



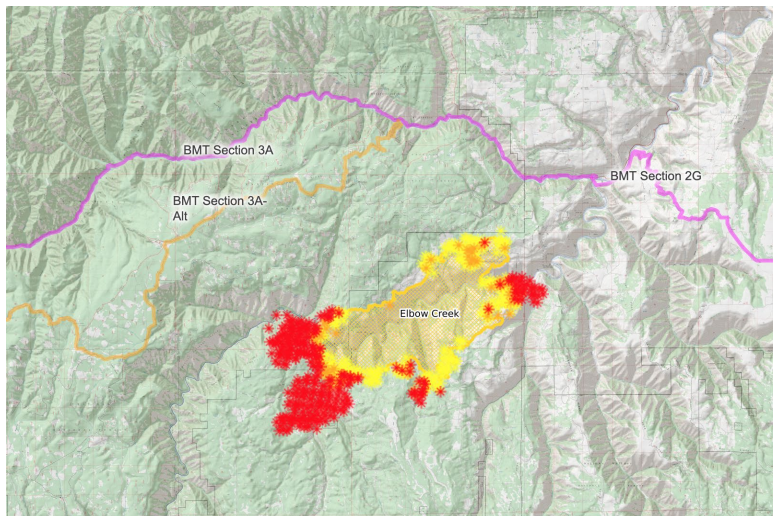
Blue Mountains Trail Update - July 2021

TRAIL CLOSURES: On Friday, July 16, the Umatilla National Forest issued a temporary closure across the entire forest in response to fires burning along the Grande Ronde River near Troy and further north in Southeast Washington. All of Section 3 and much of Section 6 of the Blue Mountains Trail cannot be accessed while this closure is in effect.



The Elbow Creek Fire burns near Troy, Oregon. Photo by Christina deVillier.

We will continue to monitor the fires and the updates from the staff at the Umatilla National Forest. While there is no end date for the closure, all campground reservations have been cancelled through August 7, and it appears likely the closure will remain in effect for a few weeks. For more information, you can [read the closure notice](#) and an [FAQ](#) from the Umatilla National Forest.



On Thursday, July 15, the Elbow Creek fire started along the Grande Ronde near Troy and quickly spread down the canyon. The image above shows the fire as of Sunday, July 18 in proximity to the Blue Mountains Trail. Firefighting efforts quickly worked to protect the communities of Troy and Eden Bench. Updates on the Elbow Creek Fire are available [here](#).



Baldy Lake beneath Mount Ireland. Photo by Jared Kennedy.

Summer 2021 Update

The snows have melted at the high elevation passes, and this means the hiking season has arrived. While the best conditions for a Blue Mountains Trail thru-hike generally arrive in September, this is a great time to plan some section hikes. We have begun to mark some of the more challenging cross country routes and will be in the field for much of the next month to help clarify route finding and to clear some areas that are overgrown. [Read the full update](#) to catch up on everything that's happening on the Blue Mountains Trail.

BMT at PCT Days

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[PCT Days](#) is an annual celebration of hiking in all forms in Cascade Locks, Oregon, where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses from Oregon to Washington. After having to cancel the event in 2020, this year it's back, and we'll be there! Come join us on August 20 - 22, and meet some of the thru-hikers who completed the route last year. PCT DAYS is free to attend, with a suggested donation of non-perishable food, personal care products, or a monetary contribution to the FISH food bank, which serves the local community. Overnight camping is available for a fee, and the event is family-friendly.

Thank you to our newest Trail Sponsors

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[Sawyer](#) makes ultralight water filtration products, as well as insect repellents and sunscreens. They've long supported both the organizations that develop and steward long distance routes and the long distance hikers who hike them. Products like the Sawyer Squeeze make treating water, even from the muckiest of ponds, fast and simple.



[Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort](#) is the last resupply point for hikers before traversing the Elkhorn Crest and on to Sumpter. You'll want to time your hike to get a tasty meal with a beer at the Starbottle. In the summer, both first-come, first-served and reservable campsites are available at campgrounds managed by the resort.



[The Trailhead](#) is a bike and ski shop in Baker City that also carries hiking and general outdoor gear. The shop also offers a shuttle to and from Baker City to Anthony Lakes. The Trailhead recently started the [Trailhead Stewardship Project](#) to work in partnership with the Wallowa-

Whitman National Forest on trail maintenance efforts.

Thank you Sawyer, Anthony Lakes, and The Trailhead for supporting our work on the Blue Mountains Trail! Business sponsorships are instrumental in our ability to develop the trail, better support hikers, and build a vibrant Blue Mountains Trail community.

Follow and Share With Us on Instagram

We have launched an [Instagram page for the Blue Mountains Trail](#) to share photos from the trail, the region, and other trail content. If you're an Instagram user, we'd love to have you follow us and share your photos using the #BlueMountainsTrail tag.



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.

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Darilyn Parry Brown, GHCC Executive Director

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