



## Trails & Tales Newsletter

654 C Thain Road, Lewiston, ID 83501

[www.twinriversbch.com](http://www.twinriversbch.com)

July 14, 6:30 pm

Meeting at NezPerce County Fairgrounds

Outdoor Arena

1229 Burrell Ave.

Lewiston ID

### Comin' round the Mountain

#### Notice!!

Meetings during the Covid-19 Era have been a challenge. For the Month of July we will be holding our Meeting at the NezPerce County Fairgrounds Outdoor Arena July 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Bring your lawn chair or you can sit in the bleachers and we can do our social distancing.

#### Covid-19 Update Sites:

Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife is open to camping: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates>

Idaho State Land is open: <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/>

Umatilla National Forest is open to camping: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>

Clearwater-NezPerce National Forest Campgrounds are open:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nezperceclearwater/alerts-notices/?aid=58982>

#### WDFW Press Release

July 1, 2020

WDFW restricts campfires, other activities at wildlife areas and water access areas in Eastern Washington

Overall, the emergency order that imposes restrictions east of the Cascades prohibits:

- **Fires or campfires**, including those in fire rings. Personal camp stoves and lanterns fueled by propane, liquid petroleum, or liquid petroleum gas are allowed.
- **Smoking**, except in an enclosed vehicle.
- **The discharge of firearms** for target-shooting or other purposes by anyone not engaged in lawful hunting.
- **Welding and operating chainsaws**, including the use of an acetylene torch or other open flame.
- **Operating a motor vehicle away from developed roads**. Parking is permitted within designated parking areas, including developed campgrounds and trailheads; and in areas without vegetation that are within 10 feet of roadways.

## Local Trail Projects & Rides

Let's see if some members are willing to schedule some Chapter Rides on some of the many trails that have been cleared this year.

### Seven Devils Work Project

**July 22-29**, We will meet 10:00 am at Windy Saddle Trailhead and pack in a camp July 22. This is a pack in project, we will pack camp out on July 29 and drive home.. The work will consist of logging out the Trail # 140 to McGaffee Basin. This is located in wilderness, so the cutting will all be done with crosscut and hand saws. If members can only come for the weekend of July 25-26, they are welcome to attend but need to let Rod know so meals can be planned.

Please call Rod Parks (208-791-3246) if you are interested in attending or need more information.

**Directions:** From Riggins, Idaho travel south on Highway 95 for 1.3 miles to Seven Devils Road (becomes Forest Road 517); Turn right on Seven Devils Road and go 17 miles to trailhead and horse camp road junction; Take a right at the road junction and continue on towards the Heaven's Gate Lookout for about 0.1 miles to the horse camp entrance road. The climb to Windy Saddle is steep and the upper gravel section can be rough at times. Four Wheel drive is recommended.

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## Elmer Creek Packing Support

**Aug 18-19, anytime on the 18<sup>th</sup>**. This project will be packing in the trail crew on the 19th to finish the Elmer Creek Trail. We will camp at Smith Ridge Trailhead the night of Aug. 18 and packing crew in on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Certified Feed is required. **Info:** Located in the southern portion of the Mallard Larkin Roadless Area, this alpine trailhead offers dispersed camping and a rustic hiking/stock trail (Trail 240) which connects to many other trails in the area, making it a great place for day hikers as well as for those seeking a longer, more strenuous backpacking/stock packing trip. Please call Rod Parks (208-791-3246) if you are interested in attending or need more information. **Directions:** From Lewiston, take Hwy 12 East, turn left on Hwy 11 at Greer ID. Continue through Weippe & Pierce to Headquarters. Turn left on Rd # 247 at Headquarters. Follow paved road to Bridge across the North Fork Clearwater River. Turn left after crossing the bridge and follow gravel road. Approx. 3 miles Turn left at first road to Smith Ridge Trailhead then Approx. 10 miles to trailhead. Allow three hours travel time.

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## Over the Hill

### Dough Creek A-A-Cabin Project

June 14, eight eager volunteers, Rod & Karen Parks, Connie Marshall, Steve Cooper, Kathy Brooks, Carl Paulson, Andrew Mackey and Jessica Patterson from Idaho Fish and Game rode down to the cabin to do some maintenance. Since Idaho State has classed electric bikes the same as peddle bikes Carl Paulson rode his electric bike to the project. He learned a disadvantage a bike can have, a flat tire. He had to push the bike to the top of the hill as he forgot his patch material. Members were a little skeptical of the weather, as it was raining heavily as we drove to the trailhead and as we got closer it changed to snow and the temperature dropped to 30 degrees. By the time we parked our trailers, the snow had stopped and the ride was dry all the way to the cabin. New boards were installed on the steps to the deck. The deck was cleaned for staining the deck and steps, but rain ruined that

plan. Birds have been roosting between the rafters, so new boards were installed to keep them from making a mess on the deck. Earlier in the week, Rod & Karen got permission to take ATV's down and spray weeds in the meadow and trail as well as spray some roundup around the cabin and outhouse for a fire break. The hitchrail that was installed in 2003 had about lived its life as stock has been eating it away. With the atv's they dragged two pieces of 10 foot 3" pipe and removed the wooden rail. The crew removed the wooden rail, made firewood out of it and installed the pipe top rail to the existing posts. The pipe was a real hassle to manhandle and get the sections threaded together with a coupling. The cabin siding is cedar and cracks have appeared in some of the boards. This has been letting flies and bees inside. We put caulking in all the places where we felt they have

been getting in. Next trip down, we will have to see if we were successful. The last jobs were washing windows and cleaning the outhouse plus a new coat of paint on the toilet seat. Thank you all that worked so hard to get the projects finished. We only had a little rain on the ride back up the hill and most agreed it was a great day other than poor Carl who had to push his bike up the hill.

### **John's Creek Work Project**

June 27-28, John's Creek is a tributary of the South Fork of the Clearwater River located in the Clearwater-NezPerce National Forest. The trailhead is 22 miles east of Grangeville on Hwy 14. There were four members that participated in the project, Rod Parks, Ardel Petz, Steve Cooper, and Connie Marshall. By the time we got a camp site saved at Leggett Campground and back to the trailhead and saddled up we got a late start. The trails to be cleared were Trails #407, 401, & 478, a nice one day loop ride if the trails are cleared. That is what our project was, log out the trails. There were not many trees across the trail up John's Creek, which is good as the trail is on a steep side hill. The trail tread is in good condition other than one slough where a tree fell over and the root wad took out the trail, but it was still very passable.

Our first problem was Rod's Chainsaw seemed to be leaking gas and was hard to start, but we managed to keep cutting. Next problem was no one had a GPS and we followed the most used trail, which was wrong. The right trail was completely grown over with grass. Enough for one day and we headed back to the trailhead and set up camp. Sunday we met Connie Marshall at the trailhead and headed up the 478 trail. Things were looking real good for the first mile or so and then the down trees started appearing. We were a little better prepared as we had two chainsaws. The plan was to use the small saw and only get out Rod's problem saw when we had to. It decided to start raining just before noon and never quit the rest of the day. We got to the meadow around the private land, ran off about two dozen horses and mules and followed the posts marking the trail along the meadow. This trail showed very little use and we had to search for the tread on the ridge in several places, as the horses grazed all this area and there were wrong trails

going everywhere. Other than the rain things were going good until Rod hit a rock with his chainsaw and it would only cut in a circle. Back to the little saw to finish the day as we did not want to take the time to sharpen the saw in the rain. We celebrated when we came to the trail that we had cut out Saturday. The ride back to the trailhead was uneventful.

### **TRBCH Chapter Outing July 3-5**

Some members started arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Autrey Campground. The campground is located up Cougar Cr. Road on WDFW property. It is about an hour drive from Lewiston. The setting is fantastic, located in the Pine trees with a great view and grass for our stock. Then there is the Elk that we saw every morning from camp. Members went for a short ride on Friday up a ridge where you could see clear to the Wallowa Mountains. Saturday was the big ride with eleven riders. The ride was about four hours through forested and meadow terrain. We came across a wrecked Model A and did some discussion about what it could say if it could talk, then on to the Mountain View Cemetery for lunch. The ride back to camp got a little interesting as we were looking for the school house and took a wrong turn. Brush whacking for about 20 minutes got us down to the road we started on and back to camp. There were fifteen members in camp for the Saturday Night Potluck.

There was much laughter and jokes about the chicken cooked on a beer can during happy hour as we waited for the chicken and steaks to be ready on the BBQ for the potluck. We had so much food that we had leftovers for breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Sunday's ride was successful in that we found the school house and explored the sawmill remnants. We then rode along the breaks looking down into the Grande Ronde River. Lorelei McNamee wanted to explore a road that we had turned around on Saturday as she felt it would take us back to camp. Well, only one wrong road to back track on, and shortly we found a road that got us to where we rode Friday and we were back to camp in no time for the leftovers for lunch. I do not think we could have had any better weather than what we had for the entire weekend. Thanks to everyone for making this a memorable outing for TRBCH members.

**Certified Weed Seed Free Forage is required in all national forests and state lands.  
Washington State Suppliers**

**[http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb\\_hay.htm](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb_hay.htm)**

**Idaho State Suppliers**

**<http://www.idahoweedawareness.net/netcenter/library/weedfreeforage.html>**

**Oregon State Suppliers**

**<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/weedfreeforageprogram.shtml>**

**TRBCH Newsletter Editor/Website - Please submit Articles to:  
Rod Parks, email; rod.d.parks@gmail.com**

**Calendar of Events 2020**

<b>TRBCH Chapter Meeting</b>	<b>July 14 6:30 pm</b>	<b>NezPerce County Fairgrounds Arena</b>
<b>Seven Devils Project</b>	<b>July 22-29 10:00 am</b>	<b>Windy Saddle Trailhead</b>
<b>TRBCH Chapter Meeting</b>	<b>Aug. 11 6:30 pm</b>	<b>To be detemined</b>
<b>Elmer CR Packing Support</b>	<b>Aug. 18-19</b>	<b>Clearwater – NezPerce NF, Smith Ridge Trailhead</b>
<b>BCHI State Directors Meeting</b>	<b>Sept. 26, 2020</b>	<b>Hosted by Squaw Butte BCH Caldwell, ID</b>