



Mike Unger and Naomi Hudetz, two members of the trio that first hiked the BMT, visit with Jared and Pip at PCT Days.

Hells Bells - August 2022

The summer field season is in full swing at GHCC, and August provided a few opportunities to meet with members and the general public. With volunteer support, we ran a bumblebee survey in the Elkhorns and Wallows. We had an opportunity to present the Blue Mountains Trail at PCT Days in Cascade Locks. We also got to catch up with many of our business sponsors and thru-hikers in the long distance hiking community.

Earlier in the month we convened for our annual summer board and staff retreat in Enterprise, which included a field trip to the Zumwalt Prairie and Buckhorn Overlook above Hells Canyon. With our Fall Gala and more trail work parties on the horizon, we are looking forward to more opportunities to spend time with our supporters and friends in the months ahead.



2022 Fall Gala - Tickets On Sale

Join us to celebrate the Greater Hells Canyon Council with a return to our in-person Fall Gala. We'd love to see you at a fun-filled event, featuring a local foods dinner, music by Brian Mandella, and a presentation about our work.

Event Details:

Saturday, October 8 at 5pm
Catholic Church Parish Hall in La Grande, Oregon

An online auction will run from October 4 -10, alongside an event-only silent auction. We will release a catalog of prizes and vacation packages in the coming weeks.

Gala tickets are \$40. Premium tickets are \$60 and include a GHCC-branded MiiR 12oz Camp Cup and a 5-pack of notecards featuring the landscape photography of the Greater Hells Canyon Region by this year's featured artist, Danielle Bernard. Get your tickets now before they sell out.

[Purchase Gala Tickets](#)

Wild Landscapes: Imnaha

From July 29 until September 9, the Josephy Center for Arts & Culture in Joseph, Oregon is featuring its annual [Wild Landscapes exhibit](#), this year focusing on the beautiful, wild Imnaha River. Artists from across the region, including GHCC board member Robin Coen, shared their art and

photography featuring the Imnaha. Robin's watercolor entitled *Imnaha Heartbeat* won the exhibit's First Prize. Congratulations Robin and all of this year's selected artists!



A giclee-wrapped canvas print of Robin's winning artwork will be available at the [Fall Gala Auction](#).

Wallowa Residents Need Our Help

The small town of Wallowa was hit by a devastating hailstorm on August 11. Hail larger than golf balls destroyed the windshields of nearly every car in the town of 800, homes were severely damaged, and farm operations were hit especially hard. Wallowa is a community with many elderly and low-income residents who are struggling to pay for repairs to their homes and vehicles.

Please join us in offering our support to Wallowa's residents. You can [donate via a GoFundMe page](#) administered by the Presbyterian Church in Lostine with a goal to raise \$50,000 to support the recovery efforts.

Learn More About: **The importance of wolves and beavers to Western habitats**

An [article](#) published on August 9, 2022 in *BioScience*, "Rewilding the American West," by co-lead author William Ripple and 19 co-authors suggests using the wide-ranging gray wolf as an umbrella species to inform the protection of large swaths of public lands in 11 western states. The article also emphasizes riparian restoration and protections for beavers. Enhancing protections for just these two keystone species would benefit 92 threatened and endangered plant and animal species across the West.



North American beaver, photo by Steve Hersey, CC BY-SA 2.0

The authors encourage the creation of what they are calling the Western Rewilding Network, highlighting the following key facts to support their proposal:

- Wolves currently occupy just 14% of their historic range in the western U.S., and over 90% of beavers were extirpated in the course of U.S. western expansion.
- Although riparian areas occupy less than 2% of the landscape, they provide habitat for up to 70% of wildlife species.
- While 48% of the threatened and endangered species that would be protected in the network are primarily threatened by impacts associated with livestock grazing, meat produced from all federal lands forage accounts for only approximately 2% of national meat production.

The article's authors envision the Western Rewilding Network as a portion of the broader effort to protect 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.

New Foundation and Business Supporters

MiiR[®]

Oregon
Community
Foundation

We are thrilled to announce the support of MiiR and the Oregon Community Foundation for our work.

This year, MiiR has joined GHCC as a business supporter, and they also awarded us a

general purpose grant for \$15,000 through their [Impact Program](#) to further our efforts.

We also welcomed the news that Oregon Community Foundation awarded GHCC \$20,000 through the [Community Grants program](#) for our work on the Blue Mountains Trail.

Thank you to MiiR, OCF, and all of our [amazing foundation and business supporters](#). Together you make it possible for us to stay focused on connecting, protecting, and restoring the the Greater Hells Canyon Region.

Other News We're Following...

Let Trees Grow to Protect the Climate

Following the Biden Administration's Executive Order 14072: "Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities and Local Economies" that was issued in April 2022, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior jointly published a Federal Register notice seeking public comment on establishing a consistent definition for old-growth. We were thrilled to see so many GHCC members voice a desire for an expansive definition. Singer and songwriter Carole King also lent her voice to the importance of large and mature trees, writing an impassioned plea for lasting protections in the New York Times in an op-ed entitled: "[It Costs Nothing to Leave Our Trees as They Are.](#)"

Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision to Restart

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced this month in an email to interested parties that it is soon restarting the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision process, the governing plan the USFS uses to manage the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur national forests. This is a second attempt at the same effort, after the last revised plan was withdrawn in March 2019 due to substantial local pushback. This time around, the USFS convened the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC), allowing county commissioners a structured mechanism for providing local input. GHCC, alongside other conservation partners, will be deeply involved in the process, working to ensure the plan addresses ecological connectivity, adheres to the best available science, and includes protections for our region's forests, wildlife, and watersheds.



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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