



## **Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Annual Report 2017**

Idaho Volunteer efforts were valued at **\$710,287.34**

### **Boise Chapter BCH**

In addition to our spring philanthropy fund raiser ride for St. Jude; the Boise Chapter had two, three person crews on the ground for two days each in 2017. Each crew consisted of two BCH members and one non-member. The projects resulted in approximately 8 miles of non-wilderness trail clearing.

### **Cache Peak BCH**

This past year was a productive year for our chapter. We started the year with Ken Crane, Burley BLM field manger, coming to our February meeting. We discussed possible projects. As a result, our chapter applied for a grant with the Idaho Hose Board to upgrade the trailhead at Cottonwood WLMA.

We had a fundraiser yard sale in May. We had several trail cleaning projects starting with several trails at Bennett Springs/Pomerelle throughout June, July, and August. In October we cleaned trails at Big Cottonwood WLMA. In June we had a booth at the Search and Rescue event put on by Life Flight in Burley.

Cache Peak was represented at the March convention in Boise and the September Directors meeting in Idaho Falls. We had our Christmas party at Carolyn Weimer's house.

We hope to have rides this coming year with High Desert and Portneuf River chapters this coming year. We are planning an Obstacle course event and hope to ride in one parade this year. "We clean trails as we ride"



Heartland Back Country Horsemen

### **2017 year in Review**

Heartland's year started with putting into place some ideas discussed at the Coalition of Parks and Recreation attended by President Robert Wagner and Vice-president Paul Kleint.

The plan for presenting to ATV clubs and Bicycle groups about equine safety on the trails was developed. Helen Glidden developed the acronym TRUE (Trail Users Encounters). A program was presented north of McCall on June 19th with invitations to recreation groups to interact with 2 horses and 1 mule using Razor and bicycle and a person with a back pack. Before interactions a discussion of the 'prey' mentality of the horse as much of the source for reactivity of surprises on the trail. Best approach to use when on the trail using the Forest Service video of trail use. Due to the weather the turnout was not what we hoped and will do it again in 2018.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter member Dr. Olin Balch, DVM, MS, PHD presented a program in McCall at the Idaho First State Bank; "When your Horse Colic". Open to the public and free admission. Heartland Chapter had a great response with public participation the chapter even gained some new members through this education outreach.

Thanks to Paul and Gretel Kleint, Helen Glidden and Robert Wagner who made a group effort to put the Heartland Chapter information display together, we received 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the State Convention. Way to go guys!

This year there was a number of group rides of 9-10 and more that were smaller 4-6. Each planned group ride, the participants carry saws and clippers to do small maintenance of trails ridden.

In August the chapter with almost full membership participating in a Trail Challenge in New Meadows at Al and Holly Becker's White tail ridge. 3 invited guests became members during the ride which turned out to be a great addition to the chapter ride.

2017 was going to be another Council Mountain clean up the trails in September, thunder storms and rain kept us off the mountain. 2018 we will do this earlier in the year, after discussions we determined early August might be the best.

We rounded out our year with the ever-fun Christmas gathering. Counting our blessings of friendships and comradely of love of the horse and our trails.

Respectfully submitted by  
Deana Wagner

### **High Desert Back Country Horsemen**

#### **2017 Annual Report**

For many years High Desert Members have shared monthly potluck dinners in member's homes and then had our meetings. Snow and flooded roads in many Southern Idaho counties made this nearly impossible in the winter of 2017. We moved our monthly dinners and meetings to a central location, that being Perkins Restaurant, in Twin Falls. After all, Perkins has Free Pie on our meeting night.

Chair, Ken Wells met with Idaho Mountain Biking Association, Magic Valley Motorcycle Club, BLM and a private land owner in the Indian Springs area South of Twin Falls. They met to discuss reorganizing trails (mainly bike trails but used by hikers and horseback riders). It is a Sage Grouse Habitat and those groups are working to preserve it as such but still be usable for wheels, feet and hooves.

Five of our officers and chapter directors attended the BCHI Convention in Boise.

One member attended Public Lands Rally in Boise on March 3rd.

We applied for and received approval from Idaho Fish and Game to have our Gambler's Draw Ride fundraiser in the Niagara Springs Wildlife Management Area in May. We held our GDR on May 13. We had 26 riders and many members working on preparing trail, food and silent auction. It was a successful event.

A Face book page was created to get information out to public.

We continued our 3rd Saturday and 4th Wednesday rides. We planned our first ride on April 20th and had to cancel it due to wet slippery trails in Dry Gulch. We were able to make this ride at Dry Gulch on May 24th. On June 24th we rode several connecting trails in an around Magic Mountain Ski Area. On August 25th - 27th an overnight ride was held at Canyon Transfer Camp.

In September, we had an obstacle play day, and trail ride on property of one of our members. It was freezing cold and windy. After the riders completed the obstacle course we ordered food from Betty B's Food Truck (Yummy) and sat around a bonfire and shared riding stories.

Our last ride was on October 25 at Little City of Rocks North of Gooding. This ride was dubbed the "Rocktober Ride".

#### **2017 Annual Report - BCH of North Central Idaho**

**April 29th Education Clinic;** The North Central Idaho chapter held an educational clinic open to the public at the Kooskia Saddlers Arena. The clinic ran from 10am-2pm. Brochures for the Clinic were done by Pepsi. The emphasis of the clinic was introducing youth & adults to horses. The clinic included demonstrations of horse care, saddling and packing of horses & mules, & low impact camping display. Hands on experience was available for knot tying techniques, cross cut sawing, & riding a horse in the arena area. Dutch oven cooking was done by the Tahoe Hillbillies 4-H Club.



Kim Bartholomew, Equine Chiropractic Clinic



Jim Renshaw, Larry Cooper, Steve Didier - Packing



Kim Wolfrum DVM



Shane Hendren, Farrier



Cary Foster, Crosscut sawing

Year two of the Kirkwood Ranch project; Corral repairs that were started with a project in 2016 by members of the Chapter was continued & finished in 2017. A couple of our members made an early trip to the site, to put in gate posts before the main project day. One member used his truck & big trailer to haul the posts down to the boat launch. Members worked hard to replace & paint the corrals at historic Kirkwood Ranch. Our traditional potluck was a good end to the day.

Safety while working on BCH projects is a big concern. 16 members signed up for First Aid/ CPR classes that were held in March. The class was put on by one of our local EMT's.

The USFS came out with new requirements for operating chainsaws on USFS work projects. One of our members became certified as a USFS saw trainer & gave a saw certification class to members from North Central, Twin Rivers & the Palouse BCH chapters. These members who participated now hold a Class B Buckers certification. BCH members must have a current First Aid/CPR card to take the saw training.

At one of our spring monthly meetings we had a Weed Management Presentation by our local Idaho County Weed Supervisor. We were shown an informative slide show on weeds that will help members identify weeds while working on our annual spray projects & also to be aware of when riding or visiting areas on public



lands. Plant identifiers, habitat & ability to spread were reviewed. A weed of concern to the USFS currently is Orange Hawkweed. The USFS asked for our help in monitoring this infestation.

On National Trails Day the chapter met at Wilderness Gateway Campground to work on trail maintenance & weed management spraying within the campground & those trails leading out from it. The horse camp loop is open to all BCH members on that day. The day ended with a potluck at the campground pavilion.

BCH members assisted with the clean-up at the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station opening in the spring & again after Labor Day to close the station for the winter months.

During the month of June BCH members worked various days on ratification of weeds. The Idaho County Weed Supervisor allows us to use their horseback sprayer. On the Selway corridor members treated the following trails/roads, Race Creek to Gedney & Fog Mtn. The Selway area beyond Falls Creek Bridge was not accessible because of a slide on the road to Slim's Camp. Also treated were the CCC Trail, Radcliff, East Boyd as well as Fish Butte & Boulder Creek on the Lochsa. Roadways in the Crane Hill area & Big Cedar were sprayed.

Four BCH members provided pack support & camp support for the retired Smokejumpers Association. This year the jumpers did trail clearing & tread work on the Boulder Creek trail. BCH took 18 head of stock in.

July was our Otterson Creek Project to clear trails. 13 members attended. It was a good project, although very hot! Saturday evening was a potluck. Our member who has Chainsaw Trainer status gave the training to three more of our members while on the project.

Our Gospel Hump fun ride was cancelled due to fires.

Labor Day Weekend Project; This project originally started as trail clearing in the area of Long Lake. Nine members with 20 head of stock enjoyed a great outing and in the process repaired a bridge for safe passage. Trail work had been done earlier by a FS trail crew. Actions were reported to the USFS & they were very appreciative of the bridge repair work done by NCI members.

In September sixty-two 5th graders from Grangeville toured the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station (LHRS) & participated in a program called Reliving History at the LHRS. Teaching stations included packing, fire management, tool use (crosscut, pickaxe, pulaski), dutch oven cooking with biscuits to sample, smokejumpers-what they do, & the how & the why a forge is used. Groups of 10-11 students went through each of the stations. Two members of our BCH chapter assisted.

Late fall is hunting & some years winter comes early to our area. In December members again come together with friends, family, our agency partners & guests for a Christmas Party/Potluck that includes; a video picture show with photos members have taken on the past year's projects, awards that are given out for a job well done & the always popular gift exchange.

### **Panhandle BCH Year End Report 2017**

**Speakers through the winter months** included Robert Eversole, aka the TrailMeister, who spoke on some of his experiences in the backwoods and also the different types of personal locators. DVM Bob Peterson attended one of our meetings and talked about different types of horse illnesses.

**CPR/First Aid Course** was arraigned by the Forest Service for our members using chainsaws to attend.

**Farragut State Park** work party and campout is an annual event with us. In the equestrian area there is an arena and obstacle course as well as small corrals around the camping sites. We cleared brush, mowed, trimmed trees, repaired obstacles and corrals. We had a BBQ in the afternoon followed by a ride in the park. The next day more people showed up for a longer trail ride.

**Marie Creek** is one of our designated trails we clear for the Forest Service. Ten people were involved in this as well as packing out abandoned camp site items.

**Marie Creek** was another day of clearing out more items from abandon camp sites. Three people rode into Burton Meadows and packed out a large tent, sleeping bag, blankets, pillow, etc all soaked with water from rain. This made it quite heavy but loaded items on two pack horses and hauled it out.

**North Chilco and South Chilco Peaks;** This eight mile trail extends past these two peaks. It is a non-motorized trail with a beautiful panoramic view of surrounding lakes. Six people made the trip and cleared the trail.



**Line Creek on the St Joe by Red Ives Ranger Station** was another work project Panhandle BCH participated in. We cleared brush away from the puncheon going up the river to the St Joe Lodge. We also cleared Broken Elbow Trail which connects with Line Cr trail.

**Dalton Gardens Picnic** is put on by the city in their park every September. It is a potluck with the city cooking hamburgers and hotdogs. They serve around 300 people, have games for children and drawings for give-away items. For several years our chapter has served the food and helped to clean up. We use a room in the city hall for our meetings and by helping with the picnic it is a “thank you” for the use of the building.

**Fun Rides and Campouts.** We had several rides and a few campouts. One campout is over Memorial Day weekend up Asotin Cr at Fordyce trailhead near Asotin Washington. We always see all kinds of wildlife on the trail, have lots of campfire stories, and good food.

### **Priest River Valley Chapter Annual Report for 2017**

The Priest River Valley Chapter (PRVBCH) had a busy year again with work projects, public meetings, and activities. Our members started the year with packing for the Forest Service on trails #302 and #308 and



continued through the work season with packing and clearing on trails #308, #317, #192, #178, #179, and #176 on the Priest Lake Ranger District.



Our members collaborated with the Bonners Ferry Chapter and packed on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District in the Snow creek area and the Smith Creek and Russell Ridge projects, packing construction material and supplies for the Forest Service work crews.

Our Chapter members participated in the Timber Days Parade in Priest River this year, with riding and pack stock and won an award for our presentation.



Chapter members also did a presentation at the Priest River Experimental Forest Expo- a two day event for Priest River and Oldtown school kids. Our members were there with riding and pack stock to teach the school children about the mission of the BCH and the stock and equipment we use.

Our members also helped the Forest Service with a Sundance Fire commemoration event. Our members used pack stock to pack into a remote site, a commemorative plaque, honoring the event and the firefighters.

Once again our Chapter LNT trainer participated in the Priest Lake free Kids Fishing day and taught Leave No Trace principles to the school age children. Chapter members also attended numerous public meetings with the Forest Service and Bonner County. Our members attended Forest Collaborative meetings regarding planned Forest Service Timber Sales and trail management and members attended the monthly Bonner County Trail Mix meetings to stay involved in county wide trails management.

Chapter members actively promoted the mission of the organization throughout 2017.



**P.O. Box 274, Naples, ID 83847**

### **Selkirk Valley Chapter of the Idaho Back Country Horsemen 2017 Yearly Report**

The 2017 year was a rebuilding year for the Selkirk Valley Chapter. At year's end we have expanded the Chapter from 20 to 30 members. For 2018 membership is looking to exceed 40 people.

Pat Hart of the Boundary County U.S. Forest service was contacted in early January and late February and invited to attend one of our meetings. She was busy and unable to attend any meetings. Mary Anne Hamilton of the Sandpoint Ranger District scheduled to attend two meetings, but cancelled on the day of the meeting on both occasions. This was the last year of a five year contract with the Forestry for trail maintenance and planned projects. The Chapter opted not to renew the agreement with the Forestry, but kept our "SAM" registration current should we want to enter an agreement in the future.

During our restructure, we found that the Selkirk Valley Chapter of BCH had never been "Sawyer" certified by the USFS. Some members held EMT and/or CPR/First Aid certifications, but none were current. These apparently are required to do trail clearing for the USFS? In an attempt to expand our education and show compliance we scheduled the following certification classes and opened them to all members:

Early in the year we contacted the Naples Fire Department and arranged to attend a CPR/ First Aid certification course. On April 29<sup>th</sup> five members attended and received their CPR/First Aid certification. Thank you Naples Fire Department!

Mary Anne from the Sandpoint Forestry station told us that the Priest Lake Station was putting on a Sawyer certification course through the Priest River BCH Chapter sometime in May. I contacted The Priest River BCH

regarding the course. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> three of our members attended and obtained a three year certification as “B” rated sawyers. Thank you Priest River!!

On May 27<sup>th</sup> we hosted an Equine 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Clinic and had DVM Jenny Grimmett instruct the course. We had a great turn out and the education was invaluable.

In July we hosted a “Trail Challenge” obstacle course at the Boundary County Fair Grounds as a fundraiser. The attendance was not what we expected and we did not meet our fund raising goals.

In August the Chapter was asked to help the 4-H horse kids at the Boundary County Fair. We set the courses and helped contain horses and kids near the arena. One of our members judged an equine event and reluctantly accepted \$100 for the day’s service. That money was donated to the Selkirk BCH Chapter.

Along with monthly meetings and Chapter rides, the Chapter hosted a two-day camping trip near the Ruby Creek Trail and rented the historic USFS Snyder Guard Station. Along with members of the Selkirk BCH and non-members, six BCH members from the Palouse Chapter attended. It was a good turn out with 35 people and 30 horses in attendance. It was decided that next year we will host a “poker” type ride in order to add some funds to our coffers.

Due to budget constraints and conflicts with the Pendleton Rodeo we did not attend the September BCHI convention this year. We did send members to the March convention for representation.

With no Forestry projects this year we cleared trails as we found them on our own. Overall we cleared portions of Trail Creek, Queen Lake and Brown’s Creek Trails. In total we spent approximately 40 man-hours, utilized 10 horses and covered 30 miles of trail.

Sandy Geaslin

Selkirk Valley BCHI

## **Back Country Horsemen of Idaho – Squaw Butte Chapter**

### **2017 Summary**

#### **Partnerships & Trail Stewardships**

Squaw Butte continued its relationships with public land agencies, and other volunteer service organizations and public lands centrist organizations. These included the Wilderness Volunteers, Selway-Bitterroot-Frank Church Society, Idaho Trail Association, Idaho Sportsmen’s Caucus, Owyhee Wilderness Coalition and a number of USFS ranger districts in the Boise and Payette National forests, Sawtooth Recreation area and BLM in the Owyhee’s.

These relationships were turned into boots on the ground projects that were completed in 2017 or are in the planning stages for 2018/2019. 2017 projects included four in the Boise National forest, two in the Payette National forest, two in new BLM wildernesses in the Owyhee’s and a week packing support project with the Sawtooth ranger district and Wilderness Volunteers.



Squaw Butte members also attended a number of public meeting throughout the year representing public land access and trail maintenance concerns.

### **Education & Public Outreach**

The leadership teams goal for 2017 was to increase public outreach and to provide educational opportunities for both BCHI members and the general riding public. Squaw Butte members manned booths at both the “Idaho Sportsmen Show” and the Idaho Horse Counsel’s “Horse Expo”. Squaw Butte members Bill & Marybeth Conger also performed LNT and packing demo’s at the horse expo.

In the spring we held a monthly fun ride that was open to the public and members were encouraged to bring riding friends. We also arranged for Wilderness First Aid training for our members with the Bogus Basin Ski Patrol, and Sawyer training with the Forest Service. A Trailer Rodeo and Packing clinic was held in May and open to BCHI members and the general public. The leadership team feels our efforts paid off in new members and a greater awareness of the public of who we are and what we do when we meet them on the trail.



2017 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

SQUAW BUTTE CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO

Bill Holt-President

2017 was to say the least a very interesting year. Our project leader, Rob Adams, went on a long deserved and needed vacation. Loading up his new to him motor home, Rob took two and a half months and headed to Alaska. We here are all glad he had a great time, but also decided he couldn't do that again.

In his absence, we do have many capable individuals who took over the reins. Our thanks to those individuals.

We also suffered two heart attacks, numerous broken bones, surgeries and contusions yet we still managed a very good and productive year.

JANUARY: started as with all months with our monthly meeting which is almost always the first Thursday of the month.

Next order of business, the yearly Leadership Meeting putting together a working game plan and budget for the coming year.

FEBRUARY: brought the first ride of the year. A "public event: ride at Celebration Park in the Snake River Birds of Prey, south of Melba. A great place to ride in late winter and a good break-in for horse and rider.

MARCH: started with the Idaho Sportsmen's Show at Expo Idaho in Boise. A great time for P.R. and to let people know who we are and what we do.

Next was the Annual State BOD Meeting and Convention in Boise. Sponsored by the Boise Chapter, and held at the Wyndham Garden Inn. Many items for discussion and a budget to resolve. All were accomplished.

A "public event" fun ride was held at Wilson Creek Trail Head with a pot luck that followed.

APRIL: Another "public event" fun ride was held at Johnson Creek, south of Sweet. A pot luck lunch was held at the home of Rob and Linda Adams after. Lots of food and friends.

The Horse Expo was next at the Nampa Horse Park, sponsored by the Idaho Horse Council. Many speakers and riders including, Pat Parelli.

We held a Pack Clinic and Trailer Rodeo at the Sand Arena in Emmett. Besides packing animals it was great fun to watch others maneuver their trailers through obstacles

MAY: a fund raising ride was held in the Eagle foot hills. The Diabetes Ride was followed by a BBQ. Our members that were there had a good time for a great cause.

Time for Sawyer Training. Held at the Emmett Ranger Station on Hwy. 16 many of our members had the opportunity to certify and recertify. In the woods training to come later.

Our yearly Yard Sale was held. This is a great public outreach and fund raiser for our chapter. Nothing is priced and all offers are welcome. A lot of fun and a great way to meet our neighbors.

Back in the class room found us at a CPR & Wilderness First Aid Refresher. Put on by the Bogus Basin Ski Patrol, this is always worthwhile and lots of hands on training with many different instructors. Almost a one on one experience.

JUNE: National Trails Day found us at Little Jack Creek Wilderness on Mud Flat Rd. in the Owyhee's. As a new Wilderness several individuals from many different groups and organizations work on everything from parking for trailers to marking trails were performed.

A trail project was completed at Hitt Mountain outside of Cambridge, ID in the Weiser District of Payette National Forest.

JULY: we planned a trail project for the area of the Yellow Jacket Trailhead, north of Warm Lake outside of Cascade. Part of the roads were closed and made for a late start. We didn't finish what we would like and decided to return later.

AUGUST: found us back at Yellow Jacket to finish what we didn't get done in July.

We did another trail project at Rammage Meadows to work on the Wilson Corral & Gabe Peak Trails.

We did a pack-in for Wilderness Volunteers from USFS. Base camp was Stanley Lake to a Spike Camp at McGown Lakes, about a 2000 foot climb. The volunteers hiked in while we packed tools and provisions, to be packed out in a week.

SEPTEMBER: started with packing out the Wilderness Volunteers we packed into McGown Lakes the week prior.

Another trail project, this time at Stacy Creek Trail in the Payette National Forest.

The last camping weekend for the season was to be at Bull Trout Lake, in the Stanly Basin. However this was cancelled due to an aggressive bear in that area.

The 16<sup>th</sup> found our State Directors at the BCHI State Director's meeting in Idaho Falls.

OCTOBER: we held a fun ride in the 4 Mile Wild Horse Area north of Emmett. This ride is on cow and game trails on Van Dusen Rd. at Willow Creek.

Last ride was again at Johnson Creek south of sweet. The ride was followed with wonderful pot luck at the home of Rob & Linda Adams.

NOVEMBER: was quiet, nothing going on except our monthly meeting.

DECEMBER: this is the one monthly meeting where everyone seems to show up. This is when we elect officers for the coming year. Not hardly an empty seat.

To top off the year is our annual End of Season Party. Like everything else we do there is more than enough to eat. If you go home hungry it's your own fault. There are games and prizes not to be outdone with a gift exchange, and "steal". All proceeds and donations of monies and food as always goes to PAL (Pet Adoption League) and to our local Food Bank. Another good ending to a busy year.



## **Treasure Valley BCH 2017 in Review**

The Treasure Valley Back Country Horsemen group had a busy and successful year in 2017.

The year started April 20th thru the 23rd at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa where many of our members helped man the BCHI booth at the Idaho Horse Council annual Horse Expo.

Later in April, on the 29th, found many TVBCH members at the BLM Owhyee District Wilson Creek parking lot where our club put on a packing and knot tying clinic. Many veteran members gave hands-on instructions and tips for packing to our inexperienced members.

On June 3rd, for National Trails Day, found a few members packing out tires, that were thrown off a nearby hill at BLM's Celebration Park along the Snake River.

July 13 thru the 22nd, two different groups of members, were doing a trail clearing project at Pistol Creek in the Frank Church Wilderness in conjunction with the Forest Service. The first group helped clear the trail from Snow Shoe Summit down to the 44 Cabin and out the Pistol Creek Ridge. The second group spent a considerable amount of time draining and repairing a very bad water bog on the Pistol Creek Trail and other miscellaneous trail work.

August was a busy month for the TVBCH. From August 19th thru the 28th several members provided pack support for a group from the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation that were clearing trail from the Banner Creek trailhead along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in the Frank Church Wilderness. This project included packing supplies, providing food and doing the cooking for the SBFC crew.

At the end of August and the first part of September, August 31 thru Sept. 2, several members were found in the Frank Church Wilderness performing repairs on the Ruffneck Peak Lookout near Stanley for the Forest Service. This included packing in a door kit, paint and tools for repairs to the L.O. Members spent three days assembling the door, replacing boards in shutters, repairing a hinge block, painting and other minor repairs. This is an operational L.O., so members also worked on salvaging the outhouse for L.O. personnel.

On September 16, several members were at the BLM Wilson Creek clearing brush and doing miscellaneous trail work.

The final project for 2017 was on September 30, where several members were down below the Swan Falls Dam picking up trash for Idaho Power. This has turned into an annual project for the TVBCH club.

In summary for 2017, the Treasure Valley Back Country Horsemen contributed total hours 990, total value of \$28,372, total miles traveled of 6,094, a total value of \$6,483, total stock days of 218, total value of \$21,800, for a grand total value of \$56,655.

## **Twin Rivers BCH Annual Report 2017**

Two member rides in **March** to help get the winter hair shedding off our stock. Charlie Creek, a tributary of Asotin Cr. on Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife land. We turned around at the creek crossing as it was running very high. Next the Annual Chili ride on private property west of Clarkston. The weather was cold, so the Chili potluck after we got back to the house was really nice!



**April**, members made our annual ride up Cummins Creek, Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife land and cleared logs across the trail. This area is open April 1<sup>st</sup> after being closed for the winter to protect elk. We saw elk and deer and explored the entrance to an old mine.

**May**, thirteen members rode to Billy Creek Ranch on the Snake River, owned by Idaho Fish & Game, for a two night stay. Our project was fence repair around the yard and the stock corrals. After the work we took some nice rides in the area and saw a small herd of elk.



**June** started with our FUNdraiser ride at Kruze Meadows on Idaho Fish & Game land in the Craig Mountains south of Lewiston. It was a beautiful day with sixty riders enjoying the ride with challenging games at each station.



The next day several of us rode down to do our annual Craig Mountain Adopt-A-Cabin Project at Dough Creek Cabin. We spent more time cutting out the trail to get there than we did fire proofing and cleaning the cabin.



Twenty three youths attended our five day Kid's Kamp this year. We saw elk everyday that we rode and even saw a herd from the Smoothing Iron Ranch one day if you got up early enough. We hold the Kamp on Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Property at the Smoothing Iron Ranch west of Asotin WA. LNT topics: Dispose of Waste Properly, Leave What You Find, Minimize Camp Fire Impact., Our guest presenter, Doug Lincoln and his son covered survival, fire building, shelter, first aid, and orienteering. Doug Olive, forest service, covered crosscut saw safety and training on operating the saws. When it got to competition of teams sawing the log, they really got into it. We taught them how to tie manties and then a competition was held with them having to sort through a pile of gear and get two manties as close as possible to the same weight. They were judged on balanced loads, proper tying of the mantie ropes and neatness of the packs.



Weitas Creek Forest Service Weed Project; Clearwater-NezPerce NF, Weitas Cr. drains into the North Fork of the Clearwater River. Three people packed in from the Weitas Guard Station and stayed at an outfitters camp. They sprayed lots of weeds and pulled almost as many by hand. They saw a bear one day and had a good time.

**July** members packed the North Fork Ranger District crew up Elmer Cr. from the Isabella Cr. Trailhead. The crew is opening up this trail that has been closed for many years. When it is open, it will provide a great loop ride.

**August** we went back up and packed out the forest service crews camp on Elmer Cr. The weather had been over 100 degrees. Installing culverts and rebuilding tread with a pulaski had them beat. They hope to get a grant in 2018 and complete this trail.



Then a small group of members drove to Ten Mile Trailhead with their stock and started clearing twelve miles of trail in the Gospel Hump Wilderness for the Clearwater-NezPerce NF. Then they moved camp up the trail to Ten Mile Meadows and set up camp to finish the project.



Next another packing project for the North Fork Ranger District Trail Crew off the North Fork of the Clearwater River. This project was packing their camp eight miles to Black Lake starting at Canyon Work Center. This was challenging for our stock as it was eight miles up from the river to the lake which is only a half mile from the Black Mountain Lookout, again 100 degree temperatures.

We rested our stock for a few days and did some day rides from camp along the North Fork, as four days later we packed a crew for the Great Burn Study Group to Hanson Meadows on the Kelly Cr. Trail. First rain in over two months and we were privileged to ride twenty miles round trip in the rain. Twin Rivers BCH members have been packing for the Great Burn Study group for several years, with the Palouse Chapter helping for the last three years. Each chapter takes on either packing them in or out each year.

Our last August trip was to Oregon Butte, located in the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness in the Umatilla NF, Pomeroy RD, in the State of Washington. We camped at the Teepee Trailhead. We rode to Oregon Butte lookout before we went on to work. The lookout host told us that on a clear day, you can see Wallowa Mountains, Seven Devils, Mt. Rainer, and Mt. Adams. Well, you guessed it, with the smoke this year, we saw none of them. This project was to log out the Mount Misery Trail so we could make a loop ride later in the year. We were lucky that the F S crew had gone through and cleared the logs, so we had very little clearing to do, hurray!

**September** members made several trips to Cougar Creek to establish a camping area for Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, a tributary of the Grande Ronde River southwest of Asotin. Our part was building a fence around the camp area. A road and seven back in camp sites were roughed in and then rock was spread. Long range plans is a vault toilet, fire rings, and a non-motorized access gate in the back of the area to access acres of non-motorized areas to enjoy.

The last week of the month we camped at Panjab Trailhead, located in the Umatilla NF in Washington, about 60 miles from Clarkston. Friday members rode up Meadow Creek trail for a short ride. On Saturday, eight BCH members rode up Panjab Creek Trail to Indian Corrals, Mount Misery Trail to Oregon Butte, on to Teepee Trailhead and back down Turkey Cr. Trail. What a great seven hour loop ride, with only two trees that had to be cut with crosscuts.

**November** was our last ride of the year. The annual gate closing ride before Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife locks the gates to protect elk in their winter range in Asotin Creek Drainage. The weather was fantastic and we made the loop ride up Fordyce Trail and down Cabin Ridge Trail to the Fordyce Trailhead and then a potluck around the campfire.

December we held our Christmas Dinner and white elephant exchange, always a fun time. Members brought gifts and donated to Toys for Tots. New officers were elected and we recapped the volunteer projects and chapter rides from 2017.

### **Salmon River Back Country Horsemen 2017 Year in Review**

January we held our elections. February some of our members ordered club vest. March was a sad month for our club. One of our long time members, Kent Fuellenbach died suddenly. He used to play guitar and sing around the camp fire and helped with the packing clinics. He will be greatly missed. April 7th we had the packing clinic at the mule sale and a packing competition. Also we celebrated Easter with a breakfast and the desensitizing clinic.

In May we helped with demonstrations for the Tendoy School. We took a donkey, mule and a horse to help the kids understand the difference and also did a packing demonstration. We had Highway cleanup. Memorial weekend we did a work project at Wagonhammer and cleared 30 miles of trail. Many members camped out and enjoyed the good weather. Several club members responded to a SOS call for 5 lost horses. The horses belonged to three gals doing a documentary ride from Astoria to Stanley. More details can be found on Face book.

June the club cleared B-light trail and some parts of Withington Creek Trail. We were supposed to do a trail project at Yellow Jacket but the snow was too deep. When we finally got in there in July, we found that the creek had been washed out and we had to wait for the forest service to fix the road. We did several recon trips to the area. Several pleasure rides were completed in June as well. The club voted on purchasing an Emergency Transponder called Garmin in Reach. August we volunteered 104 hours for the County Fair and donated back our monies to help rebuild the barn that collapsed last winter. We also cleared Big Fir with a connector to Powder house. Some of the trail work this past year was not in big groups as we usually do.

September Mary Monteith did a presentation on packing for Emergencies. Sara and Val Johnson attended the Directors meeting in Idaho Falls. Since most of our members go hunting in October we did not have a meeting. We had another highway cleanup in the fall, early November. We had a Thanksgiving feast at the home of Ray and Joanne Charleton, the turnout was fantastic. December we had a Christmas Dinner at the Ranch with many members present.

Submitted by Secretary, Heidi Tucker

### **Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen accomplishments in 2017:**

Establish additional equestrian parking at Trailheads by working with the Ketchum Ranger District and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. This was accomplished by working with the county and 5B Coalition.

Deer Creek road and trails all got demolished by the Beaver Creek Fire and ensuing mudslides. We helped by working with the county and 5/B Coalition to move existing county levy money (designated for the Silver Creek area) which was over \$400,000 to the restoration of the Deer Creek area. New sections of roads were put in as well as bridges which had been destroyed by fires and mudslides by the Ketchum Ranger District

One major accomplishment was establishing equestrian parking at the North Fork of Deer Creek as well as getting the road up the North Fork rebuilt. More work had to be done last year because of the heavy runoff due to excess snow.

The equestrian parking area that we established with the forest service at Greenhorn (a pull-through) is the example that will be used by the Ketchum Forest Service for new parking areas for horses which is terrific.

We have also helped establish equestrian parking at the Fox Creek Trailhead. These parking areas are so important due to the size of our rigs.

We will continue working with the Forest Service, country and 5B Coalition to restore and maintain all the trail systems on the west side of Hiway 75 that were impacted by the Castle Rock Fire and the Beaver Creek fire and ensuing mudslides, while keeping trails on the east side of hiway 75 maintained.

Additionally, we got the Forest Service to add more horse trails around the Galena Lodge site on the south side of Galena Summit and on the west side of hiway 75.

Jo Heiss, President Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen

No Chapter Annual Reports: Portneuf River, Palouse, Eagle Rock