



## Hells Bells - October 2024



Robin Coen, Marina Richie, Jamie Dawson, Emily Cain and David Mildrexler at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise

### “Architects of Refugia” by Robin Coen at the Press Room in La Grande

La Grande friends – be sure to keep an eye out for watercolorist Robin Coen’s work which will be on display at [The Press Room](#) through the end of the year. Robin’s stunning paintings are part of her "Architects of Refugia" exhibit with writer Marina Richie’s beautiful prose and poetry. This exhibit was previously featured at the World Center for Birds of Prey’s art gallery in Boise. Robin and Marina are GHCC’s first artists-in-residence.

We expect the exhibit to be available for viewing by mid-November and will keep you updated on the exact opening date. Be sure to stop by, grab a cup of coffee, check out the BMT logbook to see who’s been on the trail this year, and take in the beautiful artwork!



Photos by Jamie Dawson and GHCC volunteer, Victoria Odinet

## Honoring Decades of Wilderness Advocacy at Annual Fall Gala

Our 2024 Gala and Wilderness Storytelling event is behind us and we are deeply grateful for the support of our members, volunteers, and community partners. Three long-time friends and supporters told captivating stories of advocacy, exploration, and getting lost in Wilderness. These stories reminded us of the decades of activism behind every Wilderness area in NE Oregon. It takes a village to advocate for lasting protections and we humbly acknowledge our friends who have been fighting for decades!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this fun event!

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## Blue Mountains Forest Planning Update

Recently, the Blue Mountains Forest Planning team released a document called the “Preliminary Need to Change” – a document that outlines why they are revising the forest plans and what issues should be addressed in new ones. This document will become the basis of the new forest plans, and will even influence nitty-gritty (but important!) details like standards and guidelines.

It makes the case for the agency getting a new crop of forest plans that are more flexible with fewer limitations, and fails to recognize this valuable opportunity to analyze and protect habitat connectivity across all three National Forests. “Informal feedback” is being accepted until November 7th. Learn more about this process and how to comment [here](#).

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## New Discoveries and Challenges for Whitebark Pine in Our Region



We were grateful to participate in the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation's recent Whitebark Pine Science & Management Conference in Baker City! This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about current science and threats facing whitebark pine, which is present throughout our mission area and was recently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Interestingly, whitebark pine has recently been discovered on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest at elevations lower than expected, which will have consequences for logging projects and other management actions on public lands.

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## Wyld Joins GHCC as a Business Sponsor

We are thrilled to announce our newest business sponsor – [Wyld](#), a PNW company based in Portland, Oregon. As Wyld has grown to America's best-selling cannabis gummy brand, they have continued to give back to their communities by supporting groups stewarding and protecting the environment. Thanks to Wyld and all our [business partners](#) for supporting our conservation efforts in the Greater Hells Canyon Region!



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## Other news we're following...

[In high mountain Alaska a glacier's deep secret is revealed](#)

Big news for NE Oregon and Idaho - scientists explore a glacial gorge deeper than Hells Canyon (for now).

[A path forward: Collaborative forms to craft public lands legislation for North Idaho](#)

A new collaborative group has formed in Eastern Washington to develop strategies for protecting wildlife corridors. This initiative brings together government agencies, environmental groups, and local stakeholders to create pathways that ensure safe animal migration and maintain biodiversity.

[The Forest Service is cutting its seasonal workforce and public lands will suffer](#)

The U.S. Forest Service is reducing its seasonal workforce due to budget issues, which will limit essential tasks like trail maintenance and fire prevention. This cut could result in diminished public land access and care.

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## 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

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## Let's Protect the Greater Hells Canyon Region Together



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