



The Highline

A tri-annual newsletter of the Back County Horsemen of Oregon

November 2019

Lucky Rainbows and Mule Shoes

Article by Eduardo Contreras and pictures by Kara Contreras

On the morning of Saturday July 13th, several trucks, horse trailers, two Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) field trucks, and a handful of passenger vehicles convened at the Blue Lake trailhead that leads into the Gearhart Wilderness. As new members of the High Desert Trail Riders (HDTR), my wife and I followed the trailers up the dusty mountain roads, north of Bly, to partake and witness a necessary tradition that provides recreational opportunities for anglers seeking an Oregon backcountry experience.

For the last three decades, volunteers with the HDTR chapter of Back Country Horsemen of America have trailered horses and mules up Spur Road 015 to assist ODFW in transporting rainbow trout fingerlings into Blue Lake. Stocking trout into high country lakes, many which were originally devoid of fish, has been a long standing practice for state wildlife management agencies and continues annually in remote Oregon waters. Historically, transplants of fish into the high country during the early 1900s was done using pack stock. Today, ODFW primarily uses aircraft and occasionally hikers to drop fish into high mountain lakes. The rainbow trout that are stocked in Blue Lake are triploid. This deliberate mutation prevents reproduction and limits unintended impacts if they make it out of the lake; however, this means that the fishery is reliant on an annual replenishing of fish. One year, when an ODFW helicopter could not make the flight to Blue Lake and drop the young fish, ODFW staff reached out to members of the HDTR to assist with the stocking. Since then, the packing of rainbow trout into Blue Lake on mules has been an activity that the HDTR, ODFW and fishermen look forward to each year.

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Please feel free to contact our officers or staff if you need any assistance or have a question pertaining to BCHO.

PURPOSES of BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of OREGON

To PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.

To WORK to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To ASSIST the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the back country resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

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 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 Pleasant Ridge Community Center, 7067 West Canal Blvd, Redmond

Potluck 6:00 - General Meeting 6:30 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Dennis Flaherty, eastcascades@bcho.org

Emerald Empire Chapter

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

Contact: Jean Clancy, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at Waffle Hut, 106 Main St., Klamath Falls at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Betty Applebaker, hhdr@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

Meets: 3rd Thursday of the month at Community Bible Church, Room 202, 500 N. 10th Street, Central Point, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Cate Bendock, 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 Beaver Creek Fire Department, 22310 S Beaver Creek Rd. Beaver Creek, 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, hcwp@bcho.org

Continuation of cover story

At the trailhead parking lot, volunteers and ODFW staff prepared to move the fish from a large tank mounted in the bed of a pickup on to the mules. Ben Ramirez, Fish District Biologist for the Klamath Watershed, said he had heard about the packing of trout into Blue Lake long before he ever moved to the area. A dad and his young son arrived just in time to watch the event, with loaded backpacks and fishing rods in tow to hike in and catch adult fish from previous years' stockings. Rich, the Klamath Lake Hatchery manager, helped transport the fish from the hatchery to the trailhead. His wife and two sons drove up to photograph and watch as well. It is a tradition that has become known outside the circle of volunteers that meet at the Blue Lake trailhead, in part because of the historic context of pack stock in this conservation work, but likely due to the wilderness spirit that mule trains in the backcountry fuels.



3,000 Crane-bow fingerlings, with genetic origin from Crane Prairie Reservoir, were moved into plastic bags, filled with sufficient water, oxygenated with a tank and placed into hard sided panniers or coolers in canvas bags with ice to maintain the adequate temperature of 45-55 degrees Fahrenheit. We helped lift the loads on to the pack saddles and lashed them down with a box hitch. HDTR members Betty Applebaker, Ron Stewart, Dick Strohkirch, Ken Gudgeon and Ron Mortinson (of the Sourdough BHA chapter) who had volunteered their time and pack stock, stepped aboard their mounts to take the cargo up to the lake. ODFW staff, Justin Miles, Ben Ramirez and intern Tyler, followed behind the pack train on the wooded three-mile trail into Blue Lake.

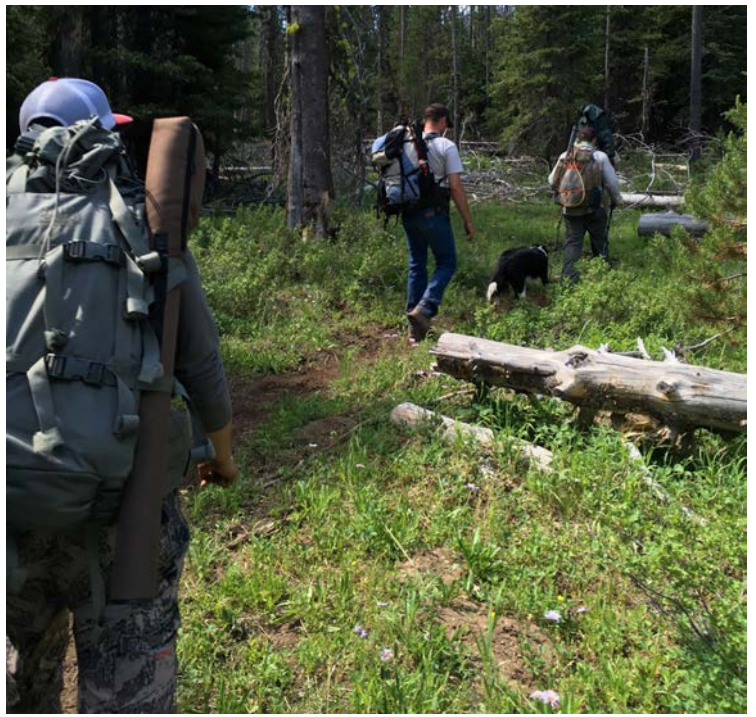
Once at the lake, the biologists placed the bags of fish on the edge of the bank to adjust the fish to the water temperature they would be released into shortly. Justin closely monitored the bags until they reached a temperature adequately close to the lake 62 degrees Fahrenheit of Blue Lake. With the bags now cut open, the fingerlings flowed out into the lake but the bulk of the fish stayed close to shore, pushed outward by the lake's waves. We watched as the fingerlings slowly dispersed out of sight into their new home. After a quick lunch, the stock and riders headed back down the trail, but the team of biologists and my wife and I stayed to see how fish from previous years' stockings had fared. As we walked along the edge of the lake in the direction of the wind, we came to a bay that was protected from the steady breeze.



Soon, I was distracted by the slurping and splashing of fish cruising the edge of the still water, some only a few feet from the bank where I stood. I quickly strung my fly rod and tied on a generic dry fly imitation. As soon as the fly was secured I crept towards the cruising fish that I could now see plainly in the lake's clear water. I cast to the closest fish and he moved without hesitation, taking the fly on this initial cast. The flashy 15 inch trout with red sides and well defined dark spots pulled at my rod but came to hand after a thrilling fight. I returned the fish and for the rest of the afternoon continued to watch trout leap out of the water for damsel flies that coasted the surface of the lake and the imitation damsel fly that I had replaced on my line. The warm lake water was too enticing and my wife and border collie could not resist a swim. As we prepared for our hike out, we said hello to groups of horse packers and backpackers that had just arrived with fishing rods strapped to saddles and backpacks. I knew the trout of Blue Lake had inspired these Wilderness campers, as it had just done me, to seek the tug of a hard fighting fish in the eastern Oregon mountains, made possible by the mules of the High Desert Trail Riders.

Photos from the fish packing trip





Presidents Letter

Submitted by: Duane Miller, President BCHO

Another summer has come and gone. I'm sure many projects and miles of trails were cleared. I hope everyone had time to also enjoy the wonderful sites to see and have camaraderie with all the marvelous people who make up this great organization. If you have any experiences and pictures you would like to share for others to see, don't forget to write a short article and get them the Highline.

I would like to emphasize once again that part of our mission as members should be to enjoy the activities that are available to us during our equestrian experiences, not everything has to be about the mundane and negative business that has to be dealt with at times. Always remember any negative can be turned into a positive if approached with the right perspective. Issues such as the Deschutes and Willamette National Forest permit system and the E-Bike issue will all will given the full attention of your leadership team and we will do our best to make positive outcomes.

At the September board meeting material was handed out and a process is being worked on to have volunteer passes available to those doing a certain number of volunteer hours of work, yet to be determined. Your leadership is working hard to reduce impacts as much as possible. Also at the board meeting a new meeting schedule was discussed and changes proposed. Since there will be no pack clinic in Klamath Falls this year it made no sense to have a meeting in March and then another the first weekend in May. Myself, the Vice Presidents and Past President got together and are proposing the following meeting schedule. Meetings will be held mid January, the first weekend in May and mid September to spread them equally through out the year. Also proposed that meetings be held centrally in Oregon so that most attending drove about the same distance. The central location would be Prineville since it is located 26 miles from the center of Oregon, Post. To move the annual meeting from the first weekend in March to the first weekend in May will take a constitutional change will have to voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. Because it is coming up I would like the board to move the annual meeting to the first weekend in May this year and at that time an open discussion held by the membership and a decision made if the change is to take place.

There has been some confusion about money being donated to BCHO. I would like everyone to the following, 1) ask the person donating funds if they want the funds to go to the General Fund, Grant Fund or Scholarship Fund, 2) if going to the Grant Fund, do they want it to go to a specific Chapter, project, trail clearing or be used as seen necessary by BCHO. This will clarify which account the money will be placed into and also designate if it is to go for a specific area.

Members of BCHO and BCHW took Forest Service personnel from Region 6 and the Willowa-Whitman National Forest on a 3 day pack trip to the Eagle Cap Wilderness up Hurricane Creek. It was an eventful, interesting and hopefully fruitful experience. Many open discussions were held and more information will be available in the near future.

Finally I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful fall and winter.



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Events Calendar

Event Start	Event End	Event Hours PST	Event Title	Event Description	Event Location
11/2/19	11/2/19	08:00AM - 04:00PM	Day Ride		
11/7/19	11/7/19	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.	
12/1/19	12/2/19		BCHA Newsletter Article deadline		
12/4/19	12/4/19	05:30PM - 09:00PM	Christmas Party		
12/5/19	12/5/19	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.	
12/14/19	12/14/19	02:00PM - 05:00PM	Columbia Gorge/Christmas party		Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr, Hood River, OR 97031, USA
1/2/20	1/2/20	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.	
2/6/20	2/6/20	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.	
2/29/20	2/29/20	09:00AM - 04:00PM	Baker Beach Trash Pick Up		Baker Beach Trailhead, Baker Beach Rd, Florence, OR 97439, USA
3/5/20	3/5/20	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.	
3/21/20	3/21/20	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	The Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. It is held twice each year at the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center in Canby, on the third Saturday of March and October. The sale includes new and used tack as well as other horse-related items. Parking \$5, admission is \$1 per person.	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013, USA
4/2/20	4/2/20	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.	
4/24/20	4/27/20		Camp Out Location TBD	Joint OET and BCH campout	
5/1/20	5/4/20		BCHO State Rendezvous		Prineville, OR 97754, USA
5/7/20	5/7/20	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.	
5/15/20	5/18/20		Cyrus Springs		Cyrus Horse Camp, Prineville, OR 97754, USA
6/4/20	6/4/20	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.	
6/19/20	6/22/20		BCHO State Benefit Ride		
6/26/20	6/29/20		S. Diamond Peak/PCT trail work		Pengra Pass, Oregon, USA

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2019 Soda Mountain Pack In/Out for Mark Tribe

Submitted by: Cate Bendock, President of BCHO Sourdough Chapter

The Sourdough Chapter received an email June 7, 2019 from Mark Tribe requesting pack support for a film crew into the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument backcountry for a nature film. Mark requested pack support for approximately 400 plus pounds of filming equipment and additional supplies for a week expedition.

Discussion with the Board and member Diane Eek lead to the acceptance of this packing opportunity for the Sourdough Chapter.

Diane Eek was the lead packer on this expedition. Sourdough members Bill Cease, Frank Mowery, and Cate Bendock agreed to assist Diane with the expedition. Two skills clinics were held at Diane's ranch in Prospect, OR for the pack crew. Member Aaron Bastion assisted Diane with the final clinic.



Diane and Cate met with Mark and two members of his crew on July 6, 2019 in Ashland, OR. This was the initial planning meeting and reconnaissance for trailhead location. Diane, Mark, and two crew members drove the area after the planning meeting to ascertain possible staging areas for the packers. The preplanning meeting lasted approximately 2 hours and recon by Mark and Diane was an additional 4 hours of driving in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument area.

Diane communicated with Mark by phone numerous times to assure a safe staging area was chosen and prepack of the film equipment and other supplies in Ashland was planned. The Hobart Trailhead was chosen as the staging area.

Prepack took place on July 12, 2019 in Ashland, OR at a parking lot of Southern Oregon University. Bill Cease, Cate Bendock, and Diane Eek were assisted by the film crew and Mark. They provided assistance with weighing and loading panniers. A total of two sets of hard panniers, one set canvas panniers and a set of over-the-saddle panniers were loaded and top packs organized. All items were weighed and distributed to assure appropriate balanced loads for the stock. All equipment and packs were loaded into Diane's stock trailer. This process took approximately 4 hours. After lunch Diane, Bill, and Cate drove to the staging site to assess ingress/egress of trucks and trailers, and a meeting area to consolidate stock, and other logistics to assure a safe and secure operation.



Pack In day was July 13, 2019. Frank and Cate brought their riding horses to a location outside Ashland to consolidate their stock into Diane's trailer. Bill Cease transported his stock in his trailer. This allowed for the Packers to have only two truck/trailers at the Hobart Trailhead. The packing crew arrived at the trailhead at approximately 10 AM. Mark and his crew were there. All stock was loaded and on the trail by 1 PM. Once at

the camps staging area all stock was unloaded. All panniers were left at the site with the film crew. Cate lead one mule down to the water site to pack up full water jugs for the film crew. She was assisted by two of Mark's crew members. All packers rode out to the trailhead and finished the day at approximately 6 PM.

Pack Out took place on July 21, 2019. Diane and Cate were the only two packers for this event. The film crew assisted Diane and Cate to repack equipment into the panniers per the journaled entrees taken during the prepack to assure balanced loads upon return. An additional 100 pounds was packed out. Diane and Cate assessed proper load and balance before loading pack stock. Total time for Pack Out was 9 AM to 5 PM.



The packing crew from Sourdough Chapter would like to thank Mark Tribe and his crew for this opportunity and experience packing sensitive equipment. Their professionalism, good nature, and assistance was greatly appreciated.

Of interest, the film that Mark and his crew were filming, which is called Deep Green: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, captures a day in the life of a pristine and uniquely biodiverse wild forest that is threatened by climate change. The Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland will exhibit it this coming summer, and they will preserve the finished work in their permanent collection.

Mark is doing a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter to raise the money he needs to complete the film in time for its premiere. You can find out more about the film and pledge your support on www.kickstarter.com. Do a search for Deep Green and it'll be the first result you get. Please support his work to protect a uniquely biodiverse wilderness threatened by climate change.

Film Crew

Mark Tribe, Brian Jackson, Keegan Van Hook, Milton White, Louis Bengtson, Kent Romney





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Corral Swamp – The Rest of the Story

Submitted by: Dennis Flaherty, ECBCHO

In the last Highline, East Cascades mentioned that we would be working on a part of the Metolius- Windigo trail that passes through Corral Swamp. Well, BCH is done assisting the FS on the Corral Swamp crossing.

The first week in August, I had the pleasure of working alongside the FS and YCC to build the turnpike frame. (This was two days after a major storm, immediately followed by temps in the high 80s and low 90's. Brought back fond memories of the heat and humidity in the swamps of southwest Louisiana in the summer. They Do say it's good for your complexion. The crew kept after it, in spite of it all.)

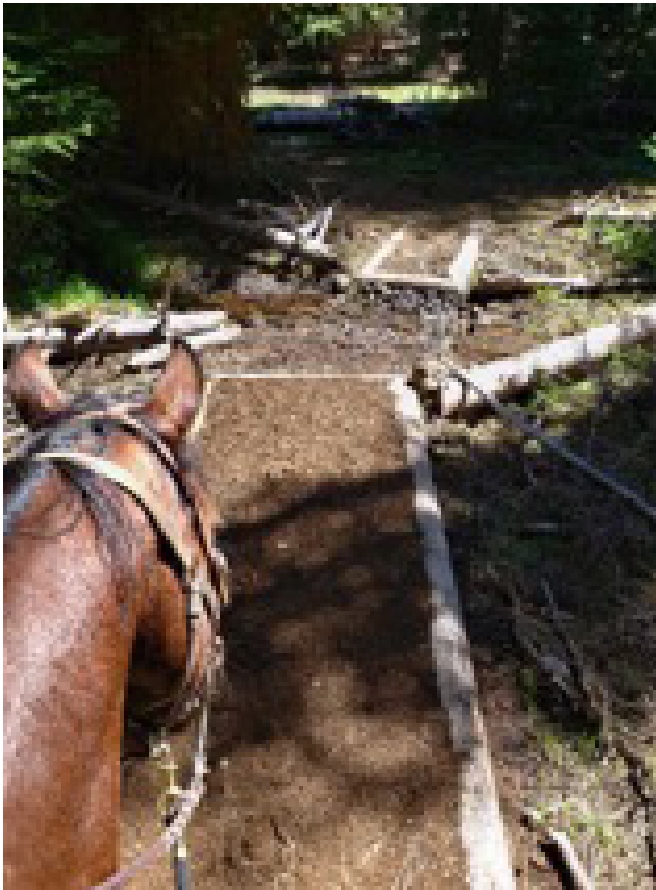
This following week, Bob Bonine and Stan Shepardson made 5 pack trips in from the trailhead carrying a total of over 6,000 lbs. of rock and gravel. Bob ran four pack mules and Stan two pack horses. This added to the rock borrowed by the YCC from a site uphill from the swamp.



Initially, we planned to use gravel panniers to make the haul. But after talking with Kate Beardsley with Mustangs to the Rescue, it dawned on us that we could use conventional canvas panniers holding square pickle buckets, two on each side, 50 lbs. each. We also used one of Kate's firewood racks to carry the buckets, fit for purpose. This simplified weighing, loading and unloading.

Scott Essex and I rode drag to help load/unload and monitor the loads from behind on the way up.

There are two stream crossings and a 45-foot-long turnpike between. The FS handled finishing touches (cleaning up the mud, top soiling the turnpike and rehabbing the vegetation.)



This was a significant wilderness trail undertaking 2.5 miles and 600 feet above the trailhead. It was two years in the making, we worked with a number of different entities, and we're done!

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Pack trip to the Eagle Caps

Submitted by: Duane Miller



On September 14th people from BCHO, BCHW, and the U.S. Forest Service traveled to Joseph, Oregon for a three day pack trip up Hurricane Creek into the Eagle Caps Wilderness. Those attending were myself, Jerry Bentz, Betty Applebaker and Corrine Cleland from BCHO. BCHA National President Darrel Wallace and his wife Chrissy and Robert Eversole from BCHW. Tracy Toophoven Region 6 Recreational Director, Zach Jarret Region 6 Trails Coordinator, Michelle Martin Region 6 Volunteer Coordinator, Sweyn Wall Eagle Caps Wilderness manager and John Hollenbeck Willow-Whitman Packer from the forest Service.

All met at the trail head to Hurricane Creek on Sunday morning September 15th at 9:00 a.m. The forest service personnel rode in on horse provided by Sweyn and John and started up the trail as pack animals were being loaded. A total of 5 pack animals were loaded with camping gear, cooking equipment and meals supplies,

It was an 8.5-9 mile ride over 3.5 hours in some of the most beautiful and breathing taking scenery in Oregon. All reached a campsite in a meadow along Hurricane Creek without any incidents. It was quite a sight to have tents for 12 people, high lines and corral for 17 spread out in this large meadow to accomplish leave no trace. The ride in was warm with no clouds to be seen, scenery was fantastic.

Many face to face talks were held and forest service personnel answered many questions and laid out a plan they were putting together to modernize the forest service. More to come on this plan and presented in October and moving forward. Monday morning we awoke to changing weather as clouds and wind moved in. Most of the group went a 2-3 mile ride up the trail to a lake and back. The evening brought rain and over night brought sleet and light snow to wake up to with frost on the ground for Tuesday morning. After breakfast as we were packing up for the ride back to the trail head the clouds broke for a nice sunny, scenic ride back out.





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Oregon Trails Summit 2019

Submitted by Becky Hope

Presented by: Oregon State Parks and Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation

And Oregon Trail Coalition (We need trails. Trails need us. Your Voice wanted) Together we are the Oregon Trail Coalition. Mission:(Cooperative Body of broad-base, statewide trail interests dedicated to supporting, promoting, and advocating for the preservation, development, and stewardship of a statewide network of sustainable, world class trails.)

It was attended by 220 representatives of 95 different public lands and trail groups, 13 different cities. We had representatives from BCHA, BCHO, OET, Sourdough chapter, East Cascade Chapter, Emerald Chapter Columbia Gorge. Representatives from Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden office were there. There was representative from Washington Trails association speaking on state wide volunteer trail organization set ups. Reps from Forest Service, BLM, ODOT, Oregon department of Parks and Recreations, Oregon Department of Forestry, Travel Oregon, Travel Lane, Travel Southern Oregon, Northwest Youth Corp. All sharing ideas both urban and rural improvements of trails and trails funding.

Some of the benefits of attending an intense 2-day educational and networking event were getting to attend the following; Three workshops, 15 concurrent sessions and four plenary events led by over 50 leaders in Oregon's trails' community provided new skills, inspiration and highly productive dialogues among everyone attending the Trails Summit. We sincerely hope you'll plan on joining us at the Oregon Trails Summit in 2020, and will consider contributing to this very worthy gathering again.

Lauralee Svendsgaard (Past ORTAC; Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council) member said this about the summit. "I would add that in the course of all the presentations and networking opportunities that folks actively seized upon, I was struck by what I'll describe as "a kinder, gentler" acceptance of our need to truly work together for the benefit of trails for everyone. I felt in the Dynamics of Horse & Bike workshop in particular, there was less defensiveness, more openness in the conversations; especially when it came to discussions around multi-use trails. As the use of trails continues to increase among all modes, I felt as though leaders in the greater trails community that participated in the workshop were more willing than in the past to recognize some very real limitations within the modes. And with that recognition, I'm hopeful that we'll be able to address some very genuine concerns and limitations that seem intrinsic to many multi-use trails. It would be wonderful to get a bigger showing of equestrians when we come together in 2020."

Best wishes,
Lauralee

\$625.00 Silent Auction item for two night three stock pack trip was awarded as one of the fund raisers for the benefit of Oregon Trail Coalition organization.

Important Speakers Include:

- o Zach Jarrett (Region 6 Recreational staff Officer) speaking USFS Sustainable Trails Strategy
- o Status of Oregon Trails Coalition; Combating Trail Skills Deficits and building Stewardship Networks.
- o USFS Engagement Strategy discussions.
- o New Emerging Generation of Trail Leaders
- o Balancing Motorized and non-Motorized Trail Needs
- o Partnerships to work trails and homelessness
- o Trails in Farm Country: Working with rural neighbors and rural zoning to develop trails

Our Own Becky Wolfe has won Oregon Parks and Recreation Doug Newman Award. The award is named after deceased ORTAC member Doug Newman, The award honors a person, persons or organization who have made significant contributions to non-motorized trails within Oregon. And elsewhere the award is described as, "Nominees are sought for their notable achievements, leadership, and commitment of considerable time and skill in working with others to achieve important trail milestones with statewide impacts."



Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc. Membership Application

Yes! I would like to help preserve Horsemen's rights
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Select Chapter and add additional Chapter dues, as determined
by individual Chapters, see below.

See Map of Chapters, www.bcho.org/chapters/.

___ Columbia Gorge, Hood River \$10 ___ Steens, South East Oregon \$10
___ East Cascades, Bend ___ Sourdough, South West Oregon \$5
___ Emerald Empire, Eugene \$5 ___ Territorial Riders, Oregon City \$5
___ High Country Wilderness Packers ___ West Cascade BCH, Salem \$5
Chapter ___ Member At Large
___ High Desert Trail Riders,
Klamath Falls area

Total Enclosed: _____

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For questions email membership@bcho.org

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Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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

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BCHO website: bcho.org/membership/

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