



Umatilla National Forest. Photo by Renee Patrick.

Blue Mountains Trail Update

March 2021

Thank you for signing up to receive news and updates on the [Blue Mountains Trail](#). We've spent the past four months soliciting and reviewing route feedback and we are excited to share the results. The proposed route has been shortened to 530 miles, and the new route also removed many of the miles that were on pavement and some of the busier gravel roads. Much of the trail is hiker-ready for 2021.

Just this week we created a new [Blue Mountains Trail Maps page](#) on our website that includes an interactive map that will allow you to see the full route including a main route (pink line) and alternates (dashed orange line).



We will continue to update the maps page with trail maps as they are published. You can read more about our planned release of hiking maps this summer, as well as a more in-depth update on the route modifications, in this [recently published blog post](#).

'Destination Ready' Blue Mountains Trail



[Travel Oregon](#) recently [awarded \\$913,000](#) to projects that contribute to "the development, enhancement and stewardship of key visitor experiences that are COVID-19 appropriate, will aid in economic recovery, enhance local livability and provide access to a diversity of explorers through the Destination Ready program."

“These “Destination Ready”™ projects are crucial in ensuring visitors and Oregonians have access to safe and enjoyable experiences as we rebuild Oregon’s™ tourism economy while navigating the pandemic,” said Todd Davidson, CEO of Travel Oregon. “Communities across the state rely on tourism as an essential component of their economic fabric. These communities need visitor-ready attractions and experiences that continue to prioritize public health measures, and Travel Oregon is excited to support these local initiatives that will play a significant role in the state’s™ economic recovery.”

We are honored to receive funding through this program. Travel Oregon's support will allow us to accelerate progress delivering critical trail materials including improved maps, town guides, tools for trail maintenance activities that will happen this summer, and to contract with a part-time trail coordinator. We will release a solicitation for the trail coordinator in early April.

In the News and Other Media

Renee Patrick Has Hiked the Country's Most Iconic Long-Distance Trails. Now, She's Pioneered Oregon's Newest Epic Route by Shannon Gormley was [published in The Willamette Week](#) on March 9, 2021. The article also includes a video of the author interviewing Renee Patrick.

Breaking Ground on the Blue Mountains Trail, a webcast by Oregon Wild featuring the Intrepid Trio and Renee Patrick alongside Jared Kennedy and Rob Klavins, drew over 300 attendees. If you missed this presentation about the trail and the experience of the four thru-hikers who groundtruthed the route last year, you can [watch a full replay on YouTube](#).

Get Involved

Raise Some Hell for the Trail at Hellraiser on May 8 - Register Today!



The Blue Mountains Trail will serve as the focal point for [Hellraiser 2021](#). This year's event will be virtual and tickets are on sale now. The fundraiser will feature a keynote by Renee Patrick who completed the first solo-thru hike this past October. The auction prizes include a trail flyover, a Hells Canyon rafting trip, a guided hike and fly fishing at Twin Lakes on the Elkhorn Crest, and many more packages that map to destinations along the trail's routes. [Please join us for this special event to help support our efforts](#).

Hike the Blue Mountains Trail with a Purpose

Will you help us mark and improve a small section of the Blue Mountains Trail? We will provide handsaws and loppers for hikers hoping to experience sections of the trail and assist with brush clearing and removal of small downed trees. We are also exploring opportunities to partner with

other trail maintenance organizations. If you are interested in being a part of these efforts, please email jared@hellscanyon.org (or simply reply to this email).



Hawkins Pass. Photo by Renee Patrick.

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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