



A volunteer marks potential bumblebee nesting sites, in partnership with the USFWS. Photo courtesy of Rob Klavins/Oregon Wild.

Hells Bells - July 2022

[GHCC's board and staff welcome Emily Cain as our new Executive Director.](#) She began in her new role this month and is looking forward to meeting many of you in the weeks and months ahead. She joins GHCC at a busy and pivotal time. Emily introduced herself and what she'll be focused on in a letter to members, [available to read here.](#)

In July we filed a second lawsuit against the US Forest Service, this one relating to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. This follows a separate lawsuit in June that challenged the amendment to the Eastside Screens, an illegal action that removed protections for large and mature trees in Eastern Oregon and Washington. See below for more details.

It was also an active month for member advocacy, from providing input to the draft Murray-Inslee plan for the Snake River Basin, to joining GHCC and our partners to request that Oregon's Department of Energy maintain and enhance rules for protected, scenic and recreational spaces when it comes to siting new energy projects and transmission lines. Thank you to all of you who took the time to submit comments. It makes a huge difference; we are already hearing from Oregon's Energy Facilities Siting Council that the comments will require them to take a deeper look at the issues we brought up.

Continue reading for a full update from the past month, including a save the date for our Fall Gala in La Grande (Saturday, October 8th) and how to join us at other upcoming events and

outings in August.



GHCC Files a FOIA Complaint vs USFS

On July 7, GHCC filed a complaint against the US Forest Service (USFS) to address the agency's non-compliance with multiple Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. These requests related to how the USFS was applying the Eastside Screens, a rule that generally prohibited logging large and mature trees on national forests in Eastern Oregon and Washington, as well as the recent process that amended the rule. FOIA protects all of us from government overreach. It allows ordinary citizens and advocacy groups an opportunity to see how government decisions are made, reducing opportunities for industries and special interests to meddle in how our federal government functions. If cases such as this one are left unchallenged, it invites federal agencies to operate with less transparency, and it reduces how effectively we and other watchdog groups can function. You can [read more about this lawsuit on our blog](#).

Upcoming Events and Outings

- **Bumblebee Survey in Baker County on August 2-3:** Join GHCC's Connections Coordinator, Christina deVillier, around the gold rush ghost town of Auburn, as well as near Medical Springs, to survey for *bombus Occidentalis* and other native bumblebees for the PNW Bumblebee Atlas. [Email Christina](#) if you'd like to take part for one or both days. Accessing the sites with a 4WD vehicle is recommended.
- **Join us at PCT Days on August 19-20:** We will again be joining the fun and love of long

distance hiking at [PCT Days](#). The annual event on Thunder Island in Cascade Locks is happening on August 19-20. Come for the day or reserve a spot to camp overnight. We will be presenting the Blue Mountains Trail on Saturday, 8/20 at 9:30am, and we'll have our booth up all weekend. It's a great chance to learn more about the trail and meet our business sponsors in attendance.



- **SAVE THE DATE! GHCC's Fall Gala on Saturday, October 8:** This year's Fall Gala in La Grande will be here before we know it. Save the date to join GHCC's board, staff and incredible members for a Saturday evening event. Come meet some of GHCC's newest staff members, including Emily Cain, our new executive director. Stay tuned for invitations and how to register for the event.

Other news we're following...

Idaho court settlement protects wolves and coyotes

A recent ruling in Idaho will compel Wildlife Services, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to halt the use of some of the inhumane methods it has employed to kill coyotes and wolves on public lands, including Wilderness areas. Prior to the ruling, the agency could use actions such as cyanide bombs and lethal gasses to kill wolf pups in their dens. [A full explanation of the court ruling and what it means for large predators in Idaho is available from Advocates for the West.](#)

Oregon businesses share their support for the River Democracy Act

As the River Democracy Act continues to make its way through the Senate, over 75 private

companies representing a variety of businesses joined together to share their support for the legislation. These businesses, seeking a quick passage of the bill that would bolster protections for 4,700 miles of wild and scenic rivers and streams in Oregon, recognize the critical importance of watersheds and clean water. [The full story can be read in the Bend Bulletin.](#)



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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