



Snow buntings in Wallowa County. Photo by Joella Arment.

Hells Bells - December 2022

As the snow and cold seemingly grinds life to a halt in the Greater Hells Canyon Region, we use our time to reflect on the past year and the year to come. Earlier this month, in Enterprise, we held a staff retreat, the first for many of the new staffers at GHCC. We celebrated the hard work that has gone into the past many years advocating for the wildlands, waters, and wildlife of our region, hopeful for the many opportunities ahead, and committed to creating new avenues to engage directly with you all, our members, and supporters, in 2023.

**From all of us at GHCC, Happy New Year!
We hope you are having a joyous and warm holiday season.**

A Round of Applause for Your Help in 2022



Volunteers clearing trail in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

We are so grateful for all of the ways our supporters, volunteers, and funders stepped up this year for the Greater Hells Canyon Region. A hearty thanks for those of you who surveyed for beaver and bumblebees in GHCC-led and supported community science projects, advocated directly on the myriad conservation issues impacting our region, and volunteered to remove down trees and tackle trail maintenance challenges in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Blues Crew, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and the Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trail Association. Together we made waves.

We'd like to especially thank the foundations and business sponsors who joined us this year to promote a vision of this region of wild lands and waters where both native species and human communities thrive.

Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort - Brightworks Sustainability Advisors - The Burning Foundation - CNOC Outdoors - Earth Day Oregon - Eastern Oregon Visitors Association - Evermine Labels - The Healy Foundation - The Lazar Foundation - Meyer Memorial Trust - MiiR - Nez Perce Tribe - OARS - Oregon Community Foundation - Patagonia - The Roundhouse Foundation - Sawyer - Save Our Wild Salmon - Six Moon Designs - Terminal Gravity - The Trailhead - The Wilburforce Foundation - Vernier Technologies - Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

Other News We're Following...

Global biodiversity agreement forged at COP15

Government representatives for 188 countries convened in Montreal this month to address the biodiversity crisis, and together they pledged to do more to halt the widespread loss of species across the globe. Notably, they adopted a plan that includes putting 30% of the

planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030, a parallel to the Biden Administration's commitment to do the same in the United States. The next few years are critical for translating these commitments to real progress on the ground - join us! [More information on the commitments adopted at COP15 is available from the United Nations Environment Programme.](#)

Caretakers of the Land

[A recent article by OPB](#) focused on the work of Bobby Fossek and Brosnan Spencer through Caretakers of the Land, located in the Ascension School in Cove, Oregon. The school is owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, where Bobby Fossek was a maintenance worker. After years taking care of the grounds, he and Spencer, his partner, formalized their stewardship role with the diocese. The article details the work that led to this partnership, and how it is just the beginning of a larger "conciliation" process between the church and CTUIR tribal members.

Whitebark pine is listed as a Threatened Species

Under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the listing of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) as a threatened species. Whitebark pine can be found across the western U.S. and southern Canada at higher elevations, and due to higher temperatures and decreased winter snowpack, the agency concluded that the trees are threatened with extinction in the foreseeable future across their entire range. Notably, 88% of whitebark pines are located on federally managed lands. [More information on the tree species listing is available in a press release by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.](#)

Support GHCC with a Monthly Gift

One of the easiest ways to give back to this region that you love is by joining GHCC's River Runner program with a sustaining monthly gift. Even a small monthly donation adds so much stability to our financial planning, allowing us to focus our energies on conservation instead of fundraising. From protecting intact forest ecosystems and the wildlife that depends on it, to addressing on-the-ground restoration needs and developing the Blue Mountains Trail, your gift makes our work possible. Together we can ensure the Greater Hells Canyon Region thrives.

Need more inspiration? [Find out why board member Lindsay Schuelke volunteers her time and generously supports our work.](#)

[Become a River Runner](#)



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 this special and ecologically important place, and your support is critical to making it happen.

Emily Cain, GHCC Executive Director

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