



June 8, 2020

Hello BCHW Members,

It pains me to no end to send this email but here is our current situation regarding the 2020 BCHW Statewide Work Party.

Given that Okanogan County just entered "Phase 2" on June 5th, the soonest they can be considered for "Phase 3" where we would need to be to conduct our State Wide Work Party [SWWP] legally is the week of June 26th.

We knew that to have a successful and safe event that planning would have to start early and hope the COVID-19 pandemic would give way to moving to the next re-opening phase based on schedule laid out by the Governor. This did not happen due to multiple outbreaks within the Okanogan County. We called and talked with an Okanogan County commissioner looking to solicit some good news or reassurance that the county would successfully move into "Phase 3" by July 1st.

We were advised to not procure all the needed supplies for the work party because it was highly likely that they would not enter "Phase 3" till after the 4th of July holiday. After meetings with the Methow Valley Ranger District and BCHW Methow Valley Chapter it was decided to error on the side of caution and cancel the event.

I hope this email allows you adequate time to reschedule your holiday weekend or to find another smaller trail project to participate in. I prefer the later choice.

For those that planned to attend for the first time, we have been here once before. Then it was a forest fire that burned into fall snows and now a global pandemic that caused the cancelation of State Wide Work Party. So I hope you will consider once again investing into our trail system in 2021 and attend next year's SWWP.

Respectively,

Jason Ridlon

Special Project Coordinator

BCHW State President