

Twin River BCH 2012 Annual Report

Hitchrail Fabrication January 1

Redbird Canyon, owned by Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game, has become a very popular area for day rides. We approached them about installing some hitchrails to tie to while enjoying the beach and the river. This will avoid tying to trees in the area. They agreed to purchase the materials if we would fabricate them and install them. It was a challenge to design them so they could be moved easily, as there is no road to the area. Mark Bogar was responsible for the design. Two hitchrails were fabricated to be installed at a later date at Redbird Beach on the Snake River.

Trail Classification Meeting Feb. 13

Members from TRBCH and BCH of NCI met in Orofino to review the data for the Clearwater and NezPerce NF. The meeting was very productive with agreement on almost all trails designed for pack and saddle stock being at least managed for Pack & Saddle Stock and at least a Trail Class 2. Many ATV and motorcycle trails also will be managed to accommodate pack and saddle stock.

Access & Hitchrail Fabrication February 24th

Five of us spent the day at the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife shop in Clarkston building two hitch rails and two access gates. Things went very well and we completed the project quicker than anticipated. One each will be installed at the South Fork Asotin Creek Trailhead later.

Annual Chili Ride Feb 25

This is an annual event at the Kuther Ranch. Fourteen riders braved the wind as we rode out of the canyons and enjoyed the calm down in the draws. It was a great time and good to see new and old faces and catch up on what we have been doing over the winter. Several groups of deer showed us their tails as they scampered away. No Pizza wrecks this year, so we are going to have to schedule some more fun rides before November. Bob Kuther again was a gracious host and had the heat on in the shop, the chili hot, and everything setup for the riders to dive into the delicious food after the ride. I must say, we did dive right in, as there was lots of food and it was sooo---goood!



Primeland Country Store Outdoor Show March 17th

Our chapter display was set up in a wall tent due to the wet weather. We were on hand with handouts and members to answer questions. We had some interest from prospective members. Bob Henriksen set up a LNT camp. Portable electric fences, picket lines and highlines were demonstrated. Dutch Oven cooking was demonstrated and was a hit as samples were provided. Animals were there for hands on packing, but there was very little interest. The big winner was the pony and mule rides thanks to Jim Bunch. Some of us walked several miles in circles leading the excited kids around and around.



South Fork Asotin Creek Trailhead Work Project & Fun Ride Mar. 18th

Building access to areas takes years to develop. When Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife first purchased the Smoothin Iron Ranch they put in a very small parking area at the hay shed on the South Fork of Asotin Creek. It was very difficult to park in that area for horse trailers – not user friendly for BCH types. So we have been talking to our wild life land managers to improve access for years as this is a really nice ride.

Well, things have finally come together. Pat and Mark Bogar rode up to the hayshed last weekend to check out the new parking area and work being done. We will be able to pull in past

the hayshed with a horse trailer to make a full loop turn around. As well as park numerous vehicles comfortably. So the BCH volunteered to build hitch rails and non-motorized access gates for the trailhead area, since they say we have become the experts. After meeting with them, they agreed to purchase material for two non-motorized access gates and two hitchrails. One of each will be installed at the South Fork site and the others will be stored for future locations. The thing that makes this unique is to establish our presence at access points. And because when you pull in to a trail head that has hitch rails you pretty much know it is a riding area. Most likely stock could be around.



BCH of Idaho Annual Convention & Banquet March 24th

The Panhandle Chapter really out did themselves for the convention. The facilities were fantastic and Saturday Nights Dinner sure was delicious! The restaurant in the motel had good reasonable priced food, so was real handy to just eat there and not have to deal with the traffic. Some great speakers and presenters as well as the the entertaining auction made it an exciting event.

TRBCH Chapter Display

Bob & Pat Hough did a fantastic job on our Chapter Display for the state convention! Our chapter won the traveling display and the \$299 again this year. They also got good mileage out of it, as it was set up at the Primeland Event, the BCHI Convention, and the Horseman's Ball.



Redbird Hitchrails Project & Ride, April 7th

For anyone who hasn't ridden to Red Bird Beach, this is a great opportunity for any of us to ride close to town. The weather didn't look particularly promising when we left town; there was new snow on the mountains. We were pleasantly surprised when we could see the trailhead to have such an outstanding turnout—a total of 13 riders. I need to mention that only two women braved the day—Doris Ferguson and me, Linda Lane.

Once we were all saddled and introductions were made (thanks Bob Hough for always making everyone feel welcome), we headed down the trail. It was a little slick on the top; however, it dried out after about a quarter of a mile and was a fantastic trail ride. The trees were budding

out, the creeks were running full, and we spotted a few deer on the hillside—what more can you ask for on a beautiful spring day.

The ride down took about two hours. We rounded the curve at the bottom and were surprised to find that Bill Correll and his crew had the first hitch rail already standing. We finished the work in record time, had a relaxing lunch, and headed back up the hill. The ride up was equally easy for the riders—I don't know if the horses would say the same.

There are now two sturdy hitchrails at the bottom of Red Bird for stock tying while enjoy the beach area. Thank you to all the volunteers for the work and Idaho Fish & Game Dept. for providing the materials. This is an excellent ride for getting your horses in shape. I would recommend it to anyone!



TRBCH Poker Ride May 19

The annual ride was held at Headsgate County Park this year. Holding it closer to town, we hoped to have more riders. We did not really gain in riders, but the easy terrain to ride made many of the riders happy with the area. The riding was on private property. We just used the park as a staging area because of the large parking area.

National Trails Day June 2

Four members and two forest service people went down Indian Tom and up Ranger Creek in the Umatilla NF. They cut out 25 to 30 trees, three of which were trail stoppers. The trail is now completely open. The project took about 8 hours to clear ten and a half miles. This is a real nice loop ride.

Dough Creek Adopt-A-Cabin June 16

This was our annual volunteer project for Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game at the Dough Creek Cabin in the Craig Mountains 30 miles from Lewiston, ID. Wonderful weather, a short drive, and some beautiful country lead to one of our best turnouts for a work project in several years. Seventeen riders and twenty four head of stock made the ride to the cabin on June 16th. The ride took about two and a half hours, as we had to cut some trees and brush along the trail in a few places. One plus of such a large group is we have a whole new list of Pizza Riders. Rod stepped on his lead rope to his pack animal getting off and tripped himself, Bruce Wyatt was helping clear trail and his mule decided to go to the cabin without him and John Carlisle's mule saw no reason to hang around without Bruce's mule, so it beat him to the cabin also. The line was stretched out so far that I am sure there were some other Pizza memories in the back. Crews brushed out the water line to the spring and repaired a hole in the water trough. Other crews did a cleanup on the cabin. Even washed the windows! Two string trimmers were buzzing away making fire breaks around the cabin, the hitchrails and the outhouse. Weeds to the creek and some big thistle were cut by another crew. This was a real enjoyable project, as the ride was over twice as long as the work, so it did not really seem like a work project with all the great help.



Kid's Kamp: July 11-15

Well, we pulled it off! Thirty plus energetic youths and 100 degree weather just about did the members in as we struggled with our tired bodies and the heat. Over fifty gallons of Gatorade and thirty two cases of bottled water were all gone before the week was over. We were very lucky to have drinking water at the house and the youths were very good about saving their

water bottles after the rides and filling them over and over. The efforts from all the volunteers' weekend after weekend before hand made it possible to have a fantastic facility at the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's Black's Ranch. We owe so much to all the businesses that support our efforts.

McConnell Mountain Trail Project: August 2-6.

This project was completed and Jim White reported it was a success. Ten member's ages from 16 to 86 with 11 riding horses and 9 pack animals packed in 18 miles to Fish Lake and cleared at least 7 miles of trail to McConnell Mountain. Lots of work and lots of sawing were done as this area was through an old burn. All went well – no injuries and everyone had a good time. Members that hauled stock were each paid \$50.00 for fuel and three dinners were provided by the chapter at a cost of \$422.00. The payment to members was to encourage more participation on projects. After the project, three members rode over to Two Lakes and spent a couple days relaxing and fishing.



Garfield County Fair Presentation Sept. 15

Garfield County contacted Bob Henriksen about representing TRBCH as a demonstrator at the County Fair. Bob Henriksen and Mark Bogar set up a Leave No Trace (LNT) model camp. They had some handouts for LNT and info about our chapter. They visited with attendees and did some packing demonstrations, offered hands on packing, and answered any questions about packing and LNT.

Dworshak Reservoir Fun Ride Sept. 15-16

The Corps of Engineers is interested in expanding use around the reservoir to other users. Bob Regear is interested in establishing a trailhead on his property for others to use. This ride was an exploratory trip to see what we thought of the area. Saturday afternoon the 15th found me riding around with Bob Regear looking at possible camping spots above the Dworshak reservoir. Of the three he showed me, the best one was close to his Dad's Memorial and at the end of his ribbon marked trail. The spot had trees, grass, water and a circle drive. The pot luck was chili by Kathi and chicken by the Hagenah's. This was followed with salads and cookies. Typical belly busting cuisine.

Early the next morning, our 9 o'clock departure slipped to 9 ten as the trail boss kept messing around with his GPS unit which he never did get to work. We headed South West across a grass covered plateau toward what I christened the "airport" as planes have landed there. It has a picnic table with a great overview of the reservoir near the Dam. This time it was full of sheep and monstrous dogs that threatened our horses with death. They just brought them up from Slate creek where their range was being burned up. We successfully maneuvered around them and proceeded down a road wide enough to ride side by side which promoted a lot of socialization. About 1 1/2 miles we left this road and more or less rode cross country. About this area is a great place to water your horse and fill your canteen with spring water. There was a lot of opportunity to see the reservoir and old home stead areas. Wild plums were everywhere. Small, yellow with tart skins and delicious sweet meat. There were a lot of rose hips too. Turkeys and bears had to be in "hog heaven" We arrived at the # 8.6 camp ground after 2 hours and 20 minutes in the saddle. There are 2 toilets here with a picnic table and a nice grass covered flat above it all.

The lake is 30 feet down but still some of our members rode down and let their horses drink. The lapping of the waves was spooky for the horses and you didn't want to take a third step or you'd be in for a swim. A leisurely lunch and then we took a different route back. The back trail is more of a trail and has some steep parts with viewpoints. This section of trail has little water until you get close to the top. About half way out Bob Regear has some old lake bed clay that his Dad exposed looking for water. Bob had it studied and it is something like 200 million years old. Lisa found one slab that had a leaf imprint. Interesting.

We came out in 2 hours. Bob thought it would take longer and if I could have gotten the GPS

to work we could have put some distance to it. This is a place you could ride all day or camp and visit old homesteads, logging shows, skid trails and just well managed open timber. TRBCH owes Bob a vote of gratitude for allowing us to spend a great day on his property.
Bill Correll



BCH of Idaho Director's Meeting Sept. 29

Rod & Karen Parks and Mark & Pat Bogar attended the meeting at Three Rivers Resort, hosted by the North Central Idaho chapter. It was nice to meet in an outdoor setting. It was too bad that there were so many fires in the area and it could not all be enjoyed.

November 13 Chapter Pizza Meeting

Members that fell off or got bucked off purchase pizza and provide dinner every year for our November meeting. It was true confessions night for the pizza buyers. We must be getting to be better riders or at least better at riding it out, as we did not have too many stories this year. Clumsy horses, spooking our own animals, and a mysterious critter under a horse were our

highlights. Then there was the young woman who fell off her horse as she was sitting on a standing horse. No spook, no run away, just a clumsy teenager. We are still waiting for her pizza, as for one of the first times in her life, she was too busy with homework to make the meeting.

WDF&W Gate Closing Fun Ride Nov. 23, 24, 25 ????

What an interesting weekend we had. There was a few who thought the gate closing ride was Friday after Thanksgiving, there are some that rode on Saturday, and then the weekend was ended with the rest riding on Sunday. The Friday ride did not happen. Saturday, seven members faithfully headed up to Fordyce Trailhead anticipating the rain had to stop. Well, it did not. Bob Hough hauled his chainsaw up the trail and cut out a tree across the trail so the others could enjoy the ride. They ended up enjoying the ride by stretching a tarp to weather the rain under, and a big campfire to stay warm and some greatly appreciated hot Chili. They did clean up the trailhead area during the slower rain times. Sunday, it started as a clear sunny day and lasted the entire day. Eight members came early and cleaned up the large mess left by some hunters that camped there during hunting season at the North Fork Asotin Creek Trailhead. There are three large piles of straw that will need to be burned when it dries out. There must have been a whole round bale left on the ground at the trailhead. There were also some litter and game poles to clean up.

After the cleanup we all moved up to Fordyce Trailhead and saddled up. The rest of the riders arrived and nineteen of us had a fantastic ride up Fordyce and came back down Cabin Gulch. We policed the Cabin Gulch trailhead for litter and picked up all we could find and then started a campfire to warm up our bodies as the chili was heated. Several small trees were cut out of the trail as well as many limbs were trimmed with loppers. No Pizza rides, but there are still eleven months to go.



Hellsgate State Park

The chapter agreed to sponsor the Laurel View Trail in the park and help maintain the trail. Park staff is looking for other groups to sponsor other trails in the park. The park also has plans to enlarge the parking area and provide an area for overnight camping with stock.

Christmas Party

This year we decided to potluck our meal rather than have it catered. This was to keep the cost down and also for the opportunity for many of our Kids's Kamp youths and families to attend since they are all members of our chapter so the youths can attend Kamp. The time was 2:00 pm on Sunday, Dec. 16. As usual with a potluck there was way to much food and so many choices. After the meal, there was a white elephant gift exchange with some very interesting gifts. Lots of laughs as members attempted to trade their gifts. Another first this year was donations for the Food Bank rather that Toys for Tots. It is always great to see some of those members that support us, but often cannot make many of the projects.