

# 2014 Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Annual Chapter Reports

## High Desert Back Country Horsemen 2014 Annual Report

High Desert had a productive year in volunteer work completed, fun rides, and in fund raising. We welcomed some new members, and were re-vitalized by a renewed commitment from some long-term members.

In March, many of our members attended the Southern Idaho Draft Horse and Mule Association annual sleigh ride in Bellevue. However, the ride had a little different twist to it this year --- it was a WAGON ride! Believe it or not, there was no snow there! But, as they say, necessity is the mother of invention, and those mule skinnners invented *round* sled runners! Children of all ages enjoyed the trip in the wagons throughout the Van Der Mullen ranch, the potluck feast at the bunkhouse, the friendship and camaraderie around the fire, and the sunshine.

We sent a record number of delegates to the State Convention this year – amazing, since Bonners Ferry is about as far from the Magic Valley as you can get in Idaho! Some of our delegates had never attended a State Convention, and were impressed at the impact all our State Chapters, working towards the same mission goal, have had on achieving those goals throughout Idaho. And, as an aside, we had a blast! Some of us had never been that far north in Idaho, and we explored the interesting town of Bonners Ferry, played hard when we weren't working hard, and met new friends, or renewed old friendships with our fellow BCHers.

We continued our tradition of holding our monthly general meetings at members' homes, with potluck dinners before the business meeting. We seem to be more productive when we are well fed....

Our annual fundraiser in April, held at Niagara Springs Wildlife Management area, was again, a huge success, with a gamblers ride, a silent auction, and the provision of lunch. Most of our members participated in the planning, preparation, and work involved in putting on a community activity this big. The weather was not stellar, and we were a little worried, but we had nearly as many community members in 2014 as we did in 2013, and they were in a bidding mood! Our first trail clearing was conducted about two weeks before, when the HDBCH scouts noticed that the route for the horseback riders attending our upcoming fundraiser was blocked by a big old tree. We got our chainsaws out, and cleared the way.

Our first fun ride was at Thorn Creek, in the desert near Shoshone, Idaho, which was deemed a perfect venue for a spring ride. It was beautiful! The horses were ready to go, and a good time was had by all.

On National Trails Day in June, we worked on our adopted trail, Rimview, in the Sawtooth National Forest. Nine members participated, and got about 3 miles in from the bottom, and a couple of our members went to the top, and got a lot accomplished from there. Afterwards we had a hot dog roast at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fork Trailhead. Only two rattlesnake sightings, and no bites.. Whew!

## Summary of Heartland Activities 2014:

Our year began with putting in place a new web master, Robert Wagner. As the new web master he had to contact the previous web master and host to be able to access the links to update our web page. He has established link to FaceBook and created our personal email address: [hbch@heartland-bch.org](mailto:hbch@heartland-bch.org) website: [www.heartland-bch.org](http://www.heartland-bch.org) and the FaceBook website: [www.facebook.com/heartlandbch](http://www.facebook.com/heartlandbch).

Heartland hosted the Mountain Trail Challenge the Event was held at the same location as past years, Al and Holly Becker's Whitetail Ridge Arena in Meadows Valley. 19 riders completed the course which consisted of obstacles they may run into during trail rides. There were no judges this year, so there was less pressure on the riders which they seemed to enjoy. Hamburgers were supplied by the Girls Pony Club and an auction followed. The following week the members of Heartland rode the trail with the obstacles still in place before taking down the obstacles and packing things away, it was fun experiencing what the entries did the week before.

A number of rides by the chapter including 20 mile, Gold Fork Trail up to the Needles where we did a little trail clearing. Bear Basin even a horse and buggy ride supplied by Anita VanGrunseven and her beautiful draft. A smaller group of riders during the week day included Barker Ridge and Red Ridge.

Throughout the year Heartland has been working on the statistics of hosting the State convention in McCall. As most chapters know, that takes up a good bit of discussions and planning. We purchased vests for everyone planning to work with the convention with our logo, the benefit being we can wear them on rides after the convention. Currently we are hustling door prizes, silent auction items and open auction items which is keeping our shoulders to the wheel.

We rounded up the year with our fun Christmas party, this year was held at Jim and Gloria Phippen in Mesa, Idaho. Wonderful site and food. Good fun with the white elephant gift exchange.

Looking forward to 2015, new members, long rides and the State Convention and meeting new friends there.

Submitted by: Deana Wagner

**2014 Annual Report**  
**BCH of NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

A group of 8-10 NCI members participated one weekend each month, for the majority of the year, in the NezPerce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision Collaboration Meetings.

April 5-6 Pittsburg Landing, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

Members showed up for the first project of the season at Pittsburg Landing. The chapter completed fence work, painting & barbwire clean-up. Work was divided into three parts.

--Stock mounted members went up Klopton Creek to remove barb wire and fence posts.

--ATV members went on the road towards Big Canyon and tore out the fence.

--Other members scraped and painted fence around the house. 20 gallons of pain had froze and had to be strained. A job that took a long time!

The group had a great potluck on Saturday night. Everyone enjoyed the breakfast cooked by Todd Brown, Butch Renshaw, Gary Kleinsmith and Larry Cooper on Sunday morning.

May Meadow Creek Cabin, Selway Ranger District

Joe Robinson & Guy Walker rode in, did some repairs & opened up the cabin for the Forest Service.

May & Sept Lochsa Historical Station, Clearwater National Forest

Members participated at a work day with the Friends of the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station on maintenance issues such as; paint buildings, repair screens, log brush from tree removal & construct a roof for the Pete King sign. Members also helped with the opening in May and closing in September of the station.

June 6-7-8 National Trails Day, NezPerce-Clearwater Forest

BCH members participated in the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness at Wilderness Gateway Campground. The Forest Service presented a program & dinner on Friday night. On Saturday participants worked on various trails out of Wilderness Gateway Campground & trails inside the campground. Different groups accomplished clearing brush, spraying weeds and/or clearing slides on the trails. There was a good turnout of people from the Montana Conservation Corp, BCH & the Forest Service working together on trails.

June Weed Spraying

Chapter members sprayed Glover Creek Trail, Fish Butte Trail, Boulder Creek Trail, Fog Mountain Road, Indian Hill Road, Falls Point Road, Slims Camp, O'Hara Campground, East Boyd, Gedney, CCC & Clear Creek Trails on the NezPerce Forest. Trails off the Wilderness Gateway Campground & Highway 12 on the Clearwater Forest were also sprayed.

June 21 Clearwater Valley Rodeo Association Parade in Kamiah

BCH Representation included Dale Cooper and his mule team & wagon in this parade. Chapter President Joe Robinson & his wife Kathy rode with Dale in the wagon.

July 4 Border Days Parade in Grangeville. Dale Cooper and his mule team & wagon again represented BCH. Three other NCI members rode with Dale in the wagon & as well as seven NCI members as outriders.

## SELKIRK VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

### 2014 – WHAT A YEAR IT WAS!

It's time to reflect on how we spent 2014. It's hard to say where the past year went. It seems like only yesterday that we were wrapped up in the particulars of hosting the State Conference. Now it's a year later and we're ready to move on to some new adventures.

In January we began planning for our annual horse health clinic and projects and activities for the coming year. Of course the Conference was high up on the list, and to tell you the truth, we were sweating a bit over the particulars. Were we going to be able to pull the whole affair off? Did we have enough people available to chip in and get the job done? Did we have enough room at the Inn to accommodate everyone? We were also anxious to set up some projects with the Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game. We also wanted to line up the local vet to conduct our annual horse health clinic.

In February we were beginning to wrap up the preparation for the March Conference planning. We continued to line up donations from the local businesses, guest speakers and auction items. We also began to finalize pre-conference and conference tasks for the members. We ordered vests for the members to wear and ribbons and trophies for the display and photo winners. We needed an auctioneer. We asked ourselves, are we going to be able to pull this thing off??? We held another meeting at the end of February just to be sure everyone was on the same page and knew their assignments for March. We reviewed donations of auction items and stuff for "goody bags" and put the finishing touches on the preparations for the "Big Event!"

March was consumed with the Conference. I'm happy to report that it went off without a hitch. Everyone chipped in and did more than their share to be sure that all the participants were taken care of. Thank you everyone for a job well done. And thank you to all the members of BCHI for helping us make this a smashing success.

In April, things went back to normal (whatever that means). We set up some spring and early summer rides. Conducted the

horse health clinic, had a pot luck lunch, and Axel gave us some ground work ideas for our horses. The wind almost blew us off the face of the earth, but we endured and had a good time.

In May, we decided to put up recruiting posters in Bonner and Boundary Counties. We finalized a tentative ride scheduled (of course it was subject to change, which it did). The Forest Service told us about possible work projects that were in the process of being finalized, Jim Michaud reported on the April 29 meeting held by the USFS regard the updating of the 1987 Panhandle National Forest. And we discussed donating money to the local 4-H.

In June the Forest Service conducted an informative "fact finding" meeting and a day trip up Boulder Creek. Two of us went along and we learned that they were going to log out some of the lodge pole pine

## SALMON RIVER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

### 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Salmon River Back Country Horsemen have a monthly meeting the second Monday evening of every month except October.

April 11, Salmon River Back Country Horsemen opened the year with the Annual Salmon Mule Sale. The sale is held at the Lemhi County Fairgrounds and is part of the weekend Salmon Select Horse Sale. The sale draws people from many part of the United States. Members gave packing demonstrations and answered many questions regarding packing. Members had an information booth to answer visitors questions and offer memberships.

April 20, our annual Easter Ride took place at the home of John and Ruth Burns. After the ride, members enjoyed a hearty breakfast and services celebrating Easter.

May members gathered at the Big Flat for their semi-annual highway clean up.

May 24-26, our annual Waggonhammer trail project and campout. The Waggonhammer trail system has been adopted by SRBCH. Members worked for three days on the trail system. The bicycle club was also present and worked on the trails.

May 29, June 3, and June 5, members worked on the B-Lite trail system. The trail is named in honor of a long time member of our chapter, Buster Light. Buster and Marge Light own the property adjacent to the trailhead and have hosted countless riders who use this trail system.

June 12, members had a work project up McDivit Creek.

July 4, SRBCH participated in the annual Fourth of July Salmon parade. Lemhi valley residents and visitors turn out in large numbers to enjoy the parade.

July 5, members took tickets at the Demo Derby to raise money for SRBCH.

July 10, members had a work project on Blacktail Saddle.

**Treasure Valley Back Country Horsemen**  
**Summary of activities for the Year 2014**

This is to summarize the activities of the TVBCH for the year 2014. The chapter had a busy year with projects, social events & fun rides.

The year started off in January 2014 with two traditional events for the Chapter. There was a ride and potluck on New Year's Day held at Wilson Creek, located in the Owyhee Mountain Range front. Then later in the month the annual Banquet was held at the Chapter's regular meeting place, the Fleet Reserve Building in Nampa, Idaho.

February 27- March 2. Chapter members helped staff a booth at the Idaho Sportsman's Show in Boise, Idaho. This was an effort shared with the Boise Back Country Horsemen & the Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen chapters. This show features all types of outdoor activities, and commercial vendors, outfitters, etc. Our purpose was to educate the public about what the BCH does & promote LNT.

March 15. Skills Day. This event was held in Greenleaf, Idaho. The event featured educational presentations about animal health, both from a Veterinarians viewpoint and a presentation about equine first aid. Dr. David Hayes, DVM made a presentation. There were also presentations about human first aid, saddle fitting, equine related equipment, LNT, and packing demonstrations with hands on experience by the audience. Lunch was served at noon, and all this was free to the public, sponsored by our chapter.

March 22. Members attended a meeting in Boise, Idaho sponsored by the trail crew from the Boise National Forest. The purpose of the meeting was to go over projects that they intended to do for the season, review safety requirements, etc.

April 18-20. Idaho Horse Expo. The chapter helped sponsor a booth along with Boise BCH & Squaw Butte BCH to promote BCHI & BCHA, what we do, and LNT. This is a large event put on by the Idaho Horse Council and features most horse breeds, most disciplines of horsemanship, plus all types of vendors, and a private-treaty horse sale.

April 22. The Boise National Forest held an open-house to answer the public's questions about the "Bender" Project. This would be a long term, very sizeable project aimed at salvaging burned timber from a large burned area located in the Idaho City area & restoration efforts for that area. Members from our chapter attended to learn more about what might have an impact on locations where we have worked on projects in the past, and to learn how it might impact on projects we might do in the future.

July 24-28. Trail clearing project along with the Boise National Forest on the North Fork of Elk Creek, Porter Creek, Bernard Creek, and Bear Valley Creek.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 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.

## Panhandle BCH Chapter Report

March was the first month we had any activities going on. Deputy Jeff Brun from Kootenai County Sheriff's Dept. and the Search and Rescue came to our meeting and gave a presentation on what their agency does. They also spoke on survival.

In April we had one of our local Rangers from Avery District at our monthly meeting. She gave a slide presentation of areas that had good trails and open to ride. We also had our annual Tune-Up Clinic when a vet was lined up to do shots, float teeth, coggins and health certificate and anything else members needed done with their stock. Angie Parson, our Trail Boss, always makes up breakfast burritos for everyone that comes. We took a Saturday and had a CPR/First Aid class put on by a forest service person. She elaborated on what to do in the backwoods when an accident happens. Marie Creek trail clearing was also done in April.

In May we put on a Wilderness Clinic where we did packing demonstrations, showed edible plants, LNT practices, vet talk, Dutch oven cooking, noxious weeds, etc. It was a very informative clinic. Memorial Day weekend was a fun campout outside of Asotin, Wa.

On National Trails Day we had a work party and campout at Farragut State Park. We also provided some instructions and practice for backing a trailer. In June we also did the Chilco Mt clearing.

July was a very busy month. We put up a board with signs for the Mt Bikers on information on what to do when approaching horses on a trail. We also spent four days at Red Ives on the St Joe River with a campout and trail clearing. Five of our members drove to a trailhead out of Avery into the Mallard Larkins Wilderness and packed trail clearing equipment eight miles into an area where a crew was clearing trails. We also had a campout weekend at Heyburn State Park.

We sprayed weeds at Burton Meadows on the Marie Creek Trail in Aug.

In October two of our members put up a hitching rail at Farragut State Park. It was next to an outhouse so riders have someplace to tie when using the facility. There was also a trail clearing at Blue Cr Bay trails after some traffic wind storms. Several women went out on foot with nippers and cleared brush on one of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pass trails.

December was our annual Christmas Party when everyone has a good time. We award a Horseman and Horsewoman of the year, give out certificates to Trail Bosses, introduce the new officers, have some fun awards, do the gift exchange game and awarded two \$500 scholarships for two members taking college classes.