

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho State

Annual Report 2012

Boise Chapter Annual Report

Scott Nichols, 2013 Boise Chapter President

The Boise Chapter had a great 2012. We have many long term members with great experience and they have kept the Chapter moving forward at a steady pace. We also support several annual events that are coordinated by the Squaw Butte and Treasure Valley Chapters.

Our January and February meetings were spent planning the summer rides and projects. We supported the information table at the Sportsman's Show in March, the Horse Exposition in April and served lunch for the Squaw Butte Chapter's spring pack clinic in early May.

The Boise Chapter completed three projects over the summer. On June 23, 2012 we held our second annual "fun" ride to raise money for St. Jude Children's hospital. It was held in conjunction with Frontier Days in historic Idaho City. We were fortunate to be able to use the city rodeo grounds and Bill Sterling's Cowboy Campground for the event. The Cowboy Campground has thirteen camp sites with a private corral at each site plus a round pen and arena. In 2012 we had twice the riders participating in the event with two flagged trails through state and federal forest lands. We had prizes, a silent auction, and a live auction of several valuable items.

We had a great time and raised about three thousand dollars for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Our plans are to have the same event in 2013, but it will be held at Wilson Creek trail head and parking area south of Nampa. We are hoping for even better participation, please come and join us for lunch, prizes, a great ride, and to help St. Jude Children's Hospital fight cancer. While not a trail project we are able to utilize the Idaho City "Cowboy Campground" and raise about \$3000 for St. Jude's. We have received great comments and a lot of good exposure for Back Country Horsemen

Brandon Breaux (our 2013 Vice President) was instrumental in coordinating with the Selway, Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation. In February he attended a local trails planning meeting and committed the Chapter to support the West Fork of Camas Creek trail project scheduled for August 2012.

Bill Murphy our past Presidents coordinated with the Lowman Ranger District and arranged for the Chapter to repair the fence and corrals at the Warm Springs cabin site. We had a good turnout and some help from the District.

In October Curtis Elton represented the Chapter at the BCHI Board meeting and in November we elected the new officers, discussed possible summer projects for 2013 and started our calendar sales.

WEST FORK CAMAS CREEK TRAIL CLEARING PROJECT AUGUST 4TH - 12TH 2012

Brandon Breaux, 2013 Boise Chapter Vice President

The West Fork of the Camas Creek trail clearing project began on August 4th 2012 at Myers Cove Campground 50 miles northwest of Challis. It was at Myers cove at 3pm on a smoke filled afternoon that 6 members of the Boise Backcountry horseman, 3 members of the Student Conservation Association (SCA), and Brian Parker from the Forest Service met to begin our 5 day project. The original plan was for 10 volunteers from the SCA and Idaho trails Association to clear 10 miles of the trail from Myers Cove to West Fork Lakes and for the 6 members of the Backcountry Horsemen to provide pack support and cook for the volunteers. It was not until we arrived at Myers Cove that we were told that there would only be 3 volunteers to clear trail. We were all relieved to know that we would not starve on our 5 day trip since we had enough food for 16 and there would only be 9. After an excellent dinner and even better dutch oven apple pie for dessert (thanks to Roger Segers) we hashed out our plan for the next 5 days. Brian Parker informed us of the trail conditions and where we could camp. He told us that the first couple or miles were pretty open trail following the creek and with the exception of a couple of creek crossings the trail was in pretty good shape.

The next morning the 3 volunteers from the SCA took off to begin the first phase of the project. The SCA members would clear the brush around the creek crossings and be back at Myers Cove for dinner. The remaining members or the Backcountry Horsemen would saddle up and ride the 4 miles up the trail to check out the camping spots Brian had told us about. After finding a good spot to set up our next camp we rode back to Myers Cove and began cooking dinner.

The next morning after an excellent breakfast the three person SCA crew headed up the trail to finish clearing the creek crossings and then would meet us at our new base camp. We cleaned up camp packed all our gear onto our four pack animals (2 horses, 2 mules) and headed up the trail to set up our new camp. The ride in was very good and everyone worked hard to get camp set up and have dinner ready for the trail crew.

On the third morning the SCA crew still had not finished the trail up to our camp, so they headed back to finish. We (backcountry Horseman) headed up on horse back to clear the trail the rest of the way to the lakes. The second (upper) part of the trail was through heavily timbered forest and had not been cleared in some time. It was a hard day but we made it the 5 or so miles to the lake and back. I think we cut out about 25 trees (by hand) along the way. After another

good diner Rodger Segers (our main cook) and one of the SCA members had to leave us due to prior engagements.

The next day the 2 SCA members and myself went to do some tread work on the trail right below camp (part of the trail was falling off into the creek) and the rest of the crew went up about a mile to clear a creek crossing that was overgrown with brush. We all made it back in time for cocktails before dinner. A good night with lots of stories and laughs was had by all. Trail work done, sleep in and head back to Myers Cove in the morning.

It's hard to sleep in to the sound of 8 horses screaming for breakfast at 5:30 in the morning. So up to graze horses, cook breakfast, and break down camp. After breakfast the 2 SCA members began hiking down while we broke down the rest of camp, saddled horses and packed up gear. As I began to pack the first horse Curtis came to me and said "have you seen the mules". I realized that I had not seen the 2 mules since I hobbled one and turned them loose to graze at 5:30 this morning. (it was now about 10am). After 2 hours of frantic searching (on foot and on horseback) the mules were found about 500 yards from camp hiding behind a little hill.

We got the mules packed up and head down the trail for our 2 hour ride back to Myers Cove. It is about 4pm when we hit the trailers and had everything packed up and put away. After a brief discussion about whether to sleep at the campground or to drive the 5 hours home we loaded up the animals and headed out. Everything was going good until we arrived in Stanley about 9pm only to realize the road was closed due to the Halstead forest fire. After another brief discussion about whether to camp in Stanley or drive home the 5 hours via Sun Valley we were back on the road. My horses were as happy as I was to get home at 2am in the morning. It was a good trip!

North Central Idaho Chapter Annual Report

The best thing about North Central Idaho BCH this past year was the incredible support by it's members. Our monthly meetings averaged 35 members each and every month.

Winter meetings are the time to gather information about things that affect our access into the backcountry. Lochsa District Ranger, Craig Trulock spoke to us about the Recreation & Trails Program. The Clearwater & NezPerce Forests are combining into three zones. The Lochsa, Moose Creek & Powell Districts will now be the Central Zone. The Salmon River, Red River & Clearwater Districts will be the South Zone. The North Fork & Palouse Districts will be the North Zone.

The trails budget is down. Five permanent employees have left during the last five years & those positions have not been filled.

A decision was made to close a couple of the campgrounds & the Lochsa Historical site due to budgets. There will only be one permanent packer for the two Forests, at Moose Creek.

There will not be packers at the Lochsa or Powell Ranger Stations. The chapter let the Forest Service know they are very concerned with the Forests decision to close the Lochsa Historical Station & not fill the packer positions & the impact this will have on trail conditions . A proposal about this was taken to the BCHI Convention in March 2012.

The chapter continued to work on the Trail Classification data base. Members from our

chapter, along with Twin Rivers BCH members met with the Forest Service. The meeting's purpose was to go over the trails that were not represented correctly in the Forest Service Trails Database. It was agreed that some of the trails had been classified by the shape the trails were in at the time they were reviewed, not for their designed purpose. The chapters will be getting a copy of the revised database from the Forest Service.

Patti Johnston who is in charge of the Recreation - Wilderness - Trails Program on the Clearwater & NezPerce Forests stopped by the February meeting to give chapter members the list of projects the Forests have submitted as possible projects for BCH.

At our March meeting the chapter selected the following projects:

March 31 Pittsburg Landing Fence Replacement, May 12 Meadow Creek Trail brushing, May 19 Lochsa Historical RS workday, June 2 National Trails Day at Wilderness Gateway, June 9,16,23,30 Weed Treatment, July 14 Otterson Creek Trail at Red River, Aug 18 Elk Summit Fun Ride, Sept 1-3 Ruth Lake puncheon bridge.

Other projects that individual members have agreed to take on are:

May - Open up trail into Meadow Creek Cabin, July - Feed bunk install on Red River RD,

July - Smokejumper pack support, July or Aug - Install sign at Florence.

At our June meeting, Roger Inghram, Project Coordinator gave a slide show with pictures of noxious weeds members should be on the watch for when spraying. A very informative tool.

The Otterson Creek project on the Red River RD was cancelled due to a fire in that area.

Some members went all the way in before being notified by the USFS, some were turned around on the way. Our Elk Summit Fun Ride was cancelled due to fire as well.

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO BCH 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Pittsburg Landing. 26 members showed up & some started on Friday evening, so the project was finished by late Saturday afternoon. 30 posts were set in the yard around the ranch house & the old boards were put back on. Another 25 posts still need to be replaced when funds are available. A volunteer group called the Friends of the Lochsa Historical Station was formed & given permission by the USFS to open and operate the site as a volunteer group. Many North Central Idaho BCH members joined this effort.

North Central Idaho BCH was represented by two wagons & 20 riders in the Grangeville Border Days Parade on July 4. Six members, plus two wagons, rode in the CVRA Parade in Kamiah on June 23.

The North Central Idaho chapter hosted the September 29 Board of Directors meeting for BCH of Idaho at the Three Rivers Resort in Lowell, Idaho.

Five members attended a three day USFS workshop in Orofino on October 26-27-28 that is the beginning of the collaborative process. People that want to serve with this group have agreed to a two year commitment to take part in the Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision Collaborative Process.

On November 15 two members attended an open house-style meeting in Kamiah on the USFS Recreation Budget cuts & the impact to the Nezperce-Clearwater Forests. Due to the decreasing recreation budget that funds things like campgrounds & visitor centers the Forest is considering options such as; contracting with private companies to operate campgrounds, increasing camping fees & dramatically reducing services at developed recreation sites.

Our December Christmas Potluck & End of Year Awards Celebration was a success as

always. Last year we started a new tradition of having photos from the past years projects & events rolling on a big screen in the background for all to enjoy.

13 members received the 500 Miler Award from the USFS for trail miles they have completed on trail projects.

11 members received Attendance Awards for attending all monthly meeting in 2012.

Our Membership Bell which is a traveling award, recognizes the member who brought in the most new members during the past year. Their name is then engraved on the bell.

The Chapter does a monetary drawing for our Incentive Awards programs. Each members that participates in a project gets their name added to the drawing. Attend more projects, you get your name put in the hat more times.

We also presented a couple of Hard Luck Awards to members who had an interesting experience during the year. Usually involving stock, but not always!

Eagle Rock Chapter Year End Chapter Summary Report

January 19--general meeting- Dave Woodcock, Palisades District Forest Service ranger, spoke about trails that need work and support letters that are needed.

January 20--Phebe Pelot wrote support letters for the following projects:

- Caribou Subsection ATV Exclosure Project
- Palisades back country ranger
- Palisades Ranger District Light Trail Maintenance Crew
- Poker Peak Area Trail Sign Project
- Williams Creek Trail FS#001 Reconstruction

February 16--general meeting-Mitch Christensen spoke about maintaining trailer brakes.

March 16--general meeting

March 21--Connie Bowcutt and Phebe Pelot met with Robert Mickelsen and Dave Woodcock concerning TMOs.

April 7--Connie Bowcutt and Phebe Pelot were invited to speak to all East Idaho FS Rangers about TMOs.

April 20--general meeting--Dave Woodcock spoke again about needed volunteers.

May 18--general meeting--Vern and LaRene Smith spoke about packing into the backcountry alone or with someone.

May 13 through June 15--equine activities put on hold because of equine virus

June 15-- general meeting--Walt Byers spoke about detecting inflammation in horses with thermography, infrared imaging.

June 21--Play Day--Public event at Mike and Connie Bowcutt's.

June 22--Palisades Creek bridge removal

June 29--Palisades Creek bridge removal

July 16--Tie Canyon work project, Joe Brinkman trail boss

July 20-- general meeting

July 23--Soda Springs District Forest Service trail inspection rides, Tim Palmer trail boss. Trail #454, 453, 457, 448, 458

July 30--Soda Springs District trail inspection rides, Tim Palmer trail boss

August 13--Water Canyon trail work, Mitch Christensen trail boss

August 17--summer picnic at Mitch and Kathy Christensen's

August 20--Mink Creek ride lead by Barry Cellan

September 17--Harriman State Park ride and public event

September 21--general meeting--discussed safely tying horses inside and outside the trailer

September 24--Garden Creek/Indian Creek trail work--Joe Brinkman trail boss

October 19--general meeting--Laurie Galbraith talked about Overcoming the Fear of Riding

October 26--director's meeting at Tim Palmer's house.

October 20--American Falls ride lead by Barry Cellan

November 16--George Klomp showed a video on decker packing

November 18--BOD meeting at U of I for BCHI

December 10--Christmas party at Mike and Connie Bowcutt's

HEARTLAND CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

YEAR END REPORT 2012

JANUARY: No meeting due to inclement travel weather.

FEBRUARY: Potluck at Becker's. The members attending voted on having the Mountain Trail Challenge again this year on June 9th. Committees were set up. Two rides were planned, one on July 28th at the Jackson Creek/French Creek Trail and the other on Aug. 18 on Council Mt. Gretel read 4 proposals to be voted on at the Director's Mtg. in March. All passed by HBCH.

MARCH: Potluck at Dowdy's. Gretel reported on the above mentioned Director's Mtg. All proposals passed. MTC Committee Heads gave their reports. Al reported on the Payette Forest Coalition. Breakfast ride to be on May 19th.

APRIL: Potluck at the Rittersbacher's since both VanGrunsven's were under the weather. The MTC and the Payette Forest Coalition were both discussed. Ride May 19 to be at the VanGrunsven's after a short mtg. and breakfast potluck.

MAY: Breakfast potluck, mtg. and ride. The MTC Committees are all working in full force. The next mtg. will be at White Tail Arena at 10 AM on June 16. Riders can ride the course before it is disassembled. Potluck at noon.

JUNE: Course ride, mtg. potluck and course disassembling. MTC Committee heads all gave their reports. Scheduled ride on July 28 at the French Creek/Jackson Creek Trail.

JULY: Potluck at the Revaul's. MTC was discussed as was the Forest Service Appeal. The French Creek/Jackson Creek ride was cancelled due to participation in the Adams County Rodeo on the same day.

AUGUST: Potluck at the Johnson's. MTC accounting - Income \$254.50 after expenses. The Payette Forest Coalition was revisited. It is time to update our membership list, and time to remove non payees. Rides were evaluated and discussed.

SEPTEMBER: Potluck at Becker's. There was the usual format. A Nomination Committee was called into action for next year's officers.

OCTOBER: Potluck at the Rittersbacher's. The program featured Katrina Pavlovich ESMT and her horse and human therapies. Of course, election of officers was on the agenda.

NOVEMBER: No meeting due to early Dec. Christmas Party.

DECEMBER: Potluck, Christmas Party, Short Mtg. at the Becker's

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JOY RITTERSBACHER, HBCH SECRETARY

High Desert Back Country Horsemen 2012 Chapter Report

2012 was a year of changes for the High Desert bunch, some large and some small. One rather large change was the decision to put on a poker ride as our main fundraiser and recruitment activity as opposed to the chili feed. On April 28, we welcomed many Magic Valley community members to the Niagara Springs Wildlife Management area for a day of fun and games, both on and off the horses! In addition to the ride itself, we had a silent auction, a balloon pop game, and, of course, lots of food that could be purchased at a very reasonable price. The event was deemed to be a large success, and the decision was made to do it again, bigger and better, next year!

We continued to rotate the locations of our monthly meetings throughout the year, coming together at the homes of our members to enjoy a potluck supper and a casual and “no rush” atmosphere for the meetings.

Our work projects this year included the annual Northrim cleanup in May. This is a large collaborative workday, including BLM, the Offroaders, the High Desert Back Country Horsemen, the local ATV club, and many community members who come together to clean up a large area of BLM land that lies on the north side of the Snake River Canyon between Twin Falls and Jerome County. Normally, and this year was no exception, tons of garbage are taken out of that area on that one day.

We also completed our own annual Rimview Trail cleaning in the south hills. Just so happened that it snowed on June 9th up there, and we had a challenging day, sawing out deadfall and brushing in the snow! When we finished and rode back to the trailhead, the winds had gusted the snow sideways so hard that the trailer floors were white! We drove down the mountain to the 3rd Fork Trailhead, where it wasn't quite as gusty, build a campfire, and roasted hot dogs in the snow. One of the best hot dog roasts many of us have ever had!

The third work project members of High Desert participated in was National Public Lands Days in September. We cleaned a part of the Skyline Trail near Twin Lakes, working with members of the Forest Service and community volunteers.

It wasn't all work for us, however. We took a fun ride at Dry Gulch in March, and at Cottonwood in April. We also enjoyed a weekend of beautiful trail riding, camaraderie and good eating at Ear Creek near Fairfield, a beautiful place for horses and riding. I do believe some of us snuck in some trail clearing, though.... Old habits are hard to break!

Our second scheduled overnighter to Placer Creek was cancelled due to the fires that pretty much raged throughout our state last year! The planned work project at Green Creek with the Cache Peak Chapter and the Forest service was also cancelled for the same reason – those crazy fires!

Our Christmas party was great fun, with a gift exchange to the tune of a revised “Twas the Night Before Christmas” reading, and, yes, prime rib on the menu.....

We ended the year with a brand new slate of officers, and a different meeting night. Looking forward to a New Year of renewed energy and growth for our High Desert Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Vance, Secretary-Treasurer
High Desert Back Country Horsemen

PANHANDLE BCH 2012 Chapter Report

We had several fun rides this year: Marie Cr , 4th of July Pass, Canfield Mt., Blue Creek, Liberty Lake and Farragut State Park.

March we hosted the BCHI Convention which we felt was a huge success.

April and May was spent clearing Marie Cr. Then it rained so much we were limited to where we could ride.

June 2, National Trails Day, a hardy group of people braved the wind and rain to move dirt at a new trail head located at Blue Creek Bay which is located less than fifteen minutes out of CDA.

June 3 another group of sturdy members traveled to Heyburn State Park to cut, brush and open a new trail using Pulaski's and chainsaws.

June 23 and 24 Terry Steiner of Priest River Chapter taught a Leave No Trace training. We had 7 of our members that participated.

July 13 an 14 Chapter members had an over night at Heyburn State Park and rode the trails, while 2 of our members prepared a Dutch Oven meal for us.

July 19-22 was our trip to Red Ives to clear trails. Jim Kimball walked up Copper Ridge Trail one evening and collected noxious weeds and after dinner gave a talk on what to look for. The day after our clearing was done six of us packed up and did an over night trip 15 miles up the St Joe River. Two of our members had never packed before so, although short, it was a fun experience for them.

July 30 we cleared North and South Chilco Mt. It was a fantastic view from both peaks.

August 10 Jim Kimball and Jerry Shriner sprayed for weeds on Marie Cr. Trail.

August 22-26 our Chapter members took turns manning a booth at the North Idaho Fair promoting BCH. There were demonstration and talks on packing, LNT, Dutch Oven cooking and wilderness survival.

September 8 was our annual Steak Ride at the ranch of Al and Judy Linscott . They had a great meal waiting for us after a 3 hr ride.

September Chapter meeting Jim Kimball gave a talk on firearms to carry in the back woods

October 14 we have a ride scheduled at Heyburn State Park on a new trail. The one which we helped with.

October 18 Jim & Karen Kimball and Bob & Linda Funke spread fertilizer at Burton Meadow up Marie Creek for the Forest Service.

December 8 was our Christmas Party, with a meal, awards and gift exchange.

We also had several trail rides throughout the summer which which helped to bring in some new members.

Selkirk Valley Back Country Horsemen 2012 Annual Report

We kicked off 2012 with our January meeting. Due to the snowpack our activities during the winter months are very limited and we spend a good deal of our time planning for the coming summer months.

At our meeting, we talked about discount cards and the ongoing caribou debate that so many of us are concerned about. A public meeting was held in the high school auditorium, attended by State, Federal, local officials and over 300 local, concerned residents. It was very apparent that we were all concerned about this issue closing the forests to public use just to set aside a big part of North Idaho's forest land (375,562 acres most of which are in Idaho with a small portion in Washington) in order to supposedly protect some seven caribou that migrate into Canada for a good portion of the year. As of this writing, the jury is still out, but it looks like we may just win!

At our February meeting, we discussed sending some of our members to the annual meeting of BCHI to be held in Coeur d'Alene on March 23.

We also planned our annual spring shot and health clinic at Merle's place and decided on April 14 as the date. Since this army marches on its stomach, we also decided to have a BBQ together with an afternoon ride on Chicken Ridge.

Sue suggested that we contact a local veterinarian to conduct a spring shot and health clinic. Arleen called Marilyn Moyle to see if she would be available and interested in providing veterinarian services. The clinic was scheduled for April 14. We're planed a BBQ and ride on Chicken Ridge for that afternoon after the clinic.

Merle said he contacted the Idaho Fish & Game regarding stocking local lakes. They were very interested in having us pack in fingerlings to local lakes this coming summer. We planned on inviting a representative of Fish & Games to come and tell us how the program works.

March was a quiet month we did, however , welcome J.R. Lewis as a member.

In April we held our annual health clinic and meeting at Merle's. Marilyn Moyle showed up at approximately 9:30 a.m. to give shots, Coggins tests and answer questions we may have had regarding our animals health (horses and mules).

After the health clinic, Mary Ann Hamilton from the Sandpoint Forest Service explained the proposed five-year Challenge Cost Share Agreement and we appointed a group to meet with Pat at the Bonners Ferry Ranger District to learn how this agreement would impact work that we may perform for the Bonners Ferry District.

After our meeting, we had lunch and went for a great ride behind Merle's on Chicken Ridge. When we returned from our ride, Dan Kersteins (Brand Inspector) had arrived to perform brand inspections for anyone who needed one.

The weather was beautiful, the food was great and we all had a wonderful time.

We didn't do much in May. We were still waiting for the weather to warm up so we could get into the high country and do some riding. We decided to schedule our summer rides at our June meeting.

Merle said Snyder Guard Station was having an open house on May 19 and urged everyone to attend.

In June, Will Demien, from Fish and Game, came to our meeting and filled us in on how fingerlings are transported to area lakes. He said, basically, they are put in one gallon containers of water with oxygen pumped into the containers and transported by volunteers (hikers, horseback, ATVs or F&G employees) into the lakes. The containers are then placed into the lake for about ½ hour and then they are opened and the fingerlings released. This procedure is done every two years at the end of July and through August to lakes designated by the F&G. Will was

to let us know which lakes are available for us to stock so we can put together a list of dates to pack fingerlings to them.

Merle reported that he has submitted our work report for the Goat Mountain trailhead to the Forest Service. As soon as the weather permits, we'll complete the project.

We finally came up with a schedule for our long-awaited summer rides. Hopefully, the snow will melt and the weather will permit us to get started. In anticipation of our summer to begin, we scheduled a ride at the end of June on the Wylie Know Trail. Can hardly wait!

Merle told us that he has submitted our work report for the Goat Mountain trailhead. He said he was still trying to get another load of gravel delivered to the site to finish the job.

On July 7, Jim, Merle, Cate, Josie, Jerry, Wayne, Petra and Arleen went for a ride to Queen Lake and beyond. It was a beautiful sunny day, however, we did run into a few patches of snow and some muddy boggy areas. Thankfully, no one fell in. We ate lunch on a bluff overlooking the Selkirk Valley, what a view! The only mishap to report was that Cracker Jack (Arleen's trusty steed) lost a shoe. She got a new one the next Tuesday. After the ride, we sat around at the trailers and enjoyed some liquid refreshments, Josie's spiced pistachios, as well as some chips.

We planned a ride for July 28 up Wylie Knob. Sorry to say, upon checking with the Forest Service regarding trail conditions, that the ride had to be cancelled. Apparently, the trail was a wash out due to the spring thaw. We'll have to try that one again later. Instead a group went up to Trail Creek.

There were 13 riders, including a guest from the Spokane Chapter of BCH. Unfortunately, there was a wreck when Wayne's horse had a footing problem. Wayne was well attended to and remounted for the trip back for a check up at the ER since he was knocked out with some memory issues. Six of the riders turned back to the Trail Creek Trailhead. The six that continued had lunch on Grouse Mountain overlooking the valley and west across to the Selkirks. When you are up on Grouse Mountain be sure to look for the monkey in the tree which appeared for us. It's better than the green flash at sunset in the Caribbean. (You had to be there to appreciate this.) The ride continued skirting around the top of Bald Eagle then down to the intersection with the Kelly Pass trail #155, turning west to catch FS road 404 back to the trail head. The rest of ride was scenic and enjoyable with a minor problem with one flat-land horse that got quite tired and the rider wisely gave it some rest walking the last bit into Trail Creek. The trail was generally good with a few rocky spots and the weather great.

We added three new members to our roster in July. Welcome Ted, Catherine and Jody. We look forward to riding with you!

On August 4 we rode to the West Fork Cabin and on to the West Fork Lake. The trail to the cabin was great; however, the trail up to the lake was steep, rough and in need of repair in a few places. When we reached the lake it was marshy and the mosquitoes ambushed us so we didn't stay long. We all survived the ride and had a great BBQ when we returned to the trailers at Bakers Camp, a large unmarked meadow on FS road 281.

The work to complete the trailhead at Goat Mountain was scheduled to be completed on August 13. However, due to other commitments, Wood's Crushing could not deliver the gravel so, once again, the job is on hold. However, the job was finally completed and there's now a bit more parking available.

The Goat Mountain trail has approximately 53 switchbacks and at the top hooks up with the Buckhorn trail which goes on to Canuck Pass. The Goat Mountain trail is also used by bicyclists and has quite a bit of traffic on it.

The Idaho Fish & Game asked us to pack fingerlings into McCormick and Fault Lakes in the Bonner County Ranger District. However, there is no trail into McCormick Lake. We scheduled the ride the weekend of August 18. So, on August 18 Merle, Wayne, Ted, Josie, and Jody rode up to Fault Lake and deposited 1,600 fingerlings into the lake. At the same time, Bob Pace & Michael Bejzak hiked into McCormick Lake and put 600 fingerlings into that lake. After depositing the fingerlings into Fault Lake, Merle and Wayne took advantage of being at the lake and decided to go fishing. The boys caught enough fish for Merle to have a trout dinner that evening.

On August 25 we went up to Trout Creek and packed along 2,600 fingerlings to be deposited into Big Fisher Lake and 2,100 fingerlings in Trout Lake. We had a good ride, despite the rocky terrain and put fish into Trout Lake then continued on to Big Fisher Lake where some of us waited up top while others carried the fish down to the lake.

The weekend of September 8 & 9, we camped out at Boulder Meadows. On Saturday morning, Josie and Arleen rode up the Smythe Creek Trail, across the top of the ridge, down to Divide Lake, then back to Boulder Meadows. The weather was beautiful and the vistas along the ridge were "magnificent". The entire ride was approximately 12 miles.

On Saturday night we pigged out on spaghetti (prepared by Ella), salad and giant marshmallows. Ella made breakfast on Sunday morning and Wayne, Petra, Jerry, Merle and Arleen headed out for the Orville Heath Trail. We had a great ride with the exception of a mishap on a broken bridge up on the Orval Heath trail. But all is well that ends well, no one was hurt and Wayne's horse was on the mend with a scrape on his back leg. We report the dangerous bridge to the Forest Service.

Merle and some others helped the Forest Service pack out equipment used to repair and clear the Fisher Creek Trail. He reported that it took 10 loads to pack out the camp and equipment and three trips to get the job done. Job well done, boys!

We topped off our summer with a stay at the Snyder Guard Station the first part of October. Those of us who attended had a great time! On Saturday, some of us rode on the Side Hill trail, made a loop back down to Meadowbrook Road, crossed the river and took the road back to Snyder. We then bummed a ride back to pick up our trailers at the trailhead. On Sunday, three of us rode up the Bussard Mountain trail and circled around down the Ruby Ridge trail back to the trailhead. The ride took longer than expected and we raced down the trail at a breakneck speed in order to get back to the trailers before the sun sank behind the mountain on the west side of the valley. Wayne and Petra, who were riding gated horses, seemed to sail smoothly down the trail, while I trotted the entire way. Gladly, we beat the setting sun and I'm happy to say, I survived the jostling! Those who couldn't make the trip missed out on a great time.

Unfortunately, this wrapped up our summer activities, fall had begun to set in and the days grew short. So we all hung up our spurs, cleaned our tack and turned the ponies out for the winter.

In November we nominated Officers and Directors for 2013, discussed possible summer projects for 2013 and concentrated on our calendar sales.

We wrapped up 2012 in December with our elections and annual Christmas Party. You guessed it, we stuffed ourselves once again. We started out with finger foods and drink, moved on to the main course of turkey and ham. Then there was dessert and more holiday cheer. We had a gift exchange. Everyone must have been absolutely pleased with their gift, because there was only 1 or 2 gifts that were taken away from their original pickers. We also had a contest for the most festively dressed person. Most of us were labeled "party poopers" because we came in our usual attire. Wayne, Debbie and Sue came all decked out. Jim had on his Paul Bunion plaid shirt, a dapper pair of cords and his boots and spurs. It was a difficult decision. Debbie and Sue were visions of beauty, but Wayne's manly-man outfit won out. Congratulations, Wayne, for your impeccable fashion sense! Wear your SVBCH ball cap proudly. You deserve it!

It was a GREAT year! See ya'll on the trail in 2013!

Salmon River Backcountry Horsemen Year End Report 2012

April 8, 2012 the Salmon River Backcountry Horsemen opened the year with our annual Easter Ride. The ride ended at the home of Buster and Marge Light. We had an Easter Day Service followed by a bountiful and delicious breakfast. It was a great beginning for our SRBCH members.

April 6, 2012 was the annual Salmon Mule Sale. Salmon River Backcountry Horsemen gave packing demonstrations and answered the many questions people asked about packing and our organization.

May 6, 2012 our club had a ride up Blackhawk at Carmen Creek. Celeste Bingham organized the ride. After the ride everyone enjoyed snacks and had a nice visit.

The spring Highway Clean Up was a great success. Marcella Hendricks organized the clean up. The members went to town and enjoyed lunch and a visit after the clean up.

May 20, 2012 our club had a trail clearing project on the Buster Light Trail. The trail covers a large part of the Mulkey Creek basin with spectacular views. Buster Light has been a long time member of the SRBCH and it is with gratitude that we work on this trail. We had permission from the BLM to place a sign at the trailhead.

May 28, 2012 our club had a weekend work project and campout at Wagonhammer Creek. Bill Clementz organized the camp out. It was well attended and a lot of trail work was accomplished in the Wagonhammer and Silverleaf areas. The shared dinners in the cook tent added to the success of the work project.

July 4, 2012 our club participated in the annual Fourth of July Salmon Parade. Salmon valley residents and visitors turned out in large numbers and there was a lot of cheering and good will.

July 16th through July 20, 2012 was a work project packing in the retired smoke jumpers crew to Sagebrush. Richard Smith, Chris Walker, and Geoff Fast of the Forest Service organized the work project. The club packed out the crew and all the garbage on the 20th. We really appreciate our great packers.

August 4 and 5, 2012 our club had a work project in the Craggs. Our packers took wilderness volunteer crews and their equipment in to their destinations.

August 6 through 10, 2012 our packers went back in to pack out garbage.

August 11, 2012 our packers brought out the volunteers from the Welcome Lake area.

August 18 and 19th, 2012 our club took part in the annual Sacajawea Heritage Days Event. John Burns organized this event. Most of our membership volunteered to help in many ways. We had demonstrations in packing, pony cart rides, horse tack, how to tie knots, horse rides for young and old and demonstrations in the art of dutch oven cooking. Our homemade camp biscuits slathered in butter and berry jam were a hit.

September 8, 2012 our club helped with the annual Salmon Marathon. Leslie Maiyo organized the event. This event draws people from all over the United States and is a certified 26 mile marathon course.

Our members were stationed at the many checkpoints along the route. There were course directions that required manpower and our members were present in case any emergencies occurred. The runners loved seeing Salmon valley's horsemen and horses.

The Salmon Valley Backcountry Horsemen look forward each year to help further the traditions of the Backcountry Horsemen.

Squaw Butte Chapter Report 2012

Squaw Butte Chapter officially started off 2012 in March, when we teamed up with the Treasure Valley and Boise Chapters of Back Country Horsemen at the Sportman's Show in Boise. Our three chapters had a booth at the Sportman's Show which attracts a large number of hunting,

fishing and back country enthusiasts. Our presence at this show allows us to provide information on back country trails and trail conditions and gives us a perfect opportunity to advocate for multi-purpose trail use, to educate people of the continuing need for trail maintenance, and to inform the public about the work our group does in the backcountry, keeping trails open for everyone to use.

In April we again teamed up with Boise and Treasure Valley Chapters at the Idaho Horse Expo in Nampa at the Equine Center. Over a period of three days, the Horse Expo features clinics with well-known clinicians, vendors with every sort of horse equipment and products imaginable, and informational booths such as ours. The Horse Expo attracts horse enthusiasts of all disciplines and gives us an excellent opportunity to reach out to people interested in riding in the back country. We also tout our accomplishments in keeping trails open and the public service we do in helping the Forest Service maintain these back country trails. It is a perfect time to educate the public not only in our organization, but in the service we provide, and the great need and importance for our continued work and diligence in maintaining back country trails.

Twin River BCH 2012 Annual Report

Hitchrail Fabrication January 1

Redbird Canyon, owned by Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game, has become a very popular area for day rides. We approached them about installing some hitchrails to tie to while enjoying the beach and the river. This will avoid tying to trees in the area. They agreed to purchase the materials if we would fabricate them and install them. It was a challenge to design them so they could be moved easily, as there is no road to the area. Mark Bogar was responsible for the design. Two hitchrails were fabricated to be installed at a later date at Redbird Beach on the Snake River.

Trail Classification Meeting Feb. 13

Members from TRBCH and BCH of NCI met in Orofino to review the data for the Clearwater and NezPerce NF. The meeting was very productive with agreement on almost all trails designed for pack and saddle stock being at least managed for Pack & Saddle Stock and at least a Trail Class 2. Many ATV and motorcycle trails also will be managed to accommodate pack and saddle stock.

Access & Hitchrail Fabrication February 24th

Five of us spent the day at the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife shop in Clarkston building two hitch rails and two access gates. Things went very well and we completed the project

quicker than anticipated. One each will be installed at the South Fork Asotin Creek Trailhead later.

Annual Chili Ride Feb 25

This is an annual event at the Kuther Ranch. Fourteen riders braved the wind as we rode out of the canyons and enjoyed the calm down in the draws. It was a great time and good to see new and old faces and catch up on what we have been doing over the winter. Several groups of deer showed us their tails as they scampered away. No Pizza wrecks this year, so we are going to have to schedule some more fun rides before November. Bob Kuther again was a gracious host and had the heat on in the shop, the chili hot, and everything setup for the riders to dive into the delicious food after the ride. I must say, we did dive right in, as there was lots of food and it was sooo---goood!



Primeland Country Store Outdoor Show March 17th

Our chapter display was set up in a wall tent due to the wet weather. We were on hand with handouts and members to answer questions. We had some interest from prospective members. Bob Henriksen set up a LNT camp. Portable electric fences, picket lines and highlines were demonstrated. Dutch Oven cooking was demonstrated and was a hit as samples were provided.

Animals were there for hands on packing, but there was very little interest. The big winner was the pony and mule rides thanks to Jim Bunch. Some of us walked several miles in circles leading the excited kids around and around.



South Fork Asotin Creek Trailhead Work Project & Fun Ride Mar. 18th

Building access to areas takes years to develop. When Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife first purchased the Smoothin Iron Ranch they put in a very small parking area at the hay shed on the South Fork of Asotin Creek. It was very difficult to park in that area for horse trailers – not user friendly for BCH types. So we have been talking to our wild life land managers to improve access for years as this is a really nice ride.

Well, things have finally come together. Pat and Mark Bogar rode up to the hayshed last weekend to check out the new parking area and work being done. We will be able to pull in past the hayshed with a horse trailer to make a full loop turn around. As well as park numerous vehicles comfortably. So the BCH volunteered to build hitch rails and non-motorized access

gates for the trailhead area, since they say we have become the experts. After meeting with them, they agreed to purchase material for two non-motorized access gates and two hitchrails. One of each will be installed at the South Fork site and the others will be stored for future locations. The thing that makes this unique is to establish our presence at access points. And because when you pull in to a trail head that has hitch rails you pretty much know it is a riding area. Most likely stock could be around.





BCH of Idaho Annual Convention & Banquet March 24th

The Panhandle Chapter really out did themselves for the convention. The facilities were fantastic and Saturday Nights Dinner sure was delicious! The restaurant in the motel had good reasonable priced food, so was real handy to just eat there and not have to deal with the traffic. Some great speakers and presenters as well as the the entertaining auction made it an exciting event.

TRBCH Chapter Display

Bob & Pat Hough did a fantastic job on our Chapter Display for the state convention! Our chapter won the traveling display and the \$299 again this year. They also got good mileage out of it, as it was set up at the Primeland Event, the BCHI Convention, and the Horseman's Ball.



Redbird Hitchrails Project & Ride, April 7th

For anyone who hasn't ridden to Red Bird Beach, this is a great opportunity for any of us to ride close to town. The weather didn't look particularly promising when we left town; there was new snow on the mountains. We were pleasantly surprised when we could see the trailhead to have such an outstanding turnout—a total of 13 riders. I need to mention that only two women braved the day—Doris Ferguson and me, Linda Lane.

Once we were all saddled and introductions were made (thanks Bob Hough for always making everyone feel welcome), we headed down the trail. It was a little slick on the top; however, it dried out after about a quarter of a mile and was a fantastic trail ride. The trees were budding out, the creeks were running full, and we spotted a few deer on the hillside—what more can you ask for on a beautiful spring day.

The ride down took about two hours. We rounded the curve at the bottom and were surprised to find that Bill Correll and his crew had the first hitch rail already standing. We finished the work in record time, had a relaxing lunch, and headed back up the hill. The ride up was equally easy for the riders—I don't know if the horses would say the same.

There are now two sturdy hitchrails at the bottom of Red Bird for stock tying while enjoy the beach area. Thank you to all the volunteers for the work and Idaho Fish & Game Dept. for providing the materials. This is an excellent ride for getting your horses in shape. I would recommend it to anyone!



TRBCH Poker Ride May 19

The annual ride was held at Headsgate County Park this year. Holding it closer to town, we hoped to have more riders. We did not really gain in riders, but the easy terrain to ride made many of the riders happy with the area. The riding was on private property. We just used the park as a staging area because of the large parking area.

National Trails Day June 2

Four members and two forest service people went down Indian Tom and up Ranger Creek in the Umatilla NF. They cut out 25 to 30 trees, three of which were trail stoppers. The trail is now completely open. The project took about 8 hours to clear ten and a half miles. This is a real nice loop ride.

Dough Creek Adopt-A-Cabin June 16

This was our annual volunteer project for Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game at the Dough Creek Cabin in the Craig Mountains 30 miles from Lewiston, ID. Wonderful weather, a short drive, and some beautiful country lead to one of our best turnouts for a work project in several years. Seventeen riders and twenty four head of stock made the ride to the cabin on June 16th. The ride took about two and a half hours, as we had to cut some trees and brush along the trail in a few places. One plus of such a large group is we have a whole new list of Pizza Riders. Rod stepped on his lead rope to his pack animal getting off and tripped himself, Bruce Wyatt was helping clear trail and his mule decided to go to the cabin without him and John Carlisle's mule saw no reason to hang around without Bruce's mule, so it beat him to the cabin also. The line was stretched out so far that I am sure there were some other Pizza memories in the back. Crews brushed out the water line to the spring and repaired a hole in the water trough. Other crews did a cleanup on the cabin. Even washed the windows! Two string trimmers were buzzing away making fire breaks around the cabin, the hitchrails and the outhouse. Weeds to the creek and some big thistle were cut by another crew. This was a real enjoyable project, as the ride was over twice as long as the work, so it did not really seem like a work project with all the great help.



Kid's Kamp: July 11-15

Well, we pulled it off! Thirty plus energetic youths and 100 degree weather just about did the members in as we struggled with our tired bodies and the heat. Over fifty gallons of Gatorade and thirty two cases of bottled water were all gone before the week was over. We were very lucky to have drinking water at the house and the youths were very good about saving their water bottles after the rides and filling them over and over. The efforts from all the volunteers' weekend after weekend before hand made it possible to have a fantastic facility at the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's Black's Ranch. We owe so much to all the businesses that support our efforts.

McConnell Mountain Trail Project: August 2-6.

This project was completed and Jim White reported it was a success. Ten member's ages from 16 to 86 with 11 riding horses and 9 pack animals packed in 18 miles to Fish Lake and cleared at least 7 miles of trail to McConnell Mountain. Lots of work and lots of sawing were done as this area was through an old burn. All went well – no injuries and everyone had a good time. Members that hauled stock were each paid \$50.00 for fuel and three dinners were provided by the chapter at a cost of \$422.00. The payment to members was to encourage more participation on projects. After the project, three members rode over to Two Lakes and spent a couple days relaxing and fishing.





Garfield County Fair Presentation Sept. 15

Garfield County contacted Bob Henriksen about representing TRBCH as a demonstrator at the County Fair. Bob Henriksen and Mark Bogar set up a Leave No Trace (LNT) model camp. They had some handouts for LNT and info about our chapter. They visited with attendees and did some packing demonstrations, offered hands on packing, and answered any questions about packing and LNT.

Dworshak Reservoir Fun Ride Sept. 15-16

The Corps of Engineers is interested in expanding use around the reservoir to other users. Bob Regear is interested in establishing a trailhead on his property for others

to use. This ride was an exploratory trip to see what we thought of the area. Saturday afternoon the 15th found me riding around with Bob Regear looking at possible camping spots above the Dworshak reservoir. Of the three he showed me, the best one was close to his Dad's Memorial and at the end of his ribbon marked trail. The spot had trees, grass, water and a circle drive. The pot luck was chili by Kathi and chicken by the Hagenah's? This was followed with salads and cookies. Typical belly busting cuisine. Early the next morning, our 9 o'clock departure slipped to 9 ten as the trail boss kept messing around with his GPS unit which he never did get to work. We headed South West across a grass covered plateau toward what I christened the "airport" as planes have landed there. It has a picnic table with a great overview of the reservoir near the Dam. This time it was full of sheep and monstrous dogs that threatened our horses with death. They just brought them up from Slate creek where their range was being burned up. We successfully maneuvered around them and proceeded down a road wide enough to ride side by side which promoted a lot of socialization. About 1 1/2 miles we left this road and more or less rode cross country. About this area is a great place to water your horse and fill your canteen with spring water. There was a lot of opportunity to see the reservoir and old home stead areas. Wild plums were everywhere. Small, yellow with tart skins and delicious sweet meat. There were a lot of rose hips too. Turkeys and bears had to be in "hog heaven" We arrived at the # 8.6 camp ground after 2 hours and 20 minutes in the saddle. There are 2 toilets here with a picnic table and a nice grass covered flat above it all. The lake is 30 feet down but still some of our members rode down and let their horses drink. The lapping of the waves was spooky for the horses and you didn't want to take a third step or you'd be in for a swim. A leisurely lunch and then we took a different route back. The back trail is more of a trail and has some steep parts with viewpoints. This section of trail has little water until you get close to the top. About half way out Bob Regear has some old lake bed clay that his Dad exposed looking for water. Bob had it studied and it is something like 200 million years old. Lisa found one slab that had a leaf imprint. Interesting. We came out in 2 hours. Bob thought it would take longer and if I could have gotten the GPS to work we could have put some distance to it. This is a place you could ride all day or camp and visit old homesteads, logging shows, skid trails and just well managed open timber.

TRBCH owes Bob a vote of gratitude for allowing us to spend a great day on his property.

Bill Correll



BCH of Idaho Director's Meeting Sept. 29

Rod & Karen Parks and Mark & Pat Bogar attended the meeting at Three Rivers Resort, hosted by the North Central Idaho chapter. It was nice to meet in an outdoor setting. It was too bad that there were so many fires in the area and it could not all be enjoyed.

November 13 Chapter Pizza Meeting

Members that fell off or got bucked off purchase pizza and provide dinner every year for our November meeting. It was true confessions night for the pizza buyers. We must be getting to be better riders or at least better at riding it out, as we did not have to many stories this year. Clumsy horses, spooking our own animals, and a mysterious critter under a horse were our highlights. Then there was the young woman who fell off her horse as she was sitting on a standing horse. No spook, no run away, just a clumsy teenager. We are still waiting for her pizza, as for one of the first times in her life, she was too busy with homework to make the meeting.

WDF&W Gate Closing Fun Ride Nov. 23, 24, 25 ????

What an interesting weekend we had. There was a few who thought the gate closing ride was Friday after Thanksgiving, there are some that rode on Saturday, and then the weekend was ended with the rest riding on Sunday. The Friday ride did not happen. Saturday, seven members faithfully headed up to Fordyce Trailhead anticipating the rain had to stop. Well, it did not. Bob Hough hauled his chainsaw up the trail and cut out a tree across the trail so the others could enjoy the ride. They ended up enjoying the ride by stretching a tarp to weather the rain under, and a big campfire to stay warm and some greatly appreciated hot Chili. They did clean up the trailhead area during the slower rain times. Sunday, it started as a clear sunny day and lasted the entire day. Eight members came early and cleaned up the large mess left by some hunters that camped there during hunting season at the North Fork Asotin Creek Trailhead. There are three large piles of straw that will need to be burned when it dries out. There must have been a whole round bale left on the ground at the trailhead. There were also some litter and game poles to clean up.

After the cleanup we all moved up to Fordyce Trailhead and saddled up. The rest of the riders arrived and nineteen of us had a fantastic ride up Fordyce and came back down Cabin Gulch. We policed the Cabin Gulch trailhead for litter and picked

up all we could find and then started a campfire to warm up our bodies as the chili was heated. Several small trees were cut out of the trail as well as many limbs were trimmed with loppers. No Pizza rides, but there are still eleven months to go.



Hellsgate State Park

The chapter agreed to sponsor the Laurel View Trail in the park and help maintain the trail. Park staff is looking for other groups to sponsor other trails in the park. The park also has plans to enlarge the parking area and provide an area for overnight camping with stock.

Christmas Party

This year we decided to potluck our meal rather than have it catered. This was to keep the cost down and also for the opportunity for many of our Kids's Kamp youths and families to attend since they are all members of our chapter so the youths can attend Kamp. The time was 2:00 pm on Sunday, Dec. 16. As usual with a potluck there was way to much food and so many choices. After the meal, there was a white elephant gift exchange with some very interesting gifts. Lots of laughs as members attempted to trade their gifts. Another first this year was donations for the Food Bank rather than Toys for Tots. It is always great to see some of those members that support us, but often cannot make many of the projects.

Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho

Volunteer Hours Report

IDAHO CHAPTERS 2012

| | <u>Volunteer Hrs.</u> | Rate per hour/mile/day | Total Value | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total Basic labor Hours | 4347 | \$21.79 | \$94,721.13 | Calculated per hour |
| Total Skilled labor Hours | 1728 | \$30.00 | \$51,840.00 | Calculated per hour |
| Total Trail Recon Hours | 16 | \$21.79 | \$348.64 | Calculated per hour |
| Total LNT - Education | 2403 | \$21.79 | \$52,361.37 | Calculated per hour |
| Total Public Meetings | 507 | \$21.79 | \$11,047.53 | Calculated per hour |
| Total Administrative Service | 468 | \$21.79 | \$10,197.72 | Calculated per hour |
| Total Travel Time | 2940 | \$21.79 | \$64,062.60 | Calculated per hour |
| Total Volunteer Hours | 12409 | | | |
| | <u>Trails Cleared</u> | | | |
| Wilderness Trail Miles | 1068 | | | |
| Other Trail Miles | 862 | | | |
| Total Trail Miles | 1930 | | | |
| | <u>Mile Driven</u> | | | |
| Personal Vehicle | 28432 | \$0.90 | \$25,588.80 | Calculated per mile |
| Stock Hauling | 32902 | \$1.10 | \$36,192.20 | Calculated per mile |
| Total Travel Miles | 61334 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Power Equipment | 259 | \$26.00 | \$6,734.00 | Calculated per hour |
| Heavy Equipment | 4 | \$81.00 | \$324.00 | Calculated per hour |
| Total Equipment Hours | 263 | | | |
| | <u>Stock Used</u> | | | |
| Total Stock (Pack and Saddle) | 625 | | | |
| Total Stock Days | 1140 | \$100.00 | \$114,000.00 | Calculated per day |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Value of our efforts in Dollars | | 2012 Total | \$467,417.99 | |

