



Emily Cain presents to a full house at the 2022 Fall Gala.

## Hells Bells - October 2022

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fall Gala and Online Auction. It was a delight to see so many of our friends, members, and supporters together again. We are so grateful for your support and generosity.

There are many ways to get more deeply involved with Greater Hells Canyon Council and support our work in the coming months. We hope you can join us or share your voices on the important matters impacting our region.

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## Get Involved and Connected with GHCC

This Week: Meet and Greet with GHCC's ED, Emily Cain, in Bend!

Emily and Board President Marina Richie will be at [The Commons](#) this **Thursday, October 27th, from 8am to 10am**. If you have a spare 15-30 minutes, join Emily and Marina for a cup of coffee or tea to talk about your connection to the Blue Mountains Eco-Region and hear Emily's vision for GHCC's work to protect, connect, and restore this important landscape.

Marina and Emily will also be presenting *Kingfisher Kinship & Greater Hells Canyon Council* to the Great Old Broads for Wilderness Bitterbrush Chapter on **Wednesday, October 26**

**from 4 - 5:30pm.** The in-person event is at the Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Ave, Bend, ([REGISTER HERE](#)) or you can join the presentation via ZOOM ([CLICK HERE](#)).

## Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Info Sessions

Starting this week, the Blues Intergovernmental Panel (BIC) will be hosting a series of information sessions with the U.S. Forest Service to share their efforts to build more public participation into the Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision process. This process will produce a new plan governing the agency's work on the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur national forests. While these meetings aren't the only opportunity for the general public to provide input, it's essential that conservation voices are included in the process. The invitation from the USFS notes that "Public input from these sessions will help the BIC and the Forest Service understand issues and potential community impacts to inform the process as the Forest Service prepares to reinitiate plan revision." The information sessions can be joined in-person or via zoom.

Information sessions will be held from 6-8pm on the following dates:

- Walla Walla, WA - Wednesday, October 26 (Fire District 4 Station 41)
- Clarkston, WA - Thursday, October 27 (Asotin County Fire District Station)
- La Grande, OR - Tuesday, November 1 (Eastern Oregon University)
- Baker City, OR - Wednesday, November 2 (Baker City High School)
- John Day, OR - Thursday, November 3 (Grant County Fairgrounds)
- Enterprise, OR - Wednesday, November 9 (Cloverleaf Hall)

More information on the sessions, locations of meetings, and how to join virtually, is available [here](#).

## Support StopB2H

The StopB2H Coalition has fought the Boardman to Hemingway project for over ten years. During the past three, our coalition has actively participated in Idaho Power's application process at the state level. We have highlighted serious errors and omissions in their plans and filed briefs and responses on 41 separate issues in eight different levels of litigation, knowing that the two Oregon agencies involved would always support the utility. In a last chance effort to stop this environmentally-destructive project, we have a chance to have a fair hearing before the Oregon Supreme Court. To do this, the coalition needs your financial support. [Please consider making a generous donation to support StopB2H today!](#)

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## Thank you for a successful 2022 Fall Gala

We held our [2022 Fall Gala](#) on Saturday, October 8 in La Grande. It was the first large event we've held in person since before the COVID-19 pandemic. We filled the Parish Hall with friendly faces and cherished the opportunity to catch up with many of you we've missed in the last few years.

For the evening's keynote, we were thrilled to hear about 1) indigenous perspectives on fire by Camas to Condors Indigenous Liaison Tiyana Casey, 2) how the fear of fire is being used to approve increasingly aggressive logging on federally-managed forests by Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project's Paula Hood, and 3) host a preview of *Elemental* on behalf of the Rural Cinema Project along with Meadow Wheaton's perspective on how films allow us to engage in new ways with conservation issues.

The gala and auction are important fundraisers for Greater Hells Canyon Council. We reached our fundraising goal with the generous support of everyone who participated. We are so grateful for our sponsors, donors, and volunteers who make this event possible. If you were unable to make it to the Gala, but would like to make a donation, you can do so here!

[Make a Fall Gala Donation](#)

**Volunteer Gala Committee Members:**

*Emelie Montgomery-Jones — Linda Garcia — Betsy Anderson — Cilla Coe — Brandon Kokinos*

**Gala Sponsors:**

*OARS — Six Moon Designs — Sawyer — CNOC Outdoors — MiiR —  
Terminal Gravity — Evermine Labels — Vernier Technologies*

**Day-of-Event Volunteers:**

*Karen Wagner — Harvey Neuber - Deb White Water — Lorraine Ferron — John Anderson — Ann Wilson — Julie Troutman — Cathy Webb — Zannah Larson — Steve Larson — Danae Yurgel — Rob Klavins — plus additional support from the Altar Society*

**Auction and Product Donors:**

*Danielle Bernard — Wallowa Lake Lodge — OARS — Good Bear Ranch — Patagonia — Merrell — Six Moon Designs — Barking Mad Farm — Norm Cimon — Weston Mountain Lodge — MiiR — Sawyer — CNOC Outdoors — Robin Coen — Laura Grace — Danae Yurgel — Plantworks — Mike Higgins — Mary McCracken — Mitch Wolgamott — Jo Mahoney — Ann Werner — Denise Stone — Fairie Beads — Brock Evans — Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort — The Trailhead — Quail Hollow — Blue Mountain Outfitters — Triple Crown Coffee — Side A Brewing — Terminal Gravity Brewing — Ex Novo Brewing — Migration Brewing — Worthy Brewing — Neil Evans — Wild Carrot Herbals — Juanette Cremin — Catherine Dickson — Pip Redding — MSR — Andrea and Tony Malmberg — Jax Dog Cafe — Anne Morrison — Linda Garcia — Liberty Theater Cafe — Jo Cowling — Darilyn Parry Brown — Susan Sterrenberg*

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**Learn More About: [Botany in the Wallowas](#)**



Western Labrador tea. Photo by Kent Coe.

Guest writer and former U.S. Forest Service botanists Kent Coe shares a delightful post highlighting some of the incredible plants you can find in early autumn in the Wallowa Mountains. Come fall, most plants' flowers are gone, and it becomes much harder to identify the flora around you. [Kent shares many helpful photos of the plants he encountered](#) on a slow walk in early October from the Hurricane Creek Trailhead to the nose bleed section of the mountains above Echo and Billy Jones Lake. We hope you enjoy this ground-level view of the Wallowas as much as we did.

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## Other News We're Following...

### **Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project Files Suit to Protect Large Trees**

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project recently filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service to protect big trees in the South Warner sale in the Fremont-Winema National Forest. The complaint addresses both the Trump-era amendment to the Fremont-Winema Forest Plan as well as the South Warner project itself, which relies on the amendment to log large fir trees up to 30" diameter at breast height. Wildlife such as marten, bears, native trout and steelhead rely on the habitat the large trees provide. Large trees also store immense amounts of carbon, keeping greenhouse gasses out of the atmosphere. More information on BMBP's lawsuit is available in a recent blog post, found [here](#).

GHCC, along with numerous conservation groups in Eastern Oregon, continues to sound the alarm against the rollback of the protections for large trees. We are one of six groups that [recently filed a separate lawsuit](#) to reestablish protections for large and mature trees across Eastern Oregon and Washington.

**For the climate, we need to do more to protect existing forests**

If you read our monthly newsletters and action alerts, you know that we consistently advocate for our region's forests; they play a pivotal role in storing carbon and providing critical habitat for wildlife. It should be no surprise that we are a small piece of larger puzzle, and a recent article in Time Magazine provides an informative explanation of why we should be switching our forestry focus to ensure forests across the world, and here at home in the U.S., maintain their ability to act as net carbon sinks and remove more carbon from the atmosphere than they emit. Read the full article from Time Magazine [here](#).

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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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