



Welcome to the summer installment of the Blue Mountains Trail newsletter. We have lots of news to report, from hikers completing a fastest known time, to upcoming work parties and our Fall Gala in La Grande. September is a great season for hiking in the Blues, even with a few fires currently impacting some sections on the trail (see below). We hope to see you soon.

Northeast Oregon Fire Updates

A series of thunderstorms at the end of August started many small fires across the Blue Mountains, and a few of them are impacting some sections of the Blue Mountains Trail.

The [Double Creek Fire](#) is currently burning in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Wind and high temperatures are causing this fire to expand rapidly, now over 100,000 acres. It is burning between the Imnaha River and the Western Rim of Hells Canyon. **Hiking Section 2 of the Blue Mountains Trail is not feasible at this time.**

The [Crocketts Knob Fire](#) is burning between the Greenhorns summit at Indian Rock and the Middle Fork John Day River. Closure boundaries abut the trail over Vinegar Hill. Contact the Malheur National Forest staff for an update before hiking between Olive Lake and Austin Junction. Upcoming weather will be conducive to firefighting efforts.

Another fire we're paying attention to is the [Nebo Fire](#) in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Although this fire has not closed the trail between the South Fork Imnaha River and Sugarloaf Mountain, it is burning in the vicinity and may continue to grow.

Upcoming BMT Work Parties



Strawberry Mountains September 14-17

If you're interested in volunteering on the Blue Mountains Trail, here's a great opportunity! We are collaborating with our friends at Malheur National Forest to do some maintenance on trail segments in the beautiful Strawberry Mountains near John Day. That's in section 7 of the BMT if you have our map set. The planned dates for this project are September 14-17 (next week!). There will be the option to either backpack or car camp. If you'd like to attend, please reply and include a brief note about your availability, preferences, and travel needs.

Summer's End Trail Work Party! September 24-25

Join our colleagues at Go Wild: American Adventures for a fun outing that combines trail maintenance on the Blue Mountains Trail with amazing food, raffles, and a party atmosphere. Participants are entered to win prizes from [Blue Mountain Outfitters](#). The cost is just \$150. [Visit Go Wild's Volunteer Vacations page](#) more information and how to sign up.

PCT Days 2022

Pip and Jared showed up to represent GHCC and the Blue Mountains Trail at the 15th Annual PCT Days in Cascade Locks, Oregon. The multi-day festival is a celebration of the Pacific Crest Trail and the community that has grown around it. The PCTA welcomes representatives from across the outdoor industry, including thru-hikers, gear companies, and non-profit organizations.



This year was especially exciting for the BMT, as we were invited to present an overview of the trail to attendees. We had a great time telling people about the trail, connecting with our business sponsors, and reuniting with old hiking buddies! Interest in the BMT is really growing.

Fastest Known Time

In other news, endurance athletes Megan Lacey and [Christof Teuscher](#) recently completed the entire 530-mile length of the BMT in just over 2 weeks! A select few very fit and determined trail enthusiasts will compete for the fastest known time, or “FKT”, on well-established routes. Even though the BMT is very rugged and still being adjusted, Christof and Megan decided to get while the getting is good. Way to go you two! We expect most backpackers would take about a month to complete the trail, so their record is likely to stand for quite some time.

Join us for the Fall Gala and Auction



Join us to celebrate the Greater Hells Canyon Council and the Blue Mountains Trail with a

return to our in-person Fall Gala. We'd love to see you at a fun-filled event, featuring a local foods dinner, music by Brian Mandella, and a presentation about our work.

Event Details:

Saturday, October 8 at 5pm
Catholic Church Parish Hall in La Grande, Oregon

An online auction will run from October 4 -10, alongside an event-only silent auction. We are also selling Golden Raffle Tickets. We sell just 99 tickets at \$100 each. The winner can select from one of the three featured auction prizes list on the [Gala webpage](#).

Buy Fall Gala Tickets

Buy Golden Raffle Tickets

Supporting the Blue Mountains Trail



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We are honored to be supported by both foundations and businesses in the efforts to develop the Blue Mountains Trail into a world class destination.

We recently welcomed the news that Oregon Community Foundation awarded Greater Hells Canyon Council \$20,000 through the [Community Grants program](#) for our work on the Blue Mountains Trail. This grant provides some of the funding needed to support our Blue Mountains Trail Coordinator position, allowing us to ramp up our community engagement and trail maintenance work in 2023.

In addition to this great news, we are thrilled that [Sawyer](#) and [Six Moon Designs](#) renewed their support for our efforts. Thanks to Sawyer, Six Moon Designs, and our other [business supporters](#), we are able to connect more people to the Greater Hells Canyon Region.



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 developing the Blue Mountains Trail into a world class route through Northeast Oregon.
Jared Kennedy, Blue Mountains Trail Project Lead*

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

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