

Volunteer Hours Committee Report – 2014

April 25, 2015

The Volunteer Hours committee met to finalize the 2014 report of the BCHA volunteer effort and select a recipient of the Double Diamond Award. Members in participating were:

- Russ Wright (BCH Arizona)
- Melinda Wagner (BCH Georgia)
- Mary K Church (Show-Me Missouri BCH)
- Steve Lindsey (BCH Kansas)
- Joanne Mitchell (BCH Tennessee)
- Laurie Hufstader (BCH Oregon)
- Larry Zauberis, Chairman (BCH Colorado)

Volunteer Effort

The committee has received report from nearly all the states in the organization, 24 of 27 states reported. The exceptions were Alaska, Illinois, and West Virginia. A report is expected from BCH Alaska in the next few weeks which will be included in an amended report. This amended report will be submitted to the chairman as soon as possible. No report was expected from the newly organized organizations in New York and Mississippi. The compiled report is attached.

- The total value of the volunteer effort reported in 2014 was **\$14,419,615.89**.
 - An increase of \$466,666.18 over the 2013 value of \$13,972,949.71. (~0.3%).
- 417134 hours of basic and skilled work, administrative service, education and public meeting participation valued at \$10,180,960.
 - An increase of 49,973 hours (\$1,375,433)
- 1726179 miles were recorded for personal vehicles and stock hauling valued at \$1,684,563.
 - An increase of 88,127 miles (\$77,021).
- 7152 hours of equipment use were recorded valued at \$300,519.
 - A decrease of 4409 hours (\$114,511).
- 13,044 head of pack and saddle stock were used for 21,832 stock days with a value of \$2,182,300.
 - A significant decrease from 30732 stock days (\$890,900).
- Cash and in-kind donations were down an insignificant \$377.

It is noted that even though the total work hours increased by almost 14 percent, equipment and pack & saddle stock usage was down significantly from the previous year. There is no way to determine the cause for this anomaly, however, in my opinion, it is probably due to inconsistent reporting of those resources by local chapters.

In 2015 I will make an effort to educate the membership on the importance of accurately reporting all resources applied to volunteer efforts on the BCHA website and in the newsletter.

As an action item, I would like the national directors to provide me with the name of the person in their state organization responsible for compiling the volunteer hours report.

The figures in the Volunteer Hours Report are based on the value of volunteer service for 2014 determined by the Independent Sector (https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time). The value used is \$23.07, an increase of \$0.52 from 2013 value used in 2013 of \$22.55/hour. See the attached 2014 BCHA Volunteer Hours Report Summary.

At the 2014 NBM the committee decided to value the hourly rate for skilled labor to one and one-half the value for basic labor. The value used for the 2014 report was \$34.61 ($\23.07×1.5).

Other values for stock use (\$100/day) and vehicle usage (\$0.90 – POV; \$1.10 – Stock hauling) were maintained at rates determined in previous years.

Double Diamond Award

The committee received five nominations for the 2014 Double Diamond Award which were considered:

- Mother Lode Unit (California) for completion of Phase I of the Caples Creek Trailhead
- Show-me Missouri BCH (Missouri) for their partnership with PepsiCo to develop and distribute mesh bags for the removal of trash from trails and trailheads.
- Pigeon River and Beyond BCH (Michigan) for their effort to help DNR personnel understand the requirements of horsemen, to teach equine safety, and resolve issues between users and land managers.
- Beartooth BCH (Montana) for the Ernie Strum trail project.
- Uinta Basin BCH (Utah) for their recognition by the Utah Lieutenant Governor for hard work in environmental stewardship with U Serve Utah.

The Ernie Strum Trail Project completed by Beartooth BCH in Montana was selected on a unanimous vote by the committee.

This project was completed in 2014, but represents a concerted effort of several years by the Montana Beartooth chapter. The project opened public access to McDonald Basin and the north face of Beartooth Mountain adjacent to a wilderness area in the Custer National Forest. The development and execution of this effort required the chapter to manage the coordination of many government agencies including the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Montana Department of Natural Resources, and the Montana Conservation Corps over a sustained period. In all five government agencies and fifteen private entities were involved which took tremendous dedication by the Beartooth chapter. In 2014 alone, the chapter expended 480 hours labor, 2,953 vehicle miles of travel valued at over \$17,000. The trail was dedicated to Ernie Strum, a long-time member of the Beartooth chapter, after his passing in late 2013 to commemorate his tireless work on the project.