



# The Highline

## Elk Lake Creek Trail Restoration

### RTP Grant Project

Submitted by: Tim Lagasse

The Mt. Hood National Forest has some steep and rugged country, and Bull of the Woods Wilderness is probably some of the most rugged and isolated country in the Mt. Hood. In addition, in 2010, a significantly sized, and very hot, forest fire burned out the center of Bull of the Woods and also damaged many of the trails in the process. In years and decades past, many of our members had previously ridden the trails in Bull of the Woods, and at the urging of Jerry Bentz and the late Guy Jones TRBCHO adopted the Bull of the Woods Wilderness area as one of our primary work efforts late in the summer of 2012, shortly after our chapter formed.

The Forest Service was excited about our desire to work in Bull of the Woods as the Clackamas Ranger District had no trail crew at the time to perform any of the badly needed maintenance on the trails, let alone tackle the damage caused by the 2010 fire. With guidance from the Forest Service regarding the priority of getting trails back in shape we started work on trails in Bull of the Woods in the late summer of 2012. Our first task was to clear the Pansy Lake trail up to the Motherlode trail. Once arriving at the remote trailhead we saddled up, donned our cross-cut saws and headed up a pretty nice pansy lake trail wondering where all the burned areas we had heard about were? Well, when we crested the hill and connected with the Motherlode trail it was not hard to miss the complete devastation on the other side of the hill. Fields of match-sticks standing on the hills was all that was left to the south. Fortunately,



Boulders that caused leg trap were removed from the creek. Marty DeVall and Jerry Bentz gathering tools after finishing Work Area 3.

we turned onto the Motherlode trail that day and headed east to the fire lookout and back to our trailers with our highest priority trail complete and moving on to priority number two, the Elk Lake Creek trail.

It wasn't too long after our first work party occurred that our Chapter President in 2012, Joanne Hanson, tried to ride in on the Elk Lake Creek trail. Her scouting ride only lasted about a half mile when they had to turn around at a rather large fallen log across the trail at an area in the burn that had a significant side-slope. The trail itself in that area was around 12-18" wide with some places that were missing due to washouts because of the loose, burned soil that lacked any organic root material to hold the soil together. With our limited scouting report in hand we set out on foot in the following weeks to cut out the burned logs because there was nowhere to tie the horses and mules while we were cutting. We performed three trips on foot

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TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

# **Come to a meeting and make a difference...**

### **Columbia Gorge Chapter**

Meets: The 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr. Hood River OR 97031

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Joy Senger at columbiagorge@bcho.org

### **East Cascades Chapter**

Meets: The 2nd Monday of every month at the Black Bear Diner, 1465 NE 3rd St., Bend OR meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Buck Davis, eastcascades@bcho.com

### **Emerald Empire Chapter**

Meets: the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Utility District building, 33733 Seavey Lp Road, Eugene, OR 97405 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Jean Clancy, emeraldempire@bcho.org

### **High Desert Trail Riders Chapter**

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at Elmers 3030 South 6th Klamath Falls, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Betty Applebaker, hdntr@bcho.org

### **Sourdough Chapter**

Meets: The third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in Central Point.

Contact: Terry Canavella, sourdough@bcho.org

### **Steens Chapter**

Meets: As needed! Please confirm meeting schedule and work party dates through SteensBCH@gmail.com or call John O'Connor 541-678-3502

### **West Cascades Chapter**

Meets: The 1st Wednesday of each month at Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market Street NE, Salem, OR. Dinner time is at 6:00 p.m. meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Jennifer Paulson, westcascades-pres@bcho.org

### **Territorial Riders Chapter**

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Beavercreek Fire Department, 22310 S Beavercreek Rd. Beavercreek, Or. 97004 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Tim Lagasse, territorialriders@bcho.org

### **High Country Wilderness Packers**

Meets: Held by conference call every other month

Contact: Mat Wooley, Wctimberfalling@aol.com

in the fall of 2012 prior to snow ending the work season and cut out approximately thirty logs across the steep side slope that eventually flattened out into a heavily burned area. We had cleared about three-quarters of a mile in from the trail head.

Once the snow cleared in 2013 and we had our annual fundraising ride and other trail work completed we again focused on Elk Lake Creek trail in mid-July. We started on foot again since we did not know what was in the steep section near the beginning of the trail. Progress was good since we had cut out many logs the previous year using our crosscut saws. On our first trip of the year we had cut to a point approximately one mile in and were ready to quit for the day when we decided to just look around the corner to see what was next. Interestingly enough, we found the Wilderness Boundary sign hanging on a tree. We also realized that we had just cut out all those logs that were outside the Wilderness with crosscut saws over four trips instead of probably one trip with a chainsaw. We did learn a valuable lesson that day; never assume the Wilderness Boundary is where the permit box is located near the beginning of the trail. Always consult the map!



*Gary Sischo walking in to scout Work Area 1 with Tim Lagasse and Marty DeVall in March of 2016. Picture taken before any work was done.*

Now that we could use the horses, we decided to camp at the trailhead and perform weekend campout trips since the trailhead was approximately 60 miles from town. Over the course of six weekends we cut approximately 70 logs off the trail and had progressed about 5 miles down the trail. Bees had started getting pretty bad since we were into the late August and early September time-frame.

Our work on the Elk Lake Creek trail ended abruptly the first weekend of September due to a wreck that was most likely caused by a bee sting to my riding horse that caused my riding horse and pack horse to end up off the trail in the area of the steep side slope. Unfortunately, there was no recovery due to the loose soil from the burn and the steepness of the hill. Sparing the reader the details, suffice to say that both my riding horse and my pack horse perished that day and our work on the Elk Lake Creek trail also came to an end until we could find a way to rebuild the trail in a manner that provided some measure of safety through a pretty treacherous area of trail across the steep side hill and cliff at the bottom.

In mid-2015, we caught wind that a new Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant cycle would open in March of 2016. Our chapter voted to let me look into the possibility of applying for an RTP grant to obtain funding for a youth crew to widen the Elk Lake Creek trail along the steep side hills and restore the burned areas of trail in the first mile of trail, along with fixing a difficult water crossing at two miles in.

One of the first steps toward obtaining a grant is to get approval from the managing agency; in this case the managing agency was the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). We had worked with the USFS on a number of previous projects ranging from building corrals at Riley Horse Camp to trail re-routes on the Sandy River trail, and they agreed that the proposed ELK Lake Creek trail project would be a good project to partner up on. As part of our discussion, I walked the project trail segments with Tom Triscik, our Clackamas River Ranger District Wilderness Trails Technician, and Tom estimated the project would need approximately 4 weeks of youth crew to complete.

The next step was learning whether our project actually qualified for the RTP grant program and if so, how to apply for the grant. RTP in Oregon is administered through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and OPRD put on an invaluable class in February of 2016 that answered most of the questions we had. The class also provided an opportunity to meet the OPRD RTP staff, who were very helpful in the grant application process by answering any additional questions that came up.

For our February 2016 meeting I put together a PowerPoint presentation that explained what I had learned at the OPRD training meetings and laid out the preliminary plan to widen the trail and restore the burned area and the Welcome Creek crossing utilizing (4) weeks of youth crew work plus our volunteer match. The financial estimate for the project was a total project value of \$45,200 which was comprised of the \$9,200 20% match requirement for our chapter and \$36,000 to be granted by the Federal Highway Department through OPRD to pay for the youth crew. There was a pretty substantial amount of uncertainty by some of the members, and justifiably so, about what would happen if we were not able to live up to the requirements of the grant. Would there be any penalties for non-completion? Could we field enough volunteers to meet the volunteer match of \$9,200 worth of labor required to fulfill our 20% obligation? How did the fact that RTP is a reimbursement grant program affect our ability to live up to the terms of the grant, and so on.

The discussion on whether or not to apply for the grant was very spirited. An important part of the discussion was that the Elk Lake Creek Trail is a beautiful riding trail once you pass the 1 mile mark. The problem was that at ½ mile in, there was this steep side hill section of narrow trail that pretty much limited use of the trail to only very experienced riders with tried and true equines. Many of our members would not ride this section of trail due to the risk of trouble, and as I found out first hand, any type of problem could cause a very bad day even for a rider with experience on this trail because there was just no margin for error along the side hill. Some of our members maintained that the trail did not need to be fixed but many recognized the benefits of fixing this trail. The majority of the chapter recognized that fixing this section of trail would lessen the risks in the area of the side hill to allow access for others

who may not quite have as much intestinal fortitude as they did when they were younger, or perhaps may have equines that were a little less well trained, or perhaps they were just not quite crazy enough anymore to ride across that section to get to the gently sloped perfect riding the rest of the Elk Lake Creek trail offers. Fortunately, by the end of the discussion, we had a successful (though not unanimous) vote that authorized the chapter to apply for the grant.

Continuing to read the instruction for RTP grants and getting questions answered by the OPRD staff, we put together our grant submittal through the online application process. There were numerous forms to fill out, projects plans to create, and letters of support required during the submittal process. One interesting issue happened to be the requirement for environmental analysis or (NEPA) if required. Fortunately, Jacki Groce, the USFS Clackamas River Ranger District Ranger was in support of this project and worked with us to supply the needed documentation. Once the grant was submitted by the March 2016 deadline it became a waiting game to see if we were successful.



*Boulders that caused leg trap were removed from the creek. Marty DeVall and Jerry Bentz gathering tools after finishing Work Area 3.*

Turns out we were successful! RTP project are graded on a points based system where a committee awards point to the various answers provided to the questions in the grant application. Our project placed 8th highest out of around 43 applicants and the first 32 applicants were funded if I remember right.

Next we needed a Notice to Proceed before we could do any work that counted toward our match. Due to some turn over in the OPRD office and some other considerations the process took a bit longer than normal. By the time we received a grant agreement to sign, it was November and the snow was flying in the Mt Hood. Fortunately, our new OPRD grant administrator, Jodi Bellefeuille worked with us to allow us to sign the grant agreement in April due to some language in the contract that may have voided the agreement because we would not have been able to get to our worksite within a (6) month window to start work that was buried in the contract. Once April arrived and we got the grant agreement signed we received our Notice to Proceed, and we were off and running, sort of.

One of the first tasks was to figure out which youth crew to use. The application had required us to get (3) quotes, but we had not settled on who to use. Looking at the plusses and minuses of the three groups I asked David Nestor from Northwest Youth Corps (NWYC) come out and speak to the chapter about the Northwest Youth Corp organization. David made a great presentation about Northwest Youth Corps youth program that really hit home with our volunteer organization. We could tell right away that the things our group valued were emphasized in the NWYC program, and that working with NWYC would be right for our group.

Chris Nichols from the USFS also came to the May meeting as well to discuss USFS support, which was huge because cooperation with the USFS would result in training for us and also work on the project by USFS personnel would result in Force Labor hours which also contributed to our match dollars.

There was a lot of snow in 2017, so it wasn't until early June that we were able to walk the trail with Jeff Olson from NWYC and Tom Triscik from the USFS to verify the youth crew could indeed perform the work in the (4) weeks allotted. We had a good hike and discussion on the trail and Jeff confirmed the youth crew should be able to complete the project in the four weeks Tom had originally estimated. One interesting note was that Jeff preferred working later in the fall after moisture would be present in the soil due to the powdery nature of the soil and the fact that winter snows would help pack the trail down after widening the trail to enhance trail sustainability. The September/October time frame looked good to Jeff, which also was good for us because that would give us time to get our match done so we could have a final vote to actually approve funding the grant from the TRBCHO treasury. More on this one later...

As the summer of 2017 continued, we ticked off our other work projects on the various trails we have adopted from May through the end of July, and by August we were finally able to focus on the Elk Lake creek trail. For our first work party we scheduled a (4) day event from Thursday, August 10, through Sunday, August 13. Since we would only have pack support on the weekend, we decided to work at Work Area 1, which was about ½ mile in, the first day. We accomplished a lot of work that first day with a crew of five which included (3) TRBCHO members (David Lynn, Marty DeVall, Tim Lagasse), (1) PCTA member (Roberta Cobb), and USFS support from Rachel Drake. We widened about 150 linear feet of trail to our goal of four feet wide across the steep side slope. The second day we decided to work on the Work Area 3 creek crossing moving rocks out of the creek bed with a group of four which included (2) TRBCHO members (Tim Jones, Tim Lagasse) and USFS cooperation with a crew of (2) USFS employees (Tom Triscik,

Vito Perrone). With limited tools due to the 2 mile hike in (with no pack support), we still got a ton accomplished with a come-along, a rock net, and a couple of rock bars that day. The third day we had pack support, and all the tools we needed to finish the Work Area 3 creek crossing. Our crew consisted of our pack support (Jerry Bentz and his mules), TRBCHO members (Marty DeVall, Tim Lagasse) and cooperation from the USFS (Tom Triscik, Vito Perrone). We moved literally a few tons of rock and opened up the creek crossing that day. Jerry packed out a portion of the tools so that we would have what we needed for the fourth day back in Work Area 1. The fourth day of the work party was another great day. We had Jerry Bentz pack the rest of the tools out from Work Area 3 (and Work Area 1 at the end of the day), and we had a crew of (3) TRBCHO members (Melissa Farrier, Marty DeVall, Tim Lagasse) and (3) from the USFS (Tom Triscik, Vito Perrone, and Ryan Bussman). The amount of work that got done was truly incredible. The USFS guys went to work on busting out rock that we had initially thought needed blasting. Once they got done, blasting was no longer required! By the end of the day, we had widened numerous feet of trail to our four foot wide requirement.

Amazingly enough, Over the (4) days we accomplished approximately \$4,880.00 of the \$9,200 required for match, so we were about 52% complete on match in (1) extended weekend work party. This was so amazing I sent out an update to the chapter of our progress and a notice regarding our next (3) day effort to occur (2) weeks later.

Unfortunately, in the two weeks between August 11 and August 25 2017, the fires started burning in the Mt Hood. Understandably, we would have no USFS help due to everyone fighting fire. Fortunately, our work area was open again after being closed for a few days due to a local fire caused by some 'not so bright' campers a week earlier along our access road.

On the Friday of August 25th we had an incredible (8) TRBCHO members (Rebecca Karlson, Phylis Elston, Julie Stanbro, Jeannie Sovince, David Lynn, Marty DeVall, Connie Smith, Tim Lagasse) arrive to work in Work Area 1. We had another really good day moving dirt, rock, and widening trail. Then, just when I thought it couldn't get any better, Saturday came and TRBCHO members just continued to pull into the trailhead parking area. We had a whopping (13) TRBCHO volunteers (Stacy & Rich Livermore, Melissa Farrier, Marlon Smith, David Lynn, Marty DeVall, Siggie & Tom Maire, Barbara Schlitt, Madelyn Hendrickson, Nancy Haring, Cindy Croghan, Tim Lagasse) drive 60 miles into the Mt Hood National Forest to work on this project! Just plain incredible! We also had pack support that day from member Connie Smith to bring additional tools in and most of the tools out. We had so many people there that Saturday we did some napkin calculations on the trail and determined we had completed our match and then some after only two days!

With our match complete, it was time to vote to release funds for the trail crew. We held the vote at our September meeting and with a unanimous vote we authorized funding the youth crew.



*Northwest Youth Corp built numerous log cribs and back-filled the trail to cover and restore the rocky, burned areas in Work Area 1*

I contacted NWYC shortly after our vote, and Jeff shuffled some projects around and the NWYC crew performed (4) weeks of work on the Elk Lake Creek trail in October 2017. They did an amazing job restoring the burned out trail tread area and finishing the widening project in Work Area 1. They also performed all of the Work widening the trail in Work Area 2 which completed the project.

November 1st I walked the trail with Jodi from RTP and marveled at the changes on the Elk Lake Creek trail. The whole length of the trail along the steep side hill went from 12"-18" wide to at least 48" wide, the burned out tread was restored, and another section of narrow tread along a steep side slope was widened in Work Area 2. We found only one issue during final review. During the last week of October we had a day where the Mt Hood received approximately four to five inches of rain. Our creek crossing at Work Area 3 had some small boulders move on the far side, so we will need to do some regular maintenance work there for 2018.

Overall, we logged over 300 hours of TRBCHO volunteer time, 3 days of pack support, and had cooperation from the USFS that resulted in 12 USFS Force Labor days on the trail. Our Match allowed a (4) week youth crew worth \$32,000 to be hired for this project. The trail definitely shows it too. In 2018 we will be able to safely ride in to perform regular maintenance needs on the widened and restored Elk Lake Creek Trail in Bull of the Woods Wilderness.

It is OK to contact me with any questions at [territorialriders@bcho.org](mailto:territorialriders@bcho.org)

# President's Letter

Happy Spring to everyone. I am writing this in March, and it's cold and wet, but by the time you are reading this hopefully the weather is warming up and everyone is getting itchy to get started on the summer work projects. I know most of the chapters have several work projects planned for this summer. Good luck with those, I hope everyone has a safe and productive work season. This year the state organization is tackling a large trail clearing project in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. The Forest Service, in February, finally named the priority areas called out in the Trail Stewardship Act. The Eagle Cap Wilderness and Hells Canyon were named as a priority area. Several of us in the leadership of BCHO thought that it would be a great project to work on. Dave Price, at my request, contacted the Forest Service at Enterprise and they have given us several areas to work on in the Eagle Caps as well as some areas in Hells Canyon. The plan is to have several groups of our members work on the different areas in September. We are still looking for volunteers that are interested in working on this project. It is primarily log out work. Most of the work is cross cut work. We are looking for people to pull saws as well as work for swampers. This is a wilderness project so for the most part we will be staying in the wilderness about 3 to 4 hours ride from the trail head. If you are interested in helping on this project give me a call, I would be happy to talk to you about it. For those of you who do not have my number it is (971)-645-3593. This is a true back Country project. The Hot Shot saw team also has a couple of their own projects this summer. They have a project planned for the John Day Wilderness and one for Crater Lake. Anyone interested in working with the BCHO Hot Shots should contact Bert Morris. Bert's number is (541)-968-5525.



Summer isn't just about work. All of the chapters have fun rides and campouts planned. If you are not actively involved in a chapter I encourage you to do so. It great to hang out with other horse and mule folks. I also would like to encourage everyone to attend this years State Ride. The State Ride is July 20-22 at Mann Camp in the Ochoco's. The ride is being hosted again this year by the East Cascades chapter. There will be a potluck Saturday evening. Camping is dispersed with highlining. East Cascades will have water on site for your use and certified hay that you may purchase. Because this is not a regular camp ground there are no rest rooms so we will bring in a porta potty and ask everyone to donate to help pay for it. I was at the ride last year and had a great time. The riding was great, the people were great and the potluck was outstanding. I hope to see many of you there.

I want to take a minute to thank all of you who wrote letters to congress about Bikes in the Wilderness. Your letters helped. At the time I am writing this the bill has stalled in congress. I hope it stays stalled forever. Dan Applebaker our Public Lands Committee chair and Dave Price our Legislative Committee chair are both continually with their committees, working to keep public lands open for you and all equines. Next time you see Dan or Dave thank them for all they do. I am sure we will be asking you in the future to write more letters and emails as we continue to champion the five principles of Back Country Horsemen.

I hope everyone has a great summer. I hope to see you out there somewhere.

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# A Report on the BCHO Public Lands Committee's Recent Activities

Submitted by: Dan Applebaker, BCHO Public Lands Committee Chairman

A Public Lands Report was given at the BCHO Winter Convention's General Membership Meeting. That Report announced and explained recent actions in both Public Lands and Legislative actions by the BCHO Legislative/Public Lands Committee. Action by the Board of Directors at the Winter Convention split the Legislative and Public Lands Committee into two individual Standing Committees with a Chairperson for each Committee. Each Committee Chairperson is now a voting member of the Board of Directors. President Jerry Bentz, with the approval of the Board, has appointed Dave Price as Chairman of the BCHO Legislative Committee.

Provided below is a brief outline of the recent activities of the BCHO Legislative/Public Lands Committee.

First a couple recent legislative highlights.

» BCHO, BCHW and OET has worked very hard to get HR 1349 "the Bikes in Wilderness Bill" defeated. BCHO and OET submitted a joint letter on December 26th to Oregon's six Congressional Representatives asking their help in opposing HR 1349. We will likely see more attempts to revise the Wilderness Act to allow use of mechanized transportation in Wilderness.

» HR 2936 "the Resilient Federal Forest Act of 2017". Dave and I both wrote articles concerning fires, fire recovery and forest management to provide more resilient timber stands for fire in the November Highline.

Some recent public lands highlights.

» A BCHO letter of support was written for the Wallow Mountains – Hells Canyon Trails Association's work in NE Oregon. That led to the recent selection of the Hells Canyon and Eagle Cap Wilderness as one of 15 priority areas for trail maintenance under the Forest Service Trails Stewardship Act.

» The High Desert Trail Riders and BCHO provided a detailed letter of input in the Crater Lake National Park's scoping comment period for the Parks Trail Management Plan in February of last year. After that comment period a meeting was held with the Park Superintendent and the Trails Program Manager to discuss our input. From that meeting another letter was drafted in November and signed by nine equine organizations to provide input for their drafting of a final alternative. On February 12th the members of High Desert, Sourdough and BCHO met with Acting Park Superintendent Sean Denniston and the Trails Program Supervisor Jennifer Gifford to discuss the opportunities for equestrian groups volunteer work in the Park.

» In working closely with the BCHO Chapters and OET, we submitted a letter providing our input and supporting our local Chapters comments to the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests on their proposed action for the Central Cascades Wilderness Strategy Project. BCHO has pretty much turned this issue back to the local Chapters but stand ready to help again if it is needed or helpful.

» On January 31st a letter was submitted to the Chief of the Forest Service asking him to reconsider his decision to outsource the Forest Service Blasting Program to permittees and contractors. After numerous comments in favor of not outsourcing the program, the Chief turned the decision over to a Working Group to reevaluate his decision. On February 27th another follow-up letter was sent to the Working Group again asking for not outsourcing the program.

» On January 18th an email comment was sent to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration following the American Horse Council and the Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association's lead on recommending changes and/or clarification in the definition of commercial hauling of horses. This included the requirements for commercial driving licenses and plates for hauling stock.

» On January 28th we submitted an email comment agreeing with the proposed updates to the Forest Service NEPA Compliance regulations and policies. This is an effort to streamline the NEPA process and included more decisions that can be handled by Categorical Exclusions.

» During September we submitted comments to the Fremont-Winema and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests Supervisors to exercise every option available to them to reconstruct System roads and trails after the 2017 fires.

» Becky Wolf has been attending Trail Conferences on behalf of BCHO and representing our interests along with other equestrian groups

» Becky also keeps track of many NEPA scoping requests for comments and helps us decide which projects we wish to comment on and which to pass on to the Chapters.

» Becky is invaluable in keeping track of potential issues and recommending action when necessary to protect equestrian interests with the BLM, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, Oregon State Parks and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

There has been a lot of attention recently about Public Lands and the management of those lands. Further,



anyone who recreates on America's public lands is often exposed to unfamiliar terms and may not understand the differences. Following is a brief description to give you a working understanding of the differences and what that means to you, provided from Mack Long, Mission Valley BCH, BCH Montana, Education Chairman BCH of America

### **Public Lands Differences**

First, what are "Public Lands"? These are the lands that are owned "equally" by all Americans. There are 618 million acres of public land across the U.S., with a significant portion in Alaska and the western U.S. The total U.S. land base is 2.27 billion acres in size. These federal public lands are managed in trust for us, (citizens of the U.S.) by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Park Service and the Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

### **Front Country Public Lands**

Front country Public Lands is not a commonly used term but is generally any public lands that are relatively accessible by means such as motor vehicles, boats, bicycles, hiking, horseback and aircraft and are usually within a short distance of roads. Generally, these lands provide a multitude of recreational activities. Camping may be in developed or dispersed/undeveloped areas. Logging, grazing and mining are often permitted on these lands as well. These are often highly used areas where it is common to see other people and activities.

### **Back Country Public Lands**

Back country is generally the area beyond what is Front country. Pretty vague, but accurate. There is no specific line or map designation where this starts or ends. Access is more challenging and is usually by a trail or cross-country travel and at a further distance from roads and trail heads. Access may be allowed by the same list as above, but with greater responsibility on the user as trails receive less maintenance. In addition, the safety and welfare of each recreationalist to care for themselves is increased. Camping is usually in dispersed sites. You would expect to see fewer people and activities than in the Front country.

### **Road-less Areas**

Road-less Areas had their beginnings when Primitive Areas were established in the 1920's. The idea was to preserve some lands in a road-less condition at a time when automobiles and road building was rapidly expanding. As time progressed, Road-less Areas have been challenged legally and politically as to which lands should remain or be opened. Currently, there is about 58 million acres of road-less forests. There is about 380,000 miles of roads on Forest Service lands. In comparison, the Interstate Highway system has about 47,000 miles of road.

### **Wilderness Areas**

Unlike Front country and Backcountry, Wilderness areas are defined and receives that highest level of land protection. While some may get a "wilderness experience" in the Front country or Backcountry or a Park, true Wilderness is a specific geographic area and can only be established or "Designated" by an act of Congress. The Wilderness Act of 1964 put into law what is required to be a "Designated Wilderness". It states how it will be managed and what modes of access or travel are acceptable. The Act requires that it be managed to protect its natural condition, where it is untrammeled by man. It is to maintain its primeval character, shaped by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. The purposes will be to provide solitude and escape from mechanized use and maintain historic uses.

Three more terms that you may hear. "Recommended Wilderness" is generally lands identified on Forest Plans or agency plans that recommend specific areas for Wilderness Designation by Congress. "Proposed Wilderness" is generally lands that have been submitted to Congress for Wilderness consideration, a step closer than recommended. However, these two terms can mean the same thing depending on the agency. Finally, "Wilderness Study Areas" or WSA's are areas that are inventoried and undergoing the Wilderness review process. They are lands that should be managed to preserve the character or special attributes that made them a WSA.

Parks generally have defined geographic areas which are indicated on maps. The recreational uses within a Park are often highly regulated due to a significant amount of visitor use. There are 58 National Parks, and most are associated with a specific national treasure. Interestingly, some iconic National Parks like Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Glacier and others are NOT designated Wilderness. They are "recommended wilderness" but to date, Congress has not given them the additional level of protection.

Parks can be managed by a city, state, private or federal entity. The simplest definition comes from Wikipedia: A "Park" is an area of natural, semi-natural or planted space set aside for human enjoyment and recreation or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats. It may consist of grassy areas, rocks, soil and trees, but may also contain buildings and other artifacts such as monuments, fountains or playground structures.

The vast majority of our public lands are managed under the multi-use designation that includes both the Front country and Backcountry. This allows for a multitude of activities to be offered on the majority of our Public Lands. Only about 3% of the lower 48 states land base is designated Wilderness.

# We Have No Money and Can't Do Anything

Submitted by: Dave Price

How many times have you gotten this response from the Forest Service, when questioning a Trails issue? Be it that the trail is slowly disappearing from the lack of maintenance, or just plain neglect. Do you get this response frequently or all the time?

Lately we tend to get this response all the time and our trails move closer to the brink of extinction. Why is that? There are essentially two reasons, the first, and one we talk about all the time is budget. and the other is Forest Service commitment. Let's deal with the second reason first, commitment. Some Forest Service districts do the best they can with what they have. These districts suffer from frustration just like we do, but they are determined and just won't, or don't quit. Other Forests/Districts quite frankly, take the easy way out and just don't care.

**Budget:** This is the deepest, and the most difficult for the user, to understand, yet the entire system revolves around it. Let's discuss some of the basics as to how this process works.

First, all appropriations start and come from Congress, which is dealing with the big picture, the nation. The Forest Service portion of the Budget in reality, is very small potatoes from a national perspective. While there are parts of the appropriations that are for very specific needs, called a line item. For the most part the Forest Service determines where the money goes and for what purpose. This part is "discretionary", I call this budget priorities. Most of the appropriations from congress goes to the Secretary of Agriculture and then on to the Forest Service National office in DC to be dumped into what I call the "Budget Funnel" to be distributed down the line to the ground, if there is any money left when it gets to the ground, then needs are dealt with, and if not, then needs are not met, i.e. trail maintenance for example.

Forest Service Budgets are in a state of constant motion all year until midnight September 30th, the end of the fiscal year. The Budget Information used here came from the 2018 Budget Overview put out in May of 2017. The intent here is to give an idea if the District activities are to expect more funds or less, and how bad the year is going to be. The budget process requires a lot of resources and is very expensive. When I was a District Ranger I had one person full time that took care of the budget, monitored changes and direction. It is a huge costly process. This could be changed and/or improved if the leadership directed.

Let's look at the 2018 budget and see if we can figure out why our National Forests are deteriorating before our eyes. The total Forest Service budget for 2018 is 4.73 billion, this

is down 938 million from 2017 of which 1.75 billion is for National Forest management. The rest is for Fire prevention and Fire Suppression up to the 10year average, which is about 2.5 billion, costs beyond that as was experienced in 2017, comes from the original appropriation or "credit" which simply means it comes out of the National Forest hide, and other resources make do with even less than they started with. As is readily seen the Fire costs is the major reason for deteriorating National Forests.

For comparison the total budget for the Forest Service has varied from a high 5.5 billion in 2016 to a low of 4.5 billion in 2008 and 2013. As can be seen this has been a problem for some time, and in combination with the very high Fire costs, and the budget cumulative effect, the results are devastating to our Forests and specifically our trails. If the Fire funding is a problem, why hasn't that been fixed? There are a couple of reasons as to why. There has been no progress in Congress to give the Forest relief to the fire issue, specifically to the "Catastrophic" Fires like we saw last year that played utter havoc to the National Forest funding. Consequently all of the Forest resources continue to suffer from it. Several attempts have been made to fix this through congress, but all have failed.

Now let's look at other factors involved in this budget mess. The very first is "Budget Priorities". Some one at the top makes the decision as to where the money goes, its "discretionary". If you look at the budget items you will see some got more and some got less. Recreation Heritage Wilderness is down 8.3 million from 2017. That's about 3%, more I might add. It seems that this item has been down 3% each year for several of the previous years. and if you look at individual Forests you will see declines of much more than 3% per year. How does that happen? Remember the Budget funnel concept, the cuts are rarely at the top, but will most likely be at the bottom of the funnel. That's where we are. A point of interest here is the number of Forest Service employees that exist in 2018 is 37798, with 743 in the DC office, opposed to 39292, with 785 in DC in 2017. According to the report there are many vacancies, 1367 in 2018, which is apparently due to the hiring freeze.

CIP Trails, Capital Improvement Program, was cut 84% in 2018. where did it go? Fire.

Law Enforcement was increased by 2.7 million. Why? to deal with illegal Marijuana growing on National Forest lands.

These are just a couple of examples of what happens in the budget process. The overview is a lengthy document, but does provide some interesting perspectives as to "Budget Priorities".

The President issued a statement as to the importance of Recreation activities on our Public Lands, as did the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief, but we do not see that emphasis reflected in the 2018 or the 2019 Budget. Fire and related activities are consuming the available appropriations and are increasing, and the other resources continue to decrease. For 2018 the Trails allocation was 12.7 million, for 2019 the allocation is 12.0 million. That's a decrease for 2018 of 84% over 2017, and now its proposed at another 5.5% down from 2018. At his point does that really matter? The program is totally devastated! We are able to barely tread water with our trails by volunteering, grants and sheer determination on our part. There is a limit to everything, are we there? Or are we past it?

We have seen the result of the last 10 years or so of the Forest Service budget. Our trails generally are only 24% usable, not Standard, but useable, and a good share of that is done by Volunteers, and the reliance on Volunteers is increasing. The Stewardship Act calls for doubling Volunteers in 5 years. Something must change as our Volunteers are nearly maxed out. The volunteer process needs to be user friendly and structured to INCREASE volunteer participation.

What do we do? That depends on us, and those users like us. Do nothing and we will lose our trails. To hang on will require us, our determination, and our action. We keep doing what we have been doing and more. Do you know your Trail managers? Do you know your Congressman and Staffers? Are you involved in Trails and Trail Management? The answer to these questions need to be yes, are they? The budget problem is not going away anytime soon. Volunteer as much as we can, encourage efficiency, and efficient use of our Volunteers. The bottom line is that things must change to resolve, or even maintain where we are this issue. The budget mind set must change, Fire funding must change, Forest Service management policy and strategy needs to change. The Forest Service needs to revisit its Mission statement, in 1905 it was the "Greatest Good for The Greatest Number" and later in the 60's it was changed to "Caring for The Land and Serving the People" whichever mission statement you prefer it's not happening. The Forest Service will have to get more resources to the ground. We have seen consolidation of Forests, and Districts to "save money" but the problem is not solved, only made worse, maybe the Regional office and DC office should be next? To save our Trails we must see change, that results in less overhead and more to the ground. What was the mission Statement again?

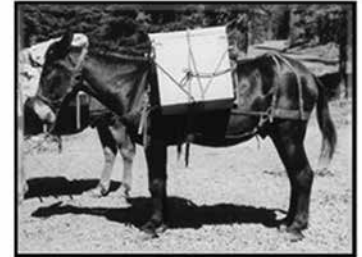


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# The Forest Service Blasting Program

Submitted by Dave Price

I wouldn't be surprised to learn that not many of our Trail users had even heard of or knew that the Forest Service (FS) had a blasting program. The Blasting program has been in existence and used to meet FS blasting needs for as long as I can remember. The program has been modified many times over the years in response to changing times and needs.

The program has actually been split into two areas since the program began, Contracting, such as Road and Trail Construction in which the contractor was responsible for all blasting needs to fulfill the contract.

The other was Force account blasting (FS certified blasters). That was used in short term needs, obstacles from Roads or Trails and the other was blasting needs in the Winter Sports areas, particularly Ski Areas. The FS did the explosive work on these areas for many years for a variety of reasons. Eventually it was worked out that the permittee assume the responsibility for the actual blasting work. The FS still retains the responsibility for oversight of the permittee blasting program for the Winter Sports areas.

The second very important blasting need, such as clearing trees, rocks and, slides, is still done with Licensed FS blasters. This is a very important tool presently still available to the Land Manager. The use of this program for such needs is straight forward, timely, and efficient. However, it is an expensive program and has not been funded adequately for some years. Example of that is that upon interviewing a FS blaster, I found that the blaster was not funded for a single day in FY 2018 for blasting needs. Unfortunately this situation is all too common and has contributed to the existing issue at hand.

The other big FS blasting user is Fire. Explosives are used for Fire Line construction which can be a real time saver and is effective.

Along came the Oklahoma City bomber in 1995, only to be followed by 911 in September 11, 2001. These events placed high priority on National Security and the FS blasting program.

OIG (Office of Inspector General) responded to all of this by conducting an Audit of the FS program in 2003, again in 2006, and finally last year in 2017. 26 blasting programs out of 115 nationally, were audited. It is interesting to note that the 26 programs were the same for all three audits, and the same problems and issues were identified on each audit, 19 of the 26 were deficient but were not corrected. OIG issued the report for 2017 on 12/17/17, although it is



obvious that the report was known to the Chief of the FS long before that. In the final report OIG had enough from the FS lack of action related to the 2003 and 2006 reports, and issued direction to the FS that enough is enough and the FS blasting program would end by 10/18/18, and subsequently blasting needs would be met by Contracting and the National Guard.

There is need for clarification to the direction here. Contracting would be done under Contracting procedures presently in place. From information received, the National Guard has declined to participate. That leaves Contracting.

Fire Line construction could be handled like any other Fire need, Sign up a licensed Blaster, a contractor, to do the Fire line blasting, just like contracting equipment or any other fire need before the season, before the actual need. Like being on call. This is a very expensive way to do it, but it can be done with reasonable effectiveness.

The Short term blasting need presents a different approach if done by Contract procedures. Proponents of this idea point out that there are Contracting procedures that could meet this need. This would be under the Small Contracting procedures. These contracts must be under \$2500, short term and infrequent in nature. It is frowned upon to have multiple small contracts for a purpose that is repetitive, as if your trying to beat the system. There are no bids for contracts of this nature, just an agreed upon price. It's easy to see how the system might be abused if the chance occurred. FS contracting is sensitive to the use of this system and it is watched closely and it is not as available nor easy as one might think.

The bad part of this Small Contract process is timeliness and cost, it will be more expensive, and it will be difficult to

get the Contractor in a timely manner, both are a real issue for meeting blasting needs under this process. Despite all this, the FS will still have to be involved, such as identifying the need, showing the Contractor what needs to be done, inspecting the work, and initiating payment. Its easy to see that while the FS program is expensive, the Contracting option would cost more.

The Chief of the FS, Tony Tooke, issued a decision letter on October 16th 2017 to OIG that the FS would comply with the OIG direction and the FS would end their program by the 10/18/18 deadline, and meet blasting needs by Contracting/National Guard.

When the decision was issued by the Chief, very few people internally or externally had a clue as to what was going on. As this decision became known, push back began. Perhaps the first objection came from FS region 1, big user of explosives, Then BCH of Idaho and Montana submitted letters of objections, to be followed by BCHO and BCHW. BCHA didn't weigh in on the issue until March 6th 2018. BCHA was asked in mid December as to what they knew about this, the answer was they had heard "rumors of the issue", but that was it. The Chief made the decision in mid October, Region one weighed in in mid November, and BCHM and BCHI both submitted letters in early December, other pushback letters were made in January. The sequence of events was not what one would call timely. Action was implemented by BCH as soon as the knowledge of the proposal was known. It did not help us when the OIG report was very hard to get, and it was released on 12/17/17, two months after the Chiefs decision letter. The bottom line on this is that we did not know what each other was doing, and did not work together on the issue, consequently we were less than effective as we could have been. However, we got lucky as the FS had the same problems, a sane decision may come out of this after all.

This whole thing was a mess from the beginning, communications on the issue just didn't happen and for that reason we almost missed the boat. Only because of people like us, we still have a chance to fix the program and save it. We can do better than that and because of the way it was done it makes BCH appear disjointed and unorganized. I think this experience has helped us get on top of this issue and do better. Lesson learned? Sources indicate that the program will be fixed and saved, but we won't know that for a while, our trails need the blasting tool available to the managers. Otherwise this is but one more way to close trails. WE sure can't afford that.



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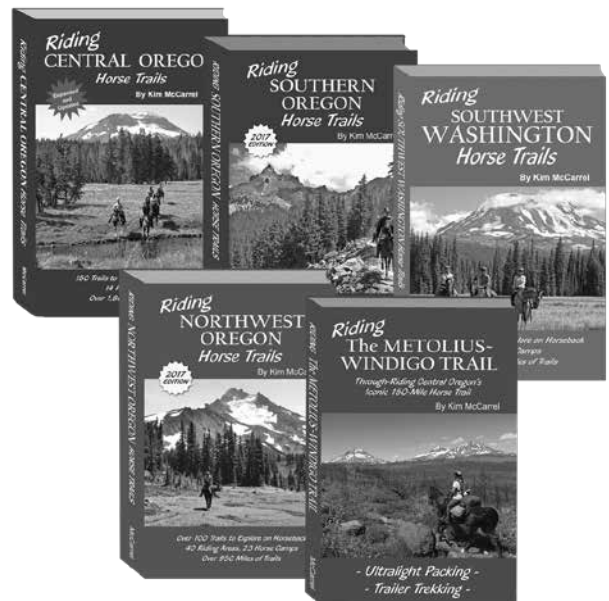


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# Riding With the US Forest Service

Submitted by Jean Clancey, EEBCHO

Emerald Empire Chapter members Becky Hope and Jean Clancey led a group of six USFS personnel on a day ride into the Diamond Peak Wilderness in early October.

There were several purposes for the trip. Our intent was to introduce staff from the Deschutes National Forest and the Crescent and Bend Fort Rock Ranger Districts to chronic problems that have developed from overuse along the PCT, particularly at Lils Lake. The second objective was to describe the importance of and ride possible layout for a new trail connecting the PCT at Lils Lake to the Yoran Lake trail. Finally, we wanted to afford the FS folks a plain-old good time on their very own forest and reinforce strong relationships and communication with our local agencies.

And a fun day it was. Some of the riders had never been on a horse. One of the riders, all mounted up and ready to go, asked, "But how do you ride a horse??" Becky replied, "Not to worry. The Fjords will do it all. But you can pretend to be in control!" We had all kinds of fun walking and trotting through the beautiful woods, and even cantering as they new riders relaxed in the saddle toward the end of the day. One of the more adventurous women asked permission to hold back her horse so she could catch up at the canter. She giggled all the way as her Fjord put on the speed getting back to his string.

We had lunch on the bank of sparkling Lils Lake. A fresh blanket of snow covered Diamond Peak, making

a stunning backdrop against the blue sky. The agency folks, whose workday is largely behind desks, were thrilled to experience their region's back country and its beauty. Becky talked to the group about a plan to relocate the Lils camping site, a heavy use area for PCT hikers, back-packers, and equestrians. The fragile lakeside site is worn to dust down to the water. A large rock campfire pit had caused a fire this summer, though luckily it was reported and put out before gaining traction. All agreed such concentrated use needs to be redirected and the campsite relocated.

Becky took the group on foot around the edge of Lils to a potential new campsite which sits above the lake on a rock outcropping. It's a much more durable site for heavy use. She spotted two possible entry trails into the site off the PCT that would direct PCT traffic to water and camping at the new site and away from the deteriorating heavy-use area. Staff agreed with the new plan and resolved to get to work on it late summer next year (after mosquitoes).

We then all rode around Lils Lake on a "social" trail that is providing an informal short cut for PCT hikers to Yoran Lake and on to their pit stop at Shelter Cover on Odell Lake. This trail, if developed to standard, will serve two purposes: an aid to PCT thru-hikers, and a fantastic new day-ride loop for hikers and equestrians. The FS folks were enthusiastic about the idea. "What's not to love about a trail that passes five lakes and has views



of Diamond Peak?" "Who said the Crescent Ranger District doesn't have big mountains?" "We could redirect some of the crowds off over-used trails on the Deschutes!" These were some of the exuberant comments overheard by the BCHO trail guide who was bringing up the rear. We are confident that action on the new trail will ensue.

Special thanks to Becky Hope for planning the event and for providing her Fjords as mounts.

Thank you also to those Forest Service personnel who were brave enough to spend a full day in the saddle and listen to our ideas.

They include:

Daniel Rife - Crescent Ranger District

Michelle King - Crescent District Environmental Coordinator

Dave Sanders - Crescent Acting District Rec Team Lead

Bill Kujawa - Bend Ft. Rock District Rec Team Lead

Jana Johnson - Bend Ft. Rock District Rec Team Lead

Marv Lang - Deschutes Trails Coordinator

Emerald Empire Chapter hopes the day was enjoyable for our Forest Service friends, and that they now feel more comfortable in the saddle. Maybe ready for another ride?



# Horseback on Steens Mountain

Submitted by: Tara Thissell, Public Affairs Specialist



Spring has nearly sprung and summer will be here in a blink. It's time to think about getting outside and experiencing nearly four million acres of public land in Harney County. With varied landscapes and endless recreation opportunities, there is something for everyone. The Bureau of Land Management strives to be a good neighbor in the communities we serve, where we provide opportunities for economic growth with space for traditional uses such as ranching, mining, logging and recreating. Are you familiar with all the recreation opportunities available, or where to find them?

Horseback riders and packers – here's an adventure for you!

Start at South Steens Campground on Steens Mountain – a juniper and sagebrush haven for equine and their humans. Here, recreational stock (horses, mules, llamas, goats, etc.) are welcome and comfortable at 15 sites complete with tie posts and small corrals.

Next, try to settle on a place to explore – many start just feet from your campsite. Trail rides in this area of Steens Mountain are unforgettable. Take a dirt road stroll to the nearby Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District and discover several preserved structures scattered across the ranch meadows. Continue past the ranch and down the Little Blitzen River to the Willow Corral, or turn north at the ranch and take the Cold Springs Road for miles of backcountry riding.

You can skip the Ranch altogether and ride out and back in Big Indian Gorge, or head into Little Blitzen Gorge and access the Fred Riddle, Nye and Wet Blanket Trails. These trails connect at various points with other routes if you prefer a loop ride. The Mud Creek-Ankle Creek trail is another option right out of South Steens Campground. This ride is wide open and gives many opportunities for cross-country exploration.



Spend days or weeks finding special things in the area like colorful aspen groves, the historic Nye Cabin, primitive campsites along the water in Big Indian and Little Blitzen Gorges, wildflower-filled meadows, massive cottonwood stands, towering canyon walls, and maybe even wild horses. Tell all your friends and bring them out for a visit. Even if you covered many miles on one adventure, there are hundreds more to discover.

A few things to keep in mind before you make the trek out to Steens Mountain:

The typical season at South Steens Campground is mid-May through mid-November. Vault restrooms and drinking water are available. Camping fees are \$6 per vehicle, per night, and campsites, corrals and tie posts are available on a first come, first serve basis. The use of pelletized or certified weed-free hay is required.

Weather and road conditions can change quickly in the area. Blustery, 100-degree days are common and snow can fall year-round. Be prepared for sudden lightning storms, snow, rain, and high winds.

Some organized group activities may require a special recreation permit. Permits are issued depending on the size of your group, where you are going, how long you are staying, what your activities will include, resource concerns, and/or potential user conflicts. Not sure if you need a permit? Know before you go!

Questions about recreation in the Burns District? Give us a call at (541) 573-4400.

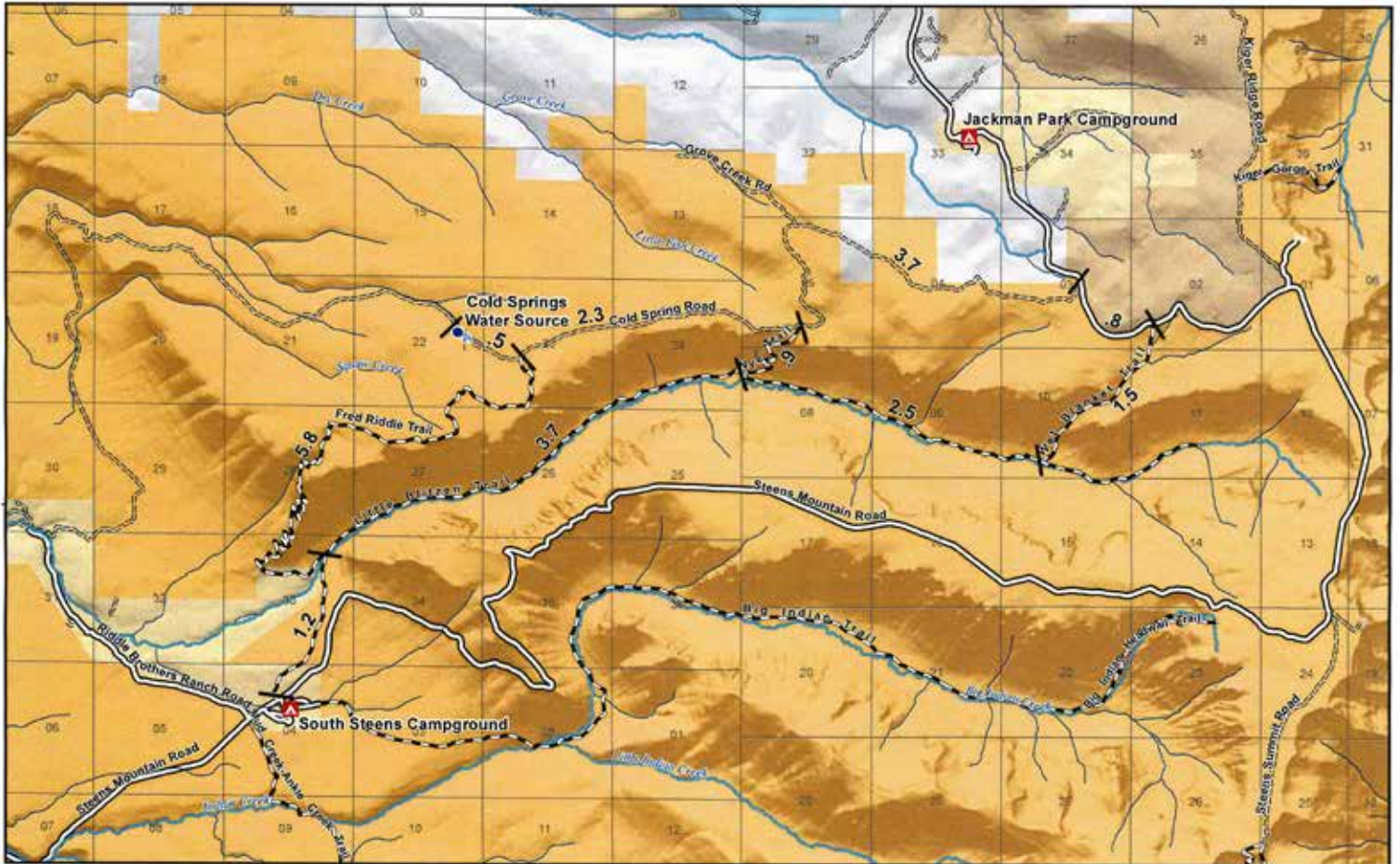
## Gorge Trails

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Trails</li> <li> Campground</li> <li> Non-Paved Improved Road</li> <li> Natural/Unknown Road Surface</li> <li> Mileage Breaks</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Wild and Scenic River</li> <li> Streams</li> <li> Steens Mtn Wilderness</li> <li> BLM Wilderness Study Area</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Land Administration</b></li> <li> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li> State</li> <li> Private/Unknown</li> </ul> |
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Burns District, Oregon

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# A Tribute to Jerry Bentz

Submitted by: Dan Applebaker

Jerry Bentz is just entering the last year of his third two-year term as President of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon. I believe that is the longest term any of our members have served in that capacity.

I would also say that inequivalently he has been the best President our organization has ever had. As President he was instrumental in establishing active cooperation between BCHO and BCH of Washington. That is something we have always needed and couldn't make it work. Jerry did it. He was instrumental in getting the BCHO Saw Program going and working out the Forest Service – BCHO Saw Agreement. He has connections in the prominent levels of the Forest Service and was instrumental in organizing our first Forest Service Regional Office pack trip.



This is beginning to sound like an obituary, but it is a tribute in appreciation of the thousands of hours Jerry has donated to BCH. He served two two-year terms as Vice President. He has served as the Alternate National Director for BCHO and has been nominated to represent our State as the next National Director. He is an Leave No Trace Master, an ex-backcountry outfitter, an excellent packer and has taught packing at the High Desert Trail Riders Horse Packing and Wilderness Skills Clinic for many years.

The list of Jerry's accomplishments for BCHO goes on, but it won't end here. If I know Jerry, he will continue to be great resource for BCHO.

*Thank you Jerry, you are an inspiration to us all.*

## Online Membership Application

We have gone live with the new online membership application giving visitors to our web site the opportunity to fill out a membership web form and immediately pay with a credit card or other online method. An automatic email notice is sent to the BCHO membership coordinator and to the Chapter President when someone completes the new membership process.

As stated at the last BCHO Board Meeting this is not intended to replace of how each chapter currently collects memberships. The BCHO Board encourages chapters to still process membership at chapter meetings in the normal way. The online method was implemented to offer those individuals visiting our web site or not able to attend chapter meetings a way to become a BCHO member.



You can access the membership application at <https://www.bcho.org/membership-form> or from menus or buttons on these pages, <https://www.bcho.org/membership/> or <https://www.bcho.org>.

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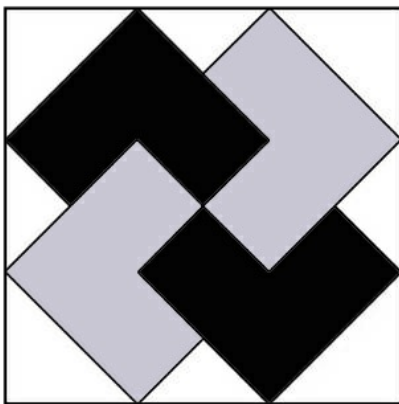
Story by Kelly Behr

Nothing stays the same forever! In a world where things are always changing, sometimes we need to gauge where we are and understand where things are going. Do we need to re-fresh our look, ourselves, our thoughts? That is some tough thinking there, for I know myself and others...we are creatures of habit and we all like things to stay the same. I recently was looking at my own barn and thought to myself, "I should move some of this stuff around." Make it easier to access and use daily. But my ole habits and my mind memory like it just the way it was. Therefore, I still must climb behind the ole table, (why is that there to begin with?) and grab my stuff for my beloved ponies. Silly the habits we get into. As Albert Einstein stated: "Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain toolittle falls into lazy habits of thinking." So, our thoughts need to press forward and meet some needs of change.

So, once again our Horse Packing & Wilderness Skills Expo Committee has worked hard all year to put together a wonderfully fresh look of our program and our program speakers. Our equine side of educational demonstrations is always in need and those things don't change. For heaven's sakes that is what we are about, equine enthusiasts that love our back country and the front country. Just to catch up our conversations with our ponies while riding down a trail is our heart and soul of this organization. Doing it with other like minded individuals is just a bonus.

Although as we all have seen, our trail users have changed: more backpacking, hiking, horse and carriage and even the bicycles (outside of wilderness). So, meeting those needs is what we focused our Expo on this year. Betty Applebaker once again has put together some wonderful equine talks and demonstrations. Trail riding and camping tips, what happens when things go wrong (and as we know those things happen), working on the beloved barrel ropes, and numerous more topics just too long to list. Gosh, I think I need a set of barrels in my living room to practice daily! So, rest assured our Equine Expo side is just as educational as always, learning new tips of the trade or just refreshing our memory is a must.

What we have added this year is geared to the other types of trail users: the hikers, backpackers, carriage users and bicycle users. We have invited the Siskiyou Mountain Club as one of our speakers. Their vision is to bring people, trails and wilderness together. Focusing on the hardest to reach, most damaged and neglected trails deep in Southwest Oregon's wilderness and backcountry areas, they aim to lead a renaissance in hiking and backpacking throughout this region. We have collaborated on a couple of projects this last year, having the same mission of keeping our trails open and cleared, so it only makes sense for us to come together and clear some trail.



We also added a bicycle booth and demonstration with loads of information of bike approved trails and how to get a proper fit when choosing a bike. This should be very interesting, for most all our cities everywhere have really endorsed the bike for daily exercise in the urban and the front country use. Mountain biking trails have always been around but these days they truly have a huge following and we need to address the safety of riding and the safety of meeting them on our equine on the front trails or Forest Service roads. Fresh air seems to be the common theme, just how we get it differs.

Women backpackers have seen a rise in numbers, so this year we will have a demonstration on picking and choosing the correct equipment for us girls. As some may know, I love to hike and backpack also. But purchasing ill fitting equipment gets very old and expensive, I believe it took my fourth pack purchase to get a proper fit on my back. I won't even bore you with my boot purchases, sock purchases oh my and the list just goes on. So, this will be very informative for us girls that love to hike.

Now for the fun stuff: A "Talent Show" on Friday night! This should bring some laughs and some grand entertainment. The running of the Kentucky Derby on the "big screen" with mint juleps and fancy hats.

Horse & Carriage club will be putting on an educational demonstration on starting your horse or mule to drive...safely. lol. Cross cut saw competition. Fly casting and catching "real fish" for the adults and the kids. Our kids corral is filled with fun learning, leather stamping, tying fly's, singing around a campfire and that list goes on and on.

Our Expo Committee has worked so hard to bring "fresh thinking" to the event this year. So, mark your calendars and come join us for some fun, laughs and learning on May 4-6, 2018 at our beautiful Klamath Falls Event Center in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

See ya there. ☺

*Photo above from previous Expo.*

# TRAILS 'R' US

31st Annual

## HORSE PACKING & WILDERNESS SKILLS EXPO

Presented by

High Desert Trail Riders Back Country Horsemen

**FRI-SUN, MAY 4-6, 2018**

Southern Oregon's Largest Educational & Interactive Equine Expo



Klamath Falls, OR

ENTER OUR  
EARLY BIRD DRAWING

8:30 AM

**\$100**

EACH DAY

LOTS OF  
**KIDS**  
ACTIVITIES

**FRIDAY 12PM** OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- ★ Auction Mules Preview 12-2 pm
- ★ Crosscut Saw Instruction for Wilderness Trails

**FRIDAY EVENING**

- ★ Talent Show

**SATURDAY** DOORS OPEN 8:00 AM

- ★ Auction Mules Preview 12-2 pm
- ★ Educational and Interactive Clinics
- ★ Crosscut Saw Competition
- ★ Southern Oregon Horse & Carriage Club Interactive Demonstration
- ★ Kentucky Derby Party

**SATURDAY EVENING**

- ★ Dinner by Melissa's Country Kitchen  
No-host bar - 5:30 pm, Dinner - 6:00 pm
- ★ Silent Auction, Live Auction  
Mule Auction

**SUNDAY** DOORS OPEN 8:00 AM

- ★ Educational and Interactive Clinics
- ★ Free Saddle Fitting 12 pm

Over 50 FREE Seminars! Over 100 Vendors!  
Silent Auction, Live Auction & Mule Auction

Clinic: 541.884.2565 • Vendors: 541.533.3400 • Mule Auction: 541.591.9428

# Events Calendar

| Event Start | Event End | Event Hours PST   | Event Title   | Event Description   | Event Location  |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------|---|---|---|
| 4/20/2018   | 4/23/2018 |                   | PCTA Columbia Cascades Trails Skills College            | The 2018 Columbia Cascades Trail Skills College will be held April 20-22. <a href="https://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/columbia-cascades/">https://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/columbia-cascades/</a>   | Cascade Locks Marine Park, 355 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014, USA  |
| 4/21/2018   | 4/22/2018 |                   | Williamson River Day Ride Jim Collins 541-591-9428      |   |   |
| 4/24/2018   | 4/24/2018 | 06:30PM - 08:30PM | Pack Expo - Maria Meister 831-2363031                   |   | Red Rooster, 3608 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, United States  |
| 4/26/2018   | 4/30/2018 |                   | Graham Corral Camp Out Eugene OET and Emerald BCHO      | Jean Clancey 541-484-0927   | Graham Corral Sisters Oregon  |
| 4/28/2018   | 4/29/2018 |                   | Keno Springs Ride Dave Clowse 541-545-1100              | Details to follow...  |   |
| 5/3/2018    | 5/3/2018  | 07:00PM - 08:00PM | BCHO President Call                                     | Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.   |   |
| 5/4/2018    | 5/7/2018  |                   | PCTA West Cascades Trail Skills College                 | Trail Skills College is PCTA's premiere trail maintenance education program. Join us for a free training weekend to learn new skills or refresh the basics. Camping, meals and classes are all free! Registration will open to the general public on Tuesday, March 8.<br><br>Go to <a href="http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/westfir/">http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/westfir/</a> for more information or Register on the High Cascade Volunteers Website     | MCKENZIE BRIDGE, Rainbow, OR 97413, USA   |
| 5/4/2018    | 5/7/2018  |                   | HDTR Pack Expo  |   | Klamath County Fairgrounds, 3531 S 6th St, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, USA   |
| 5/4/2018    | 5/7/2018  |                   | Pack Expo   |   | Klamath County Fairgrounds, 3531 S 6th St, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, USA   |
| 5/12/2018   | 5/14/2018 |                   | Columbia Gorge work party                               | Contact Corrine Davis   | Badger Creek Trail, Bonney Crossing   |
| 5/13/2018   | 5/13/2018 | 06:00PM - 07:00PM | ECBCH mtg   |   | Bend Black Bear Diner, 1465 NE 3rd St, Bend, OR 97701, USA  |
| 5/18/2018   | 5/24/2018 |                   | PCT and PGE/PCT work party                              |   | Clackamas Lake Horse Camp   |
| 5/19/2018   | 5/20/2018 |                   | Collier Corral Work Party BBQ Jim Icenbice 541-892-2647 | Some of the work party will reconstruct the corral that was smashed by a big tree several years ago. A couple of riders will place trail markers on the south end of the Collier to Kimball trail. This will be about 6 miles out, and 6 miles back.  | Collier Park Horse Corrals  |
| 5/19/2018   | 5/21/2018 |                   | Columbia Gorge campout                                  | Contact Dave Peterson 541-806-1402  | Cyrus Horse Camp, Prineville, OR 97754, USA   |
| 5/22/2018   | 5/22/2018 | 06:30PM - 08:30PM | Pack Expo - Maria Meister 831-2363031                   |   | Red Rooster, 3608 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, United States  |
| 5/25/2018   | 5/29/2018 |                   | Sun Pass Camp Out Les Hathorn 541-810-3665              |   | Our camp site behind the Klamath Outdoor School.  |
| 5/31/2018   | 6/4/2018  |                   | PCTA Allingham Trail Skills College                     | Trail Skills College is PCTA's premiere trail maintenance education program. Join us for a free training weekend to learn new skills or refresh the basics. Camping, meals and classes are all free! Registration will open to the general public on Tuesday, March 8.<br><br>Go to <a href="http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/allingham/">http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/allingham/</a> for more information or Register on the High Cascade Volunteers Website | Allingham Guard Station   |
| 6/3/2018    | 6/3/2018  | 09:00AM - 03:00PM | Gerber Reservoir Day Ride Joani Kelly 541-891-3365      | Be there at 9, be ready to ride at 10.&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; Those of you who would like to camp, it's first come first serve.&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; Those who don't and do not wish to pay the \$2 day use fee can meet up at Potholes and the campers will meet up with them there.&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; Bring a lunch or snack. The ride is 2 1/2 - 3 hours long. Footing is rocky.   | <a href="https://www.blm.gov/visit/gerber-recreation-area-camping-for-information-and-directions">https://www.blm.gov/visit/gerber-recreation-area-camping-for-information-and-directions</a> |
| 6/7/2018    | 6/7/2018  | 07:00PM - 08:00PM | BCHO President Call                                     | Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.   |   |
| 6/8/2018    | 6/11/2018 |                   | PCTA Trail Skills... Jim I and Brenda C-S are cooking   |   |   |
| 6/11/2018   | 6/11/2018 | 06:00PM - 07:00PM | ECBCH mtg   |   | Bend Black Bear Diner, 1465 NE 3rd St, Bend, OR 97701, USA  |
| 6/16/2018   | 6/17/2018 |                   | Rye Spur Work Party/Ride Jim I 891-2647 Ken C 892-6072  | Call for info, if not posted here.  |   |
| 6/16/2018   | 6/17/2018 |                   | Emerald Empire Scott Mtn, Tenas Lakes trail ride        |   | Tenas Lakes, Oregon 97413, USA  |
| 6/17/2018   | 6/18/2018 |                   | Rye Spur Work Party/Ride Jim I 891-2647 Ken C 892-6072  | Call for info, if not posted here.  |   |
| 6/22/2018   | 6/26/2018 |                   | Columbia Gorge campout                                  | Contact Jim Forsman 541-296-5651  | South Steens Campground, Steens Mountain Rd, Princeton, OR 97721, USA   |

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc.

# Membership Application

Yes! I would like to help preserve Horsemen's rights to use stock on public lands.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone) (E-Mail)

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (Please check)

MAIL your application to Becky Hope, 37245 Wheeler Road,  
Pleasant Hill, OR 97455  
541-337-3138, membership@bcho.org

### BCHO Membership Dues

Single \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Select Chapter and add additional Chapter dues, as determined by individual Chapters, see below. See Map of Chapters online.

- Columbia Gorge, Hood River \$10       Steens, Burns, \$10
- East Cascades, Bend \$5                 Sourdough, Cave Junction
- Emerald Empire, Eugene \$5            West Cascade BCH, Salem \$5
- High Desert Trail Riders,                Territorial Riders, Oregon City \$5  
Klamath Falls area
- High Country Wilderness Packers  
Chapter, State wide group

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident where ever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders and spectators, and also recognizing that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., including its chapters, officers, directors and /or members cannot know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other Back Country Horsemen of Oregon functions, I do hereby release Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., its officers, directors and members from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Must be signed by all chapter members 18 years and older.

Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

BCHO website [www.bcho.org/chapterlocations.htm](http://www.bcho.org/chapterlocations.htm)

Columbia Gorge BCH  
Becky Wolf  
32126 S. Wright Rd.  
Molalla, OR 97038  
(503)829-2694  
wolfdn@molalla.net

High Desert Trail Riders BCH  
Betty Applebaker  
(541) 798-5005  
hdrtr@bcho.org

Steens BCH  
John O'Connor  
PO Box 471  
Hines, OR 97738  
541-678-3502  
SteensBCH@bcho.org

East Cascades BCH  
Marilyn Bernal  
PO Box 112  
Terrebonne, OR, 97760  
Phone 541-923-4275  
sunshinemgb@gmail.com

High Country Wilderness  
Packers  
Mat Wooley  
Wctimberfalling@aol.com

Emerald Empire BCH  
Becky Hope  
33485 Hampton Rd.  
Eugene, OR 97405  
(541) 747-3916  
6fhope@gmail.com

Sourdough BCH  
Terry Canavello  
canajello@gmail.com

West Cascade BCH  
Jennifer Paulson  
P.O. Box 3476  
Salem, OR 97302  
(509) 910-6780  
westcascades-pres@bcho.org

Territorial Riders BCH  
Tim Lagasse  
28012 S Baurer Rd  
Colton, OR 97017  
(503) 314-7712  
territorialriders@bcho.org



Back Country Horsemen of Oregon  
c/o Laurie Hufstader  
PO Box 543  
Veneta, OR 97487  
(541) 935-2176



Friday, April 20, 2018 - 10 am-7 pm  
Saturday, April 21, 2018 - 10 am-7 pm  
Sunday, April 22, 2018 - 10 am-3 pm

Deschutes County Expo, Redmond, OR  
First Interstate Bank Center arena

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