



Hells Bells - July 2024



Top: Unit 64 of the proposed West Wall Logging Project. Bottom: FS / ODF staff address field trip attendees above a steep slope tethered logging site.

Halfway Community Members Advocate to Protect the Forests of the West Wall Project

GHCC staff attended the Forest Service's field trip to the West Wall forest project outside of Halfway on July 9. Numerous GHCC members and concerned Pine Valley residents attended the field trip as well as staff from the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project. GHCC and the other participants expressed concerns about the construction of roads, the use of tethered logging on steep slopes, impacts to wildlife habitat and connectivity, and more.

We appreciate that the Forest Service hosted this field trip and that they confirmed that no trees over 21" will be cut on this project. We also learned that some logging units from the original proposal have been dropped. A final decision on this project is expected later this year.

Since this project uses a Categorical Exclusion (CE) rather than an Environmental Analysis (EA), there will not be an additional opportunity for public comment after the decision is released. GHCC will continue to advocate for forest protections on West Wall and the other proposed projects on the national forests of the Greater Hells Canyon Region.

National Big Tree, Carbon, and Old Growth Comment Period



How are big trees in Eastern Oregon helping in the fight against climate change? It all starts with the carbon cycle. [Learn more](#) about climate, forest, and carbon relationship and then take action to urge the Biden administration to enact enforceable protections for mature and old-growth trees on our National Forests.



Design donated generously by Kathleen Murray

GHCC's First PEDALPALOOZA, PDX!

Attention Portland area friends, GHCC is facilitating a Pedalpalooza bike ride in collaboration with [Save Our Wild Salmon](#), [Pacific Rivers](#) and a representative of the Umatilla Tribe on **Tuesday, August 6th in Portland.**

We will rally for a ride centered on environmental activism, salmon recovery, and a shared love of free-flowing rivers! Over the course of the ride participants will hear some brief information focused on salmon appreciation, education, and advocacy.

This event is open to all. No registration is required to join in the fun. Popsicles provided along the way!

Costumes encourage but not required. Come dressed as your favorite river creature - including but not limited to salmon. The ride will be moderately easy, starting and ending at Laurelhurst Park.

Ride schedule

- **6:30 PM - Meet at [Laurelhurst Park](#)** (on the North side of the duck pond)
- **7:00 PM - Ride begins!**
- Ride down Salmon Street to Salmon Street Springs
- Ride back *upstream* to return to Laurelhurst Park for a good time in support of wild salmon!

Visit our [events page](#) for details. We hope to see you there!



Snake River Dam Removal Call to Action

The coalition of tribes, states, NGOs, and other stakeholders working on the removal effort of the four lower Snake River dams opposes any attempts to restrict or undermine the commitments made by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement. Unfortunately, the House's Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025 includes a poison pill policy rider (Sec. 513) that would drastically limit BPA funding for salmon restoration efforts.

If enacted, this rider would sabotage the important commitments the United States made just months ago to honor Tribal treaty rights and restore native salmon species in the Basin. These critical investments will also help recover imperiled Southern Resident orca. [Please](#)

[take action](#) to ensure that this rider and any similar language is not included in any final funding bills or other must-pass legislation.

The rider included in the House's bill would blatantly undermine BPA's commitments in the Agreement. While BPA's commitments are clear and extensively explained in the Agreement, the language in the Energy and Water bill is vague and poorly drafted. The rider sets a strict limit on spending by BPA related to the Agreement but fails to index that funding to inflation or account for the cost-share often borne by agencies requesting reimbursement by BPA. As a result of these and other issues, this language would prohibit BPA from providing the full amount of funding promised in the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement, breaking a legal agreement between BPA, the Tribes, and other parties.

Attempts to cripple the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement with language like this are especially unacceptable in light of the Department of the Interior's recent [Tribal Circumstances Analysis](#) that acknowledges the U.S. Government's moral and legal responsibility to address the historic and ongoing devastating impacts to Tribes due to BPA and the Federal Government's management of the Columbia River Basin.

Other news we're following...

[US acknowledges Northwest dams have devastated the region's Native tribes](#)

The U.S. government has acknowledged that dam construction in the Pacific Northwest has had a devastating effect on Native American tribes and salmon and steelhead populations. Once thriving villages and free-flowing rivers packed with fish were sacrificed to bring electricity, irrigation and jobs to nearby communities. The current administration intends to invest \$1 billion to restore salmon runs and partner with tribes, but faces opposition from some who oppose dam removal.

[Groundbreaking lawsuit takes aim at U.S. Forest Service's 'timber targets'](#)

Every year the Forest Service and the USDA set 'timber targets' for the number of board feet to be harvested. According to the Forest Service the amount of timber sold from our National Forests has been "higher than any period in the previous few decades."

A lawsuit has been filed against the Forest Service challenging its timber targets. The suit argues that the Forest Service is prioritizing timber production over environmental protection and climate action.

[How the Nez Perce are using an energy transition to save salmon](#)

In Lapwai, Idaho the Nez Perce Tribe is working hard to replace the area's reliance on hydropower created by the dams with solar power. The tribe's solar initiative, (aptly named) Project 5311 aims to replace the 5,311 megawatts of energy created by the dams. Today the initiative employs an all-indigenous team of 25 workers. Honor the Treaty of 1855 with the Nez Perce — Breach the Snake River Dams!

[Project 2025's extreme vision for the West](#)

Project 2025, a coalition of more than 50 right-wing organizations have written a 920-page policy platform called [Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise](#). This article from High Country News summarizes the proposed plan and lists agency-by-agency responses focused on the greatest impact on Western land, water and wildlife.

[Blue Mountain Fire Information](#)

Check out this helpful resource for information regarding current wildfire activity in the Blue Mountain area of Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington.

Upcoming Events



AUGUST 9th – PLEIN AIR PAINTING (or sketching!) IN WALLOWA COUNTY

Join GHCC staff and our current Artist-in-Residence, Robin Coen, for a fun day sketching and painting around Hurricane Creek. Artists of all disciplines and skill levels are welcome (even if you don't consider yourself an artist)! We will have some extra water color supplies, but bring your own if you have them.

[REGISTER](#)



AUGUST 23rd – BUMBLE BEE SURVEY NEAR TOLLGATE

Calling all pollinator lovers! Join us for our annual August bumblebee survey for the [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#) and the NW Bumblebee Atlas Project.

[REGISTER](#)



AUGUST 31st - SEPTEMBER 7th – JUNIPER JAM TO PINEFEST WITH GHCC

Join Pip Redding on this 4-night / 5-day excursion into Oregon's largest wilderness, bookended by two Eastern Oregon premier music festivals: [Juniper Jam](#) in Enterprise, OR & [Pine Fest](#) in Halfway, OR.

REGISTER

Check out all of our upcoming events on our calendar [here](#).

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

Greater Hells Canyon Council
PO Box 607



If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews) .