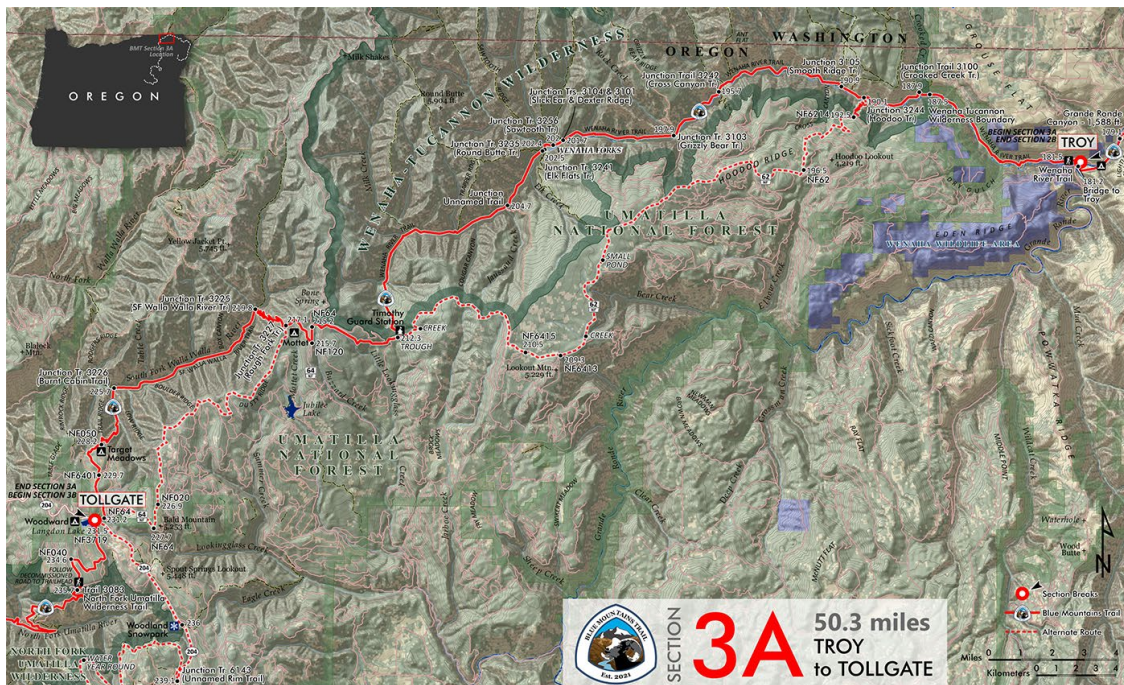




Blue Mountains Trail News - October 2021



It's snowing in the Blues, marking the end of the main hiking season for the Blue Mountains Trail. We have a lot of updates to share from this summer, starting with a new set of maps and [Blue Mountains Trail Maps page](#) to better explore the route. We also have some great events coming up that you won't want to miss. With the hiking season behind us, we would also like to take a moment to thank everyone who pitched in with trail maintenance this season.



Section 3A Map - Blue Mountains Trail from Troy to Tollgate.

Blue Mountains Trail Maps

With the generous support of [Travel Oregon](#), we worked with [Conservation Geography](#) and [Mitchell Geography](#) to produce a series of high quality maps of the Blue Mountains Trail. These beautiful maps provide a detailed view of the route in context to other points of interest.

Visit our new [Blue Mountains Trail Maps](#) page to see these maps (best viewed with a desktop, laptop or tablet). We think you'll love them as much as we do! One goal of these maps is to help section and day hikers get a better familiarity with all parts of the trail. This winter, we'll be developing downloadable guides for shorter hikes on the Trail. They will be ready for your 2022 hiking season.

BMT at the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit

Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit

In Partnership with the Oregon Trails Summit

October 17–23, 2021



Come learn more about the Blue Mountains Trail alongside the many other wonderful trails and outdoor recreation initiatives happening in Oregon at the upcoming [Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit](#). The virtual summit runs from October 17-23, 2021.

On **Tuesday, October 19 at 10:45 a.m.**, Blue Mountains Trail Project Lead Jared Kennedy will be presenting alongside Renee Patrick—Oregon Desert Trail Coordinator from ONDA, Nick Green—City Manager of the City of John Day, and Renee Tkach—Towns to Trails Project Manager from Friends of the Columbia Gorge, in a panel focused on connecting long distance trails to rural communities. The panel will be moderated by GHCC Board Member Stephen Hatfield.

In addition to the panel, the summit kicks off with a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Oregon Recreational Trails System Act on **Monday, October 18 at 4:00 p.m.** This session will also feature the Blue Mountains Trail, the newest addition to Oregon's signature trails system. Jared will give a 10 minute update on the trail and how it serves both residents and visitors to Northeast Oregon.

GHCC's Fall Gala Auction



The 2021 Fall Gala auction runs Tuesday, Oct. 19 - Monday, Oct. 25.

Every year, we aim to make our annual [Fall Gala](#) a fun, memorable evening to celebrate these amazing wild places that inspire us all. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year we're holding an Online Auction in lieu of the in-person Gala. Our featured artist, Suzy LaRuffa, used a technique called pyrography to etch and paint this beautiful scene of Hells Canyon, entitled *Drawing Lines*.



Starting Tuesday, October 19, you can bid on [Suzy's artwork *Drawing Lines*](#), as well as many other great auction prizes. We even have a [category of outdoor food and gear](#) from some of our favorite brands and partners in Oregon's outdoor industry. You also won't want to miss a chance to win the bidding on the rafting trips and vacation rentals. All the proceeds support our work to connect, protect, and restore the Greater Hells Canyon Region, including our work on the Blue Mountains Trail. [Check out the full auction catalog and get ready to bid!](#)

Thank you for volunteering!

With the hiking season coming to a close, we want to thank everyone who helped make the Blue Mountains Trail a little easier to navigate this year.

First, we'd like to thank **Pip Redding** for his work this summer. He was instrumental in leading trail maintenance efforts and helping assist hikers with maps and other resources. We hope to have Pip back with us next season!

A second hurrah goes out to the **Blues Crew**. This amazing group of trail stewards revitalized the very overgrown North Fork Umatilla Trail in the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness. We are looking forward to spending more days working with the Blues Crew starting in the spring.

We also volunteered with the **Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trail Association**, and we are in the process of planning some work parties with their crew leaders.

And in no particular order, thank you **Matt and Laura French Wallace, Mike Beaty, Barbara Bond, Dieter Corhs, Mike Higgins, Rob Klavins, Cassidy Quistorff, Jim Kennedy, and Lynne Davidson** for helping improve the trail. At times it was tough going! Your efforts will benefit future hikers.

The tremendous support of [Travel Oregon](#) and the [businesses who support GHCC and the Blue Mountains Trail](#) helped make this work possible. Thank you from all of us at Greater Hells Canyon Council!

If you would like to join our volunteer list and hear more about upcoming opportunities to help steward the Blue Mountains Trail and other trails in Northeast Oregon, please email jared@hellscanyon.org today!



Hiking along the Western Rim Trail. Photo by Naomi Hudetz

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!

Darilyn Parry Brown, GHCC Executive Director

By joining GHCC's River Runner program for \$10/month or more, we'll throw in a special gift.

[Find out more here, and sign up today!](#)

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