



For over 50 years, we've called ourselves a council. When needed, we've come together to break the status quo and leave a legacy that benefits the ecosystems of the Greater Hells Canyon Region.

We are meeting the moment. We are laying the groundwork to convene our council for the work ahead. It takes art, music, laughter, and camaraderie to build a grassroots network that can foster the conditions for our region to thrive.

From the coffee shops and conference rooms to the river canyons and wildflower meadows, we are making the spaces for our council, Greater Hells Canyon Council, to come together on behalf of this amazing region.

Hells Bells - October 2025



A beautiful display by Caretakers of the Land

Reflecting on an Inspiring Evening with Caretakers of the Land

With this year's fall gala behind us, we're buzzing with gratitude for our Wild Blues AiR artist-in-residence team, Caretakers of the Land. Brosnan Spencer, Bobby Fossek, and their daughter, Meadow, were a joy to have at the event. In addition to giving an inspiring presentation, they offered a beautiful visual presentation of the materials that they use to

create their woven baskets and a selection of herbs and flowers to make tea from.

During their presentation, the family shared reflections on our reciprocal responsibilities to the land and how deep, long-standing relationships with native plants like dogbane and tule teach us the importance of stewardship, culture, and connection. Their words grounded the evening in purpose, and we had a wonderful time visiting with them and all of you who were able to join us at the community dinner table.



Thank you for Submitting your Forest Planning Comments!

We were heartened to hear from many of you that you submitted comments on the recent draft of new forest plans for the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur National Forests. THANK YOU! We really appreciate the time you took to advocate for fish and wildlife habitat, big trees, roadless areas, and more. The next step will be another series of public meetings and comment periods, likely in mid-2026.

Stay tuned!

Jamie Dawson

Conservation Director

Upcoming Events



**OCTOBER 29 and 30
Portland, OR
Rise Up Northwest In Unity Convening**

Join us at the R.U.N. Conference, hosted by the Columbia Snake River Campaign, where our Nash Wadhams (outreach) and Emily Cain (director) will be attending to connect with community leaders, advocates, and change-makers. Tribal leaders, scientists, and community members will convene around the protection of Northwest rivers, salmon, and orcas and to build momentum for a future rooted in restoration, justice, and ecological resilience.

[Register Here](#)



**OCTOBER 30
Portland, OR
Happy Hour at Migration Brewing on N Williams**

Greater Hells Canyon Council will be in Portland, and you're invited to join us 4-6p, Thursday, October 30. Emily, Nash, Ian, and Jared would like to buy you a beer and hear about your connection with NE Oregon at Migration Brewing on N Williams. We'd love to see you there!

[RSVP Here](#)



**NOVEMBER 7
La Grande, OR
Wild and Scenic Film Festival**

[Get Tickets Here](#)

Join the Grande Ronde Model Watershed in La Grande for a special evening of film and inspiration! Step into a world of wild landscapes and bold ideas at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. This event features thought-provoking short films, meaningful community conversation, and a shared commitment to protecting the lands and waters we all care about.

Other news we're following...

[Oregon nursery among small businesses caught in the fray of government shutdown](#)

The federal government shutdown is hitting small businesses in Eastern Oregon, and our friends and business supporters at native-plant nursery Plant Works in Union County are at risk.

[Salmon clear last Klamath dams, reaching Williamson and Sprague rivers](#)

Chinook salmon reached the Williamson and Sprague rivers for the first time in more than a century, after the last dams on the Klamath River were cleared, signaling a major milestone in river and fish restoration.

[Nez Perce tribal members share history and culture in Oregon Origins Project at Portland's Reed College](#)

Members of the Nez Perce Tribe are sharing their art, culture, and stories through the Oregon Origins Project at Reed College in Portland, spotlighting Indigenous voices and traditions in a new gathering of culture bearers.

[Logging in national forests in Oregon continues, despite government shutdown](#)

More than 99% of public comments opposed the proposed repeal of the Roadless Rule, revealing overwhelming public resistance to opening up protected national forest lands for logging or road-building.

[Baker's geologic link to Yellowstone — a story millions of years in the making](#)

A guest column in the Baker City Herald explores the geologic link between Baker County and Yellowstone National Park, framing the region's ancient volcanic and tectonic story as a millions-of-years-in-the-making landscape worth visiting.

[Sen. Mike Lee's new bill permits 'tactical infrastructure' in wilderness areas](#)

Senator Mike Lee's proposed bill would allow roads, fences, and surveillance tech in wilderness areas near U.S. borders, weakening long-standing protections and undermining the Wilderness Act.

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



Legacy Giving



Monthly Sustainer



Donate Now

Donating stock or qualified distributions from a retirement fund are **tax-advantageous ways to support GHCC**. You can also donate as a **business supporter**, and many **companies will match donations** to non-profit organizations. To learn more about all of these ways to give, visit <https://www.hellscanyon.org/join> or reach out to jared@hellscanyon.org.

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