



This month, Emily Cain met and shared her thoughts with GHCC supporters in La Grande. Photo courtesy of Charlie Jones.

Hells Bells - September 2022

Fall is the time to come together and celebrate this incredible place. We are all about connections this season, from our upcoming Fall Gala in La Grande on October 8, to webinars, town halls, and partner outings offering opportunities to connect more deeply with this region's ecosystems and organizations that are contributing to a thriving future, and to engage in the political process as we near the 2022 the midterm election.

We hope to see you all at the Fall Gala, and for those of you who can't make it, get ready to bid on amazing auction items in our online auction that kicks off on October 4. The Golden Raffle Tickets are going quickly, so [get one or more of them before they sell out!](#)



2022 Fall Gala and Golden Raffle!

We hope you can join us for a return to the in-person Fall Gala in La Grande. Don't wait to buy your tickets, they are selling out quickly!

The event will include a a teaser for upcoming screenings of the film *Elemental*, including a panel discussion exploring the traditional role of fire as a management tool and the myriad ways fire is currently influencing our local forest ecosystems. GHCC Connections Coordinator Christina deVillier will facilitate the panel featuring Meadow Wheaton and the Rural Cinema Project, along with Tiyana Casey, Indigenous Relations Liaison for the Camas to Condors Partnership, and Paula Hood from Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project. The Gala will also be an opportunity to meet and get to know the new staffers at Greater Hells Canyon Council.

Event Details:

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

[Click here for more information](#)

In addition, you don't want to miss a chance to buy Golden Raffle Tickets. We sell just 99 tickets at \$100 each. One lucky winner can select from one of the three featured auction prizes: 5 day OARS rafting trip for 2 people on the Snake or Lower Salmon River; 3 nights at Good Bear Ranch for up to 8 people; or 2 nights at Barking Mad Farm B&B for 2 people.

[Purchase Gala Tickets](#)

[Buy a Golden Raffle Ticket](#)

About the Golden Raffle: The drawing will occur at the Fall Gala event on Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 5:00 PM. You can purchase as many tickets as you'd like, and you can purchase them as a gift for someone else. You do not need to be at the Gala to win. More information about the Golden Raffle is available in the ticket purchase portal.

Join Us at These Upcoming Events

Voices for the West: Sept. 28 at 5pm PT



Join us for this special webinar with Advocates for the West on Wednesday 9/28 at 5pm PT. The webinar will focus on Joseph Canyon and the broader Greater Hells Canyon Region, and we'll be presenting a connectivity-focused conservation vision and how we're working in a variety of ways to make it happen. [Register here.](#)

Senator Wyden Wallowa County Town Hall: Oct. 2 at 1:30pm PT

Senator Wyden is doing a second 2022 Wallowa County Town Hall! The event takes place on Sunday, October 2nd at 1:30pm PT. [Here is the link to watch.](#)

One advantage we have living in a small community is the opportunity to talk directly with the Senator. You can [put your name in to ask a question or make a comment here](#). All you have to do is fill out the form and note the topic of your question. A third party chooses the questions, generally on a first-come first-served basis, so don't delay! If you're selected, you'll be contacted prior to the event.

If conservation, environmental justice, and wildlife are on your mind, consider asking a question about the Senator's commitment to restoring the Eastside Screens protections for large and mature trees across Eastside Forests, express your support for the River Democracy Act by asking about the next steps for passing the legislation in the next session, or share your input on why breaching the Lower Snake River Dams are critical to providing fish passage for salmon and steelhead in the many Snake River tributaries in Eastern Oregon.

Joseph Branch Trail Tour in Elgin: Oct. 8 at noon PT

Join the team from the Joseph Branch Trail Consortium at the Elgin Train Depot in downtown Elgin for a meal, beverages, and some fun at noon on Saturday, October 8 (before coming to GHCC's Fall Gala!). Tour the site of the trail's inaugural trailhead, and walk along the tracks next to the Grande Ronde River where the first trail segment will be constructed. [Email Gregg Kleiner to RSVP for the outing.](#)

Welcoming Nash Wadhams, GHCC's Office and Membership Administrator



Nash Wadhams joined us in September as our Office and Membership Administrator. She grew up in Portland, Oregon, escaping the city often to hike through the beautiful recreational areas in the Willamette Valley. As a teen she paid several visits to Wallowa County and the Hells Canyon Region. Feeling as though she's found a forever home in Enterprise, she hopes to deepen her connection to the region's wilderness, natural history and to the stories of the people who have long called it home. Join us in welcoming Nash to GHCC! She is looking forward to meeting many of you at the Gala and future GHCC events, and we're thrilled to have her easygoing personality and depth of administrative and financial experience on the team.

BMT Trail Maintenance: Skyline Trail



We took advantage of a September respite from smoky skies to clear miles of wilderness trail on the Blue Mountains Trail. It was a major push to clear one of the last few segments of trail through the Malheur National Forest. By next year, we hope to have all sections of the BMT through the Malheur cleared and easy to navigate. [Read our report and see the photos from the three day trip](#), and then [let us know if you'd like to join us](#) next year as a trail maintenance volunteer on the Blue Mountains Trail!

Other News We're Following...

Pew Charitable Trust engages on the outdated Blue Mountains Forest Plan

Pew recently contracted with Conservation Science Partners to evaluate the high ecological value areas of national forests in the Blue Mountains. The effort hopes to identify the 10% of unprotected land areas in the region that are most in need of protection, and to ensure that these values are considered when the long-outdated forest plans are updated. As we shared last month, the U.S. Forest Service is restarting the Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision process for the Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur and Umatilla national forests. It's heartening to see organizations such as Pew recognize the ecological importance of the national forests across the Greater Hells Canyon Region. [Read the full article here.](#)

Oregon Supreme Court affirms state forests are not only for logging

The Oregon Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal from Linn County and other so-called timber counties' who claim to be owed \$1B for lost revenues from declining clearcuts and logging projects. It leaves the lower court ruling in place that effectively affirms that Oregon's state forest lands can be managed for more than just timber production — that recreation, clean water, wildlife habitat and additional uses have value that are also worth protecting. [Read the full article here on OPB.](#)



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! We have a big vision for the future of the Greater Hells Canyon Region, and your support is critical to making it happen.

Emily Cain, GHCC Executive Director

By joining GHCC's River Runner program for \$10/month or more, we'll include a special gift celebrating GHCC and the Greater Hells Canyon Region.

[Find out more here, and sign up today!](#)

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