10/month or more, we'll throw in a special gift.**

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

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