



# PROTECTIONS

Keeping the "Wild" in our Lands and Waters



## Saving the Last Large Trees

Our staff is small, our region is vast, and the stakes are high for the future of threatened forests, rivers, and canyons. After a century of unsustainable logging, large trees make up only 3% of the forests in the Greater Hells Canyon Region but store over 42 % of the forest's carbon. Ancient forests and big trees are naturally resilient to wildfire and provide key habitat for wildlife, including martens, fishers, owls, woodpeckers, and many others.

In 2020, we led 25 conservation groups in calling to keep the "21-inch-rule" (prohibits logging trees 21 inches in diameter and greater) until a long-term strategy of protection and restoration can be developed for eastside forests.

Instead, in a last-minute rush to roll back environmental protections before President Biden took office, the Trump administration unlawfully signed a decision removing the protections for large and old trees across over 9 million acres of national forests in eastern Oregon and Washington. **GHCC will work tirelessly until this decision is overturned.**



*"Large trees are our heritage and our future; they are natural climate solutions, provide a home for diverse wildlife species, and help our forests better withstand wildfire and extreme weather conditions."*

*-Veronica Warnock, Conservation Director, Greater Hells Canyon Council*

[www.hellscanyon.org](http://www.hellscanyon.org)

# What We Do to Protect the Greater Hells Canyon Region

We're taking strides toward lasting protection of interconnected wildlands and free-flowing waters within the Greater Hells Canyon Region. The new Blue Mountains Trail links people, wildlands, wildlife, and local economies. Wild Connections deepens relationships with tribes and communities to keep wildlife corridors interlaced. Ahead is the promise of adding more Wild & Scenic Rivers in Oregon, many flowing through our shared landscape. The Protections program is critical in defending intact natural systems, large and old trees, roadless areas, and watershed health across this spectacular region.

## Highlights

### Timber Sale Scrutiny

Successes are often marked by what didn't happen. Our advocacy stops logging within roadless areas and other intact ecosystems, ecologically sensitive places, and ancient forests. We redirect the agency's attention to restoring places damaged from past logging, grazing, roads and other impacts. When beloved places and species are under threat, GHCC alerts our members to take action. We also rely on you, our members and community, to report what you see on the ground to help us cover such a huge land area.

### Protect and Restore Aquatic Ecosystems

Too many streams and rivers suffer from degradation caused by logging, road building, and livestock grazing. In a warming climate, cold and life-filled waters are more critical than ever. We act to protect and restore aquatic ecosystems so they can recycle nutrients, recharge groundwater, conserve fisheries, and serve as wildlife connectivity corridors.

### Reducing Roads

Outside of the region's seven wilderness areas and roadless lands, miles of sprawling logging roads crisscross the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur National Forests. We strive to reduce, reclaim, and restore old roads for the integrity of ecosystems, and to prevent erosion that muddies precious waters.

*As long as the larch trees still flame golden in fall, the towering firs still shelter elk herds, and the red-gold pines still scent your favorite campsite with vanilla, we will fight for their future—**WITH YOUR SUPPORT!***



**BECOME A GREATER HELLS CANYON COUNCIL  
MEMBER TODAY**

**Please join us!**

Keep roadless areas wild, big trees standing, wildlife corridors connected, native prairies blooming, and rivers clear, cold, and ringing with life. Thank you for donating, joining, renewing your membership, or volunteering.

**For more information, contact:**

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