

2016 BCH of North Central Idaho - Annual Report

Kirkwood Corral Project. Kirkwood Historical Ranch (now a Historical Landmark) is accessible via a 6 mile hike from Pittsburgh Landing or on an ATV ride from Lucile, Idaho up Cow Creek Road to the top of the ridge and down into Hells Canyon. Many visit Kirkwood Ranch on a jetboat. BCH of North Central Idaho chapter was asked by the USFS Hells Canyon National Recreation Area to replace the corral at Kirkwood Ranch which is used by the USFS and the public. Due to the logistics to get to the ranch it took the Chapter two pre-work days to get the needed supplies in. April 23-24 was the project workday. 13 members and a USFS rep, with their tools, went up the river by USFS jetboat in one load. There they knocked the old lumber off the posts, jacked the posts out of their holes and redug and aligned the holes to put new posts back and then put the dimensional lumber on. Lots of nail pulling and painting was done as well. The old material was transferred to a burn pile on site. It took both days to complete the project. Each night members went back down the river to the old CCC Ranch House where they had their camp.



Lochsa Historical Ranger Station opening workday was May 23-24. Work included cleanup around the station (lots of branch blowdown), cleaning the buildings & doing facilities repair. On the second day we staged the buildings for tours. A potluck was held that evening. On September 7th members, employees from the Powell Ranger Station & USFS retirees closed the Ranger Station & loaded all the contents of the buildings in the FS trailer to be taken down river to Kooskia until the spring.

National Trails Day. Trail maintenance was completed on Lone Knob, Sherman Creek, Huckleberry & Fish Creek. Weed spraying was done on Fish Creek & all the loops in the campground. The Forest Recreation & Trails Coordinator & Forest Supervisor, along with the campground hosts, joined the group for dinner. 20 BCH of NCI members attended.

Weed Treatment During the month of June all the trails & roads off the Selway River were sprayed. Star thistle was found on Fog Mtn Road. Boulder Creek Trail was also sprayed. Weed spraying was also accomplished from Crane Hill to Lookout Butte & on Big Cedar & Potato Hill Roads.

National Smokejumper Association Packing. From July 23-30, several BCH members packed in members of the Smokejumper Association to their project at Horse Camp to rebuild the corral. There were 6 retired smokejumpers. A USFS employee worked with the crew for several days.

Halfway House Feed Bunk Installation. This project was near the Dixie Guard Station, in Dixie, Idaho. A BCH crew accomplished the completion & placement of the feed bunk. Everyone enjoyed a delicious steak & a wonderful potluck. 22 people attended.

Otterson/Green Mountain. This project included 17 BCH members & 21 head of stock. The work parties rode 13-14 miles & cleared over 50 blowdown on each side. Two BCH members rode their stock in from the Elk City side & they cut approximately 80 blowdown trees.

Greenside Butte Trail. This project took place over the Labor Day weekend. Eight members & 17 head of stock accomplished this trail clearing project. The group encountered rain, but had a good trip none the less. They cleared 4 miles of trail with cross cut saws, with upwards of 60 trees.

USFS Northern Region Pack String. One of our members went on his annual trip with the Northern Region Pack String. That group went over to Gardner, then on into Yellowstone Park. The project was to replace a sill log at the Hell Roaring Cabin which was built in 1925. The sill log was 42 ft long. A couple of guys from a youth group & a member of BCH of Montana also rode in on that project.

Lewiston Roundup. One of our members assisted a USFS employee at the Lewiston Roundup in a new Western Heritage venue. The USFS display had to do with the history of packing in North Central Idaho.

USFS Living History Day. On July 23, NCI members assisted with the Living History Day celebration at the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station, located along Highway 12, mile marker 121. There was an Opening Ceremony, speakers & special guests (some who had worked at the Station in years gone by). People were invited to rotate through stations of speakers and live demonstrations, many were done by BCH members. Topics included traditional tool use, mule packing, fire lookout operations, the daily life of a Forest Service Ranger & running fur trap-lines. Old fashioned children's games were set up for the younger visitors.

Annual Awards Banquet & Christmas Party. Our year end party was a good time, as always. We reward those that did a great job this past year, always have a wonderful potluck & everyone's favorite 'The White Elephant Gift Exchange' is sure to have people smiling & laughing. A good ending to a great year!