



Hells Bells - May 2021

The Ecological Approach to Address Climate Change and Resiliency in Northeast Oregon's Forests

When the Biden Administration committed to cutting US emissions in half by 2030, the announcement, while light on details, gave us hope that an ecological approach to managing Northeast Oregon's forests was closer to being realized.

However, the Trump Administration's midnight decision to allow logging trees over 21" in diameter in our region, a rule the Biden Administration can easily reverse, is low hanging fruit that isn't getting picked. Not reversing this decision runs counter to the very goals Biden's team is espousing. So why?

[Read Veronica Warnock's article](#) on how the forests of the Greater Hells Canyon Region fit into the Biden Administration's climate plan and how you can help advocate for the future of ecologically managed forests in Eastern Oregon and Southeast Washington.

Hellraised!

We want to share a big GHCC thank you to everyone who joined us for [Hellraiser](#). The event

was a huge success, and with your help, and the support of our sponsors and auction donors, we exceeded our fundraising goal.

The night was capped off by Renee Patrick's keynote address. Weaving together her thru-hiking experience and how that deep time in nature connected her with conservation and environmental advocacy, she left us with a call to action to engage more people in the landscapes we work so hard to protect.



If you missed it, or if you want to watch it again, [Renee's keynote is on our YouTube channel](#). And you can [watch the full replay of Hellraiser](#) as well!

Other news you may have missed...

Victory in the Oregon Supreme Court against Oregon's EFSC

We joined with other conservation organizations to challenge the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) and Oregon Department of Energy's attempts to avoid public input in the siting of large energy facilities. Oregon's Supreme Court sided with us, deciding EFSC violated state law by adopting rules that unlawfully limit the rights of the public to fully participate in cases that will directly impact them. This court victory ensures that future large-scale power projects in Oregon will not unlawfully harm the natural environment and surrounding communities that are directly impacted. [A full archive of the decision can be found at Oregon Court's online archive.](#)

Lower Snake River momentum, in fits and starts

In the last couple of weeks, the conversation around the restoration of the Lower Snake has grown more complex in two big ways.

First, Representative Earl Blumenauer of Oregon has joined Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho in the big work to define a 21st century vision for Snake River Basin ecologies and communities. This means that one of the most conservative members of Congress and one of its most progressive

are now engaged in bipartisan problem-solving at the federal level for the future of the northwest's agriculture, energy, communities, and keystone species.

Second, Washington Governor Jay Inslee joined Senator Patty Murray to release [a statement](#) that pivots away from Rep. Simpson's framework while suggesting a path forward that still sounds a lot like Rep. Simpson's framework. The two WA leaders emphasized urgency, salmon recovery, stability for agricultural and other interests, a bold energy future for the northwest, and upholding Tribal treaty rights. The statement, however, is short on details for how these goals will be achieved.

The Inslee-Murray statement was immediately [slammed](#) by the Nez Perce Tribe ("This is a moment for action, not for more process," said Nez Perce Tribe Chairman Samuel L. Penney). We share this disappointment and also feel that Governor Inslee and Senator Murray have added momentum to the regional conversation by emphasizing the urgency of the [extinction tragedy](#) unfolding in the Snake River Basin. Perhaps Washington's leaders are (finally) beginning to claim their role in crafting a collaborative solution. We'll keep you in the loop.



Thank you Wilburforce Foundation

We are honored to receive renewed grant funding from [Wilburforce Foundation](#) through their focus on the Yellowstone to Yukon Ecoregion that includes Hells Canyon. Wilburforce Foundation supports and connects organizations and individuals that are committed to protecting wild places and the wildlife that depend on them. The 2021 grant is instrumental in our ongoing efforts to protect the forests and intact ecosystems of the Greater Hells Canyon Region and our wild connections program.



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!

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