



Hells Bells - May 2023



GHCC Executive Director Emily Cain stands in a 20+ year old fire area next to an old Poderosa Pine that has weathered many changes in the forest. Photo by Rob Klavins.

Opportunity to Comment in Support of Mature and Old-Growth Forest Protection!

Last year, President Biden recognized the importance of our mature and old-growth forests on federal lands as an essential climate solution, and directed federal agencies to define, inventory, and develop policies to protect them. Now, we have the opportunity to weigh in on federal processes to protect these forests. There's an open public comment period and a variety of upcoming virtual "town halls" on this issue for the Western US, including one **today at 5pm!** You can learn more about the virtual listening sessions [here](#) and submit a public comment [here](#).



A photo from last year's bumblebee survey with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

June Outings with GHCC

June is upon us! You are warmly invited to join GHCC in the field, as we kick off the summer with a couple outings in our mission area.

June Outing Details:

What: Bumblebee survey campout and potluck

When: June 3-4 (with day trip only option on 6/4)

Where: [Buckhorn Overlook](#)

What: Morgan Nesbitt proposed logging project campout

When: June 17-19

Where: Wallowa Whitman National Forest, exact location TBD

For further details or to RSVP contact Nash Wadhams at nash@hellscanyon.org



Baldy Lake, along the Blue Mountains Trail. Photo credit Jared Kennedy.

GHCC is Hiring a Development

Our current development director, Jared Kennedy, will be serving in a new role with GHCC when he returns from paternity leave later this year -- focusing his efforts on critical aspects of our development, communications, and programs, including the Blue Mountains Trail.

In preparation for his shifting responsibilities, we are seeking a new full time development director. We are excited about this change as we continue to grow our team, and we are wishing Jared the best as he welcomes a new addition to his family.

[Development Director - Job Description](#)

This position is open until filled. We will begin reviewing applications on June 5th. A successful candidate may work remotely from our mission area or population centers in the Northwest.

Thanks for any help you can provide sharing this with your networks!



Eastside Screens Lawsuit Heard in Court

Our case against the Forest Service for their decision to amend the Eastside Screens – the only rule protecting mature and old growth trees across over 7 million acres of eastern OR and WA – was heard at a federal courthouse in Pendleton on May 1st. The courtroom was packed (thanks to all of you that attended!), and we were pleased to see that the judge was thinking critically about this very complex case. He clearly noted that the Forest Service’s public process was abnormal, at one point stating: “this is just not how the APA [the process by which regulations are made] is supposed to work”. We expect another update from the judge by the end of July. To learn more about our case, head over to [our blog](#).



Too early in the morning to get wet. Photo credit Mike Hanson, courtesy of the Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trails Association.

Natural History is Human History on the Snake River

On an early May morning our BMT coordinator, Pip Redding, met a group of four other volunteers with the Wallowa Mountains Hells Canyon Trails Association in Joseph to load a trailer with rafts and dry bags full of gear, food and tools – everything needed for a five day, 28 mile float of the Snake River in Hells Canyon, from Dug Bar to Heller Bar. Their intention was to scout conditions and clear brush along several miles of trails that are now rarely visited. Read [Pip's full account here](#).



The Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River. Photo courtesy of US Army Corp of Engineers.

Lower Snake River Dams

Conversations around removing the Lower Snake River Dams (which have been ongoing since the dams were put in) have been gaining momentum at the federal level since Representative Mike Simpson (R) of Idaho stepped up for salmon in 2021. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act channeled monies into the Pacific Northwest that are already being applied to replace the dams' services.

As we face collapsing salmon and steelhead runs in the region, it's become clear that we must take bold action, and soon. If we succeed, there's hope: the Snake River basin is forecasted to have 65% of the coldest, most climate-resilient stream habitats on the West Coast. We just need to make sure fish can access them. Read the [full blog post](#) by Jamie Dawson, GHCC Conservation Director.

Other News We're Following...

US Forest Service Restarts Discussions on Blue Mountains Forest Plan

Dave Miller spot on OPB highlighting the launch of the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revisions process - GHCC is very engaged in this process and will keep you up-to-date on how to engage. Stay tuned! [Listen here...](#)

Restrictions on sheep and goats in Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

In efforts to protect Bighorn Sheep and be compliant with the [Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Comprehensive Management Plan](#), the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest executed Forest Order No. 06-16-04-23-01. The order prohibits, "possessing, storing, or transporting any domestic sheep or goat," within all Forest Service Lands within the Congressionally designated boundaries of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. [Read more...](#)

Nobody is happy with the federal grazing program - let's find a solution!

[Read more..](#)

The country of Brazil recognizes animals as sentient beings!

[Read more...](#)

The long & complicated history of tourism in the Wallowa Country

Local Josephy Arts and Cultural Center's Rich Wandschneider discusses the complicated 147 year history of tourism, the good and the bad, past and present, in "[Rustication & Return](#)" in the April issue of Oregon Heritage magazine.

Blue Mts "Humongous Fungus" sets record as largest single organism on earth

It's a Honey Mushroom that **covers more than 3 square miles** and kills trees in the Malheur National Forest. [Here is the article and a link to OPB's Oregon Field Guide.](#)



GHCC works to protect, connect, and restore the lands, waters, native species, and climate resiliency of the ecologically magnificent Greater Hells Canyon Region.

We have a big vision for the future of the Greater Hells Canyon Region, and your support is critical to making it happen. [Join us!](#)

- 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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