

Mt. St. Helens BCH

BCHW

October 2023

**Some People Think I'm Unhappy,
But I'm Not.
I Just Appreciate Silence In A World That
Never Stops Talking .**



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The mission of this organization shall be:

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

NEXT MEETING:

**November 13TH 6PM—9PM
ROUND TABLE PIZZA—
SALMON CREEK**

Volunteer hours:

**Don't forget to email Judy Smith with
your volunteer hours.**

Trailridenbuddy@yahoo.com

*****Note *****

**The new dates due will allow Judy the time she has to get
them in by the 1st of the month**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

REPORTING PERIOD	DUE TO JUDY NO LATER THAN...
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1st Quarter (Oct 1—Feb 29)	Feb 25th
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2nd Quarter (Mar 1-May 31)	May 25
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3rd Quarter (Apr 1-Aug 31)	Aug 25
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4th Quarter (Sep 1-30)	Setp 25
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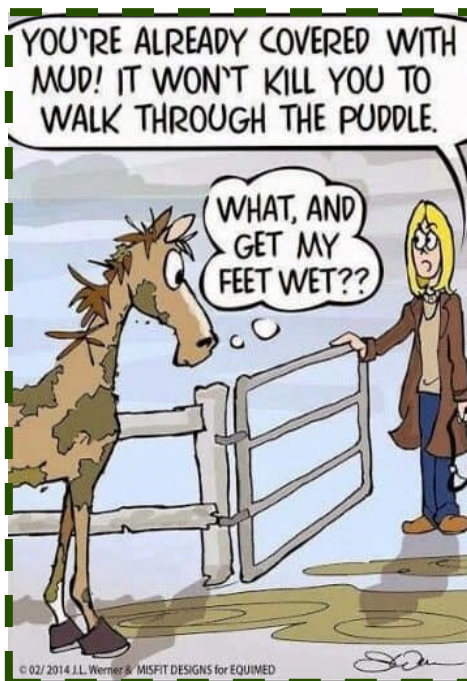
From our Director

Hello all

At our Sept. meeting we decided on doing a work party on Oct. 7th to brush out the Fossil Trail from the North side on around to the bridge. We kept that date and I was able to wrangle three people from WTA to join us. Altogether we had eleven volunteers. We ran brush cutters, loppers hedge trimmers hand saws and pole saw to get the work done. The work went so well we even had time to do a little tread work to widen out a short section by one of the snow chutes. The day was a perfect fall day and the fall colors from the maple trees and huckleberry brush was beautiful. A report of the days work with pictures was sent to the forest service.

A representative from the forest service was suppose to give a presentation about the Sustainable Trails Plan at the Oct. meet-

ing but she came down with Covid so had to cancel. I am on this committee and we are starting to get down towards the end and a plan will be presented next spring. This plan will set down criteria for evaluating all of the



trails in the Gifford Pinchot to rate them. It's intent is not to close trails but decide the best path of maintenance and if needed to make reroutes to avoid environment destruction. A period of public comment has just ended so all of the comments will be looked at and taken into consideration.

Nominations are being taken for officers for BCHW. The election will take place next June. If you are interested in offices there let me know as I'm on the committee.

Thanks to all for all you do.

Jim

2022 Officers

DIRECTOR

Jim Anderson
360.835.5719
muleman1951@gmail.com

PRESIDENT

Brian Jansen
360.263.6559
Bjbigch@aol.com

ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

Gary Collins
360.892.7683
gcinbp@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Evans
360.263.1529
pkevans@tds.net

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

Dan Brooks
360.574.2909
dan_the_realestate-
man@yahoo.com

Nancy Rust
360.609.4284
alrust@comcast.net

TREASURER


Gudrun Mahr
360.263.3137
Gmahr@carbonates.com

SECRETARY

Jan Schmalenberger
360.609.0928

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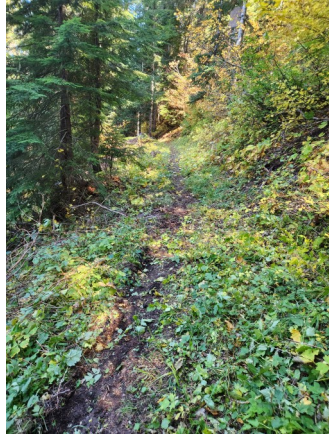
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October 2023



2022 Appointed Chairs

VOLUNTEER HOURS CHAIR

Judy Smith
360.798.5927
trailridenbuddy@yahoo.com

CCEHC CO-LIAISONS

Sally Kiger
360.749.1584
kigersallyj@gmail.com

Jan Schmalenberger

360.609.0928
cjschmalenberger@gmail.com

SUNSHINE

Vacant

HISTORIAN

Judy Smith
360-798-5927
trailridenbuddy@yahoo.com

Dear Member!!

Welcome to the Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) for 2024. Your dues include membership in the Back-Country Horsemen of America (BCHA), the leading national horse & mule trail advocacy organization with over 11,000 members in 31 states.

Regardless of your level of participation in the various activities sponsored by BCHW and the BCHW chapters, your presence, even if only evidenced by your official membership, is vital to keeping trail access open to horses and mules in Washington. BCHW members and their approximately 61,000 plus annual hours of volunteer labor on public service and legislative work each year have proven meaningful to local and state legislators. Public land managers and other user groups have listened attentively and have come to rely on BCHW's support and volunteer efforts to help keep lands open for all users. BCHA advocates for recreational trail access for all of us at the national level.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the trails, at a work Party or a Fun Ride!!

Dana Chambers

Dana Chambers, President BCHW

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From our President

Fall is here, the rain has returned, and the pastures are green again. And the horses are very happy about that. Fall also signals that it's time to celebrate the end of another riding season and prepare for the start of a new Back Country Horseman year.

To celebrate, many across the state enjoy the Wine Ride weekend on October 28, near Zillah, WA. Barb Thomas and Nancy Rust assure me it will be great again this year. We also will be planning our annual Christmas party with WTRA to be held on Dec 9. The location will be announced soon.

For all who are BCH members, it's time to renew those memberships. The BCH mission is so important to ensure that the camps and trails we enjoy across the state and the nation are maintained and available to us in the future. Renewing your membership now is the first step to support the mission. You can do so using this link <http://form.jotform.com/231627363308152>, and I encourage you to do so as soon as you can.

It's also a great time to encourage people you know who are not members to become one. There are many horse & mule owners and riders in our local area who are not members, but benefit from the work of BCH. If you know of someone like that, just asking them about it can result in a new member.

Finally, it's also time to elect our officers for next year. At the Oct meeting, our current slate of officers agreed they

would serve again if they are nominated. However if you have an interest in one of the officer positions please let us know and come to the next meeting. Nominations will be officially finalized and elections held at our next meeting on Nov 13. Hope to see there.



2022 Appointed Chairs

TRAIL BOSSES

Ken Evans
360.263.1529
pkevans@tds.net

Dan Brooks
360.574.2909
dan_the realestateman@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Sally Kiger
360.749.1584
kigersallyj@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CHAIR

Tracy Kiger
360-749-1584
kigersallyj@gmail.com

PUBLICITY CHAIR

WEB PAGE

Terri Anderson
360-835-5719
luv2tril954@gmail.com

EDUCATION CHAIR/LNT

Noelle Rodolari
360-947-8121
Noelle_r@hotmail.com

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Ken Evans
360.263.1529
pkevans@tds.net

WAYS AND MEANS CHAIR

Sheila Warne-Brooks
360.574.2909
skwarne@yahoo.com

PUBLIC LANDS CHAIR

Gary Collins
360.892.7683
gcinbp@msn.com

FUN RIDE CHAIR

Brian Jansen
360.263.6559
Bjbigch@aol.com

WORK PARTY CHAIR

Jim Anderson
360.835.5719
muleman1951@gmail.com

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Leave No Trace Training and Stock Use Techniques

Reminder Seven Principles of LNT:

- ◆ Plan Ahead & Prepare.
- ◆ Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces.
- ◆ Dispose of Waste Properly.
- ◆ Leave What You Find.
- ◆ Minimize Campfire Impacts.
- ◆ Respect Wildlife.
- ◆ Be Considerate of Others.

Training course LNT Stock Use (60 minutes):

<https://learn.lnt.org/courses/take/stock-use/texts/47055351-the-organization>

Whenever you can put Leave No Trace into action, you are helping to protect all of our favorite outdoor areas—from your backyard to the back country. **It will take all of us** working together to keep up with the challenges facing natural spaces. We can negatively impact nature and the experience of getting outside in these **6 categories**: wildlife, soils, vegetation, cultural resources, water resources and other people. Cumulative impacts change an area such as a campsite. Livestock can

(LNT.org): A Guide to Minimum Impact Camping by Noelle Rodolari October 19, 2023

create a new trail with only a few passes. People create a new trail with as few as 25 passes.

Plan and Prepare

Know regulations of destination, check with rangers. Know size of party. Know conditions and route. Get permits ahead of time. Don't take your dog, they can be problematic with bears and others. Bring



tools, first aid kits for people and animals. Axe, bucket and shovel are best. Radio to contact help. Check if fires are allowed and there is enough feed for everyone. Repackage food for less trash and pack light.

Travel and Camping on Durable Surfaces

Use your judgment to select dry, rocky, sandy, gravelly soils. Stay 200 feet from water sources and trails. Don't ride horses in a single file over grassy pastures. Do ride single file

on well developed trails. Water horses 200 ft from source with buckets.

Dispose of Waste Properly

Dig a cat hole 6-8 inches deep for human waste. Feminine hygiene products should be packed out. Pack out what you pack in.

Leave What You Find

Use weed seed free feed.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Use alternatives to a campfire like propane stove. Use sticks no bigger than wrist. Use fire cloth, fire pan or existing fire ring.

Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not feed wildlife. Use secured containers for food.

Be Considerate of Others: Increased visits to parks mean more interactions between hikers, riders and outdoor enthusiasts. Communicate positively with others.

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October 2023

2023
January

February

March

April

May

June

July

15th Fun Ride

August

September

October

November

13th Chapter Meeting

December

NO CHAPTER MEETING

NOTE

Weed Free Hay is required on National Forest Lands.

***Always looking for people with a purpose/ideal/desire to take the lead and sponsor a group outing.....best if drive



Red shirts - POLYESTER - with newest logo (Front only!)



Neon Orange - COTTON - with regular logo (front & back) Ladies

time approx 5 hours or less. ***

Submitted by
Ken Evans
pkevans@tds.net

I would be happy to meet people at feed stores in:

- ◆ BG,
- ◆ Freddy's Cascade Park,
- ◆ Salmon Creek, Hazel Dell...etc.

Anyone interested, have questions...can get ahold of me directly, via either :

Email: skwarne@yahoo.com

Cell #: (360) 281-6004

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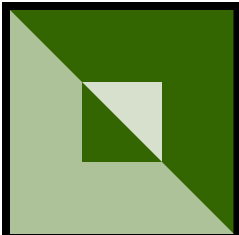
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Trail Savvy: Why Use Hoof Boots?

August 10, 2023 by Robert Eversole

Unveiling the Truth Behind Equine Footwear

Hoof boots—we've all heard of them, and it's a love-or-hate relationship for most. I tried boots from four manufacturers a few years ago and promptly returned to traditional steel shoes.

Steel has worked for me for years. Other than a few sprung shoes, failures have been minimal at worst.

So why try boots again? Technology is constantly improving, and hoof boots are no exception. Hoof boot manufacturers have added new models aimed at the trail riding and mule market and new materials that aim to resolve many of the issues I encountered when I last tried boots.

I like that boots provide better traction in slick rock areas and preserve hoof structure and integrity by forgoing the nail holes left after each re-shoe. I also like the idea that boots should better accommodate the dynamic structure of the equine hoof. Unshod hooves are flexible and give in response to their movement, and

this flex influences blood circulation in equine hooves.

So, what does success with hoof boots look like?

Comfort is Key: The older I get, the more I understand the importance of comfort; not just for myself but also for my critters. Hoof boots allow the hooves to flex and move freely. This movement should result in less discomfort and soreness for our animals, making their rides more enjoyable. Since our animals don't get to choose when or where we're heading, their comfort should be a top priority.

Keep Hooves Healthy: Experienced horse owners know the saying "no hoof, no horse." Plastic hoof boots should reduce damage to the hoof walls, and they don't require altering the hooves through nailing which should allow our horses to maintain their natural hoof integrity better.

Easy Application: I like easy. Some of the previous boots we tried were a pain. Boots shouldn't take an excessive amount of effort to put on and take off. With user-friendly features such as adjustable straps and closures, boots should be able to be easily adjusted quickly and removed. Hoof boots should save us time and effort and make our lives simpler.

Save Some Money: From vet bills to equipment purchases, equine expenses rapidly add up. But plastic hoof boots offer a cost-effective alternative to traditional metal shoes. Not only are they durable and can withstand wear and tear, but they are also only used while riding, and this equals less frequent replacements and more money in our pockets. By opting for boots, we can save on long-term hoof care costs.

Non-Invasive Solution: At this stage in my life, I appreciate non-invasive options, and I'm beginning to feel the same for my mules. Preserving our horses' natural hoof structures without nail holes is a reasonable expectation, and plastic hoof boots fit the bill perfectly.

A Perfect Fit: Our horses come in different shapes and sizes, just

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October 2023

Hi-Line recommendation for Hidden Falls

First a little History, 2 summers ago Judy Smith and I, Ron Prentice, went riding out of Rock Creek Horse Camp. We rode out and tied up at the Hidden Falls High-Line on the flat area just above the Falls to have lunch and enjoy the view. The Hi-Line was the only place you could safely tie 3-4 horses while having lunch and viewing the Falls within ¼ to ½ mile from the Falls. Without it, you can only ride to the Falls for a quick look and then turn around and go back or continue riding the Tarbell Trail. The Hi-Line had been in place for over 30 years.

Later that summer, we returned to ride to the falls and found the High-Line gone!

I called DNR district office and was told that it was deemed unsafe and was torn down. Bare in mind, this was two years ago. So, I asked when it would be replaced so people could tie up at the falls instead of having to ride a quarter mile back up the trail out in the timber to tie up. I was told they were assessing the situation and would get back to us as we were the first to complain about it missing so the DNR didn't deem it important. We called again this spring and were met with the same response.

Finally, we reached out to the State DNR Director of recreation, Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, and she

called Sharon Steriti, acting Recreational Areas District Manager out of the Castle Rock DNR Dist. Office. Sharon then e-mailed Judy and I, Jim Anderson and Barbara Thomas, wanting to set up a site visit on November 8, 2023, to access the feasibility of replacing the High-line.

We are asking for at least a temporary fix for next summer 2024. It was mentioned that in 2025 DNR will be working on another bridge in that vicinity and there would be the possibility of widening the Hi-line area since the machinery would already be there for a more permanent fix.

There has been discussion of a Hitch Rail being installed but it has been decided that the area at this time is too small for a safe Hitch Rail. The way the area is now, replacing the High-Line would be the only safe way to fix the issue without a lot of dirt work and where to put the dirt that widening the area would create.

It's important to let the DNR know just how important this Hi-Line is to the Equine user's enjoyment of Hidden Falls. We are asking everyone who receives this to please either e-mail or call with your comments and opinion stating how important this Hi-Line is to Equine users enjoying Hidden Falls.

<http://www.sharon.steriti@dnr.wa.gov>
360-852-3390 Acting Recreation Manager in charge of the Pacific Cascade Region which includes Rock Creek Horse Camp and trails.

and or [http://](http://www.kristin.ohlson.kiehn.wa.gov)

www.kristin.ohlson.kiehn.wa.gov 360-701-9059 who is the WA. Sate Division Manager of DNR for Recreation and Conservation.

If you e-mail, please cc at least one of us so we know how much support we have from members at the Nov. 8 meeting with the DNR. Also, if you call, please let one of us know.

Ron Prentice, cat-hunterrp@yahoo.com
[509-846-9526](tel:509-846-9526)

Judy Smith, trailridenbuddy@yahoo.com
[360-798-5927](tel:360-798-5927)

Thank You,
Ron Prentice, Judy Smith, Barbara Thomas, and Jim Anderson





Mount St. Helens Chapter

www.mountsthelens-bchw.org/

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PO Box 418
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