



BROOMTALES



Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc. Newsletter
Summer, 2023





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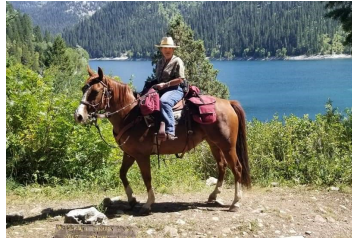
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View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE



Those of you that are new board members or have not been around for awhile might not know me. So, to introduce myself I'm probably the shortest lady running around our state meetings. I'll give you a bit of history about myself. I've been a member of BCHI for about 23 years, BOD for about 15 years, Vice-Chairman; 2 years and National BOD. I love and have learned a lot in this journey I've taken and will do the best I can as your chairman.

Enough of that stuff, let's talk about the journey we will all be taking this year. First, I would like to thank Salmon River BCH for a great convention this spring and for all their hard work! This year's weather has been quite a tough winter for some of us. Some of the chapters have already been able to go on some trail rides, getting their horses in condition for the summer and some of us are just getting started. In my chapter (Eagle Rock), we started our year last weekend at one of our chapter member's indoor/outdoor arena obstacle course. A fantastic way to start the year. Because of this year's winter, I'm guessing the trails are going to need a little bit more clearing than in years past. Please send your pictures and articles to the new Broomtail editors and share what you all are doing out there. I hope we can make this a fantastic year working hard. Be safe most of all. Have fun and make new friends!

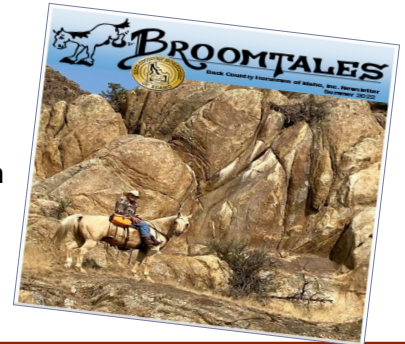


*Aline Brinkmann
BCHI Chairman*

BCHI & BCHA Newsletters

If any member would prefer to receive the BCHI and/or BCHA newsletters via email, please let the person who manages your chapter's membership roster know so that they can pass this information on to BCHI

Secretary Debbie Samovar at:
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BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO



MISSION STATEMENT

To perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country & wilderness.
To work to ensure that public land remains open to recreational stock-use.
To assist the government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.
To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of these resources by horsemen and the general public.
To foster and encourage the formation of new Back Country Horsemen state organizations.

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc.

**P.O. Box 513
Salmon, Idaho 83467**

For more information about Back Country Horsemen of Idaho state chapters, visit us on the web at:

www.bchi.org

Broomtales is the membership newsletter of the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc., a non-profit service organization, and is published three times a year.

Front Cover: Priest River BCHI Trail Clearing Extravaganza -Pat and Maureen Trask
Back Cover: Marsh Loop Trail on Chipmunk Rapids (bottom right). Sue PaDelford and her mule (bottom left)

Musings on National Convention — by Patrick Tracy, Teton Valley BCHI

This year I was able to attend the Annual BCHA Convention.

On the first day, we attended Around the Campfire where several founding members shared about the growing pains encountered with the start of BCHA.

Many things were discussed including the guidelines for chapter use of the BCHA logo and Craig Allen, the Education Committee Chair, explained how to set up access to the BCHA shared drive portal. He can be contacted at 801-388-1175 for access to the portal. Chapters were reminded to read the BCHA Mission Statement at board meetings.

Items brought before the committee for approval were a \$5 increase in membership dues for 2024 which passed and Texas was approved to join BCHA. Thirty-two states are now members.



Michelle Wade is manning the BCHA Help Desk at 360-620-2802.

The final night's banquet with awards, member recognition, and auction will be remembered for a long time.

You should plan on attending the annual convention to see the national committee at work and you get to attend an awesome members' banquet.



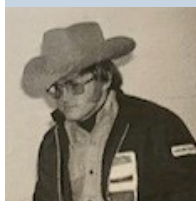
BCHI Beginnings — by Sara Johnson, Salmon River BCHI



Dave Couch wore this red cap with all the pins and history to the BCHI Convention here in Salmon in March. He had a great audience in the Elks bar area showing videos of the many, many back country trips he and Val took.

Dave and my late husband Val Johnson, the late Everett DeCora, and others were so involved in getting our first Idaho chapter started in 1978. At the 7th annual convention in Libby, MT, in March of 1985 a truly NATIONAL organization came into being, with state organizations in Washington, California, Montana, and Idaho as charter members. Dave Couch was selected Chairman of the BCH of Idaho. (This information was obtained from issue three of the Broomtales of which I was editor.)

Dave became a mule lover, too, after he and Val travelled so many places. He was a professional surveyor here in Salmon until he and Connie moved to Meridian in 1993. He turned his files over to me when he left...so well organized and immaculate. They own a lot here in a subdivision with a magnificent view and come fishing and visiting a few times a year. And his daughter Marnie Couch Troska, a veterinarian, comes to Salmon a couple weeks every summer to fill in for Dr. Riggelman.



We owe Dave a lot of hoorahs and appreciation for his early efforts to get Salmon River BCH and BCH of Idaho started.



2024 BCHI BOD MEETING & CONVENTION

MARCH 15-16, 2024

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TALES FROM THE TRAIL — by Abigail Burley, Salmon River BCHI

When I first visited Salmon, I couldn't get over the vibrant green grass and the incredible assortment of wildflowers erupting in splendor, washing the mountainside in an array of color. I was in awe of the jagged, towering mountain peaks looming over the silvery, winding river below. The sheer depth and breadth of beauty was astonishing. I just wanted to spin around singing, the hills are alive! I then began seriously considering maybe I could make this my happily-ever-after home. I had this first experience here on horseback with the Salmon River Back Country Horsemen group who graciously let me borrow a horse and took me to Wagonhammer, a well-loved ride on a trail maintained by the group.

"There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." —agreed! —well-stated words attributed to Winston Churchill. I think most everyone here can agree that about the best way to experience this great land of ours is by horseback. How can we enter and access this vast countryside? It is accomplished by really hard work and dedication. Most truly worthwhile ventures in life are born through hard work, I have found. Enter BCH.

We are celebrating the 45th year of the Back Country Horsemen group in Idaho. The Salmon River group was the first group in Idaho and we now have a total of 16 chapters in our state!

Back Country Horsemen of America started in 1973 in the Flathead Valley in western Montana and the Salmon River BCH was organized on March 14, 1978, making it the fourth BCH group started. In 1979 the Back Country Horsemen Clubs in Montana joined with Salmon, Idaho, creating the Back Country Horsemen. In 1985, the High Sierra Stock Users of CA and BCH of WA joined our groups to form the Back Country Horsemen of America. BCHA chapters are currently active in 32 states and consist of roughly 13,000 members. In 2021, BCHA volunteers spent 196,480 hours working to maintain trails on public lands. The monetary equivalent of that is \$8.4 million dollars in trail work donated (some estimates are in the tens of millions of dollars). One can see how this would add to create an impact not only on the land preservation, but also on the group's influence in the communities in which it serves. The BCHA group was founded as a service and educational organization with the goal to keep public lands open, including access for all user groups, especially with emphasis on our equestrian community.

I have lived in now six different states and Idaho is the most easily accessed for equestrian use. After reading the history, I can see that the foresight of the founding members was key to building and keeping this access to the land. A good friend of mine who lives in another state has a very difficult time accessing trails to train for endurance races. They've just not been kept up, or have even completely excluded equestrians from their use. Sadly money speaks the loudest and some groups are extra vocal and if we're not careful, we can also lose access to our trail systems, whether from lack of upkeep or from neglecting to speak up for ourselves.

Sara Johnson, wife to late Val B. Johnson, the first president of Salmon River BCH, was telling me some of the history of the group with tears in her eyes. She has so many wonderful memories with her family and friends. Friends earned through time and experiences, plenty of hard work and struggle to make the history that much more rich and meaningful.

We are drawn to the group to preserve the beauty of the land, to get out and enjoy that great beauty, and to build life-long friendships sharing this community and its venture. All this we do on our cherished equine companions. A common bond of all these things and the quiet strength and partnership of our beloved equines. What could be better?

May we continue on with strength and focus for generations to come. Thank you all for coming to help us commemorate our community of Backcountry Horsemen. I am so grateful for this group of people who help keep these magnificent trails open for us all to enjoy!



To Social Media or to Not Social Media? — by Chris Reed, Palouse BCHI, Past Chairman BCHI

Social media has become one of our society's most prominent ways of communication and information sharing in a very short time. It has changed how we communicate and has given us a platform to express our views and opinions and connect with others. It keeps us informed about the world around us. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn have brought individuals from all over the world together, breaking down geographical borders and fostering a genuinely global community.

However, social media comes with its difficulties. With the rise of misinformation, cyberbullying, and privacy problems, it's critical to utilize these platforms properly and be aware of the risks.

Social media has become an integral part of modern life, with billions of people around the world using platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay connected with others and access information.

In my opinion we as BCHI need to maintain a presence in the social media world in order to be able to grow. I am looking for more members in BCHI to help me administrate our Facebook page. Ideally, I would like one member from each chapter who would be willing to post about their chapter on our BCHI page. This way we would have representation throughout the state.

If you would be interested in helping, please email me @ gunslinger44@turbonet.com or texting me @ 208-596-1222.



How To Find Sawyer Certification Training

To find out when sawyer safety workshops are being held, contact one of the following Sawyer Trainers (in your region) or a Ranger District.

Region 1 — Todd Brown email sawyer-coordinator1@bchi.org or call **208-451-3161**

Region 4 — Rob Adams email saw or call **208-781-0548**



Back Country Horsemen Convention Hopping — by Pat Bogar, Idaho National Director, Twin Rivers BCHI

March and April were busy times for BCH around the northwest. March saw the Salmon BCH Chapter hosting the Idaho State convention. It was a well done convention at the Elk's Lodge in Salmon. An excellent meeting and always a chapter and town that is most hospitable. I must compliment them on the informative and great speakers during the convention. This was a busy convention for attendees, I can only imagine how busy it was for the Salmon Chapter!?! Thanks so much Salmon BCH!!



Then I got a wild hair and decided if I was traveling to Kalispel to the BCHA national convention, I should go a few days early to see how BCH Montana ran their convention and it was the 50th year for them too. They had a pretty flashy venue, the Majestic Valley Arena, which is very big and very nice. This was a wonderful place to have this convention. They really did much the same as our little Idaho convention just much bigger in all ways. Lots of very cool vendors, food trucks, huge silent auction, great catered meal and I did put up a state display about Salmon and the beginning of the Idaho BCH. They had numerous clinics, talks, etc. going on in three corners of this big arena for most of two full days. I very much enjoyed each that I attended, everything from horse training to park history and more. Of course this convention was totally enjoyable for me as I was not formally involved, no meeting for me. Just the fun!! Over all, this convention was very well done!! Kudo's Montana!

Then it was off to the Red Lion in Kalispel for the BCHA national convention. There was a great turn out, of course, the 50 year celebration. The 50 years of history given by many former chairmen or members was amazing for even us older members and folks, but I think it was very educational for the newer members. I think younger and newer members were very enlightened to the way BCH began and some of the big bumps in the road we have had to overcome along the way. It was very well done and time well spent. As usual this event was well put together and so busy. We had one night to relax throughout the whole convention. It is so informative to learn about other states and what their projects and priorities are, as well as what agencies they work with the most. This event is a huge learning adventure, almost overwhelming at times, but very enjoyable.

During all of these trips to conventions, I was able to see a lot of the back roads of our beautiful country. Even though I did not drive to Salmon, Rod Parks was the chauffeur, we did a great side trip. Then I decided to get to Kalispel and home by way of the back roads as well. There is a tremendous amount of gorgeous country I have yet to ride!



If you have an opportunity to attend a State convention please take it. Awesome to get to know so many of our wonderful members and we can learn so much from each one.





CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Lasting Arts Productions

Go to link below to view high-light video of the 2023 Convention.

<https://youtu.be/9IM6wgIGbcI>

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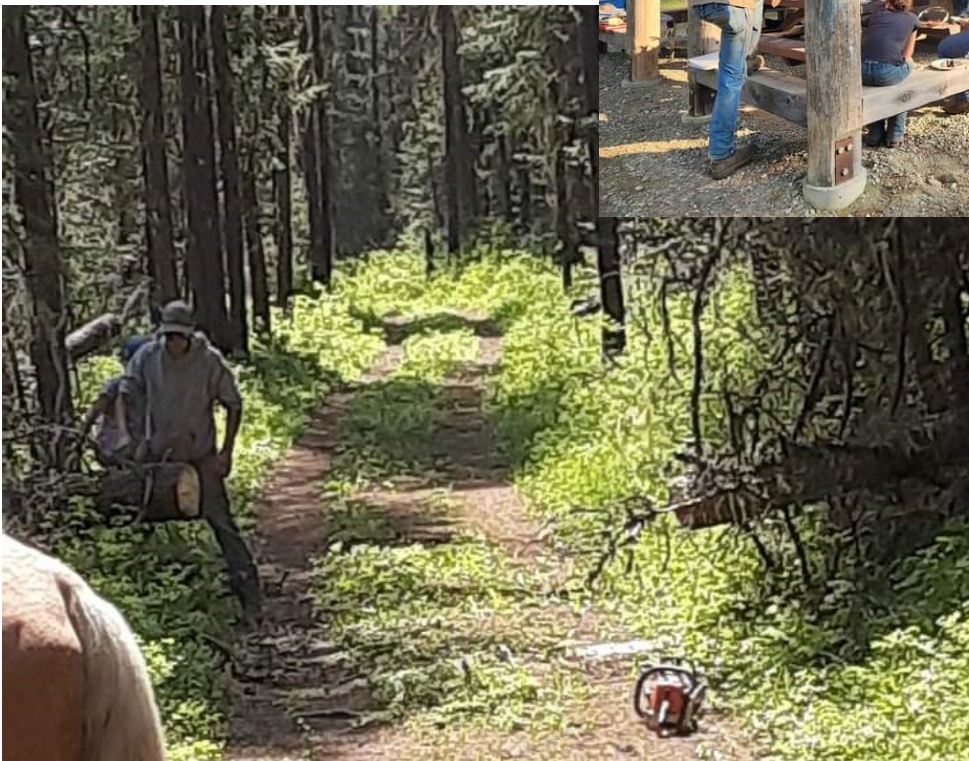


Trail Clearing Extravaganza

by Jana Ostler, President Priest River BCHI

We had an amazing Trail Clearing Extravaganza on May 19-21 with two nights of fun camping at the Reynolds Creek Campground. With 15 people, we were able to make 4 crews that headed out Saturday and Sunday and cleared all of Chipmunk Rapids, Pee Wee, and most of Wood Rat and Lakeshore trails around Priest Lake. We invited Panhandle and Selkirk chapters to join us. Arnold Wilkens the vice president from Panhandle was able to.

We hope to make this a yearly event to open up the trails the week-end before Memorial Day. Who knows, if enough chapters participate, we may change the name from extravaganza to rendezvous.



Top left — Sue PaDelford and her mule

Top center — Pat and Maureen Trask

Top right — Pat and Maureen Trask

Center — Lunch at Reynold's Creek Campground

Center right — Jordan, Jude and Jana Ostler clearing Chipmunk Rapids

Bottom left — Jordan Ostler



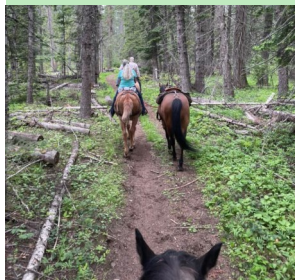
Priest River Valley
Back Country Horsemen



Sawtooth BCH—Tin Cup Corral work & Apollo ride



*Treasure Valley BCH—
Bear Valley trail work &
Porter Creek*



*Panhandle BCH—
Farragut Fun Ride*



*Selkirk BCH—St. Jude
Fund Raiser Ride*



*Palouse BCH—Feather
Creek Trail work & Up-
per Basin Fun Ride.*



*Salmon River BCH—4th
of July parade & trail
work on Wagonhammer trail*

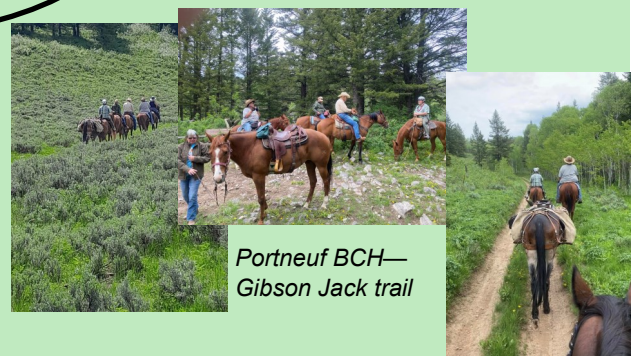
*Teton Valley BCH—Devil's
Slide trail work, Game
Creek ride, National Trail
Day clean*



Highlights of chapter events from Facebook



*Cache Peak BCH—(Left) Albion 4th
of July Parade (Right) 3rd Annual
Boots 'n Draw Ride at Niagara
Springs WMA*



*Portneuf BCH—
Gibson Jack trail*

Obstacles are a Waste of Time by Johnny Flores Horses, World Champion EXCA

“Obstacles are a waste of time.”

Far too often I have heard this said and it is often said by riders who have dismissed the merits of obstacle training before doing adequate research on the topic. Some of the best riders in the world compete in Working Equitation which has obstacle courses designed to test ease of handling and speed. The competitors' runs in those two classes are some of the finest I have ever seen. Let's not forget the rise of Ranch Riding especially Ranch Trail where a rider has to calmly navigate obstacles in a ranch horse fashion. Those riders may not be as finessed and flashy as working equitation, but they are easily some of the smoothest and most functional riders. The Extreme Cowboy Association (EXCA), though not as big as the two aforementioned disciplines, has produced some of the fastest and bravest obstacle horses in the industry.

Even with the growth of these associations and disciplines, obstacles are still excluded for many other training goals. Obstacles can offer so many benefits to a horse's training. They do not even need to be the focus of a horse's training. Simply working on obstacles as a supplement to their other goals will help your horse with many things! So, what are some of those benefits? Here are nine I would like to highlight.



Increased Confidence

A horse can grow its confidence in a multitude of ways. The quickest way I have seen horses grow their confidence is through challenging unfamiliar obstacles. A horse who works only on their job, for example: reining, will only ever be confident circling, changing leads, sliding, and spinning. They may make a decent reining horse but that's it! What happens when the environment changes? What happens when a plastic bag flies across their path in the show barn? They will not know how to process that "spook" leading to a potentially dangerous reaction as opposed to a horse well versed in obstacles. By working on obstacles such as bridges and tarps, a horse will learn how to process fear in a more constructive way. Slowly with the riders help the horse's initial fear can grow into curiosity. This curiosity lets your horse think which will quickly turn into confidence. The horse is able to be afraid of something without blowing a fuse. He learns to think.

More Trust in their Rider

The only way to begin creating trust in a horse is to be fair to them. The only way to expand that trust is to challenge them. A horse needs to understand they will not be asked to do anything that will hurt them. They need to know their owner would NEVER do such a thing! By putting the horse in positions where they need to cross an obstacle they fear and offering him the time to complete the obstacle at his own pace, he will grow to trust the rider. The rider should go slow and allow the horse to go at his own pace initially, then begin to push more with time. All the while, the horse is learning to trust his rider despite how he feels about an obstacle.

Prevents Burnout

How many times do we get on our horse and work on the same 3 or 4 things we did for the past week? To help break the cycle, work on obstacles. By changing the topic of work for the horse, he will not be so inclined to burnout from the previous training exercises. It also provides something new for the horse to try and enjoy. This will keep him happy to work and help to prevent souring. Lack of variety is boring to everyone, horses or riders.

Creates Spatial Awareness

A horse that is well versed in obstacles has a high level of body awareness and will thoroughly understand how big his body is. Crossing over bridges and poles will help to make the horse more aware of their feet. Jumping creates awareness of their strides. Gates and others squeeze through type obstacles, help to create awareness of their width. By doing obstacles and showing them how big their body really is, a horse can better understand how to use their body to the fullest.

Creates Sure Footedness

An obstacle horse will quickly learn to keep their weight balanced and their feet sure. Constant execution of bridges will help a horse learn to keep close attention to their feet. The reason for this is because the horse has to step onto a foreign platform then navigate the elevated platform and step off. The constant crossing over poles or deadfalls will also help a horse learn to step in such a way that does not hit the poles. A horse that is sure footed is one that will not trip over his own feet or any other arbitrary obstacle. That is not all that sure footedness lends a horse, it can also improve stops, spins, and lead changes, among other things. Because the horse understands where each of his feet are, he will be better prepared for a slide stop, spin, and/or lead change. There will hardly be a time where a horse is caught off guard for a maneuver. He will know how to bring his feet where they need to be.

The Horse Will Learn How to Work Without Your Help

Did you know track and field runners will often run on sandy beaches to improve their running speed on solid ground? It is an old form of conditioning, one that essentially follows harder training regiments than the actual performance will require. Working on

lead changes, spins, and slide stops through and around obstacles is very similar to this. By working in a chaotic arena full of distractions, the horse will need to be even more in tune with their rider to properly execute their maneuvers. Mastery of technical maneuvers in a crowded, distracting arena will greatly improve performance during show day in an empty, quiet arena, where it is easy to concentrate.

Obstacles are Tattletales

Having a horse repeatedly do obstacles will help them to understand how to pick up their feet without being told. It will teach them to check their strides and jump in time, effortlessly accomplishing the maneuver with no rider intervention. Teaching a horse to think carefully about their jobs is invaluable. Teaching a horse to think for themselves will also reaffirm a bit of self preservation that can prevent accidents. To put it simply, the horse won't put themselves or their rider in harm's way.

The Horse Will Learn How to Work Without Your Help

Obstacles such as pinwheels and maypoles will very quickly show a rider the problem with their circles and clarify the issue is a lack of engagement from the haunches. The rider will see this, work the haunches, and improve. Obstacles such as spin boxes will show a rider they travel too much during a spin and help the rider plant the horse's inside foot in the spin better. Bridge or crossover obstacles will show the rider how centered he can get the horse and how much the horse respects the rider's legs, especially if he is scared. Serpentine, barrel patterns and figure 8s will challenge a rider's control of a horse's lead changes and doing them fluidly. Sidepasses challenge a rider's straightness during their sidepass. Backups, especially the narrow L shaped ones, challenge a rider's backup. Obstacles will show a rider the holes in their training, and do so very obviously. For example, it is easy to think a backup is straight in a vacant arena, but when the back hoof hits a pole and that sound echoes across the arena...there's some work to do!

Obstacles Prepare a Horse for the Real World

Sure, fancy bridges and noodles are not found in the real world, but a horse that can handle things of that nature is a lot better off. By working on flappy obstacles such as slicker carries, tarps, flags, etc. a horse is less likely to dump his rider when a bit of trash is flying around on a trail ride. Horses that understand bridges will not hesitate so much at the sight of a puddle, stream, or mudhole. Trails, roads, etc. all have trash, some more than others. They also have loose dogs, coyotes, other animals, homeless people, big scary rocks, etc. By working in a comfortable environment with a horse on how to process fear and think before reacting, the horse will be more prepared for the real world... where he seldom has the time to go at his own pace.

Closing Remarks

Obstacles do not need to be practiced to a comical extent. A horse does not need to do curtains and noodles and other crazy decorations. With the exception of obstacle horses, many don't need to be exposed to crazy obstacles, especially if obstacles are a supplement to their training. By simply working on bridges, jumps, equitation obstacles such as backups and sidepasses, circular obstacles such as pinwheels, and flappy obstacles such as tarps, the rider can reap all the benefits of obstacle training with their horse. Obstacles do not need to be crazy, a whole lot can be accomplished with every obstacle when done at each gate and successively.

TRBCH Adopt a Cabin Project — from Facebook post

On Saturday, June 17th, three TRBCH members rode to Dough Creek Cabin to complete maintenance projects.



- Cut grass and weeds back from the cabin, outhouse and hitching rails
- Cleaned cabin/windows
- Sprayed ground sterilizer around buildings
- Reestablished water flowing to water trough
- Treat porch and steps with wood preserver
- Chop thistles

This continues to be an annual project; adopt a cabin project.

We camped in the cabin two nights. It was nice listening to rain falling on the tin roof Saturday night.

Sunday, we rode to Billie Creek Ranch where we ate lunch in the shade on the deck before riding back.

Monday, we rode back to the trailhead riding south across Middle Creek to Corral Creek then up to the trailhead at Dough Creek gate.

We saw two bull elk, two nice Mule deer bucks, a handful of does and one bear.

Enjoyed three pleasant days riding, nice meals, trustworthy stock and good friends.

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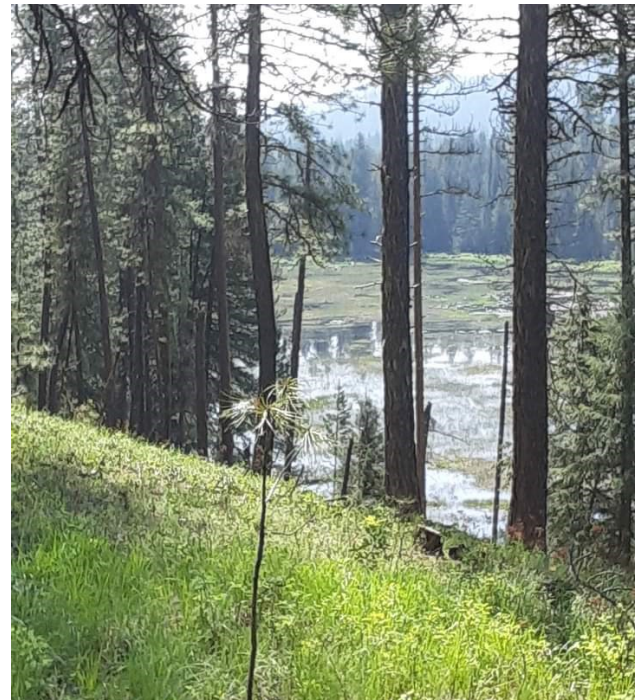
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Business Card-Size Advertisements—Member \$35 Non-member \$50 - Larger ads can be accommodated

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