



Blue Mountains Trail Newsletter - Winter 2025



Pip and the crew on the trail somewhere between Juniper Jam and Pine Fest.

2025 Outings Recap

The Blue Mountains Trail is a program that invites people to experience the wildness and connectivity of our landscape in new and meaningful ways. While most will explore by themselves or with loved ones, GHCC leads our own outings and loves to bring you along! Some examples stand out this year - starting Labor Day weekend, our second annual Juniper Jam to Pine Fest event welcomed five members to the Wallowa Mountains for a week of backpacking, music, and camaraderie. In September, we were thrilled to again host our friends from People of Color Outdoors for several days of short excursions to the Zumwalt Prairie, Buckhorn Overlook, Wallowa Lake Tramway, Maxville Heritage Museum,

and more. Our BMT coordinator and superstar volunteers also put in some hard work during a handful of trail stewardship outings at locations like Dug Creek, Tulley Creek, Freezeout Saddle, and Olive Lake.

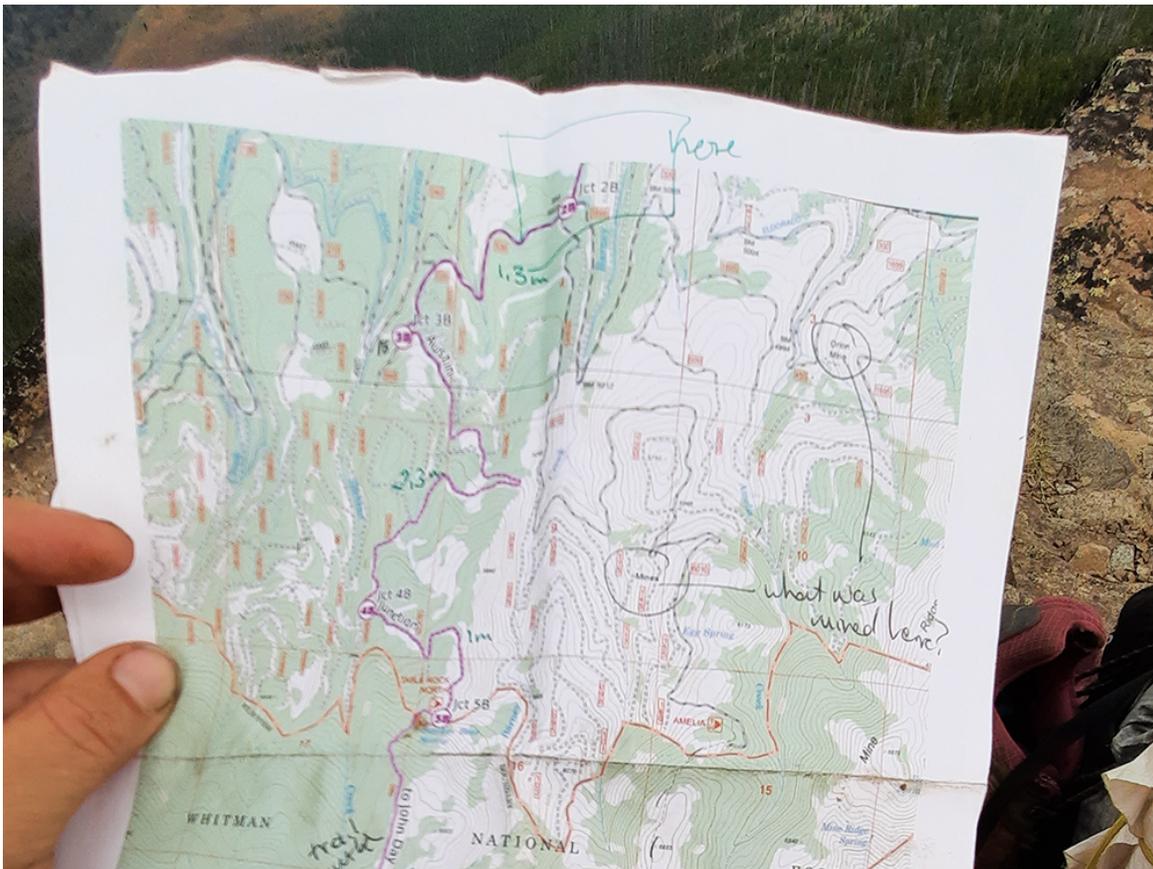
We always look forward to the times we can connect directly with folks, improve our trails, and enjoy the beautiful landscapes we all care about so deeply.

Presenting at the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit

Our Blue Mountains Trail Coordinator, Pip Redding, was recently invited to speak at the annual Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit, which was hosted in Pendleton this year by the Oregon Trails Coalition. His presentation about the potential of organized trail projects for the furtherance of conservation efforts was one of many diverse offerings by non-profit trail organizations, naturalists, guidebook authors, destination marketers, state agency representatives, stewardship groups, outdoor clubs, recreation consultants, and an inspiring keynote by former National Parks Director Chuck Sams. Typically, this is also an opportunity to connect with our Federal Agencies, but the ill-timed government shutdown kept these critical partners from participating. Nevertheless, we were proud to be a part of such a broad group of professionals who see the value of recreation and wide open spaces in Oregon.

Three Thru-hikers Completed the Trail

We extend a hearty congratulations to the handful of intrepid, trail-obsessed hikers who managed to complete the entire 530-mile route this year. In 2025, 3 people confirmed their hikes with us and joined the slowly growing club of Blue Mountains Trail thru-hikers. This brings the total number of known thru-hikers to 19. We are usually in conversation with those who plan a thru-hike, and many generously contribute photos, condition reports, maps, and suggestions on how to improve the experience. We are grateful for their efforts to make the BMT better for the next folks! If you see some bedraggled backpacker walking along a remote dirt road, some August afternoon, why not offer them a cold drink? You'll probably hear a heck of a story to accompany your generosity. Former GHCC Executive Director Greg Dyson completed the trail this fall. His epic tale of adventure through NE Oregon's rugged and challenging terrain is captured in [his blog on The Trek](#).



Updates of BMT Databook and Maps

We are always trying to make your experience on the Blue Mountains Trail the best it can be. In an effort to provide the most accurate, up-to-date, and useful trail resources possible, we release annual revisions to the route overview map. If you haven't already, request map access and complete our waiver [here](#).

The forthcoming version of our maps and accompanying databook refines and corrects the geographic location of tracks throughout the route based on satellite imagery, digital elevation modeling, and in-person groundtruthing by staff and volunteers. The precise location and reliability of listed water sources will also be clarified and improved in the upcoming release.

If you'd like to offer your assistance with future route tracking, groundtruthing and water confirmation, please get in touch!



BMT Coordinator Pip Redding on the Snake River through Hells Canyon

The Departure of BMT Coordinator Pip Redding

For the past several years, the Blue Mountains Trail program has been overseen by our esteemed Trail Coordinator, Pip Redding, who lives in Enterprise. While his help has been instrumental in the development and continuation of the BMT, we must regretfully say goodbye. There's no doubt that his experience and education in the conservation field will serve him well. Thank you Pip!

We are reflecting on how we best staff the Blue Mountains Trail in the months and years ahead, and during this time we will continue to provide the resources needed for folks to navigate the trail and engage personally with our mission area. We have hope that the program will evolve into something even greater than before. If you have special memories to share with us about your work with Pip, please reply directly to this email.

Share Your Support for GHCC and the BMT



2026



GHCC is meeting the moment. We are convening our council for the work ahead. From the coffee shops and meeting rooms to the river canyons and wildflower meadows, our council comes together on behalf of this amazing region.

Join us by making a meaningful contribution to GHCC and support our work on the Blue Mountains Trail. Then take part in our council to breathe life into our vision of a region of abundant, biodiverse, and connected lands and waters where all wild species and human communities thrive.

As a special thanks, if you donate \$50 or make a \$5/month recurring donation, you will receive a copy of our 2026 Calendar featuring our 2025 Wild Blues Artists-in-Residence Caretakers of the Land!

Make a Donation Today

A BIG Thank You to BMT Sponsors!





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 and making the Blue Mountains Trail a path to resilience for Northeast Oregon.
Pip Redding, outgoing Blue Mountains Trail Coordinator*

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

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