



Get to Know Tina Short (BCHW Secretary)

Seems like I have been around equine since before I could walk. I have pictures of me sitting on horses with a gentle hand ready to steady me in case I needed it. I grew up on a cattle ranch up by Nespelem Washington. I rode with my family and friends in various areas around Eastern Washington during my youth exploring trails and moving cattle.

Once I graduated from high school, I moved to Ellensburg and never left. I continued to ride my horse around the trails there. About 6 years ago, we started adventuring out more into the back country and noticed that more and more trails were either blocked with trees, washouts, or were closed by the land managers due to the poor trail conditions.

We reached a point where we realized that if we didn't start getting involved in some group or organization we would likely experience more of these type of conditions. I started researching what organizations were making positive impacts and found that Back Country Horsemen were leaders in this effort.

We joined BCHW in early 2018. We joined a couple of chapters and attended meetings and learned more about the organization. In 2018, we attended Rendezvous. We had fun meeting new people and taking classes such as the ladies cross cut saw class. That is where I met Tony Karniss as he was leading that class. Well I was hooked! During that weekend, we saw Jason Ridlon up on one of stages and after were further inspired by his words and passion for the trails.

Tony invited us to sawyer training and we were certified as A's in late spring that year. Tony later contacted Jason Ridlon and said you need to get ahold of these folks as they want to be involved in efforts to keep our trails open to all users. We met at Jason's shop and started talking about how we could become more involved. Well that led us BCHW newbies to be invited to the 2018 HotShot work party up in the Pasayten Wilderness. We were beginners at having to pack into the back country. But the team made us feel welcome and guided us in areas where we had questions. Since that time, we have added to our herd of 3 horses 2 great mules. We have now been on 3 HotShot work parties, attended a couple of statewide work parties, and miscellaneous other work parties. Traveled to new areas within Washington State and met some of the nicest people that share that love and advocacy for our trails.

If you ride (either front country or back country or both) and you want to help keep our trails open and accessible to stock, **my recommendation is to join BCHW**. Learn how you can make an impact. If you have questions, just ask a member! We did.

If you don't ride but want to support our mission of keeping trails open for all users, educating trail users in Leave-No-Trace practices, and providing volunteer service to resource agencies **donate to BCHW!!**

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