

Twin Rivers BCH Chapter Annual Report 2015

Feb. 5: We started the month with improvements on the Halsey Homestead Trailhead. Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife enlarged the parking lot and added gravel. Members then installed a metal hitchrail, signs, new fence, and a non-motorized access gate. There are several miles of trail to ride and a nice loop ride. Thank you WDFW!



Feb. 15: Our Annual Chili Ride was held at Kuther's Ranch. Great weather and some easy riding to get the stock out for the first time of the year for many of us. Then the usual fantastic potluck meal in the shop. Thanks to Bob for hosting this fun event. No Pizza riders this year!



Mar. 14: We were invited to be a vendor at the Primeland Country Store Spring Event. We had our wall tent set up with educational materials on dutch oven cooking and back country horsemen. The smell of the dutch ovens cooking brought a lot of interest and some great free samples to the public. We again had the round pen set up with rides for kids with a can of food donated for the food bank. Members got dizzy going round and round for hours with a never ending supply of kids wanting to ride.

Mar. 27-29: An educational booth was set up at the Big Bang Expo-Horseman's Ball. There was some interest from the many attendees and a couple new memberships.

April 4-Aug: Hellsgate State Park in Lewiston was the next project. Volunteering to spray noxious weeds for several days along the trails in the park. Then later in the summer going back and spraying puncture vine and pulling many by hand.

Apr. 19: was our second fun ride for the year. We rode up Cummings Creek, a tributary of the Tucannon River. The ride starts on Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife property and accesses Umatilla NF. This area burned about six years ago and there was almost as much work as there was fun, as lots of trees down. The return ride was very satisfying to have the trail cleared. We rode about 15 miles total for the day.

May 9-10: Dough Creek Adopt-A-Cabin was our next project. This has been an annual project. Two cabins in the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area burned down in the 2014 fire. The only reason Dough CR survived was thanks to the fire crews that wrapped this cabin to protect it. After discussion with Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game it was decided to try and make a better fire break around the cabin. The work consisted of riding to the Dough Creek Cabin, removing 6-10 feet of vegetation around the cabin and outhouse with string trimmers and chemicals to create a fire break around the structures. Then we laid potlatch felt paper on the North and East sides of the cabin so it will not be muddy around the cabin. We cleaned the cabin and staining the deck. Sunday four members made a loop ride to Frye Point. It was beautiful weather and saw some wildlife along the way. May 11, Rod & Karen Parks, with F&G help, hauled four cu yds of gravel

with SXS ATV's and spread it over the potlatch felt paper. We are all hoping this will prevent the cabin from burning during the next fire on the mountain. Thank you Idaho Fish & Game for the gravel and help.



May 16-17: Wilderness Gateway Campground Project, Lochsa District, NezPerce-Clearwater NF. The work consisted of spring cleaning in Loop D, the stock campground. There was a large pile of debris at loop 4 that we cleaned up and spread out to level the area after debris was left from tree thinning in the campground last year. We cleared the horse trail in the campground from camp to the Lochsa River Bridge. After the work, we took about a four hour ride up the Lochsa Peak trail. It rained almost all Friday night and most of the day on Saturday, so we rode in the rain. We had a great potluck when we got back and all went to bed early. Sunday, we rode from camp on the Down River trail to the Lochsa Historical Station, Then Rod took the wrong trail and we rode up the Grouse Ridge Trail, rather than Fish Creek where we were supposed to go. Was a new trail for all of us and went up and up and up until it just dead ended, so back to camp we went and then drove home.

May 20: Six of us met at Bogars' and headed up to the Umatilla NF riding and clearing some of the routes we ride for Kid's Kamp was our plan. Some of these trails are on the national forest and some are on Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife land. It is a beautiful time of year to ride, as the grass is about a foot tall and real green. As we rode across the fields and into the canyon, it did not take long to come across a big tree across the trail. As we rode, it just kept getting worse. It was easier to walk the trail with the saw and cut out trees rather than riding to the next problem tree and dismounting. The first two miles was the worst, then it was just a tree every once in a while. Some cut brush while the others worked on removing the trees. We ate lunch by a creek and then continued our ride back to the trailers.

May 31: This was a cleanup day at Kruze Meadows Parking lot in preparation for our Fundraiser ride June 6th. This parking lot is very popular for pallet campfires, so we drag magnets on the area to remove as many nails as possible and pickup other trash. We did this last year, so only got about three gallons of nails this year.

June 6: Annual Chapter Fundraiser Ride was held at Kruze Meadows parking lot. This year the ride was on a new route to the west. We had many great comments on the route. We had the usual games of chance at each station for fun and games. The shooting and cowboy polo were very popular. Thanks to Idaho Fish & Game for providing us a great location to hold our fundraiser.

June 16-20: "Kid's Kamp" Members spent the two days before getting prepared and set up. June 16 twenty five youths between the ages of eight and seventeen arrived at the Smoothing Iron Ranch with their horses for five days of fun, education, and trail rides. Smoothing Iron Ranch is owned by Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife located about 25 miles southwest of Clarkston, WA. Wall tents were set up for the kids. Every year we cover Leave No Trace topics and try to instill responsibility with daily duties. In the field during the daily trail rides they had training on stock containment with portable electric fences, hobbles, highline, and picket ropes, human waste containment and use of cat holes and discussions on litter and keeping a clean camp. The kids have to wash all their own dishes, keep water in the stock pens, clean pens daily and feed their own stock, so it was not all fun and games. We had a great kitchen staff that used the farm house to prepare and serve meals. We always try to have some outside topics that may interest the kids. This year Asotin County Sheriff K-9 Unit came and presented drug awareness, and covered the many talents that his dog "Olie" has such as house searches, seeking people, evidence, and drugs. Pat Ogden and assistant trained them on archery target shooting safety and let them all shoot at targets. In our area there are archery target shooting classes in almost all

the local schools. They took 142 kids to the state meet last year. Every day elk were spotted during the rides. Water balloon fights is always popular, and other games to entertain them. The last day competition was held as they demonstrated to their parents how to set up a highline, portable electric fence and knots that they were taught. We are already making plans for next year.



June 16 & 24: North Fork District, NezPerce-Clearwater NF. Jim White and Matt Bake packed four animal loads of FS Trail Crew supplies on June 16 to the mouth of Cayuse Cr from Kelly Cr Trailhead and one more load on the 17th. On the 24th Billie Havens and Rod Parks packed four culverts into Cayuse Creek and five loads of trail crew gear out of their camp and hauled them to the Kelly Creek Trailhead. We did not haul out some hand tools as they were not with the other gear. We found out they wanted them out, so we hauled out two rock bars, a shovel, axe, and Pulaski on our return trip from Hanson Meadow packing the next day. The forest service trail crew did a great job widening the trail tread and adding turnpike to several sections over boggy areas. The trail looks the best it has in years.

June 25: North Fork District, NezPerce-Clearwater NF, Rod, Billie, and Linda Lane loaded seven pack animals with gear for two employees from the Great Burn Study Group and packed them ten miles up Kelly Cr to Hanson Meadows. We were asked to help them set up the wall tent. We had to use poles to make the frame and it took all five of us to get it standing. Rod put it on upside down first, so that did not help getting the task done. The crew will be surveying exotic plants, weeds spraying and other tasks. The Great Burn Area is a proposed Wilderness area. Palouse BCH Chapter packed the crew out on Aug. 22nd.



June 26-30: North Fork District, NezPerce-Clearwater NF, Rod & Billie next moved down Kelly Cr on the 26th to Bungalow and loaded their gear and packed in to Weitas Guard Station for the night. The next day we hauled hay six miles up the creek and dropped them off, then up the creek another mile and sprayed weeds for a few hours and back to the guard station, a long day. Rod used the recently acquired chapter horseback sprayer along the trail and Kearstin Edwards (FS) and Billie used back pack sprayers. The next morning we packed our gear and moved camp to where we dropped off the hay and then up the trail again to spray weeds. Rod got so involved with the spraying that he did not keep a good eye on the load of spray and spun the load on his horse. This was the new horse that he got from Tony Hepburn last year and lucky for him and Rod he does not get excited with anything he has put on him. Rod walked him off the hill with the tank under his belly and tied him up so he could reload him. We went back down the trail to set up camp and then Rod & Billie took a very rewarding dip in the creek as it was in the mid nineties and there was no shade where we were spraying. It was real heaven laying in the creek and cooling off. The 29th we headed six miles up the creek and sprayed weeds in another meadow and returned back to camp for another dip in the creek. The next morning we loaded up camp and rode the sixteen miles back to Bungalow Junction, piled our gear in our pickups and headed for home. Some real pretty country to ride in.

July15-16: Big Butte Lookout is located in the Umatilla NF west of Anatone, WA. Volunteers are refurbishing it and have plans to add it to the rental program. BCH, FS, and Forest Fire lookout Association members and others have spent the

last two years spending several days replacing decking, shutters, roof, and painting. They hope to have the cap put back up on an eighty foot tower and ready to rent by 2016.

July 19-24: Priest River Chapter called for help packing in 140 animal loads of lumber for multiple bridge crossings. The materials were from four to eight foot long and very heavy. Rod Parks helped them out, as we may need help from them in the future. This was great training for everyone's stock.

July 28: Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife contacted us about making and installing signs on the historical Zig Zag Trail, a cattle run route. This is located in Charlie Creek, twelve miles from Asotin, WA. Bill Correll made the signs and several of us rode up the trail with Bill on his eighty-ninth birthday to install them. We got drenched in a local rain cloud.

July 29: Ranger Cr. and Indian Tom Trails were cut out by two members for the Umatilla NF, Pomeroy RD. This is beautiful country and you can make it a loop ride with only having to ride three miles of FS road to get back to your vehicle.

Aug. 1-5: Ten Mile Trail Clearing Project was in the Nezperce-Clearwater NF, Red River RD. Jerry Lane was trail boss and he did a great job of picking us a trail with lots of work. Jerry and Linda went up two weeks before and cut out the motorized section of the trail and scouted the area. The Ten Mile Trail is twelve miles long with ten of them being in the Gospel Hump Wilderness. We came prepared with three crosscut saws, axes, and lots of wedges. Turn after turn in the trail we came to multiple trees across the trail. Our goal was to get the trail cut out to Ten Mile Meadows and move camp the next day to the meadows. We did not make it! Day three we loaded up the animals and gear and headed out for Ten Mile Meadows cutting our way as we went. Day four we headed out again and cut until four in the afternoon and headed back to camp. Day five, we celebrated when we got to the end of the trail shortly after noon. It was nice to have a short day. Day six we leisurely packed up camp and headed back to the trailhead, loaded our vehicles and stock and headed for home. We had a great work crew to get the entire trail cleared in the time we had. We would not have made it without Doug Olive (FS) showing up to help us with his muscle and knowledge of removing trees.



Aug.21-22: Idaho Fish & Game hosted this two day event open to the public for novice and experienced individuals that had an interest in learning more about hunting and enjoying the outdoors. On the 22nd TRBCH members demonstrated how to pack animals. The event was held at the IDFG facilities in Lewiston. Jim White provided his two mules and Linda Lane, Pat Bogar, Billie Havens, and Jim provided the training. They covered all aspects of packing stock from proper fitting of saddles, to heading down the trail with a properly loaded animal. Hands on training was also provided. This event was very well attended and there was a tremendous interest with lots of questions from the attendees. It was a really great event and excellent exposure for TRBCH.

Sept. 5: The North Fork Asotin Creek and North Pinkham Trail were cut out by members to make a nice loop ride. This trail is 20 miles from Asotin, WA. It starts on Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife property and connects to Umatilla NF, Pomeroy District. They were lucky they had a chainsaw with a 30" bar, as there are some real big old growth pine trees that come down once in a while and they were blessed with one this trip.

Sept. 12: We had a chapter fun ride on the Fordyce Trail and Cabin Gulch trails. This is probably the most popular trail that is ridden by riders from the Lewiston Clarkston area. From the Fordyce Trailhead, there are about five different loop

rides that a person can take within a couple miles of the trailhead. Again, this is Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife and Umatilla NF land.

Sept. 20: The Halsey Homestead Trailhead was a fun ride for members with a little work involved. Some riders had requested that this trail have some more signs so Bill Correll made a couple new ones and Rod Parks packed a sign post and new signs with tools and installed a new sign in Ayers Gulch and one at the top of the ridge to get riders headed the right direction to get back to their trailers. This loop ride is all on Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife land and about fifteen miles south of Asotin, WA.

Sept. 24-27: The chapter manned an educational booth at NezPerce County Fair in Lewiston, ID. The chapter display was set up with brochures etc, available for the public, as well as information on our Kid's Kamp 2016. BCHI calendars were also sold. There was interest in what we do and many thanked us for our work, but not many interested in joining.

Nov. 10: November is our annual Pizza Chapter Meeting. Members who get separated from their stock by getting bucked off, losing their pack or riding animals, or just falling off are expected to buy a Pizza so we all can enjoy the stories as we eat pizza.

Nov.22: Green Gulch, Washington Dept Fish & Wildlife Project. Nov. 22 saw five of us at Green Gulch trailhead at 9:00 am enjoying the brisk 21 degrees. The eighty some elk we saw as we headed to the trailhead made us forget about the cold for a few minutes. We had two eight foot 4X4 posts and tools to plant the new signs in the ground. Rod Parks loaded the posts and tools on the dependable horse that Tony Hepburn gave him. Mike Welling packed the signs and the rest of the items we needed. We headed up the canyon and all celebrated when we got out of the canyon and into the sun. The day was beautiful! We saw several deer and more elk as we rode. Bill Correll made two signs earlier this year to install so the public could find the trail from Green Gulch to the top of the road above Rogersburg. This section of old stock trail needed marked better. WDFW gave us permission to install t-posts to delineate the trail. The materials were taken from an old fence in the area. We rolled up the wire and hauled to the top of the ridge to be hauled out later and drove t-posts to mark the trail. Everyone agreed that it was a beautiful day for riding and enjoying the wildlife.



Nov. 28: Annual Gate Closing Ride: A few brave souls endured the cold today for the end of the year Gate Closing FUN Ride up Asotin Creek. It was ten degrees at the trail head. Those surviving the days ride were Rod Parks, Mark Bogar, Billie Havens, Jerry and Linda Lane, Jan Garritson, and Matt Bake. Thanks to Karen Parks for staying at the trailers and having the delicious chili and hot cider ready for us when we returned. Nobody died. Not from the chili, but from the ride in the cold. We rode in the sun all morning and were pretty warm until the fog moved in. We got cold again by the time we got back to the trailhead. The highlights of the ride were several groups of deer, a herd of elk, and the warm fire and food ready when we got back.

Dec. 5: TRBCH Christmas Party was held at Guardian Angel Homes. We have been having our party here for several years now and they continue to provide us with a fantastic decorated room and delicious meals with everything cooked on sight by their crew. We did our usual White Elephant exchange with lots of stealing some of the great gifts. We thank Susie Paulson for making all the arrangements. Toys for Tots were donated from members to make a better Christmas for a few families. It was great to get together and just have time to visit with no business to deal with other than

election of our new officers for 2016. Thanks to all our members for making Twin Rivers BCH a great organization. See all of you after the holidays. May you all have a great Christmas and Happy New Year!

