



Hells Bells - August 2024

Celebrate 60 Years of Wilderness



at Greater Hells Canyon Council's Fall Gala

Saturday, October 5, 2024

GHCC's 2024 Annual Fall Gala will be on October 5th in La Grande. Enjoy a social hour, a delicious locally sourced meal, and a fun live program including a special Wilderness themed storytelling event. A curated silent auction will be available for bid. Learn more about the [event](#) and purchase your tickets today – we hope to see you there!

[Event Tickets](#)



National Old Growth Rule - 24 Days Left to Comment

The US Forest Service is currently planning to amend every National Forest management plan in the country to enshrine some level of protection for old growth trees. While the idea is exciting, the existing proposal includes some significant loopholes and doesn't do enough to protect *mature* trees that will soon become old growth. **We have until September 20th to submit comments.**

For a short primer on the issue, check out [Megan's blog](#), or the recently released film [Crown Jewels](#). If you're ready to submit a comment, you can submit a pre-crafted message [here](#) (don't forget to edit it!), or go directly to the US Forest Service's comment portal [here](#).



GHCC, Save our Wild Salmon and Pacific Rivers present at the first annual Salmon Life Cycle in Portland

GHCC's First Annual Salmon Life Cycle

On August 6th in Portland, GHCC, in partnership with [Save our Wild Salmon](#) and [Pacific Rivers](#), hosted the first annual "Salmon Life Cycle" - a Pedalpalooza ride to advocate for the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs) and salmon recovery. With over 60 enthusiastic participants we rode down Salmon Street to Salmon Street Springs where representatives from each organization talked about the threats that salmon face along their upriver journey. Spoiler alert - the Lower Snake River Dams are not good for salmon. Read the full recap in [this blog](#) by Outreach Coordinator, Nash Wadhams.



Trails Coordinator, Pip Redding tables at PCT Days in Cascade Locks

The Blue Mountains Trail at PCT

Each year in August the Pacific Crest Trail Association hosts PCT Trail Days in Cascade Locks, Oregon. This two-day celebration of long-distance hiking brings together current thru-hikers, weekend warriors, and aspiring first-timers, as well as representatives from the nonprofit world and outdoor gear industry.

Blue Mountains Trail Coordinator Pip Redding and Development Director Megan Keating teamed up for the BMT's fourth appearance at the event. Together, they presented the story of the Blue Mountains Trail and the importance of the greater Hells Canyon region to hundreds of would-be supporters. We are encouraged and inspired by the continued growth of interest in this project. Thank you to the lovers of wild spaces, individual contributors, and business sponsors that make our work possible. Cascade Locks may be the lowest point on the entire Pacific Crest Trail, but this event is always a high point for the BMT!



Primetime on the BMT

The aspiring class of 2024 BMT thru-hikers are setting off. We have confirmed at least 3 thru hikers are already finished the 530+ miles trail with more starting soon! Late summer and early fall is the one of the best times to be on the Trail. Weather is generally cooler, insects aren't a problem, and water supplies are typically reliable.

This year, despite a spate of nearby fires, there have been few direct threats to the continuity of the BMT route. Of course it is always key to be prepared for the possibility of closures. If you or your loved ones are planning a long hike on the BMT, get in touch! We want to hear about your experience, give you the most up-to-date information, and ask for your help with trail reports. Hiker feedback is how we keep the databook details up to date and prioritize maintenance efforts.

Other news we're following...

[Indigenous celebration of Hanford remembers the site before nuclear contamination](#)

This article discusses the Hanford Journey, where Indigenous groups, including the Yakama Nation, commemorate the cultural significance of the Hanford site before its nuclear contamination.

[Heads & Hearts Exhibit: Seeing the Landscape Through Nez Perce Eyes is at the Josephy Center until September 13th](#)

Be sure to catch the exhibit "Heads and Hearts" at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, in Joseph, focusing on the intersection of Native American culture, history, and art.

[Drought in the West has cost hydropower industry billions in losses in two decades, analysis finds](#)

An analysis found that droughts in the Western U.S. have caused the hydropower industry to lose billions of dollars over the past two decades due to reduced water availability, which limits electricity generation. The study highlights the financial impacts on hydropower and the increasing challenges posed by climate change on the industry.

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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