

Twin Rivers BCH Annual Report 2018

Jan. 27th we started the year off early with first aid training for members.

Jan. 28th was our first volunteer project clearing Redbird Trail, a multi-use trail, of brush and blackberries for Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG) near Lewiston ID using ORV's and stock.

February 22nd members were back at the bottom of Redbird Trail helping IDFG clear Tree of Heaven, an invasive species. Members were boated across the Snake River to access the work area.



February 25th was our annual Chili Ride starting at Rod & Karen Parks Place with a great potluck after the ride. The weather was pretty great this year. We enjoyed the deer and new born calves as we rode to the top of the hill and had a view of the Snake River. Our chapter has held this ride at various locations every since we were formed in 1987.

March 9-10 our chapter hosted the BCH of Idaho Directors Meeting and the Annual Convention. We really appreciated the support from all the chapters across the state. After the business convention meeting, the afternoon was dedicated to education. Some topics covered were Volunteer Hours, Officer Responsibilities, and Idaho Horse Council. Thanks to Marybeth Conger for dedication as Education Chair.

March 24th Chainsaw Certification Training. Under the recently adopted National Saw Policy, those operating chainsaws on Forest Service work projects are required to complete a nationally recognized saw training course (NRSTC). Six members from Palouse Chapter and eight from Twin Rivers Back Country Horsemen completed their training thanks to our Certified Trainers Jerry Lane and Joe Robinson.

April 15th a great spring ride up Cummings Creek, located on Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) property adjoining the Umatilla N F, an hour drive from Lewiston ID. The trail is on an old road that is closed to motorized use. There were the usual down trees to log out, but only a few, so we had time to do some heavy brushing on the way back. For the first timers, they got to check out the mine during lunch. We had dark skies, but it held off for the entire ride.

May 5 & 6, Autrey Campground is a new campground with eight hardened sites build with our chapter supporting WDFW Crews. We installed a non-motorized access gate and repaired a section of fence we built last year that elk had run through. We hope they will learn to use the new gate. We got down about 18" and then had to dig the rest by hand as there were many rocks to remove. It took us about an hour pounding rocks before we got the holes deep enough to plant the gate in concrete. Saturday, after the work, members rode through some beautiful meadows and timber and enjoyed a heard of elk. Sunday we rode the rim of the Grande Ronde River with some beautiful views.

May 12 more First Aid Training by instructors Dan Flanagan and Suzanne Grove. They provided CPR and first aid and certified some more members that could not make the first training class. Thanks to Dan & Suzanne as well as Jerry Lane for getting members certified as sawyers and first aid so we can work safely this summer.

The same day, Pat Bogar & Rod Parks did a packing demonstration near Lapwai ID for youths living in Idaho that are students at a Military Style Boot Camp located in Pierce ID. We were contacted by the Chief Joseph Foundation to provide the hands on demonstration.



May 13 Kid's Kamp Pre-ride These trails are located in the Umatilla NF and WDFW property. We had eleven members to log out the trails. With this many, we were able to split into two groups and work from both ends. There were many trees across the trail. We were still able to get the work done just before noon. We ribboned a section in Cooper Canyon for brushing to do with the kids during kamp in June. We could not have asked for better weather. Thanks to everyone that came and worked! The trail is open up the South Fork of Asotin CR, Dark Canyon, and Cooper Canyon.

June 2nd Chapter FUNdraiser Ride, IDFG land south of Lewiston ID. This is our annual money maker and member drive. We were very surprised by the amount of riders, as there was graduation for Asotin, Lewiston, and Clarkston the same day. Great weather always brings out the riders! We sold 150 hands, had a lot of fun and made a little money for the chapter. Thanks to Betty Barnes for covering all the logistics and the Kitchen Crew of Karen Parks, Susie Paulson, and Pat Hough. Then there was the setup and teardown crew that made life easy for the rest of us. Thanks!

June 3rd Dough Cr. A-A-Cabin Project, IDFG, Craig Mountain WMA south of Lewiston ID It started looking like we would not have any time for work at the cabin. Went through an entire tank of gas in the chainsaw and still were not there yet. Well, there was a fantastic crew of four. We were able to install metal flashing around the cabin and deck for fire protection and still had time to mow the grass around all the hitchrails, outhouse, and cabin. We also sprayed ground sterline around all the structures as addition fire protection. Thanks to the work crew!

June 12-16 Kid's Kamp, WDFW

We had 28 signed up by the deadline, but ended up with only 23. Members were happy for the smaller group, as we don't like to have more than 25. This year we had gun safety and care for firearms, training for hobbling stock and setting up a highline, as well as our usual LNT topics. The older youths also helped roll up some high tensile wire that we got tangled up in a couple years back as a project for WDFW for letting us use the Smoothing Iron Ranch to hold the Kamp. We had fantastic weather the entire week. As usual, we got to see the herd of elk on our rides. Billie Havens added some entertainment to the fire building training by having competition on boiling an egg after they got their fire burning. Thanks to Lisa Swanson and Linda Lane for entertaining them with lots of fun and games. Lost shoes were the only problem with the rides for a few of the horses. The new water line we installed two years ago sprang a leak. Thanks to WDFW for getting us a portable water tank and Jim Bunch for hauling the water up the hill every day in his pickup.



June 18-25 Weitas Creek Weed Spraying, NezPerce-Clearwater NF, North Fork District

The pack into the Weitas Guard Station for the first night was a little wet, as it rained right up until we headed out. The good news was the trail was cut out. The bad news, the road was not cut out, so Emily Poor, FS, did not make it to the guard station the first night with all our supplies. We will never go without have our sleeping bags and some food in the future. Luckily we got into the guard station, started a fire to dry out and found a can of chili to heat up for dinner. The next day Steve Cooper and Rod Parks cleared down trees to the pack bridge so the trail would be clear for the planned move to Windy Creek the next day. When we got back, we celebrated, as our gear arrived. Our next unplanned event was when the fill over the culvert at Lean Creek gave out and Steve's horse fell thru. His horses got skinned up getting around the bad culvert. Our next problem was two days of rain, so we could not do any spraying those days. We pulled hounds tongue one day waiting for the grass to dry. We finally had good enough weather that we got the spraying done at Windy Creek and West Virginia Flats. We had planned to take some day rides and fishing after the work was done, but with the minor problems we had, we had no time for that. We sure had a good time even with all the incidents. We had no problems on the pack out and headed up to Kelly Creek for the next pack project. Emily Poor put together a nice YouTube of the trip: <https://youtu.be/B19fOWywW0Y>

June 26-26, Great Burn Study Group Pack Support, NezPerce-Clearwater NF, North Fork District

We arrived at Kelly Creek trailhead, set up camp and waited for the Great Burn crew to show up. We started getting worried when seven pm arrived and no crew. They had brake problems on their car and had it repaired, so they were pretty late, but made it. We had six pack animals loaded with their gear and headed up to Hanson Meadows. After we unloaded the gear we ate lunch and waited for the boys to show up so we could help them set up the wall tent. We finally started setting it up without them. Still no boys, so we loaded up and headed back to the trailhead. The tracks on the trail showed they went past the trail to the meadow so we stretched bailing twine across the trail and hope they found their camp before dark. They were told the meadow was 2 miles above Bear Creek so I hope they turned around after a while.

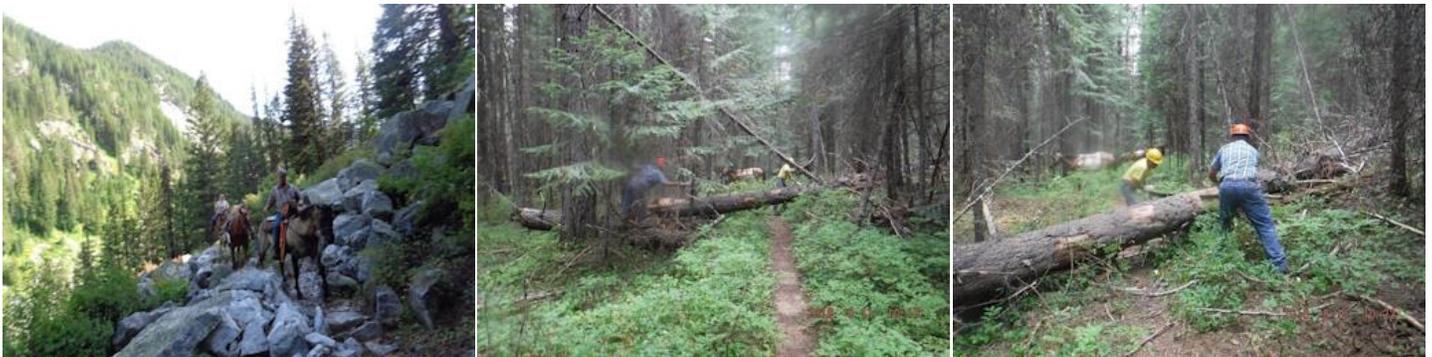


August 3 & 4, Anderson Butte Trail Clearing, NezPerce-Clearwater NF, Red River RD

Matt Bake, Joe Robinson (North Central Chapter), Jerry Lane, and Linda Lane cleared Trail No. 805 from Anderson Butte towards Meadow Creek Cabin on 4th. We arrived at the end of the road on the evening of August 3, had a fabulous steak dinner cooked by Chef Matt, and then hit the sack so that we could get an early start on Saturday. Linda picked huckleberries near our campsite on Friday night so that we could have huckleberry pancakes for breakfast to start the day off.

The first part of the trail up to the Anderson Butte Lookout was already cleared as it had been used by 4-wheelers a couple of weeks prior. The approximately four miles of the trail from the lookout down towards the cabin were fantastic with just a few trees across the trail. Jerry, Joe, and Matt made quick work of the clearing. However, when we were about two miles from the cabin, we encountered a downed tree that had wiped out the trail. We decided that it was not safe for our animals to go around this obstacle, therefore, we returned to our campsite for the night. Following our trip, Doug Olive from the Forest Service reported that he sent a crew in to repair the trail. The trail is now open all the way to the Meadow Creek cabin. On Sunday morning, Jerry and Linda Lane rode the Kirk's Fork trail to Anderson Butte lookout. Both this trail and the Anderson Butte trail are fantastic trails with good tread and beautiful scenery.

Aug. 10-14, Ten Mile Trail is a low elevation access trail to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness compared to accessing from Moore's Station. The trail is 12 miles long and 10 ½ miles are in the wilderness, so only hand tools. Were we ever happy to see that the FS had bladed the last ten miles of the road to the Ten Mile Trailhead. You could make it around the corners with trailers without having to climb the banks to keep from going over the bank and hitting trees along the edge of the road. We had beautiful weather for the entire time. Since Jerry did not get many members offering to help, he and Linda went up earlier for a weekend and logged out about three miles of trail. He anticipated that we would make it to Ten Mile Meadows on the first day, but as usual, there were too many trees down. Luckily, we were able to get around the last few of the down trees and pack some gear to the meadow. Last year, they found a new place to camp at the meadow that is on high ground for people and stock. No more sloshing through the meadow to round up your stock. Day three, Doug Olive, FS, joined us as we packed camp to the meadow and then cleared out the trees that we had gone around the day before as well as made it up the trail about a mile farther. Well, finally with the expert help from Doug and less trees down, we made it all the way to the end of the trail for a long day. Linda worked hard all day and then cooked all our meals while we enjoyed beverages. Boy are we spoiled! Since we accomplished the work a day early, we all decided to return to the trailhead and head home knowing that we had done a great job!



August 20 – 23 Elmer Creek Pack Support for Montana Conservation Corp Crew Trip #1, Nez Perce-Clearwater NF North Fork RD. Bob Hough would like to thank Billie Havens and Connie Marshall for their work and great cooking. The three of them left the smoke behind in Lewiston on August 20th and arrived at Isabella Creek Campground set up camp and had a great chicken dinner. Up early the next morning, they met a group of young workers from Montana Conservation Corps. The items to be packed in were loaded and they set out. After watering the horses, they continued up to Elmer Creek and arrived at the camp site of the work crew. The three then returned to camp. Billie and Connie took a second trip in with one loaded pack animal (Bob had to stay in camp to protect it from the bears that never showed). The following morning they took a ride up to

Mallard Point just for fun and a great view. On August 23rd after breakfast they returned for a smoky day back in Lewiston

Sept.1 Elmer CR Trip #2 Don, Rod Sangster, and Lorelei left Clarkston Friday afternoon headed for the Isabella Creek Trailhead North of Headquarters, the navigator/co-pilot (me) did a great job of getting us to the North Fork of the Clearwater River, but failed to let the driver know that we needed to take a "left" once we crossed the bridge. We continued driving and chatting until we reached the Bungalow. Yes that is SEVERAL miles off course. Anyways, we turned around, spent the night at the Forest Service parking lot and got up to the trail head at 8 a.m. just in time for a 30 minute stretching routine with the trail crew. Don loaded 340 pounds of "stuff" into 6 pannier bags, while I saddled horses, and Rod exchanged jokes with the trail crew. After they headed out for their camp, we had a quick breakfast and were on the trail with 3 pack horses at 9:15. It was a beautiful ride up to their camp about 3 miles. After we unloaded we rode on up the trail about half mile and got to see the beautiful Heritage Cedar Grove. There were trees over 50 feet around and they figure they are over 500 years old. Very impressive!

Sept. 7-8, Elmer Creek Pack Out Trip #3, Bob Hough and Mike Welling packed out the MCC Crew's gear and the tools. There were six pack loads of gear. They made two round trips and got everything back to the Isabella Cr Trailhead.

September 21-23. PanJab Campground Chapter Ride, Umatilla NF, Pomeroy RD Lorelei McNamee reported the weather was good, the ride was fantastic and a happy group camped out Friday and Saturday Night.

November 24 Annual Gate Closing Ride, WDFW Land, Reported by Lorelei McNamee. The annual ride at Fordyce Trailhead on November 24th, 2018 was a success. Don and I arrived a little after 9:00 and along with some expert help by Bob Hough were able to get the wire re-stretched on the fence by the horse gate. It has been broken and loose for years. Thank you, Don and Bob, this has been bugging me.



We had 10 riders in the "on-time" group, Don, myself, Bob, Linda and Jerry Lane, Colleen Ozard, Billy Havens, Michelle Barnes, Pamela Winalski and Ardel Petz. While we were standing in the shade and frost at the trail head waiting for the others and looking at the beautiful sunshine on the North side of the road, Billy had a great idea of riding in the sun instead of the frozen canyon up Fordyce. Bob immediately said that he knew a route that would be just right for our adventure. I was a little concerned with his enthusiasm. Flashbacks of "short cuts" with Rod Parks were flashing in my brain. We mounted up and headed down the road towards Sourdough. We then meet our President, Paul and his lovely side kick, Toni. No one actually "asked" why they were late, but Don did mention to Paul that the time changed a few weeks ago. Another mile down the road we ran into Mike and Kathy Brooks, they had gone to the wrong place, but were back on track. They went on up to the trail head and met up with Paul and Toni and had an adventure of their own. Oh darn, I forgot to mention the most important person of the day. Pat Bogar had arrived before we left and had the chili and was going to get a fired built. Both were a welcome sight when we returned. We continued down the main road to the hay barn below Sourdough, and then rode up the north side of the hill. Once we rounded the bench on top we could see the Craig Mountains, Big Butte, and the Valley. It was beautiful. We continued climbing and got into a bit of snow, rode by the emergency tower and then the "fun" part. Bob had been telling us that we could take down whichever "gradual" decline that we chose. But first we had to get down through the rock bluff. Ardel took the easy way on the road. But the rest of us went down through the rocks, it was great. The only "gradual" decline that we found was when we were back down on the main road. It took us 1 1/2 hours to get to the top and 45 minutes to get to the bottom. We kept looking behind us for Paul, Toni, and Kathy and never saw

them. Paul went up the draw that we came down, planning on running into us, but we missed each other by a little bit. It was a great group of riders. The chili, fire and stories were great at the end of the ride as well

Dec. 8th Christmas Dinner

We had a good turnout for a fantastic meal at Guardian Angel Homes. It sure was nice that we were able to return to their great setting for dinner and fun. Thank you to everyone that brought a gift for Toys for Tots. We had some really nice gifts for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. It did not take long for the booze bottles to be stolen and at a final resting seat. As usual, Susie Paulson made some great arrangements for the location and the meal choices. What a great dessert to top off our meal.

2018 Volunteer Hours totals. We drove many miles, spent hours meeting our mission of keeping access open and educating the public as well as enjoying using our stock, our passion!

Labor 992 Hours	Wilderness Trail Miles Cleared 10	Other Trail Miles Cleared 33.5	Education 219 Hrs	Personal Vehicle Miles Driven 4302	Stock Hauling Miles 7160
Power Equipment 78 Hours	Stock Days of Use 227	Donations \$78	Travel Time 373 hours	Total Dollar Value of our Volunteering \$85,199.90	