

The Trailhead News

Vol. 36 Issue 4

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

July/August 2011



*Tahoma Member Celeste Eversole
rides LT at Haney Meadow*

Photo by Robert Eversole



**09-1054 RCO/RTP Grant Milestone Report
May 29, 2011**

Pages 6-7

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Minimize Your Fire Impacts!

Pages 8-9



2011 State Officers & Chairs

President Darrell Wallace
president@bchw.org.....360.918.3016

Past President Bob Gish
robertgish@gmail.com509.276.6226

Vice President Vacant

Secretary Janelle Wilson
secretary@bchw.org.....360.748.4880

Treasurer Teri Starke and Robert Eversole
treasurer@bchw.org.....253.709.5052
robert@trailmeister.com.....513.374.9021

BCHA Director Mike McGlenn
mike@mikemcglenn.com.....360.739.2619

BCHA Director Bob Gish
robertgish@gmail.com509.276.6226

BCHA Alternate Director Lori Lennox
llennox82@gmail.com.....360.482.2742

Grant Chair Jeanne Paddock
backcountryrider@gmail.com360.301.0133

Legislative Chair & Parliamentarian Vacant

Governance & By-Laws Chair Teunis Wyers
teunisjw@gmail.com.....509.493.3939

Public Lands Chair Jeff Chapman
bbbranch@olympus.net.....360.385.6364

Membership Chair Heather Moorman
membership@bchw.org.....509.585.4001

Leave No Trace Chair Jane Byram
LNT@bchw.org.....509.997.7407

Ways & Means Dave Swanberg
ways_means@bchw.org.....509.486.1107

The Trailhead News Publicity Chair & Editor Dick Yarboro
easyrider@scattercreek.com360.264.2263

Public Relations & Publisher Joyce Willms
joyce@wamedia.com.....360.754.4543
www.wamedia.com..... Fax: 360.943.7086

Editor & Advertising Manager Crissy McGee
bchw@wamedia.com.....360.754.4543

The Trailhead News Volunteer Proofreader Sondra Johnston
sgjohn1234@aol.com.....253.843.2679

Web Master & Photographer Jim Thode
webboss@bchw.org.....360.978.5336

www.bchw.org

BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter “BCHA”) and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows:

The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America’s back country and wilderness.
- To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

Trailhead News

Inside this Issue

BCHW Chapter Locations & Director Contacts	1
2011 Optional Members	2
Prez Says	3
Public Lands/Leg Report	4-5
BCHW 2011 Mini-Legislative Day	5
Grant Awareness	6-7
Leave No Trace	8-9
Featured Trail	10-11
State Vet Recommends Easing of Horse Movement Restrictions	11
Membership: A Very Good Investment	12
BCHW Store	13
Out on the Trails	14-16
2010 BCHW Chapter Accomplishments Continued	14-16
My Two-bits Worth	16
In Memory	Inside Back Cover
LNT Master Stock Trainer, Olympic Chapter	Inside Back Cover
Calendar of Events	Outside Back Cover

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February 1	Mar/April
April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

BCHW Chapter Locations & Directors

ALPINE LAKES TRAIL RIDERS: Director: Jason Ridlon	P.O. Box 533 • Cle Elum, WA 98922 2133 Thorp Cemetery Rd • Thorp, WA 98946	509-964-9260	jhridlon@elltel.net
BUCKHORN RANGE: Director: Jeff Chapman	P.O. Box 845 • Chimacum, WA 98325 640 Cape George Rd • Port Townsend, WA 98368	360-385-6364	bbbranch@olympus.net
CAPITOL RIDERS: Director: Jeff LaBreck	937 101st Ave. SE • Olympia, WA 98501 P.O. Box 716 • Tenino, WA 98589	360-264-7901	wildhorses@scattercreek.com
CASCADE HORSE CLUB: Director: John Scherrer	P.O. Box 1359 • Lake Stevens, WA 98258 55300A Menzel Lake Rd • Granite Falls, WA 98252	360-691-5526	bscherrer@aol.com
CRAB CREEK RIDERS: Director: Bill Bailey	P.O. Box 519 • Moses Lake, WA 98837 1308 Rd 10 NE • Moses Lake, WA 98837	509-766-9860	bnb_works@yahoo.com
ENUMCLAW TRAIL RIDERS: Director: Tom Saunders	P.O. Box 411 • Enumclaw, WA 98022 P.O. Box 438 • South Prairie, WA 98385	360-897-8772	saunderslogging@sprynet.com
FERRY COUNTY: Director: Dave Taylor	P.O. Box 1124 • Republic, WA 99166 626 Nealey Rd • Oroville, WA 98844	509-485-3002	taylors@starband.net
GRAYS HARBOR: Director: Lori Lennox	295 Powers Ck Rd • Elma, WA 98541 82 O'Neill Rd • Elma, WA 98541	360-482-2742	llennox82@gmail.com
INLAND EMPIRE: Director: Ken Carmichael	P.O. Box 30891 • Spokane, WA 99223 10804 W Seven Mile Rd • Spokane, WA 99224	509-466-2225	kcarmichael@hughes.net
ISLAND COUNTY: Director: Kerry Graves	5203 Mutiny Bay Rd • Freeland, WA 98249 4684 S Melody Lane • Freeland, WA 98249	360-544-8406	kerry53@comcast.net
LEWIS COUNTY: Director: Jim Thode	362 Pigeon Springs Rd • Onalaska, WA 98570 362 Pigeon Springs Rd • Onalaska, WA 98570	360-978-5336	jim@jimthode.net
METHOW VALLEY: Director: Gary Sterner	P.O. Box 902 • Twisp, WA 98856 280 Godfrey Springs Lane • Chelan, WA, 98816	509-682-0412	gbsterner@frontier.com
MOUNT ADAMS: Director: Dave Welch	P.O. Box 1835 • White Salmon, WA 98672 776 Wall St • White Salmon, WA 98672	509-637-2614	davew61@gorge.net
MOUNT SAINT HELENS: Director: Jim Anderson	P.O. Box 418 • Brush Prairie, WA 98606 1500 SE 357th Ave • Washougal, WA 98671	360-835-5719	jimterrimustride@aol.com
NISQUALLY: Director: Alan Pankau	P.O. Box 641 • Yelm, WA 98597 13224 Military Rd SE • Rainier, WA 98576	360-446-5958	pankau@ywave.com
NORTHEAST: Director: Bob Gish	P.O. Box 3094 • Deer Park, WA 99006 5122 S Wallbridge Rd • Deer Park, WA 99006	509-276-6226	robertgish@gmail.com
OAKLAND BAY: Director: Traci Koch	P.O. Box 1285 • Shelton, WA 98584 61 SE Craddick Rd • Shelton, WA 98584	360-490-2878	toorideawildpony@aol.com
OKANOGAN VALLEY: Director: Trygve Culp	P.O. Box 812 • Tonasket, WA 98855 P.O. Box 484 • Tonasket, WA 98855	509-486-2061	trygveculp@gmail.com
OLYMPIC: Director: Gerry Magnuson	P.O. Box 1629 • Silverdale, WA 98383 P.O. Box 297 • Chimacum, WA 98325	360-732-4325	gmag@olypen.com
PENINSULA: Director: Tom Mix	P.O. Box 1931 • Port Angeles, WA 98362 84 E Hidden Ridge Rd • Sequim, WA 98382	360-582-0460	info@cuttinggarden.com
PIERCE COUNTY: Director: Sally Laib	21804 Mountain Hwy., #52 • Spanaway, WA 98387 P.O. Box 39 • Kapowsin, WA 98344	360-893-6188	slaib@centurytel.net
PURPLE SAGE RIDERS: Director: Dave Jackson	211516 E Cochran Rd • Kennewick, WA 99337 1783 Jericho Rd • Richland, WA 99352	509-627-5834	bchwdave@dslextreme.com
RATTLESNAKE RIDGE RIDERS: Director: Dan Chappel	P.O. Box 63 • Benton City, WA 99320 31005 West Kelly Rd • Benton City, WA 99320	509-588-4342	chapchar05@bentonrea.com
SCATTER CREEK RIDERS: Director: Bob Bacon	P.O. Box 1016 • Rochester, WA 98579 P.O. Box 177 • Tenino, WA 98589	360-264-4528	oledog48@msn.com
SKAGIT: Director: Mike Mahaffey	P.O. Box 188 • Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 31459 Bailen Rd • Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284	360-826-3599	mohappy@cedarsprings.org
TAHOMA: Director: Robert Eversole	P.O. Box 191 • Hobart, WA 98025 41916 SE 66th • Snoqualmie, WA 98065	513-374-9021	robert@trailmeister.com
TRAILDUSTERS: Director: Beth Hill	P.O. Box 355 • Silvan, WA 98287 12503 67th Ave NE • Arlington, WA 98223	360-658-5525	highcountryrider@hotmail.com
TRI RIVERS: Director: Bill Haley	P.O. Box 308 • Pateros, WA 98846 P.O. Box 1724 • Brewster, WA 98812	509-670-3246	bhaley51@gmail.com
WENAS VALLEY: Director: Mike Drougas	P.O. Box 1325 • Selah, WA 98942 P.O. Box 1325 • Selah, WA 98942	509-965-4052	mdrougas@aol.com
WENATCHEE VALLEY: Director: Carol Wilcox	P.O. Box 1402 • Wenatchee, WA 98807 18456 Camp 12 Rd • Leavenworth, WA 98826	509-763-3470	powerone@nineofnine.com
WHATCOM COUNTY: Director: Rick Olson	P.O. Box 28607 • Bellingham, WA 98228 5180 Penny Lane • Bellingham, WA 98226	360-398-1309	olsonplastering@aol.com
WILLAPA HILLS: Director: Jacqueline Angermeir	P.O. Box 898 • Raymond, WA 98577 2028 St Rt 105 • Grayland, WA 98547	360-267-1765	coastal.insurance@comcast.net
WINE COUNTRY RIDERS: Director: Jeff Cochran	P.O. Box 641 • Prosser, WA 99350 20701 N Crosby Rd • Prosser, WA 99350	509-786-4362	hisnheranch@embarqmail.com yvcmanestream@yahoo.com
YAKIMA VALLEY: Director: Steve Miller	P.O. Box 25 • Cowiche, WA 98923 1471 Old Cowiche Rd • Tieton, WA 98947	509-678-5013	smiller@nwinfo.net

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Members mail to: BCHW Benevolence Fund, 110 W. 6th Ave., PMB 393, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Please clip out and mail



So Near, and Yet So Far...?

By Darrell Wallace, BCHW President

As I prepared for the June Board meeting, I found myself thinking about BCHW and why our founders formed this organization. It seemed so simple – keep trails open to stock use. And we have had our successes: land managers have agreed to work with us to keep trails open, including agreements to self-certify sawyers; the Legislature re-directed NOVA funds to their proper use, and even allocated funds needed to keep state lands open; I could go on and on about how much our volunteers have accomplished.

And our chapters are strong: most have developed effective fundraising and are financially sound. Their volunteers work on trails, support LNT, and participate in advocacy roles of all kinds, and manage to get in some riding to keep it all in perspective. They have elected officers and governing boards, and send their directors to represent them on the BCHW Board.

It's a complex world out there and we have found ourselves needing to change in order to deal with it. We rewrote our bylaws, and formed a non-profit tax-free corporation. We have passed Standing Rules to ensure that we will

stick to sound policies, and have begun to develop a business plan for our future. We have accomplished so much with our volunteers.

Where do we need to go from here in order to continue our successes? I see a need for more expertise than we can reasonably expect from our volunteers: fundraising, legal work, lobbying, research, accounting, etc. Some issues are time-critical and cannot wait until Joe returns from his pack trip, or Mary gets time off from her job, or Bill gets his hay in. All of this leads me to conclude that we need to hire an Executive Director, which also requires us to raise enough funding to pay for one. Many organizations like ours employ someone to lead their fundraising efforts and we probably need to focus on that as well.

But make no mistake: we will never be able to hire enough people to do all the things we need to do in order to keep trails open to stock use. If our volunteers ever begin to feel “let the paid staff do all that” then we will see trails close up soon after. Fortunately, we have the most motivated volunteers in the world. Let's make sure we appreciate each other! Happy Trails! 🐾

URGENT Help Wanted: Volunteer Assistant Treasurer

Must know QuickBooks, be able to meet periodically with Treasurer who lives in Enumclaw.

Contact president@bchw.org or treasurer@bchw.org to apply or for more information.

Public Lands/Leg Report



Recreation on State Lands Saved, But at a Price

By Jeff Chapman, BCHW Public Lands Committee Chair

The legislative session is over, and what a nail-biting finish! There were no assurances that the grant programs, which receive funding through appropriations written into the cash portion of the capital budget, would be covered right up to the last few hours of the special session in Olympia. There was even talk of no capital budget. But in the end, a capital budget was passed, and grant programs like NOVA, WWRP, and a placeholder for RTP were all included. In fact, with the inclusion of funds for DNR Sustainable Recreation (for facilities maintenance) as well as repair money for a couple of John Wayne/Iron Horse Trail tunnels, we were successful at achieving all the objectives we had set during the waning days of the special session. This is a huge success considering the state's fiscal constraints.

Grants alone will not keep our state land recreation facilities open. With no other funding streams available this year, we re-

luctantly agreed to support a modest fee program for recreational access to state lands. What started out as a DNR/WDFW concept for an unpopular individual pass proposal transitioned over the months to a slightly more palatable pass plan strikingly similar to the USFS Northwest Forest Pass. This is the new \$30 annual "Discover Pass", a parking pass that as of July 1, 2011, must be visible in your vehicle if parked at any recreation areas for DNR, WDFW, or State Parks. It is not transferrable between different vehicles. In the future, you will be able to earn a Discover Pass when you accumulate 24 hours of volunteer work performed on agencies' lands.

The Discover Pass legislation produced unique challenges to us since BCH does not favor access fees. First, we needed to be convinced that there was a serious risk of trailhead/campground closures; second, that there wasn't another way to cover agency expenses; and third, if we were going to start paying

(Continued on page 5)

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Recreation on State Lands Saved, But at a Price

(Continued from page 4)

fees, we needed an efficient fee system with revenue going into covering the costs of recreation. We do feel our views were considered, and we expect this dialog will continue through the summer season.

Legislatively, we were working this year with some shortcomings. Our legislative chair, Bob Brooke, had to step down due to health issues, and we no longer had a paid lobbyist. One big help was that the various user groups met and emailed each other throughout the session, and this cross-communication kept us each up-to-date on legislation and legislators. We also collaborated with other stakeholder groups for putting together a NOVA lid lift bill, which we expect will be taken into consideration next session when a transportation funding package is addressed.

We addressed a number of policy bills during the session and worked successfully at getting changes in the bills that

were acceptable to us. Most noteworthy was an animal cruelty bill that, before revision, would have created a fine for having a wet, dirty, or shelter-less horse.

Next year, during mid-biennium, is likely to be another challenging session. There are elections, which is always a good time to question legislators about their support for recreation. We will likely want to address shortcomings in the Discover Pass program, and there is still the NOVA lid lift bill. At the federal level, there is the constant threat of losing RTP funding. How BCHW approaches these new challenges will need to be worked out. Now there is a pause in activities for the Legislative Committee to get away and ride. For the Public Lands Committee, what's the endurance riders' creed? You can sleep when you die? Every new issue comes on the heels of the last one. 🐾

BCHW 2011 Mini-Legislative Day

By Lori Lennox, BCHW Grays Harbor Chapter

The BCHW 2011 Mini-Legislative Day was a low-key but very important affair this year. The regular session was adjourned and it was a very quiet day for the special session. This was great, as we had the undivided attention of the Legislative Assistants. Several in our group of nine had never been to the Capitol so they hooked up with others who had. Jeff Chapman's BCHW Position Paper and our calendars were passed out to all the assistants. One first-time member remarked, "I was amazed at how they took us so seriously . . . looking at our talking points, and asking questions."

It was a bit of a logistical challenge this time as the O'Brien Building is being renovated; the legislator offices from there were in temporary buildings or doubled up in others. Luckily, only a couple of us had offices we wanted

Photo by Jim Thode



From Left: Mike Muller, Nisqually Chapter; Joan Fleming, Scatter Creek Riders Chapter; Doc & Deb Wesselius, Lewis County Chapter; Donna Bacon, Scatter Creek Riders; Sally Laib, Pierce County Chapter; Laura Dell, Nisqually Chapter; JoAnn Yost, Grays Harbor Chapter; Lori Lennox, Grays Harbor Chapter; Tom Saunders, Enumclaw Chapter.

to specifically visit so other than those we just broke up in small groups and canvassed the floors and buildings. Our cowboy hats and boots had people in the halls stopping us and asking which group we were with, and several times we heard the phrase, "We were wondering if we would get a calendar again this year," so we know they are working out as an important lobbying tool for us.

Thanks to all who made this year's Legislative Day possible and for sharing your thoughts on how to make it better in the future: Mike Muller & Laura Dell, Nisqually Chapter; Donna Bacon & Joan Fleming, Scatter Creek Riders Chapter; Doc & Deb Wesselius, Lewis County Chapter; Sally Laib, Pierce County Chapter; Tom Saunders, Enumclaw Chapter; JoAnn Yost & myself, Grays Harbor Chapter. 🐾



Grant Awareness

09-1054 RCO/RTP Grant Milestone Report May 29, 2011

By Jeanne Paddock, BCHW Grant Committee Chair

Buckhorn Range Chapter

We have been making great progress on wetland repairs to the Savage Memorial Trail in Anderson Lake State Park, Jefferson County. However, the unusual high water and perpetual rains have made it challenging. We may be getting help for fast-tracking this work by the Pacific Northwest Trail Association and other user groups throughout the summer. Since the last report, BCHW volunteers constructed a water channel system to reinforce the turnpike constructed in 2010 as part of a multiphase restoration. We recently purchased 10 yards of gravel, curb rails, and are further staging the materials for constructing a second turnpike, bolstering a bridge damaged from wash out and water erosion.

On May 7, 2011, 20 volunteers assembled to construct the second turnpike near the trail bridge. These volunteers moved gravel the hard way with non-mechanized human power – buckets, carts, and wheelbarrows – across the trail bridge to fill the geoweb (soil stabilization system) on the turnpike. The turnpike was completed in one day. We will soon be acquiring 15 yards more of gravel, through the use of grant funds, to build a bypass around the “floating trail spot”. This will require transporting gravel by hand across the bridge and several hundred feet up the trail for spreading and tread building. The Washington State Parks Dept. has mandated that this work be done before the trail can be reopened, so without these grant funds, this trail would be closed as a multi-user trail. We have received notes of gratitude from pedestrian-based groups who use the trails in Anderson Lake Park. Our chapter goal is to

raise the grade of the entire trail segment across this wetland area. Anderson Lake State Park has been a multi-year, multi-phased rehabilitation of all the trails in the system and is the focus of a BCHW – RTP grant for 2012.

Lewis County Chapter

Delayed snowmelt in higher elevations of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has meant that trail maintenance projects this year are still indefinite. USFS reports and preliminary reconnaissance information indicate that trail maintenance projects must be rescheduled at later dates. Consequently, Lewis County Chapter Trail Bosses have tentatively put all trail maintenance projects on a “To Be Announced” status pending favorable access for higher elevation trails.

As of this writing, the Packwood Lake Trail #78 trail maintenance project has been tentatively rescheduled from May 21st until June 4th. The National Trails Day project was initially scheduled to clear the trail before the Memorial Day weekend; traditionally a priority because of high recreational use in this area. Basic volunteer and skilled volunteers, including certified sawyers, have committed to clear both non-wilderness and wilderness sections of the trail as soon as access is feasible and conditions are safe for conducting a trail maintenance project.

The Klickitat Loop Trail #7A, Trail #7B, Klickitat Trail #7, and trails surrounding Keenes Horse Camp projects will be cleared during June and July. Access to the Green River Horse Camp to conduct trail maintenance projects on Green River Trail #213 and surrounding trails will not be possible until July and August this year. Work parties will be scheduled as soon as snowmelt permits access to the trailhead and trails, and conditions are safe for conducting trail maintenance projects.

Peninsula Chapter

In support of National Trails Day, the Peninsula Chapter will be working on the Little River trail. As of this writing, the trail has been logged out and the railings have been repaired. The tread work will happen on June 4. This trail is about eight miles long. It starts on DNR land and ends on Olympic Na-



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(Continued on page 7)

09-1054 RCO/RTP Grant Milestone Report May 29, 2011

(Continued from page 6)

tional Park land. The work site is all within 0.1 mile of the bridge we rebuilt last year's National Trails Day. This event is a collaboration of Back Country Horsemen (Lead group), Bell Hill Gang, Gray Wolves, Olympic Discovery Trail, Olympic National Park, and DNR trail volunteers. Highest ranking attendees expected are the ONP Superintendent and DNR Regional Manager. The work site is about a mile in from the trailhead. Work planned is to log out the trail of downed or danger trees to make it safe to travel to the work site. Replacement of bridge railings obliterated when a tree fell on the new bridge about a month after it was built. Clearing about 60 feet of drainage ditch just past the bridge. Reestablishing of 180 feet of sloughing trail tread and placing two culverts for water management. We expect over 20 volunteers to participate. Grant funds will cover the cost of equipment needed to accomplish this work. About one month after we accomplish this work the ONP Trails staff, now having access, will use this trail to replace two-foot logs at about the two-mile mark.

Pierce County Chapter:

With the use of grant funds, we will purchase radios essential to following USFS safety regulations. These will enable

communication on the PCT where work parties are planned in conjunction with PCTA.

Capital Riders:

Capitol Riders, Nisqually and Scatter Creek Riders Chapter members volunteered their time by scouting and removing several downed trees across the Mima-Porter 8 trail. The two trees were about 28" in diameter. However, several more downed trees need to be removed. There have been several work parties on the Greenline 6A and the Mima-Porter 8 Trail. As of this writing, a gravel haul is intended in three different locations on June 1 to harden the surfaces of these trails. The gravel will be ready for the Nisqually Chapter to use on Friday, June 3 and Saturday June 4, National Trails Day. Capitol Riders, Scatter Creek Riders and Friends of Capitol Forest will have a group working on the surface of Greenline 6A Trail on June 4.

Due to all the rain this Spring and the rising water level, DNR decided to reroute Trail 6A around the swamp. The conclusion was that the Turnpike would be in danger of washing out, thus wasting the resources that should be used in a more permanent construction of a reroute away from the water. ↻

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Leave No Trace

Minimize Your Fire Impacts!

By Jane Byram, LNT Chair

As the warm summer weather returns, people will be getting out on the trails and backcountry. It is time to refresh our fire knowledge and responsibilities to the environment. Today's need for a fire and the use of fire has changed dramatically. We do not need fire for light or cooking when camping. Very few of us either travel overnight in the backcountry or know how to cook over an open fire. Cooking over an open fire requires heavy cooking equipment that most of us are not willing to carry. Yet, the traditional campfire is so entrenched in our minds that camping without a campfire is unthinkable. There are ways to camp, enjoy a fire and respect the environment all at the same time. Most land managers and backcountry rangers agree that campfires constitute the single most prevalent recreational impact in the front or backcountry.

The purpose of Leave No Trace is to minimize evidence of our passing. A big fire scar on the land, no matter the location, is

a scar that will remain forever. The ground underneath is permanently scarred and sterilized. Worse yet, if others come across this fire-damaged area, they might think it is OK to have a fire there and increase the damage.

Factors in responsible fire use include these questions (always consider safety first):

- When is a fire appropriate? Do you really need a fire?
- Is there ample firewood, dead and down?
- Can you clean up after the fire?
- Should you have a fire in a popular or high-use area?
- Should you have a fire in a pristine area?
- Are fires appropriate for day riding?
- Is there a water source nearby to put out the fire?
- What are the restrictions?
- How is the wind behaving?
- Is there an ample source of inorganic material for a mound fire?
- Is there a fire ring in a campground available?
- How dry is the forest?
- On a day ride, is it necessary to have a fire for lunch?
- If there is a need for fire on a day ride, can a fire pan or barbecue be transported to the site?

A bit of planning and preparing would accomplish the ambience of a fire, protect the ground and give the users what they want, something hot for lunch on a chilly day.

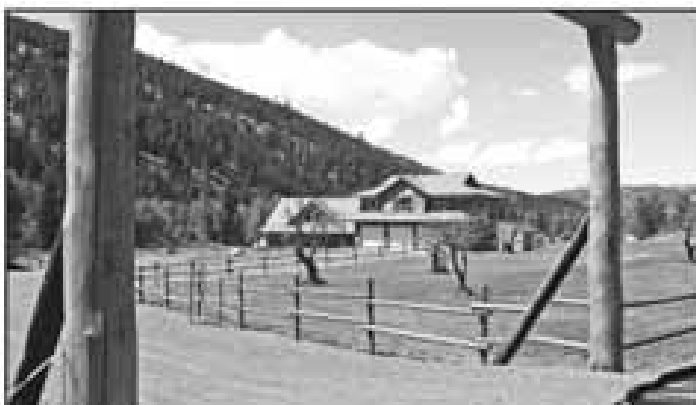
The Mound Fire

An innovative method for building a Leave No Trace fire is the mound fire. Mound fires can be built virtually anywhere using simple tools: a garden trowel or shovel, large stuff sack and a ground cloth.

To build this type of fire, begin by locating a ready source of mineral soil, sand or gravel. Mineral soil is the light-colored dirt that is found below the dark, rich, organic topsoil layer. Gather mineral soil from a spot that is already disturbed by natural forces, where the impact of digging and collecting the mineral soil will not damage live vegetation. Sand or small gravel collected from streambeds or lake shores are good sources of mineral soil, as are the holes left by the roots of a recently downed tree.

Use the garden trowel to fill a stuff sack with mineral soil. Turn the sack inside out to keep the inside of the bag from getting dirty. Carry a load of mineral soil to the fire site. To make clean-up easier, lay a tarp or ground cloth on the fire site and then spread the soil into a circular, flat-topped mound about 6 to 8 inches thick.

(Continued on page 9)



"Giddy-up" Log archway leads to 7+ acres of irrigated equestrian property! Custom home with rock fireplace, gourmet kitchen with island & cozy sun room with views of surrounding Mt's, nestled in the Methow Valley. Charming guest house, 3 car garage, 36 x 48 sq ft barn w/ hayloft, paddocks & large shop. Pasture is fenced, property borders USFS & State land... easy access to Twisp River. \$699,000

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Minimize Your Fire Impacts!

(Continued from page 8)

The thickness of the mound is critical for insulating the surface underneath from the heat of the fire, and to prevent the ground cloth from melting. The circumference of the mound should be larger than the size of the fire to allow for the inevitable spreading of coals. It may take more than one bag of soil to make an adequate mound.

After the fire is out and you are ready to break camp, scatter the small amount of ash and coals well away from camp and return the mineral soil to its source.

The advantage of the mound fire is that it can be built on flat exposed rock or on an organic surface such as litter, duff or grass.



Portable Fire Pans

A fire pan is a metal tray with rigid sides at least three inches high. Metal oil drain pans and some backyard barbecue grills make effective and inexpensive fire pans. A few outdoor companies are beginning to market lightweight versions. When using a fire pan, elevate the pan with rocks or line it with

several inches of mineral soil gathered from a downed tree hole or stream side so the heat does not scorch the ground.

Please be responsible with fire this summer and always make good decisions and plan ahead for your fire. Please don't leave ground damaged like in these photos. ↻

National Trails Day – What Did YOU Do?

For the Sept/Oct 2011 issue of the Trailhead News, we will be focusing on what you did on National Trails Day. Please email articles recapping NTD and include your chapter(s), location, names of members involved, total number of hours worked and if any grant money was used, along with photos and captions to Crissy at bchw@wamedia.com.

All articles due 8:00 a.m. August 1, 2011.

Editor's Note:

Articles: 600-word max with two (2) photos, WMS will edit for grammar and spelling (not rewrite). Must submit article in 600 words or less.

Grants: Grant work articles have first priority in The Trailhead News. Please type "Grant Article" in subject line when emailing the article to us.

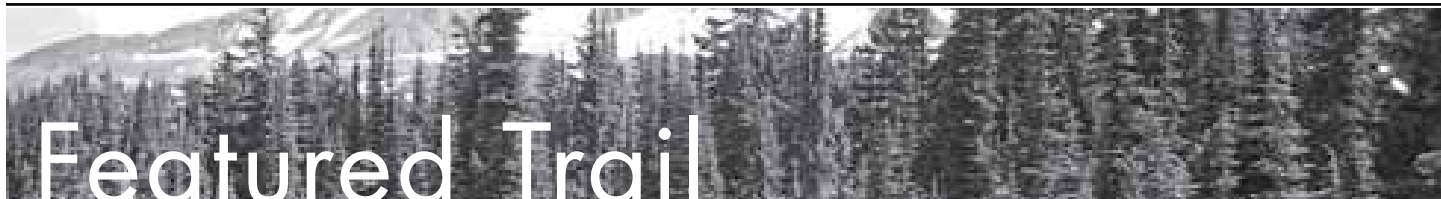
To promote the use of grant money, remember to include:

- What the project grant money was used for, including details of project (location, date).
- Where the grant came from and the amount.
- A list of volunteers/volunteer groups.
- The total number of hours worked on project.

Other Content: Legislative issues, land issues, trail work parties, VIP rides, fundraiser rides and riding in the back country to include involvement of more than one chapter or large organized group.

Photos: Please send two photos with your article, and capture the front of your subject (NO BEHINDS, PLEASE). Photos need to include name of person(s) in the photo from left to right, location of photo, and person who took the photo. Please do not embed the photos in the article. Send photos as separate files. Remember to double-check the spelling of all names.

To Submit Articles, Photos and Events for the Calendar or for Questions, Contact: Crissy at bchw@wamedia.com, (360) 754-4543



Featured Trail

Haney Meadow

By Robert Eversole, BCHW Tahoma Chapter

Most people in Washington's Back Country Horsemen community have heard of Ken Wilcox; our patron saint of back country equestrian trails. Many people have at least a passing knowledge of Ken's namesake horse camp near Haney Meadow. Far fewer people have actually made the journey to the Ken Wilcox Horse Camp and enjoyed wonderful camping, scenery, and outstanding views in this gem of a spot.

For the uninitiated, Haney Meadow is located on the eastern side of the Cascades about thirty miles north of Ellensburg off of Highway 97 at Blewett Pass. Once you exit the smooth rolling highway asphalt you and your favorite riding buddy are greeted by approximately ten miles of rather rough Forest Service road into camp. This sometimes bone-jarring, consistently narrow and uphill drive is the price of admission into a

Photo by Robert Eversole



high country wonderland of miles of trails, meadows, fantastic rock formations, and blissful solitude.

The camp's elevation of about 5,500 feet makes this a summer riding destination. Trying to make your way into the meadow prior to Washington's unofficial July 5th start of summer can be uncertain at best. By the time you're reading this, conditions should be pretty favorable for a visit.

Once you arrive in camp you'll be impressed. The campground has been specifically designed for equestrian use and has 19 campsites with fire pits, picnic tables, vault toilets, a central meeting area, as well as horse-friendly amenities such as hitch rails and highline posts. Stock water is readily available in camp via well pump, and near camp, just below the cabin, at Naneum Creek. Potable water is not available so bring your own.

Of course, while we all appreciate a well-maintained and thoughtfully constructed horse camp; it's the trails that we seek out. Haney Meadow will not disappoint in that respect.

The trails start at higher elevations and stay high, with generally mild elevation gains and losses as you traverse the ridges nestled between the wild Cascade crest and the more open desert regions found to the east. These trails are multi-use, so you'll be sharing them with hikers, mountain bikers, and ORVs.

Stands of fir and ponderosa pine conjure feelings of quiet shady mountain woods and the vast fields of spring wildflowers add plenty of color contrast against the deep blue sky and dark evergreens. Occasional views of Mount Rainier are available as well as a myriad of other peaks in the eastern Cascades.

(Continued on page 11)

BCHW TAHOMA CHAPTER

Presents

21st Annual Prize Ride

SATURDAY, 9/10/11

Ride the Danville-Georgetown Trails
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For every can of Food donated
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www.tahomabchw.org

Haney Meadow

(Continued from page 10)

Expect to see wildlife in abundance throughout the area. Elk are regulars in Haney Meadow itself and are frequently seen on or near the trails and even in camp. A brief note regarding Haney Meadow itself; although the tranquil meadow appears to be a good place for a gallop or graze, it's actually quite dangerous due to the area's mining past that left sink-holes in the open area as a legacy.

Before you head out, remember that Haney Meadow is located in the Wenatchee National Forest and all livestock users are required to use certified weed-free hay or processed feed, also be sure to have your Northwest Forest Pass when you're there.

In keeping with Ken's role in the creation of the horse camp, the Wenatchee chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington helps to maintain the camp and trails in this area. Help

Photos by Robert Eversole



preserve access to these trails by following all Leave No Trace guidelines and protocols.

As always, for more information on this and other great riding areas in Washington and beyond visit www.TrailMeister.com. 🐾

State Vet Recommends Easing of Horse Movement Restrictions

OLYMPIA — Washington horse owners can begin to breathe a little easier, as it appears the recent outbreak of the neurological form of **Equine Herpes Virus 1 (nEHV-1)** has been contained. Concern about this potentially fatal disease of horses spread like wildfire throughout the state in May, causing many organizers to cancel long-planned horse-shows, rodeos, trail rides and parades.

The state veterinarian believes that sufficient time has elapsed for signs of nEHV-1 to appear in horses exposed at the National Cutting Horse Association Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah, as well as their stable and pasture mates. Dr. Leonard Eldridge is recommending that any horse that has not tested positive, exhibited symptoms or been exposed to a confirmed positive horse be cleared for travel.

"I continue to recommend that horses that are confirmed positive for nEHV-1 or were exposed to a positive case be isolated for 28 days after all symptoms have cleared up," said Dr. Eldridge. "While the animal may appear to have recovered, it can still transmit this highly contagious disease to another horse."

Horse owners may lift the quarantine on positive or exposed animals 21 days after the end of symptoms if they receive laboratory confirmation that the animal is no longer contagious.

The state veterinarian's office continues to recommend that event organizers request temperature checks of horses before and during events.

Eight horses tested positive for the disease in Washington, four of which attended the Ogden show. None died from the virus, although one horse was put down for an unrelated health condition.

"The prompt actions of horse owners across the state limited the transmission of disease," said State Veterinarian Leonard Eldridge. "There is a lot of disappointment about cancelled events – that's certainly understandable – but it's a small price to pay to keep our animals safe from this potentially deadly virus. I want to thank all horse owners and the veterinary community for helping keep disease exposure to a minimum."

Symptoms in horses can include fever, sneezing, slobbering and other mild symptoms. Serious cases of the disease are rare, but can include staggering, hind-end paralysis and even death of the horse.

The disease is spread from horse to horse through direct contact, on feed, tack and equipment. While people are not made sick by the virus, they can carry the virus on their clothes or hands. Horse owners should carefully wash their hands and equipment to prevent the spread of the virus.

Horse owners considering vaccinating their animals should consult with their private veterinarians.

More statistics about the Washington outbreak, guidance from the state veterinarian's office and information on the disease can be found at www.agr.wa.gov and <http://www.aaep.org/ehv.htm>. Additional suspected or confirmed cases of NEHV-1 must be reported to the State Veterinarian's Office at (360) 902-1878. 🐾

Contact: Jason Kelly, (360) 902-1815
Washington State Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Reprinted from the Washington State Department of Agriculture website: www.agr.wa.gov

Membership: A Very Good Investment

By Peggy Swanberg, BCHW Okanogan Valley Chapter

I had an interesting conversation with a friend about renewing their membership. They did not want to renew because they preferred that their money remain here in the local economy. And it's true, since 2004 Okanogan Valley Chapter has sent about \$10,000 in membership dues to BCHW.

That's \$10,000 that we have to replace in order to meet our Chapter's annual budget. It puts us in a position of competition with other local groups that are also trying to meet their annual budget through assorted local fundraising efforts. Sometimes this just amounts to spreading that same dollar back and forth between us and does little or nothing to actually improve the economy.

When money is spent at the local Farmer's Market for fresh produce, it is not spent across the street at the locally owned grocery. If I can afford to buy a raffle ticket to support the Garden Club, I cannot afford to buy a ticket to support the Cultural Center, and so it goes. It is not a new dollar being spent; it is the same dollar we are just sharing.

Our Chapter President did a little research for me and found that since 2004 BCHW has returned our Chapter over \$50,500 in the form of grants and we still are eligible for another \$2,000 this year. With the exception of having to purchase products for USFS that were not available here, that money went back into the local

economy. It went to contractors, lumber and hardware stores, grocers, restaurants, mill owners, machine shops and for a few other miscellaneous purchases along the way.

That money went to capital improvements to our recreation areas. It was spent to improve or enlarge campgrounds, add high-lines and hitch rails, picnic tables, fire rings, stock ramps, signage and gates that swing. Recreation was improved in our local area for both local residents and visitors. When a visitor takes advantage of the improvements and has a pleasant experience, they are more likely to return. They are also more likely to spend their "outside" dollars in our local economy bringing in more money for all of us to share.

We all know that speaking as a large chapter can benefit us legislatively, but had we not been associated with the larger, state-wide association that is BCHW and been simply "local", we never could have made these recreation improvements even if we had kept every cent of the \$10,000 right here. The volunteer hours turned in by the member chapters across the State literally bought BCHW money and a large portion of that money flowed right back to us.

Has anybody made a \$10,000 investment lately that returned over \$50,500? 🐾

As you can see, it is important to continue supporting BCHW by renewing your membership TODAY! With your support, we can continue working to get financial backing for recreational maintenance, preservation and education at the state and local levels.

2011 BCHW

Membership Application

All adult members need to sign the form. Chapter Members: Turn in to chapter treasurer.

Independent Members mail to: BCHW ATTN: Membership, 110 W. 6th Ave., PMB 393, Ellensburg, WA 98926

I would like to help preserve the Horsemen's rights to use horses on public lands.

New Member Renewal/Past Member Mmbr #: _____ County _____ Legislative District _____

Adult Names (please print) _____

Children Names (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____ Email _____

Chapter _____ Occupation _____

Do you want to be a Volunteer? Yes No What would you like to volunteer for? _____

State membership for 2011 calendar year

Family Membership \$ 49 _____

Single Membership \$ 36 _____

Additional State Donation \$ _____

Chapter Dues \$ _____

Optional Memberships (Includes Family or Single Membership)

Contributing Member \$ 65 _____

Sustaining Member \$ 100 _____

Patron Member \$ 250 _____

Benefactor Member \$ 500 _____

Lifetime (Single) Member \$1200 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Liability Release & Notices

All ADULT members MUST sign! Adult's signature covers minor children. Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders, and spectators, and also recognizing the fact that Back Country Horsemen of Washington, including chapters, officers, directors, or members cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in Trail Rides or other BCHW functions, I do hereby release the above named from any claim or right for damages, which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Signed _____ Dated _____

Signed _____ Dated _____

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.



Please clip out and mail





2010 BCHW Chapter Accomplishments Continued...

Editor's Note: When asked for chapter accomplishments toward the BCHW mission in 2010, these great accomplishments were reported by 25 of the 34 chapters for publishing in the Trail Head News and in our report to BCHA at its National Board Meeting.

Buckhorn Range:

- Completed one major reroute, built a second reroute with heavy equipment, and provided regular maintenance to the Larry Scott Memorial Trail/Olympic Discovery Trail;
- Constructed a creek approach on the Sleepy Hollow Trail in the Olympic National Forest. Both the Sleepy Hollow Trail and the Larry Scott Trail are planned segments for the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail;
- Logged out the Lower Big Quilcene Trail in the Olympic National Forest as well as secured \$35,000 in a BCHW Title II grant for the contract replacement of three bridges. Additional funds will come from an RTP grant and a USFS CIP allocation;
- Started work on a major trail upgrade in Anderson Lake State Park using the BCHW RTP grant. Cleared a site for the delivery of 20 yards of gravel for the project and managed the delivery effort (on a roughed-in road);
- Provided stock packing assistance on the Duckabush Trail (USFS);
- Provided stock packing and work assistance on the Pine Lake Trail (USFS) along with members of the Oakland Bay Chapter and the Peninsula Chapter. Work centered on eradication of canary grass at a high mountain lake. Packing materials included landscape fabric, stakes, etc.;
- Picked up and packed out ten lbs of glass and metal from the campsites at Boullion Basin campsite at Crystal Mountain on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest;
- Logged out trails on the state park lands at Miller Peninsula;
- Assisted with the LNT class put on in Sequim funded by the Olympic National Park Active Trails grant;
- Attended the Legislative Day in Olympia and met with state legislators;
- Attended the CRT presentation of the Wildlife/Environment award (LNT) to BCHW in Washington D.C. and met with federal legislators, heads of USFS, and Dept. of Interior. This was the second of two trips in 2010 to D.C. to meet with legislators;
- Assisted with the development of a new horse park in Jefferson County. This includes site planning and booth work at the County Fair;
- Assisted the local trails coalition in promoting area trails including various multi-user work parties on the Olympic Discovery Trail;
- Provided community service work by managing the stock used for the summer youth and people with disabilities camps put on by the Kiwanis at Beausite Lake in Jefferson County;
- Provided community service work by laying out and clearing routes used by the local pony club for their annual fund raising pledge ride event. Provide on-site staffing of the trail-riding event for ensuring the safety of participants.

Mount St. Helens

- Partnered with the Washington Trail Association six times throughout the year building a new trail in Beacon Rock State Park;
- Attended the Legislative Day in Olympia;
- Participated in a multi-user group work party at Battleground Lake State Park (tread maintenance, brushing and gravel placement);
- Manned a booth at the Portland Sportsman show with the BCHO for five days;
- Participated in seven work parties at Kalama Horse Camp, maintained fifty plus miles of trails accessed from the camp;
- Participated in three work parties with DNR on the Tarbell Trail system in the Yacolt Burn State Forest. These were multi-user group DNR hosted events;
- Several members attend the Pacific Crest Trail Association's Trail Skills College;
- Completed chainsaw certification with Lewis County Chapter;
- Packed three trips with the Mt. Adams Chapter for backcountry work parties in the Mt. Adams area;
- Put on a VIP ride on 9/18. We had state legislators, Forest Service reps., State Parks reps., Clark Co. Parks and Rec. reps., Clark County commissioner, and assorted guests;
- Attended six Trail Advisory Group meetings with DNR and all user groups of the Yacolt Burn State Forest.
- Members were involved with comments to the Forest Service on the Catherine Cr. Recreation Area and the Cape Horn Trail (both in the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area).

Nisqually Chapter:

- Fulfilled its adoption agreement with DNR for maintenance of the Fall Creek Campground and 12 miles of existing trail;
- Began a 3.8-mile reroute of a portion of the trail system to move it away from an existing SMZ/RMZ and is in the process

(Continued on page 15)

2010 BCHW Chapter Accomplishments Continued...

(Continued from page 14)

of restoring salmon habitat where equestrian, bicycle and hiking user groups have damaged the stream bed and smolt rearing areas. The reroute adds trail miles to the existing system and moves the multiple user groups away from the critical areas.;

- As part of Leave No Trace, rebuilt existing and added several new manure bins in the Fall Creek Campground. Chapter members conducted several work parties throughout the year to empty these bins to a composting site and maintained the equestrian campground campsites and corrals.

Okanogan Valley Chapter:

- Hosted a VIP ride for the Washington Commissioner of Public Lands, the Washington 7th Legislative District Representatives and Senator, the Executive Director of Conservation Northwest and the local WDNr area manager for the Loomis State Forest.
- Hosted a National Trails Day event over a two-day period. Cleared and re-opened 4.5 miles of the Maple Mountain Trail (312) on the Tonasket and Republic Ranger Districts that had not been opened for the past decade.
- Conducted seven other work parties that cleared a total of 53.85 miles of trail on USFS, WDNr and WDFW administered lands in Okanogan County.
- Amassed a total of 2205 volunteer hours keeping trails open, conducting training, attending public meetings and performing necessary administrative duties as Chapter, State and National (BCHA) officers and fund raising. In so doing, chapter members drove over 10,000 miles and used pack and saddle stock for 65 days.
- Continued efforts to secure and develop the Whistler Canyon trailhead property. Facilitated meetings with the US Forest Service, the US Bureau of Land Management, Okanogan County and the Pacific Northwest Trail Association to make this dream a reality. Pushed for completion of landline surveys, property line adjustments and necessary NEPA evaluation and documentation to begin construction of the trailhead facility and reconstruction of an old stock driveway that ties the proposed trailhead to the Whistler Canyon Trail (100) in early 2011.
- Ended the year with 73 members.

Peninsula Chapter:

- Trail work: basic – 893 hrs, skilled – 1,173 hrs, and recon. – 44 hrs;
- Public work: LNT education – 629 hours, administrative service – 436 hours, and public meetings – 40 hours;
- Travel: driving – 665 hours, personal vehicle miles – 14, 614 miles, and hauled stock – over 3946 miles;
- Operated power equipment – 121 hours, and heavy equipment – 73 hours;
- We put 121 stock on the trails for 154 stock days of packing;
- In the Olympic National Forest – USFS, we accomplished trail tread and downed tree removal on system trails from the Bogachiel on the west to the Duckabush on the east and all trails in between. We are called whenever there is a troublesome tree to remove to make trails safe to travel. We also maintained the Mt. Muller/Littleton horse camp and trailhead. We packed water to a dry camp for WCC trail crew and hauled camp and tools out for a SCA crew. We planted four high lakes with cutthroat trout in the White Pass area;
- In the Olympic National Park – NPS, we planned and presented a three-day basic course in LNT to over 45 attendees. This was accomplished in conjunction with the ONP receiving an Active Trails grant. BCH chapters made additional donations, which were matched by the National Park Foundation. We coordinated the ONP Mule Barn day where attendees can see and practice the “why” and “how” of packing in stock. Packers were given mules and gear. Folks could observe and have hands-on practice on knots, manteing and hanging the loads on the 18 willing, working Park mule pack string. Because we are a respected group with recognized capacity and capabilities, we were called by the Park to evacuate an injured hiker from the Elwha trail system;
- With the Department of Natural Resources, we formed a collaboration of DNR, ONP, BCH, Gray Wolves, Bell Hill, and Olympic Discovery Trail Thursday Trail Crew to remove and replace a failed 35-foot stock bridge, re-grade 60 feet of trail tread and turnpike 80 feet of active slide area on a trail that was closed to stock due to the failed bridge. This was our 2010 National Trails Day project;

*(Continued on page 16)***BCHW
Benevolence**

A remembrance of your loved one can be made to BCHW. For more information, please call Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at **253.709.5052**

Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction

under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a “trade or business” and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this “trade or business”). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your 2011 taxes.

My Two-bits Worth

By Lloyd Odell, BCHW Ferry County Chapter

Sometimes we just gotta tough it out.

It's been kind of a challenge this spring. The weather's been cold, and winter has lasted a whole bunch longer than anybody thought it would. Snow's still deep in the high country, and it's hard to tell when we'll ever get up there. The snow is starting to melt, but it's coming off so fast every creek in the country is over its bank. Lambert Creek has washed out the road to Horse Camp, and camp itself is looking pretty weather-beaten. On top of everything else we've got this Equire Herpes Virus issue going on. Everything just looks terrible! Whatever are we going to do?

We're gonna cowboy up, that's what! It's a real temptation to just give up when things get tough. Forget about riding, forget about trails, and forget about everything!! Curl up in a ball, watch old Westerns, and just quit.

Well boys and girls, that ain't how the West was won. It doesn't matter much what kind of trouble we have to face; as a group we can do it! All we have to do is want to. If we want to hard enough we can do anything.



Access to Lambert Creek Horse Camp was made difficult after Forest Service Road (2056) was washed due to the rain and snow melt.

We have a lot to be thankful for, and sometimes things happen, and that's just the way it goes.

The snow will melt eventually, the sun will start shining, the creeks will calm down and the mud will dry out. The Horse Virus will run its course. Then we can start solving problems. It's looking a little grim right now... but like the saying goes, "Tough times don't last. Tough people do." When we all pull together, it makes any job easier. I couldn't ask for a better group of compadres to work with. Let's take it easy and catch our breaths. Before you know it, we'll see each other at the trailhead. 🐾

2010 BCHW Chapter Accomplishments Continued...

(Continued from page 15)

- With Washington State Parks, we compiled and coordinated our Miller Peninsula community based parks improvement plan to construct four minimal impact trails and a trailhead to enhance safety and provide loop ride capability;
- Due to our recognized skills and capability, we were asked by North Olympic Land Trust to design and construct a 65-foot-long, single stringer foot log across Elk Creek about two miles outside of Forks, WA. In 2010 we assessed the site and built the project plan;
- We hosted the LNT stock display and presentation at the Cabelas Lacey store;
- Our chapter served on the BCHW Awards review committee. We reviewed nominations and selected award winners for the various BCHW awards which were presented at the 2010 Rendezvous;
- We held 11 chapter rides where we practiced LNT and solicited new members;
- Our chapter constructed and members adopted reaches of the Olympic Discovery trail, which is our part of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST);
- We had a chapter display presenting LNT during the week-long Clallam County Fair.

Skagit:

- Completed mapping and GPSing the entire Les Hilde Trail system;
- Raised \$3,000 to contribute to DNR graveling the west trailhead parking area;
- Served on three committees with federal, state, county and tribal communities: addressing Hansen Creek trailhead and connecting trail for the PNTA, working with Federal, state, county, fisheries, and tribal communities on using draft horses in salmon restoration on the Day Creek Water Shed this summer, saving the county \$5,000 every day the horses work;
- Posted the Les Hilde Trail system on the web at <http://www.trailmeister.com/washington/leshilde/leshilde.html>;
- Skagit Chapter maintains the entire 100-mile trail system.

Tri Rivers:

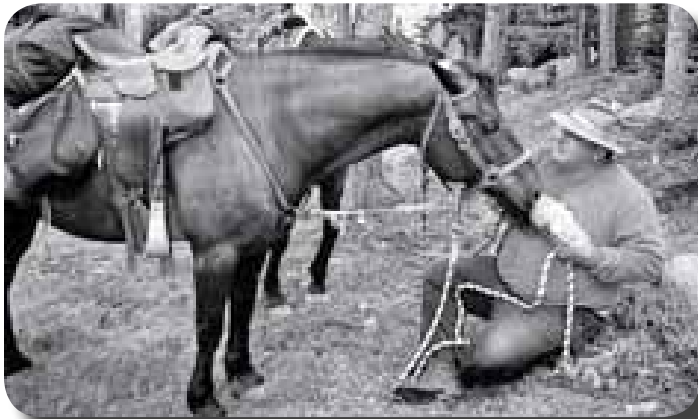
- Worked on trail maintenance for the following trails: Lightning Creek, Louis Lake, North Lake, South Pass, Foggy Dew, Reynolds Creek, Slate Creek, NER/Monse Area, and North Summit;
- Total Trail Miles/Distance Maintained – 49.5 miles;
- Distance Traveled to Maintain Trails – 99 miles;
- Trail Work: basic – 140 hrs, skilled – eight hrs, and recon. – five hrs;
- Stock hauling travel – 1,550 miles
- Personal Equipment – eight power hours
- Horses/Mules: stock head – 38, total days – 40 🐾



Al Brenner

By Arlene Brenner, BCHW Tahoma Chapter

Al Brenner recently passed on to the big ranch in the sky. He was a very active member of BCHW, and served as State Director in 1997. Al was also a founding member of the Tahoma Chapter. He worked tirelessly with the US Forest Service to keep trails open for all horsemen, and was very involved with the BCHW Rendezvous when it was first held in Roy, Washington. Al loved riding and camping in the mountains, and spent many happy hours working on trails and with the BCHW "Treading Lightly" program. 🐾



Al and Misty Miss share a snack.

2012 Raffle Calendars Are Here

Contact your Director or Dave Sunde at dsunde@starband.net, 509-486-1547 or Vicki Clark at hrrleerydr@gmail.com, to purchase your raffle calendar and get a raffle ticket put into the drawing.

There are 11 – \$300.00 monthly drawings and one \$3,000.00 drawing for the Grand Prize in December 2012.

Each time a monthly ticket is drawn, it is placed back into the raffle container. Your ticket could potentially be drawn 11 times before the Grand Prize drawing!

**Buy Your Raffle Calendar EARLY
for the most chances to WIN!**

LNT Master Stock Trainer, Olympic Chapter

By Lenny Harris, BCHW Tahoma Chapter

The phone rang and it was Jane Byram, BCHW LNT Chair. She wanted to know if I would like to go to Ninemile in Montana for the Leave No Trace Master Stock Class. Of course I said "Yes!" Jane said my tuition would be paid with the funds raised from the Saw Raffle at Cabela's. That night the Olympic Chapter voted to pay for the rest of my expenses. So I went home to start packing for a week of learning to be a Master Stock Trainer.

Steve Reppert and I pulled into Missoula, Montana, on Sunday night and started class at Ninemile on Monday morning. Our instructors were Bob Hoverson, Smoke Elser of Montana, and Fred Ybright of Utah. It was a very busy week of classes starting with Monday and Tuesday doing our presentations. Mine was on "Leave What You

Find". We had to teach everyone about our subject in 30 minutes. Tuesday we were taken up to the old CC Camp with all of our supplies and told that we had to pick an area and set up our tents. When that was done we had to go up to the wall tent for more classes. On Thursday we were taken to another area and in groups of three we had to plan a five-day pack-in trip from beginning to end. Finally on Friday, I graduated with the rest of the class!

It was such an honor to be there to learn and experience so much. I want to say "THANK YOU" to the Olympic Chapter and Jane Byram for believing in my dream to LNT. I am looking forward to teaching as many as I can and helping everyone to take care of what we have. Thank you again! 🐾



The Trailhead News
BCHW
110 W 6th Ave. PMB 393
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

2011 Calendar of Events

- Check with the ride host on whether or not weed-seed-free feed is required by law.
- Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event.
- Practice LNT so the ride host will be able to use the land again.

Please send us your events. There is a **9-line maximum** to include: name of event, sponsoring chapters, date of event, cost (if any), register by date, location, contact person, phone number, and email address or website.

NW Regional Trail Challenge & Prize Ride

July 9th, 9:30-11:30 am Ride Out
@ Harry O Trailhead in Hamilton
Camping available
Piper Fecht: (425) 210-9711
PiperF8@aol.com
www.CascadeHorseClub.org

Olympic Chapter Western Dream Ride

July 15-17, 2011
Flying Horseshoe Ranch, Cle Elum, WA
Lynne Smith: (360) 895-0127;
iluvbmds@wavecable.com

Mount St. Helens Chapter Annual Fun Ride

July 16, 2011, Kalama Horse Camp
First rider out at 8 am
Short and long loop rides available
\$5 registration fee that includes lunch
Rick Johnson: (360) 314-2017
or 360-606-8862
johnson2194@comcast.net

Ferry County Steak/Poker Ride

July 29-31, 2011
Lambert Creek Horse Camp, Republic, WA
Jerry Downs: (509) 775-3218
fcbchw.org

Tahoma Chapter Prize Ride

September 10, 2011, Maple Valley, Wa
\$750 Cash Prizes & Loads of Other Prizes
\$20/Rider inc. lunch & tickets to win
Nancy Lee: (206) 786-3726
Nancyomax@aol.com
www.tahomabchw.org

LNT Train The Trainer

September 16-18, 2011
Indian Camp – Middle Fork Teanaway
Cost: \$90.00, limited space
Jane Byram: (509) 997-7407
LNTJANE_3@hotmail.com

Cascade Horse Club Prize Ride

September 17, 2011
Pilchuck Tree Farm, Arlington, WA
Riders out 9-11am, \$7 1st hand/\$5 addn'l
Lunch available for purchase. Great prizes!
Wendy Kondo: (425) 478-9789
kondoqueen@windermere.com
www.cascadehorseclub.org

Island County Chapter Annual Russell Maugan's Raffle Ride, Treasure Hunt and Chili Cook-Off

September 17, 2011, Whidbey Island
Kerry Graves: (360) 544-8406
kerry53@comcast.net
Diana Putney: (360) 321-5631
glputney@whidbey.com

BCHW 3rd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

September 24, 2011
Kittitas Valley Event Center
Ellensburg, WA

BCHW, USFS & State Land Managers Meeting

December 2, 2011
Kittitas Valley Event Center
Ellensburg, WA

BCHW 4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

December 3, 2011
Kittitas Valley Event Center
Ellensburg, WA

NOTE: Due to the Equine Herpes Virus 1 outbreak, event dates may have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please call chapter event contact person to confirm date of event.

Attention BCHW Members! If you have any cancellations or rescheduled events due to the Equine Herpes Virus 1 outbreak, please email Crissy at bchw@wamedia.com by August 1, 2011 for the Sept/Oct issue.