

Twin River Backcountry Horsemen 2011 Annual Report

Annual Chili Ride Feb. 26



Kuther Ranch was our host again. Sixteen riders braved the cold weather and were blessed with a great ride. It was 11 degrees when we departed and 18 degrees when we returned two hours later. This goes in the record books as the coldest Chili Ride of the last 19 years, but it was not the coldest for the riders, as one year it was below freezing and snowing sideways and the ride lasted a whole 20 minutes before we retreated to the house to eat chili and warm up.

First Aid Training-March 9th

Eighteen members attended a basic 1st Aid/ CPR class. The class cost the members \$15.00 with the chapter picking up the rest of the expense.

Hellsgate State Park Shelter - Lewiston, ID

Good News!! The Shelter is done!! After struggling thru government bureaucracy, plan changes and weather, the Don Uhlman Memorial Shelter is finished. Work started in March of 2010; the slab area was excavated October 30th and was poured November 2nd. Following some cold winter weather, the wooden structure was erected March 12th of 2011. On March 13th the metal roof was installed and the wooden structure was spray painted. A special thanks to everyone involved and a real big thanks to Doug Head our project BCH contractor. A picnic table is at the shelter and it has been used by stockmen, archers, and ATV trainees. The trailhead is a multi use area that is very popular.



Black's Ranch Work Project April 2-3, June 18, & July 9

Black's Ranch is owned by Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. We have been fortunate to be able to use this facility for our annual Kid's Kamp. In exchange for the use, volunteer labor fixing the place up for our use and the departments is all that is ask of us. There were several trips in preparation. Members got a great start on sprucing up the house and dining area (garage). The cleaning crew in the house worked hard for two days. The paint crew went through 4.5 gallons of paint on the kitchen, living room, basement walls and ceilings . The outside crews cleaned out the barn, burned some old hay and treasures from the garage and house, as well as cut and stacked firewood. The basement bathroom was remodeled and two new showers installed. A fire ring was built, panels for pens were erected, grass was mowed and new hay was stacked in the barn, and tents were ready when the kid's arrived. Did we ever celebrate when the work was accomplished!

Inland Northwest Outdoor Show April 8-10

This is the show that has replaced the Backcountry & Outdoor Show that our chapter had done for several years. We were a co-sponsor of the show for the last two years with the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce. This year, our chapter manned a booth for BCHI & Twin River BCH for the entire show and had a model camp set up. **April 9th & 10th**, TRBCH provided a **Horse & Mule Packing Clinic, Round Pen Horsemanship** with trainers Dave Rustebakke & Tim McNamee, and **the John A.K. Barker Annual Dutch Oven Cook Off. April 10th**, a **Round Pen Clinic** "Horses with Behavior

Issues” was presented by Dave Rustebakke DVM. The round pen training always bring a large crowd. The packing clinic was a hands on with some repeat participates from last year as well as new students. The Dutch Oven Competition is popular as well as entertaining, as our members created activities to entertain while the meals were cooking.

Poker Ride Trail Clearing May 7th

Location is on Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and Umatilla National Forest Property. The trail starts on Lick Fork, a tributary of Asotin Creek. We have done extensive work in this great area for ride. There are about five different day rides you can do from this trailhead. A \$30.00 Discover Pass is required on all Washington State land effective July 2011. We clear this trail every year whether we have the poker ride or not. We had a good crew and were able to cut out the entire loop trail system with very little difficulty this year. As it turned out, we cancelled the poker ride due to the EHV-1 virus outbreak just before the ride

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Grant June 11-13

We completed our \$3500.00 grant from Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife on Asotin Creek drainage. There is now a non-motorized access gate at Sourdough Canyon, a fire ring, hitchrail, non-motorized access gate and one set of highline poles at Sheep Gulch Trailhead, and a hitchrail & fire ring at Asotin Creek Trailhead. We also built 1000’ of new fence to restrict access by motorized vehicles and removed a mile of old fence that was in disrepair and a hazard to stock and wildlife.

Kid’s Kamp 2011 July 13-17

Moving Kid’s Kamp to Black’s Ranch on Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Property created a lot of extra work getting everything ready and the many improvements to the facilities, but it all paid off in the end, as everything fell into place. The youths loved the new showers. The cooks were happy with the new kitchen. Twenty nine youths ended up attending this year, a new record, as Pat keeps increasing the amount allowed, as it has become a pretty popular activity.



We purchased 20 panels for holding pens and Lucky Acres Fencing loaned us thirty more. Lisa Swanson had some great games dreamed up to keep the kids busy. Dutch Oven cooking, LNT principles, setting up a Lifelight Landing Zone, brushing trails, and a GPS Scavenger Hunt were some of the education topics provided. Half day rides are the relaxing part for members that ride along or stay in camp, as the kids are occupied with their stock. Weather did not treat us to well this year, as two days the games on horseback had to be cancelled due to lightning.

Elk Summit Packing Project July 22 – 23

We got it done!! The snow left just in time. Two weeks earlier you could not even drive a pickup to the trailhead. Jim White, trail boss, did a great job keeping everyone posted on the status of the project. Big thanks goes to Doug Olive, FS representative who helped pack a good share of the 92 four foot bridge planks and also for saving the day by picking up Jim's lost camera. We all packed in loads on Friday and Jim, Doug, and Rod packed in the final loads on Saturday. The work was on the trail to Big Sands Lake. A volunteer crew was tearing out the old puncheon bridges as we were packing in the replacement planks. Rod Parks joined a family from Wisconsin after the work was over and rode to Diablo Lookout. Due to the heavy snow, the trail had not been cleared and there were over 80 trees across the trail, then snow drifts to ride across below the lookout, but what a view when we got there!!



Dough Creek Adopt-A-Cabin Aug 6-7

It was a nice ride down to the cabin from Madden Corrals. The cabin is located on Idaho Fish & Game Property in the Craig Mountains South of Lewiston We only had to get off and cut out two new trees across the trail. We had plans to get the work done quickly before it got hot. Well, it did not quite work out that way. We did accomplish more than was planned, as Jim White and John Partridge rode into Chimney Creek drainage and cut the trail out as an added bonus. There is now some beautiful Formica on the cooking counter and the dining table, and a fresh coat of stain on the deck and cabin floor. Fire breaks were cut around all the hitchrails and buildings. Work was done on both water troughs and water was flowing good as we left. This is a great cabin to ride to and spend a night or two. It is only about a two hour ride to get there and it is the nicest cabin on the mountain. Just because our chapter and some friends built the cabin has nothing to do with this opinion!

Gospel Hump Campground & Noxious Weed Inventory August 8-14

“Hardened Campsite”



This project was in the Gospel Hump Wilderness, and consisted of riding to campsites from GPS co-ordinates and doing condition surveys to compare the current condition with the results of previous surveys. We were able to inventory 16 different campsites from two campsites that we packed into. We received training on filling out the forms beforehand. This was nothing but a great fun time and an easy reason to go on a pack trip.

The condition of the campsites ranged from heavily used and kind of beat up to virtually rehabilitated. We also packed out litter, removed fire rings and keep our eyes out for noxious weeds. Being at higher elevations, the part of the wilderness that we were in was almost free of noxious weeds. We have high hopes of going back and continuing next year.

Buckingham Lake Project August 25-30

This project was on the Pot Mountain Trail #144 in the Clearwater NF. To get all the supplies, stock feed and camp for the six of us, we ended up hauling 13 loads. There was no feed at the lake, so five of the loads were hay bales. We removed the broken bridge in no time, and had the culvert set in place in about an hour. Three members went to work locating rock and hauling on stock to use cribbing up end walls over the culvert. The rest of us placed the rock and hauled dirt in five gallon buckets for fill over the culvert. Monday we went for a fantastic ride to Pot Mountain and saw some beautiful sights. Tuesday was packing up, and heading home. We packed the tools and supplies to a FS Trail Crew Camp on the way back, as the crew was coming in to work, as we were leaving.



November Pizza Meeting Nov. 8th

Every November at our chapter meeting, we ask that members who were unfortunate to have had separation from their stock, this would be getting bucked off, losing the lead on an animal, totally losing an animal, etc. purchase a pizza for the rest of us to enjoy during the meeting. This is a way to remove the embarrassment of getting bucked off, as everyone immediately yells “PIZZA” and the laughter starts and it take the attention off the pour rider who is spitting dust and cussing their stock for doing that in from of everyone. Some confessions are on our chapter website in the photo gallery. <http://twinriversbch.com/photo-gallery.htm>

Gate Closing Chili Ride Nov. 26

Lick Creek, Fordyce Trailhead This is our annual ride on our poker ride route before the gate is closed on the Asotin Creek Road. What a beautiful fall day for a ride. Before we even got to the trailhead, we had to slow down as we maneuvered through a herd of about 15 bighorn sheep on the road. Two real nice full curl rams on the hillside also. There were 13 of us riding with 15 head of stock. We rode up Sheep Gulch and made the loop back down Cabin Gulch. There was just enough snow on the upper part of the ride to stick to the animals shoes and make the trail a little slick in places, but no mishaps. Luckily we had a chainsaw along, as there were two new trees down that we removed on the Fordyce Trail. There was still some firewood left from our fence removal project, so we had a nice fire to sit around as we enjoyed the great chili prepared by Chef Mark Bogar. There were lots of other goodies to go along with the chili also. We picked up litter around the trailhead, removed a couple fire rings and a meat pole that had been left by hunters.

TRBCH Fun Ride Dec. 10th

A beautiful sunny day blessed 12 members as they rode the loop trail on Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife property, formerly the Halsey Ranch on the Anatone Flat. Other than sheer enjoyment, we were scouting this area as a possible poker ride location for next spring.



TRBCH Christmas Dinner Dec 17th

The TRBCH Christmas party was a great event as usual. 54 people enjoyed a good time and a good meal. We had a very generous group. Not only did we bring lots of gifts for Toys for Tots; we also contributed over \$180 cash and a \$100 gift certificate for Wal-Mart to the family we were helping. Our new president welcomed everyone with some of his stories we are sure not to forget. We are all looking forward to an exciting new year.

Twin River BCH bettering the Community

The word is finally out that BCH is part of the valley.

We were contacted by **Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game** wanting comments on the corrals at Redbird Beach on the Snake River. It was decided to remove the corrals and replace with two hitchrails. A project we will do by next spring.

Nez Perce County Mounted Sheriff's Posse has asked for our help on future improvements at Hellsgate State Park. It is in the planning stage right now.

Jill Bassett from the **Pomeroy Ranger District, Umatilla NF**, ask to present a proposal to us. She told us about a cabin, Lick Creek Historical Cow Camp & out buildings, they would like some help with restoring. She manages cultural resources in the forest such as historic sites, lookouts, logging, grazing, etc. There was concern that this cabin is too accessible and subject to vandalism so the chapter declined the project.

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife has contacted us about some new trails on some recently purchased property.

Primeland Country Store Event Sept 17th. Primeland contacted our chapter asking us to set up a booth and do some packing demonstrations at an event they had planned at their Lewiston Store, but this event ended up getting cancelled. They hope to do it next spring.

Twin Rivers BCH 2011 Volunteering

4644 volunteering hours

14,654 miles driven

51 miles of trails maintained

Value in dollars- \$148,117.00