



Hells Bells - July 2025



Share Your Stories About Roadless Areas to Help Advocate for Protection

You may have seen that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (which manages the U.S. Forest Service) will soon begin the process of canceling the Roadless Rule, a Clinton-era policy that created protections for over 600,000 acres of backcountry landscapes in our mission area. This includes many special places on the Oregon side of Hells Canyon (around Freezeout, Lord Flat, Buckhorn, and beyond), as well as the Walla Walla River Roadless Area, Hellhole, Mt. Emily, much of the Elkhorns, and more.

Coming soon, we anticipate that there will only be a 14-day public comment period. To prepare [we're collecting stories](#) about how special these places are. If you can, please take a few minutes to share a story with us about an experience you had in any Inventoried Roadless Area around Hells Canyon, the Wallows, or the Blue Mountains!

You can see an interactive map of those places [here](#), and submit your story [here](#).



Blue Mountain Forest Planning update

Thanks to all of you who took the time to attend the Blue Mountain Forest Planning public meetings around Eastern Oregon and Southeast Washington this month. Some of our takeaways from the meetings were that the Forest Service has clear direction to increase logging, grazing, and mining on public lands and is looking to de-emphasize protections for fish, wildlife, and recreation on our public lands. **They recently published a first draft of forest plans for the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur [here](#)** and will be taking public comment soon (but not yet). We're currently reading the draft plans and will provide an update on our concerns and notice of opportunity to comment as soon as the agency opens the comment period.

Upcoming Events



AUGUST 5

Salmon Life Cycle - A Pedalpalooza Ride for Columbia Basin Salmon in Portland

Join GHCC, Pacific Rivers, and Save Our Wild Salmon for our second annual Salmon Life Cycle ride!

We're riding for salmon recovery and the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams. Tuesday, Aug 5 at 5:30pm we'll meet at Laurelhurst Park in Portland for some pre-ride activities before pedaling Salmon Street to Salmon Street Springs! Get together for a fun ride centered on advocating for salmon recovery and a shared love of free-flowing rivers.

[Sign Up](#)



AUGUST 11 - 14 **4-day guided rafting trip down the Snake River with Winding Waters and GHCC**

It's not too late to snag a seat on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area with GHCC and Winding Waters!

Along the way, we'll take a deep dive into the complex human and natural history of the area, including the powerful stories of those who fought to stop the damming of North America's deepest canyon.

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)



AUGUST 15 **Blue Mountains Trail Presentation at PCT Days in Cascade Locks**

Catch up with the BMT at Pacific Crest Trail Days!

The BMT will once again be attending the annual PCT Trail Days event in Cascade Locks, August 15-16. Come chat with us at our booth and hear a presentation from BMT Coordinator Pip Redding on at 2:30pm.

Join in celebrating the culture of long trails, including live music, gear vendors, food, and drink.



AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 7 **Juniper Jam to Pinefest on the BMT**

Join Greater Hells Canyon Council on this 4-night / 5-day excursion into Oregon's largest wilderness, bookended by Eastern Oregon's TWO premier music festivals: [Juniper Jam](#) in Enterprise, OR & [Pine Fest](#) in Halfway, OR. Daily hike distances range from 5-10 miles and up to 3000' elevation gain.

Juniper Jam: August 30th; Pine Fest: Sept 5th and 6th;
Total Hike Distances: 32 miles, 7200'

[Sign Up](#)

Other news we're following...

We received an interesting update on the proposed Boardman to Hemingway transmission line earlier this month.

PacifiCorp recently informed the Oregon Public Utility Commission that the B2H line is no longer included in its 2025 Integrated Resource Plan and will no longer seek cost recovery from its broad customer base. Instead, the project's sole customer is now a data center in Boardman, raising questions about whether B2H still qualifies as a "public necessity," and prompting the OPUC to open a formal investigation that could rescind its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

[Read the full guest blog by StopB2H here](#)

[Could beavers be the secret to winning the fight against wildfires?](#)

Recent research featured in National Geographic demonstrates that beaver-built ponds and wetlands create lush, fire-resistant refuges even helping stop wildfires in their tracks highlighting how ecosystem engineering by beavers may be a natural tool for wildfire resilience.

[Why Pollinators, Wildlife, and You Need Federal Public Lands](#)

GHCC has been contributing citizen science data on bumblebees surveyed in our mission area for years. In this article The Xerces Society explains how federal public lands sustain pollinators and their habitats ensuring vibrant plant communities, clean water, and resilience for both wildlife and people across the nation.

[Mapping Oregon's Wildlife Corridors: PSU Research Supports Safe Travel for People and Animals](#)

Researchers at Portland State University developed a statewide Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas map to help transportation and conservation planners identify vital animal movement corridors and prioritize wildlife crossings improving safety for both people and wildlife. Check it out!

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to volunteer with GHCC and the Blue Mountains Trail. We are always thrilled to work with our members, supporters, and fellow conservation advocates.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, be it at a trail stewardship event, doing wildlife and wilderness surveys, monitoring and community science projects, or joining us on a GHCC-led outing, we've created a survey that will help us know where to direct you and

which opportunities to send your way. Completing this survey should take 2 minutes or less of your time. Thank you — we look forward to spending time with you!

Volunteer with GHCC

Let's Protect the Greater Hells Canyon Region Together



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