



## Blue Mountains Trail Update

June 2021

Are you getting ready to hike on the Blue Mountains Trail this year? We have been working to prepare resources for hikers, and we've just published a slew of updates to our website, including new hiker maps and in-depth town guides to the towns and communities along the trail. And we have also started [an Instagram page](#) for the trail. Keep reading below for updates on these resources, and then [visit the Blue Mountains Trail webpage](#) to see them for yourself.



## PLANNING YOUR HIKE

We've put together some wonderful resources to help you plan to do a day hike, section hike, or do the full thru-hike of the trail. Much of the trail is ready to hike starting once the snows melt by the middle of July. If you enjoy hiking through snow on challenging terrain, you can start earlier in the season. Trail conditions vary from well maintained wilderness trails, to areas with overgrown brush, downed trees, and even a few bushwhacks. The following resource pages will help you prepare for whatever length of hike you are planning, and we are also happy to answer questions as you plan your trip.



### Maps

In addition to the interactive trail map, we've added screenshots and information on how to obtain the Blue Mountains Trail hiker maps and databook for the 2021 season. These will continue to be updated on a regular basis as new information on trail conditions and routing is available. Please be advised that the trail is still in development, and as a result, expect challenging trail conditions including overgrown trails and bushwhacks. [Visit the Blue Mountains Trail Maps page for more information.](#)

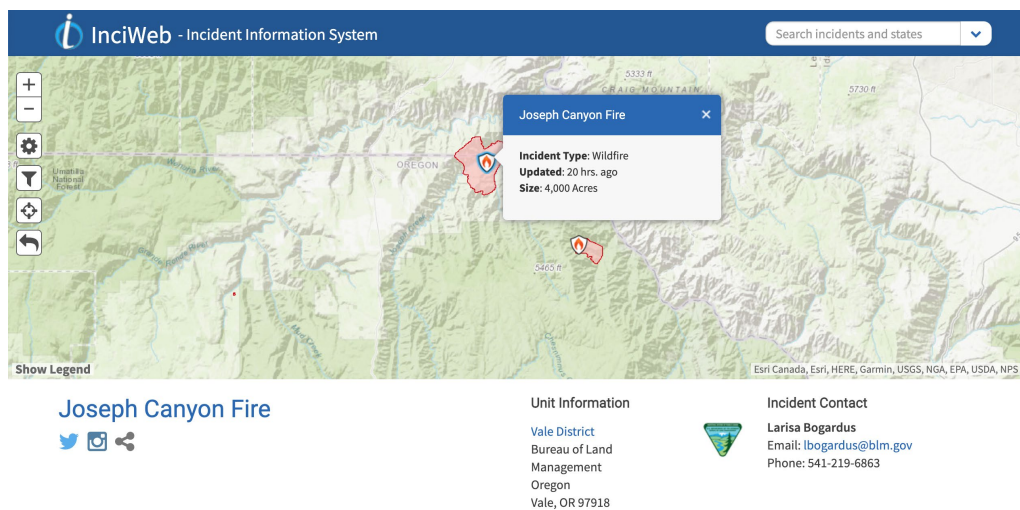
### Town Guides

With generous support from Travel Oregon, we worked with seasoned Blue Mountains Trail thru-hikers Naomi Hudetz and Mike Unger to produce in-depth town guides for the trail. The [Blue Mountains Trail Towns page](#) contains background information on the 10 towns and communities that connect to Northeast Oregon and make hiking the Blue Mountains Trail possible. It has all of the information you'll need to plan resupplies for long section hikes or a thru-hike, as well as guidance on shipping resupply boxes, town etiquette for thru-hikers, and information on hiking the trail while the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

The main page links to specific town guides for the 10 trail towns on or near the trail: Joseph, Enterprise, Troy, Tollgate, La Grande, Anthony Lakes, Baker City, Sumpter, Austin Junction and John Day. Each contains hiker-specific information including restaurants, lodging, camping, resupply logistics, outfitters, hardware stores, town attractions, medical facilities, public transit options, and a map showing where all these amenities are located. Start planning your hike today!

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## Preparing for Fire Season



**Joseph Canyon Fire**

Incident Type: Wildfire  
Updated: 20 hrs. ago  
Size: 4,000 Acres

**Unit Information**  
Vale District  
Bureau of Land Management  
Oregon  
Vale, OR 97918

**Incident Contact**  
Larisa Bogardus  
Email: [lbogardus@blm.gov](mailto:lbogardus@blm.gov)  
Phone: 541-219-6863

With much of the Pacific Northwest in a drought and a relatively dry spring in Northeast Oregon, land management agencies are preparing for an active fire season. Most fires in the Blue Mountains are caused by lightning, including the Joseph Canyon and Dry Creek fires that started over the past weekend. Both of these fires, while close to the trail, are not currently burning in areas the trail traverses. However, the Nez Perce Tribe has asked that people avoid the areas around Joseph Canyon for now as crews work on the Joseph Canyon Fire. Both fires appear to be slowing as weather conditions have improved.

Over the course of the hiking season, we will strive to keep you abreast of new fire activity in the area, but we also strongly recommend preparing for yourself before heading out. Check the weather forecast for potential fire activity and smoke; we recommend using the National Weather Service's [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) site for this. And to see if any fires are burning in the area, [Inciweb](https://inciweb.blm.gov) (screenshot above) is a useful resource.

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## More from the Blue Mountains Trail

**Thru-Hiking the Blue Mountains Trail** by Naomi Hudetz, Mike Unger, and Whitney La Ruffa is now available on Treeline Review. The in-depth hiking guide recaps the first thru-hike of the trail that these thru hikers completed last year, along with trail highlights, logistics and more. If you're preparing for a longer hike, [this guide is a must-read](#).

**Renee Patricks' keynote address for Hellraiser** is now [available on YouTube](#). Renee's address connects the dots between hikers, trails, and the work we do at Greater Hells Canyon Council to protect, connect, and restore the public lands, waters, and wildlife of Northeast Oregon. It also includes beautiful photography and videos from her solo thru-hike last fall.

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## Follow and Share With Us on Instagram

We have launched an [Instagram page for the Blue Mountains Trail](#) to share photos from the trail, the region, and other trail content. If you're an Instagram user, we'd love to have you follow us and share your photos using the #BlueMountainsTrail tag. We plan to post photos from the trail, mostly from hikers and others in our trail community.

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Hiking along the Western Rim Trail. Photo by Naomi Hudetz.

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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