



Hells Bells - January 2025



A look at the Morgan Nesbit proposed logging area.

Jamie Dawson Featured in Columbia Insight on Morgan Nesbit Logging Project

GHCC's Conservation Director Jamie Dawson was recently featured in a *Columbia Insight* article on the Morgan Nesbit logging project outside of Joseph: "*The history of logging in Oregon has always been a series of rebranding efforts to see what is the most palatable phrase for them to still be able to meet their timber targets,*" says Dawson. "*Words like 'resiliency' can be attached to anything from a terrible logging campaign that we really dislike to something like Morgan Nesbit that's just super-complex and needs to be treated as such.*"

This project has been receiving increased public attention after garnering a significant number of public comments (thank you!), and additional scrutiny from the Wallowa County Commission. [Read the full article featuring Jamie's interview here.](#)



Exciting job opportunities with GHCC

Greater Hells Canyon Council is growing! We're thrilled to announce two job openings as we continue to expand our efforts to protect and restore the wildlands and waters of NE Oregon. These positions are a unique chance to join our dedicated team and contribute directly to meaningful conservation work. We're looking for a new Development Director and are expanding to include a brand new position - a Stewardship Manager!

For more information about these roles and how to apply, visit our website: [GHCC Job Openings](#). Now accepting applications!



Mark your calendars!

As we gear up for what is sure to be a bustling field season, we'll be letting you know about upcoming outings and events so that you can mark your calendars and join us! Here are two important dates to save:

Hellraiser 2025

Get ready for another unforgettable evening! Join us on **April 5, 2025, at Rossi Farms** for a delicious meal, program updates, and a riotous auction and raffle celebrating the **50th anniversary of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area**. Mark your calendars—more details to come!

Register Now!

Cascade Ruck 2025

GHCC and the Blue Mountains Trail will be featured at the **ALDHA West Cascade Ruck** in Stevenson, WA, on **February 22, 2025**. This event brings together hikers and outdoor enthusiasts for panels, presentations, and gear demos. GHCC is thrilled to share updates on the Blue Mountains Trail. [Get your tickets and register for the event here.](#)



2025 BMT Route Revisions are live!
Request map and databook access at
[BlueMountainsTrail.org](https://www.BlueMountainsTrail.org)

Blue Mountains Trail Updates

Want the latest Blue Mountains Trail updates direct to your inbox? [Subscribe to our Blue Mountains Trail newsletter](#) for updates, volunteer opportunities, and more!

The 2025 trail map revisions are live! Key changes include a revised route in Section 7A, south of Austin Junction, where the trail now follows a quieter forest road with reliable water access. Another update is an alternate route in Section 4A, south of La Grande, bypassing private lands for more consistent public access.

Explore the updates on CalTopo or volunteer to help with future improvements by emailing Pip at pip@hellscanyon.org. Happy trails!

Other news we're following...

[ODFW reaches out to public about Oregon Conservation Strategy revisions](#)

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is seeking public input for the 2026 revision of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, a plan aimed at maintaining and restoring the state's fish and wildlife habitats. GHCC is actively participating in this process, contributing to the development of conservation priorities and actions.

[Wallowa County group seeks crossings to prevent crashes with wildlife](#)

Between 2009 and 2023, a 22-mile section of Oregon Route 82 in Wallowa County recorded 900 vehicle collisions involving deer or elk. To address this, a local working group, including GHCC (!), is exploring the installation of wildlife crossings to enhance safety for both drivers and animals.

[Service Proposes to List Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee as Endangered, Seeks Public Comment](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed listing the Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee as endangered under the Endangered Species Act and is seeking public comments until February 18, 2025. This parasitic bee species, a critical indicator of pollinator and habitat health, faces threats from habitat loss, climate change, pesticides, and declines in host bumble bee populations.

[Saving Bighorns for a Collective Future](#)

A collaborative effort among Northwest tribes, wildlife agencies, and conservationists aims to restore the fragile bighorn sheep populations in Hells Canyon. Through disease monitoring, habitat protection, and cultural stewardship, this initiative seeks to safeguard the bighorns' ecological and spiritual significance for future generations.

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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