



Get to Know Jason Ridlon (BCHW President)

For those of you who don't know the path that has brought me to this trailhead let me give you some insight into the ride I have taken.

BCHW has been a big part of my life since May 2008. My story is unique in that until 2005 I never owned horses or mules. In 2001, I rode my first trail horse with Rick Henderson. At that time, we both worked for H&D Logging Company. I had spent my life up until then traveling trails by foot, mountain bike, and motorcycle. I never dreamed a horse could bring so much more. By 2003, I had made a few trips into the back country with both Rick Henderson and Steve Plesha. These gentlemen were both some of the original founding members of the BCHW Alpine Lakes Trail Riders Chapter (centered in Cle Elum area).

By 2007, yes only two years into stock ownership, I had an axe to grind "The Trails are not passable to me and my stock" that brought me to Tim Foss (Trails Manager for the Cle Elum Ranger district). Tim channeled my concerns and energy to Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW). He challenged me to get involved!

Boy howdy! I did just that, I joined a BCHW chapter in May of 2008 and since that time, I have been at most every BCHW Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, traveled to 6 BCHA Directors meetings across the USA, traveled countless miles on my stock performing trail work across Washington State, and been involved in countless hours of meetings concerning our trail systems.

Yes, the seed was planted and it grew. Why do I start my story with my past? Well that's how the seed grew to allow me to reach the position of BCHW President.

And now as I continue in my 2 year term as the BCHW President, a time when the organization always anticipates change, I will be making adjustments and influence change within BCHW as we move forward.

Feel free to contact me by emailing president@bchw.org