

2014 Twin Rivers BCH Annual Report

2014 was another busy year volunteering for multiple agencies in the areas that we enjoy using our stock for work and pleasure. Members donated 471 hrs. labor, 208 hrs. education, and drove 9948 miles to get to activities. The value to the agencies for our volunteering is \$50,286.

For the months of Jan. Feb. & March members continued with the 7th grade Core Explorer Class at Lincoln Middle School in Clarkston, WA. Once a week for an hour we covered principles of LNT, knot tying, and first aid with the students.

January we started with removing and replacing a bridge in Redbird Canyon for Idaho Fish & Game. Redbird Canyon is a very popular trail for stock that is usable twelve months of the year and only a 45 minute drive from Lewiston, ID. The trail goes to the Snake River and member have been known to take a dip in the river in the summer. The trail is also open to ATV use seasonally by contacting the Idaho Fish & Game Office. The bridge is eight feet wide to accommodate their use.



February we had our annual Chili Ride on private property owned by member Bob Kuther. We have been having this ride for over 25 years at various locations. We had a little coating of snow to add to the beauty of views as we rode. Then there was the chili, cornbread and some delicious chicken noodle soup.

Next project was rebuilding three miles of trail with a mini excavator to make a nice 12 mile loop ride from the Halsey Homestead owned by Washington Fish & Wildlife. The trail was widened to a tread width to accommodate ATV's for administrative use, but is closed to motorized use by the public. The ride is a great place to get some conditioning on your stock early in the year, and only thirty minute drive from Asotin, WA.

A BLM representative attended our March meeting and discussed the new travel management plan that they are working on and asked for input from our members that knew of any trails on their property. It was stated that only trails listed on the new plan when it is adopted will be open for use.

March we were invited again to be a vendor at Primeland Country Store Outdoor Show in Lewiston, ID. The chapter had their chapter display, LNT info, Dutch Oven Cooking Demo & samples, and the popular pony rides. How many miles can you walk leading a horse and never leaving a round pen?

Then there was the Annual Convention in Bonners Ferry hosted by Selkirk BCH that several members attended. We had some newer members attending this year and they reported they had a great time as well as a much better understanding of what BCH of Idaho does for us as chapter members.

One of members' favorite rides has always been Green Gulch up Joseph Creek on Washington Fish & Wildlife property. We asked if we could create a new section of trail for a nice loop ride with only a short 1.5 mile between the two starting points. Permission was given and members headed up to work on this new route. Very little work was needed. We trimmed some brush and removed rocks in some slide areas. We went back in May for a chapter fun ride to show the new route to more members.

April, a chapter fun ride was held on Cummins Creek. A nice trailhead with hitchrails installed years back by members was our starting point. The trail starts on Washington Fish & Wildlife property and continues on Umatilla NF. The trail is

an old road closed to motorized use. This area is open April 1st – Nov. 30 and closed the rest of the year to protect winter elk range.

April members spent over five hours dragging magnets in the parking lot picking up nails and other litter left by inconsiderate users of the Kruze Meadows Parking Lot. This trailhead and Outhouse was built with a grant that the Snow Drifters Snowmobile Club received. It is sad that such a nice area has had a lot of vandalism. The cleanup was in preparation for our first Fundraiser Ride held on land owned by Idaho Fish & Game on the Craig Mountain WMA just south of Lewiston, ID.

May we held the chapter Fundraiser Ride at Kruze Meadows. We woke up to snow on the ground and thought all the work we did in preparation was going to provide a small return or maybe even a loss for our efforts. As the morning progressed more and more trailers arrived and the ride was a real success. A campfire to warm the riders kept many around for hours after the ride telling tall tales.



June, we trucked up to Wilderness Gateway Campground on the Lochsa River for a day of spring cleaning in Loop D, the stock only camping area. A contractor had been hired to remove hazard trees and when we first arrived, the campground was a real mess. When our NezPerce-Clearwater NF representative arrived and advised us we did not have to deal with the contractors mess as he would be coming back to chip the material, we all celebrated and dove right into the work. We got the work done by noon and took a nice ride up Bolder Creek Saturday and then rode to Obea Cabin on Fish Creek Sunday before we headed back to the real world.

National Trails Day, members headed to the Umatilla National Forest in Washington State and split into two groups with plans to meet in the middle after clearing and brushing the trail. There was a lot of brushing and a few trees to clear. This is a great loop ride with views, at the top of the Ranger Creek Trail, of the High Wallows' and the Seven Devils on a clear day.



The next day some members headed to Ed Fordyce Trailhead, Washington Fish & Wildlife property, Lick Fork of Asotin Creek, and cleared and brushed the loop trail up Fordyce Trail and down Cabin Gulch Trail. Parts of these trails are on Umatilla NF land. This ride almost always gives you the opportunity to see some elk.

Member Bill Correll made some signs out of weather barn boards for marking the trail on the new trail at the Halsey Homestead for Washington Fish & Wildlife. Most of the sign posts were installed when the trail was built. A quick trip around the trail by ATV and all the new signs were installed and two new posts were set.

We finished a busy June with our annual Adopt-A-Cabin Project at Dough Creek Cabin for Idaho Fish & Game. String trimmers were used to make fire breaks around the cabin, outhouse, and hitchrails. Cabin was cleaned and thistles were

cut in the immediate area. We brushed the five mile trail to the cabin on our trip back to the trailhead. The next day, we had a great loop ride to Frye Point. Saw some nice bucks and a couple herds of Elk as well as splendid views. The area around the cabin burned this year and lucky for us the cabin survived.

A chapter fun ride was held on the newly purchased property by Washington Fish & Wildlife in the Grande Ronde River area up Cougar Creek at the McNeil Place. The weather was hot, hot, hot, so we only rode in the mornings, but got to see some new beautiful country. We had a member as tour guide, as he knew the area very well. We only got lost one day.

July members were given permission to remove and pack out 500 yards of old barbwire fencing along the Fordyce Trail by the Pomeroy District of the Umatilla NF. It had to go clear to the Regional Office before we were given permission. While we were there, we did some maintenance on the spring and cleaned out the water trough. This fence had been a hazard to riders for years, as the trail was along the fence line and often your stirrup would hit the wire.

The first of August members headed to the Ten Mile Trailhead that accesses the Gospel Hump Wilderness and cleared and brushed the trail for the Red River District of the NezPerce-Clearwater NF. The first part of the trail is outside the wilderness and the chainsaw was really appreciated as the next ten miles were all cleared with crosscuts and there were plenty of trees. Water bars were also cleaned on the return trip each day. Three days were spent working with a day of rest in the middle packing a camp to Ten Mile Meadows to better access the work area. A day trip to Buffalo Lake to reward us for the hard work was taken before we packed up the next day and headed back to the trailhead and home.

August members made the long drive up to Kelly Creek Trailhead, North Fork Ranger District, NezPerce-Clearwater NF and spent the night. Early the next morning members headed up Kelly Creek Trail to Ten Mile Meadows to meet a crew from the Great Burn Society to pack out their camp and supplies. They had been packed in during July with some members from North Central Idaho BCH. We were fortunate to have a large crew with pack animals and had no problem packing up all their gear. The crew really appreciated any food we shared with them, as they had not had any junk food for many days. We did a day ride to Scurvy lookout then moved down to Bungalow to camp. The next day we did a great pleasure ride loop on Tr 154 (Jackknife Creek) and Tr 144 (Pot Mtn.).



Sept. we rented a booth at the NezPerce County Fair to promote BCH. We had a lot of exposure with the public and had an opportunity to display our accomplishments and educate the public on the BCH mission. Many applications were picked up for our 2015 Kid's Kamp and a few chapter membership applications. We sold 50 calendars and 120 saddle raffle tickets. Four days was a long time to man a booth, but as usual, we had fantastic support from our members.

A chapter ride was held in September at Kruze Meadows, Idaho Fish & Game property. This time we rode trails to the west of the parking lot and found a nice loop ride about four hours long. Views of the Snake River as well as some elk greeted us along the way.

Members attended the Nez Perce National Historical Trail Public Meeting September 23. They have a very aggressive plan to have the trail route mapped by 2016, the first step before right of way and easements can be pursued. They stressed that the trail will be only for stock and foot travel. We will monitor the process.

Monthly meetings are held with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho State Parks, and multiple user groups to address any and all concerns at Hells Gate State Park in Lewiston. There were over 25 miles of user generated trails in

the area. There was no plan when the park was built and this was the result. Some of the land was wildlife mitigation land and the heavy use was having a negative effect on the game. After many meetings a compromise agreement was reached on what trails would be open and which ones needed closed. A plan was made, trails were named, a map was made and trails were marked as open and blocked if closed. Members helped with installing the names of the trails on the trail markers. This November we took some of our stock and hauled straw and grass seed to areas to rehabilitate some of the closed trails. This was a joint effort with Corp of Engineer employees, mountain bikers, and TRBCH members doing the work.

Our annual Gate Closing Ride on Fordyce Trail was held the last Saturday in November. This ride looked a lot like our first chapter ride of the year with a little snow on the ground. Everyone was prepared for the weather and had a great time with hot chili to eat around the camp fire.

We ended the year with electing our current members to another year term at our annual Christmas Party. A great Prime Rib Dinner catered at Guardian Angel Homes was devoured. We had a White Elephant Exchange with lots of laughter as some members could just not keep their gifts. Items were also donated for Toys for Tots.