

## WHY VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE IMPORTANT

- ☺ **Volunteerism** is one of the most important activities that BCHW can use to support our effort and mission of perpetuating enjoyable and common-sense stock use in the back country. It helps keep trails open for all types of users, hikers' bikers and of course equines. It shows us as a good neighbor with the community, youth, and other user groups by ensuring that public lands remain open to recreational use.
- ☺ **Volunteering is our clout**, Legislators and land managers know that our volunteer hours are an asset and gives credibility to BCHW during discussions with them. Volunteers perform work that would not otherwise get done when government funding is cut.
- ☺ **Volunteering** and recording those volunteer hours with your chapters and with the State, gives BCHW Chapters an opportunity to participate in grant programs that can augment government funding cuts.
- ☺ **Volunteering** has a positive effect when talking with our partners. It shows that as a user group we take responsibility for keeping our public lands in good condition for future generations. It helps overcome negative opinions about sharing trails and enhances our image as stock riders on trails.
- ☺ **Volunteering** gives a sense of pride, brings a positive attitude to the chapter, and promotes teamwork by planning, building, and maintaining trails and trailheads.
- ☺ **Volunteerism and Education** is a big part of our organization from Leave No Trace classes, Saw Certification instruction, First Aid training and other equine related programs.
- ☺ **Without volunteers, trail workers and staff people alike, our organization wouldn't be what it is now.**

## WHY VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE IMPORTANT

The Volunteer Hours and corresponding dollar amounts to those hours are reported on the annual IRS tax return, called the "990." The dollar amounts put a value on our many hours spent each year working on BCHW's mission statement. The importance of capturing ALL the Volunteer Hours that BCHW volunteers put in year is to prove to the IRS we are a

1. Bonafide non-profit
2. Quite a few of the larger donors will look at the 990 to see how much time volunteers are devoting towards this non-profits mission.
3. Accurately reporting Volunteer Hours can also make going after larger NGO (non-government organization) grants much easier.

Teri Starke, Back Country Horsemen of Washington,

[treasurer@bchw.org](mailto:treasurer@bchw.org)

State Treasurer, Ways and Means & Rendezvous Chair, (253)709-5052