

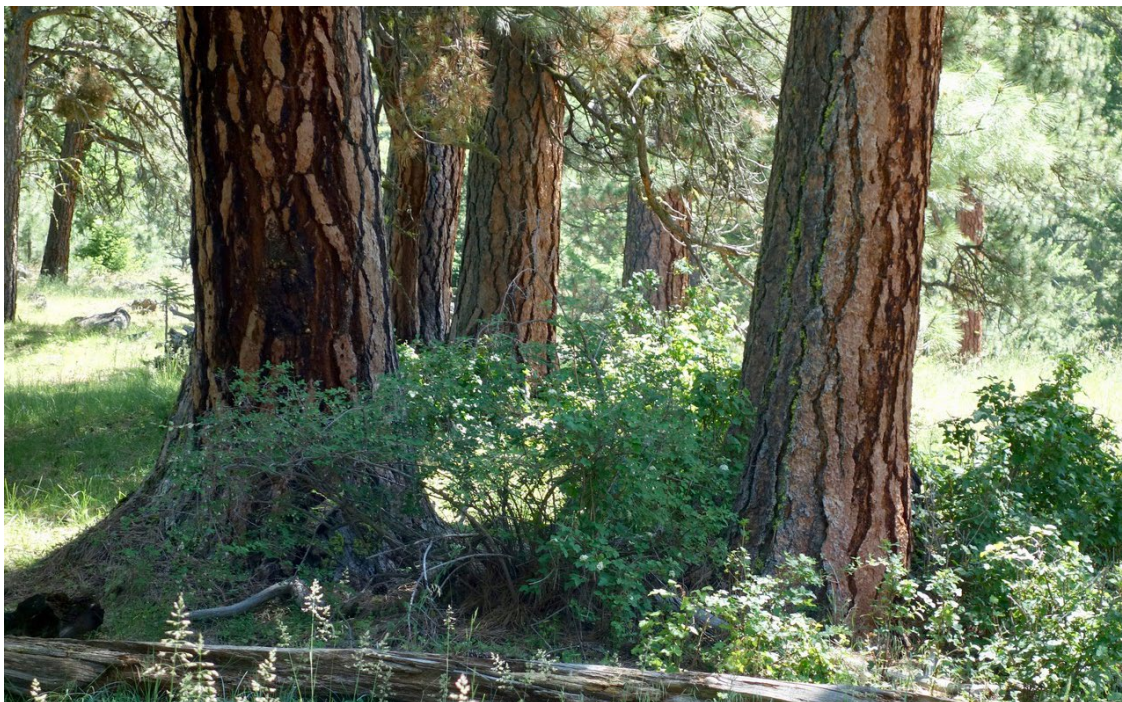


Wild onion blooms in the Blue Mountains. Photo by David Jensen.

Hells Bells - April 2022

This past month brought two welcome developments to our work in the Greater Hells Canyon Region. First we received news that the Biden administration, through the White House Council on Environmental Quality, would convene an interagency working group to address the Snake River Basin. The administration seeks to: "identify a durable path forward that ensures a clean energy future, supports local and regional economies, and restores ecosystem function, while honoring longstanding commitments to Tribal Nations." This was followed by an Earth Day announcement impacting our work to restore protections for mature and old growth trees in Oregon and Washington's eastside forests.

Our reactions to these developments, along with how you can join the effort, are included in this month's Hells Bells, along with other news, updates, and volunteer opportunities.



Welcoming Biden's Earth Day Efforts to Protect Forests and Salmon

Take action TODAY to get the job done!

Earth Day capped off a positive month for our efforts in the Greater Hells Canyon Region when President Biden signed an Executive Order to list and protect mature and old-growth forests on federal lands. This news follows the announcement a few weeks ago that the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has convened an interagency working group to address the decline of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin.

We've led the efforts in our region to encourage the Biden administration to engage in both of these efforts. [Read more about the Executive Order and TAKE ACTION today](#) to ensure the Biden administration and legislators follow this effort by enacting strong durable protections for our large and mature trees and forests.

Volunteer this summer with GHCC and the Blue Mountains Trail

We're ramping up for field season, and there are lots of ways you can join us!

- **Bumblebee Surveys - June 25-27 at Union County Fairgrounds:** This spring, we're teaming up with our partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to train detection dogs to find bumblebee nests by scent. These outings will aim to find nests that

we can use for the training. Let us know if you are interested in being a part of this critical effort to protect high quality habitat for threatened pollinators at all stages of their life cycle.

- **Volunteer Trail Maintenance:** Trail season is here. We're teaming up with our partners at Wallowa Mountains Hells Canyon Trail Association, the Blues Crew, and the U.S. Forest Service to tackle trail work connected to the Blue Mountains Trail on the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur national forests. Join us for these fun outings.
- **Voluntourism with Go Wild: American Adventures - June 17-21 :** In similar fashion, we've teamed up to support a fun outing with Go Wild: American Adventures that combines a guided expedition with trail work on the Little Minam River. Pip Redding, Blue Mountains Trail Coordinator, will be leading the trail work on behalf of WMHCTA. [Sign up today](#) and get a 20% discount by emailing Go Wild's owner, Dan Sizer, at gowildusa@gmail.com.

Please [email Jared Kennedy](#) if you'd like to take part in any of the volunteer opportunities above (or in general) to be included on our volunteer list for future opportunities.

Learn more about: **Wildlife Crossings in Oregon**

Imagine you have excellent eyes, excellent hearing, and excellent predator avoidance skills. You see a moving animal that is not your friend and you take a little time to judge its nearness, its speed of travel, and you move away, avoiding becoming its next meal. Now imagine the predator is suddenly on top of you and you don't know how it ran so fast to get there. The predator somehow moved from there to you at a speed you have no experience with. You are its next meal.



[Learn more about](#) the effort to improve wildlife crossings on Oregon's highways in this guest article by Priscilla Coe, a retired wildlife researcher and avid backpacker, who studied mule deer migrations and deer vehicle collisions.



2022 Blue Mountains Trail Hiking Maps

The 2022 hiking maps and databook for the Blue Mountains Trail are now available. If you are interested in hiking parts or all of the trail this year, [email Pip Redding](#) today.

More information about the Blue Mountains Trail route and logistics is available on our Blue Mountains Trail webpage at www.hellscanyon.org/blue-mountains-trail. Sign up for our mailing list [here](#) to receive trail news and updates, and we'll send you a FREE Blue Mountains Trail logo sticker (shown above). The next newsletter will be coming out in early May.

Other news we're following...

Last year's wolf population growth in Oregon flatlined

The wolf population in Oregon grew by just two wolves in 2021, and the number of packs decreased from 22 to 21. This sobering news was reported by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife following numerous poachings. While federal protections for wolves were reinstated in much of Oregon, much of the challenges to wolf recovery took place in Northeast Oregon where

wolves are no longer federally protected. [Read more about this news on OPB.](#)

The Snake River is the 2nd most threatened river in the US

American Rivers' annual list of the most endangered rivers in the United States. The listing calls out the need to remove the four dams on the lower Snake River to give salmon and steelhead a chance to survive in the basin. [More information, including the Snake River report, is available from American Rivers.](#)

Job Openings at GHCC and in the Region

Help our region thrive by sharing these job openings.

Greater Hells Canyon Council is hiring its next Executive Director. For more information about the role and how to apply, visit www.hellscanyon.org/jobs. Please help us share this job opening with your network so we can continue to grow our critical work in the Greater Hells Canyon Region.

- **Eastern Oregon Visitors Association** is hiring an [Outreach and Grants Coordinator](#) (part-time, La Grande, application reviews start April 21, 2022).
 - **Idaho Conservation League** is hiring a number of positions including an Energy Policy Associate, multiple Community Organizers for the Stop Salmon Extinction Campaign, and more. [See the full list of job openings here.](#) (Various locations, open until filled).
 - **Oregon Natural Desert Association** is hiring a [Campaign Manager](#) (full-time, Bend, application deadline May 13, 2022).
 - **Oregon Rural Action** is hiring a [Communications Coordinator](#) (part-time, Eastern Oregon, open until filled), a [Director of Community Organizing](#) (Eastern Oregon, open until filled), a [Rural Energy Organizer](#) (La Grande, open until filled), and a [Director of Finance and Administration](#) (Eastern Oregon, open until filled).
 - **Wallowa Land Trust** is hiring a [Conservation Program Manager](#) (Enterprise, open until filled).
 - **Wallowa Resources** is hiring a [Youth Leadership Specialist](#) (seasonal full-time, Enterprise, open until filled).
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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! A monthly contribution, large or small, adds so much stability to our financial planning and lets us focus our energies on conservation instead of fundraising.

Darilyn Parry Brown, 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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