



## Hells Bells - June 2021

### We're Back in the Field, and it Sure Feels Good!

With a fully vaccinated staff and most of the Greater Hells Canyon Region qualifying as “low risk,” we are cautiously beginning to operate with the COVID-19 pandemic in the rearview mirror. While we still don’t know what the “new normal” will look like in the longer run, we have finally started to return to the field work that is so critical to our mission. And, yes. It feels good!

In the past few months, we've organized or been involved in bumble bee surveys in partnership with Xerces Society, Blue Mountains Trail hikes and field work with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and mutual education, native foods gathering, and conservation action planning with Camas to Condors partners. Read more about what we're doing in [Darilyn Parry Brown's article](#).

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## Bumble bee surveying in the Blues

Would you like to join our next bumble bee survey? Connections Coordinator Christina deVillier will be leading a bumble bee survey on July 16 near Mt Emily, exact location to be determined. This fun event will contribute to the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas and help conservation scientists monitor the health of native bumble bee populations in one of their priority survey locations.



The details of the event are still being worked out. If you are interested in learning more and participating on July 16, email [christina@hellscanyon.org](mailto:christina@hellscanyon.org).

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## We're Hiring

### Office Administrator Job Opening

After nearly 14 years of being GHCC's Office Administrator, Danae Yurgel let us know the time has come for her to step away. Danae will always be an ardent supporter of the work GHCC does and says she will be "continuing the work in another way." With this news, GHCC is recruiting for our next staffer. If, like Danae, you are a supporter of GHCC's work and you share her host of amazing skills, please give our job description a look.

We'll keep the position open until we fill this crucial role. Thankfully, Danae is not rushing off! Please [find the full job description here](#) and feel free to share it with others.

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## Other news from GHCC...

### Blue Mountains Trail Updates - Maps, Town Guides, Instagram, and Summer Trail Coordinator Pip Redding

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.



We are also excited to introduce Pip Redding. Pip will be working with us this summer to support hikers and participate in trail stewardship efforts on the Blue Mountains Trail.

### More Updates to Hellscanyon.org

Over the past few months, we've been making some important updates to [our website](#). We've updated the look and feel of [our blog](#). Our [About Us page](#) now features four pdf fact sheets to share our work on protections, wild connections, and the Blue Mountains Trail. The webpages for each of these program areas have been updated, and we've added a [Volunteer page](#) and new ways to get involved with our work.

### Save the Date: 2021 Fall Gala in La Grande (Survey included)

We are excited to announce the tentative plan to hold the 2021 Fall Gala in-person at the Catholic Church Parish Hall in La Grande on October 16, 2021! Of course, we'll continue to monitor the CDC and Governor's guidelines around holding gatherings. For now, please save the date! As we work to determine what the "new normal" entails, we would love to hear your thoughts about our 2021 Fall Gala ([click here to complete our one-question survey](#)).

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## Thank you to our amazing sponsors!

The Mazamas Communications Support Grant



We are honored to receive 2021 grant funding from the [Mazamas](#). This grant will support communications related to the Blue Mountains Trail and its connection to conservation in the Greater Hells Canyon Region. We are also thrilled to see the Blue Mountains Trail featured in the [current issue of the Mazama Bulletin](#).

Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort and The Trailhead Sponsor the Blue Mountains Trail



Thank you to Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort and The Trailhead for sponsoring our work on the Blue Mountains Trail.

[Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort](#) is the last resupply point for hikers before traversing the Elkhorn Crest and on to Sumpter. Pro tip: you'll want to time your hike to get a tasty meal with a beer at the Starbottle.

[The Trailhead](#) is a bike and ski shop in Baker City that also carries hiking and general outdoor gear. The shop also offer a shuttle to and from Baker City to Anthony Lakes. The Trailhead recently started the Trailhead Stewardship Project to work in partnership with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest on trail maintenance efforts. You can learn more about the project [here](#).

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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!*

*Darilyn Parry Brown, GHCC Executive Director*

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