



REPORT TO
2025
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA
NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
MISSION SUMMARY

TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE RIGHTS OF RESPONSIBLE HORSEMEN TO USE HORSES AND MULES
ON PUBLIC LANDS. TO PATRTICIPATE AND TO ADVOCATE.

OUR VISION

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN CONTINUES AS A PREMIER RESOURCE FOCUSED ON KEEPING TRAILS
AND RELATED FACILITIES OPEN FOR EQUESTRIANS.

MAINTAIN A VIABLE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHERE ALL MEMBERS PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: WORK PARTIES, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND/OR SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES.

CONCENTRATE AND DIRECT ENERGY TO A COHESIVE GROUP OF STOCK ADVOCATES TOWARDS THE COMMON PURPOSE OF ACCOMPLISHING THE BCHW MISSION. THIS WILL PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT, RESPONSIVE, AND EFFECTIVE BCH CHAPTERWORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY.

MEMBERSHIP

As of April 1, 2025, BCHW had **1117 current memberships = 1681 members.**

- 644 -- Single [\$45]
- 386-- Family [\$60]
- 28 -- Contributing [\$75]
- 28 -- Sustaining [\$125]
- 5 -- Patron [\$250]
- 1 -- Benefactor [\$500]
- 25 -- Lifetime [\$1200/\$2000]

BCHW SAWYER PROGRAM

BCHW Sawyer Program has 425 certified Sawyers and of this number, 62 are Instructor/Evaluators. Also included in these numbers we have:

- 6 BCH Idaho Members
- 215 BCH Washington Members
- 51 Evergreen Mountain Bike Association Members
- 12 Northwest Motorcycle Association Members
- 7 Pacific Crest Trail Association Members
- 18 Pacific Northwest Trail Association Members
- 13 USFS Employees
- 24 Washington Trails Association Members
- 79 from other organizations and individuals

of Washington
Volunteer Hours Report



ib Wessellius, BCHW VH Chair

	Aggr Hrs	Skilled Hrs	L.N.T. Hrs	Puber service	Travel Hrs	Volunteer Hours	Vehicle Miles	Stock Lots	Dollar Value
Capitol Riders Chapter	21	31	198.5	378.5	21	978	7262		43,234.34
Cascade Horse Club	154		88.5	270	124	64	344	34	30,814.91
	158	81	12.5	922.5	13	707.5	375	34	34,873.85
									94,947.45
Independent									
				335					
Mt St Helens Chapter	122	44	26	1341.5	870.5	4137	29001	118	194,223.47
Nisqually Chapter	109.5		5	872.5	280.5	1319.5	6225	3	57,222.86
Northeast Chapter	322	263.5	132	289	42	1414.5	12686.5	92	80,382.97
Okanogan Valley Chapter	48.5	4	42.5	327	9	51	1308.5		19,101.81
Olympic Chapter	170	87	64	215	84	604	1504	14	
Ponderosa Chapter	14	13.5	33.5	819	152	118	5188	1	48,126.62
Purple Sage Riders	374.5	7.5	714.5	1401.5	552	3057	17197	15	145,111.01
Rattlesnake Ridge Riders	98.5	135	339.5	367	183.5	1123.5	523	56	54,321.42
	18	6.5	5.5	139.5	8	39	1597	4	15,831.44
Wenas Chapter	22.5	52	82.5	1568	27	2206.5	9096	3	90,906.72
			24	93.5	14	538.5	2427.5	48	29,504.4
Whatcom County Chapter	391.5	482.5	156	606.5	50	2141.5	14003.5	8	109,575.6
Totals	1386	696	4048	20865	9666	55502.5	242253	1582	2,476,837.56

State Agency Report	Basic	Skilled	Edu	Admin	TT	Total Hour	POV	Stock	Total \$\$ Value
U.S.F.S. (A)	4907	3608	310	181	2886	11892	67530	72	642,641.62
State DNR (B)	1833	372	135.5	106	69.5	3144	17908	17	159,326.32
National Parks (D)	899.5	580.5	0	10	254	1724	3911	34	76,283.35
Education & LNT (E)	0		3390	0	724	411	19449	136	165,734.0
			111	15	9	330.5	2477		14,721.54
Administrative (G)	D/		0	18408	2754	21162	79494	128	817,788.82
NOLT (O)	52		0	0	6	62	146	0	2,306.96
Rendezvous (R)	0		24	1827	324	2175	11824		89,057.14
Private Timber (T)	1990	1090	13	131	935	4155	21813	268	221,479.07
	3425	1147	64	190	72	5498	10840	43	224,506.24
totale	13863	696	4048	20865	9666	55502.5	242253	1582	2,476,837.56



Just a couple
BCHW
PROJECTS
In the
2024 FIELD
SEASON

GRAY WOLF / BCH-PENINSULA TRAIL CREW NOTES

The Huckleberry Crew

The huckleberries were amazing this year, a bumper crop! We ate so many!!

8/23-8/30/2024

Location:

Upper Duckabush and Home Sweet Home trails, Olympic National Park

(Home Sweet Home to Upper Duckabush Camp and Upper Duckabush Camp to Lacrosse Pass junction are stock-rated trails)

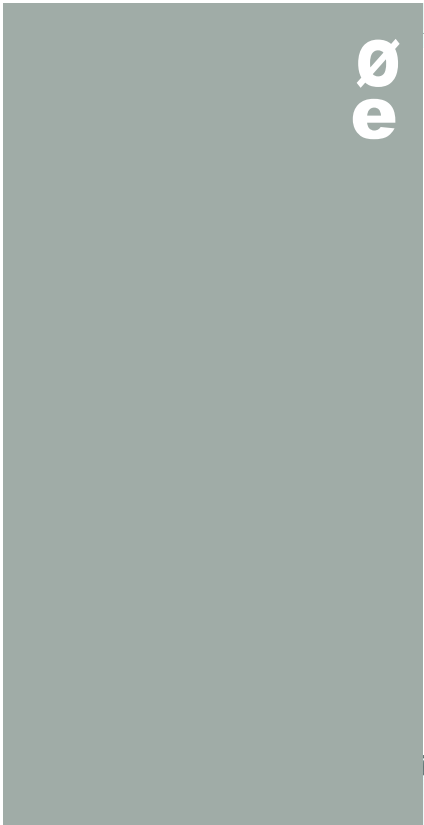
Objectives met: Maintained 9.7 miles of trail: safer for people and/or stock as dictated by the trail type on a "*just make it hikeable*" basis. "Maintained" means we cleared all logs (to stock standards on trails rated as such), hand brushed, retreaded and tended to drainage in critical locations. It also means when logs were cleared, we took the extra step of clearing the remnant on the hill if there was a potential for it to slide with the next snow. Totals: days 8, crew 6, packers 3, stock 10, logs cleared 94, vol. hrs. 476

<https://www.bchw.org/files/olympic-national-parks-upper-duckabush-and-home-sweet-home-trails-20240823.pdf>

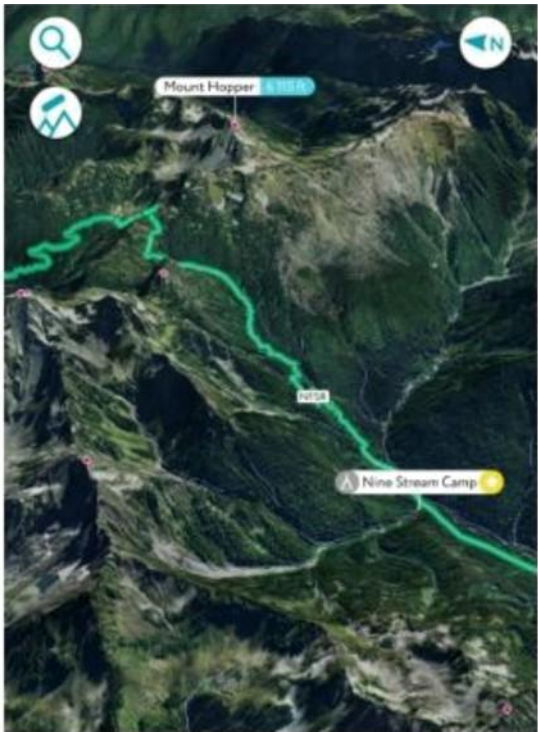
I want to say that this is a trip that we could not have done ... WOULD not have done ... without stock support. It would be impossible. We are extremely grateful to BCH members Rachael, Matthew, and Harold for doing this difficult trip so that together Gray Wolf and BCHW could maintain these deep backcountry trails. (Crew Leader-Rebecca Wanagel)



DAY 00E (Friday, g23) - Getting to the start of our rock.



Nine Stream Camp (yellow dot)



After Nine Stream it's a difficult and rocky climb to First Divide (saddle to the side of Mt. Hopper)
You can see the Home Sweet Home basin / camp in this picture or the green dot on the backside of First Divide)



Typical log on this trail.



Work commences.



Cleared to stock standards.



Sawing



and trail work

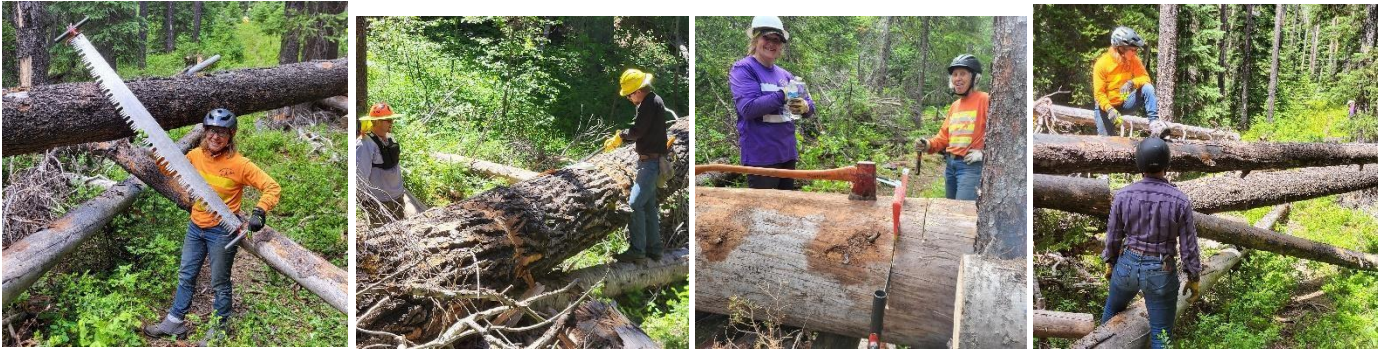


Generational trail work and maintenance

PASAYTAN WILDERNESS PROJECT

JULY 2024

The Wolverine logging team spent a week in the Pasayten Wilderness doing logging. They had to log into the FS administrative cabin on the abandoned airstrip on day one. In the week that followed logged 5 miles north on the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail clearing several logs. Then logged the Tatoosh Butte trail approximately 3 miles, encountering a heavy log load with some very complex cuts, including a large diameter cottonwood tree.



AUGUST 2024

The Wolverine Logging Team went a different direction on this trip and addressed some dangerous mud holes in the trail.



2024 Black Pine Work Project Wrap-up

Howdy Black Piners!

This summer we had 5 very productive work parties with our blended crew of Back Country Horsemen, WTA, locals and trail runners. We had a Northwest Youth Corp stint for 2 weeks, and a Washington Conservation Corp stint for 2 weeks. Every one of these work parties was stock supported. We cleared and improved 41 miles of trail this year! Not only that, but we also opened more of Snowall Cradle Trail on the French Creek side and Frosty Wildhorse to Icicle Ridge Trail and on to Mary's Pass (the piece just before Mary's Pass has pretty narrow tread and will be benched out next summer). That is incredible! in 2023 we were able to clear and improve 27 miles of trail! There are couple of reasons for more trail miles cleared in 2024: 1) light log load last winter 2) more crew members 3) we added 2 weeks of a WCC tread work crew this summer. A great effort by all!

With growth and expansion also comes with hard lessons. The destroyed French Creek Bridge reared its ugly head at the Xcut Extravaganza June 1-3. I figured that with the light snowpack that the streams might run a bit lower at that time. We had hiker crews signed up to ford French Creek. Water was running too fast and furious. We quickly implemented a plan to get hikers across on stock. Seasoned stock folks are not intimidated by a little white water, and we had forgotten what the first white water was like for us. Hikers on our stock were intimidated by white water, and we hadn't anticipated that their tools would not be in stock approved scabbards. It was a bit of a rodeo. No one was hurt and no stock was hurt but.....NO MORE HIKERS FORDING FRENCH CREEK UNTIL THE END OF JUNE...at least, UNTIL THE BRIDGE IS REPLACED! The real heartbreaker is the 22-mile Black Pine Loop (from Jack Creek, Meadow Creek and then returning along French Creek) that we that we so desperately tried to open for 8 years, is just not worth it for our crew and resources to annually maintain. The section on French Creek Trail between Klonauqua Lake Junction and Meadow Creek Junction is 3.7 miles. In that section, there are 2 stream crossings that go through the edge of a boulder field. Every year these boulders require labor intensive maintenance to create a safe ford crossing for stock. There is a 1/4-mile section where puncheon was removed and is developing leg breaker holes. There are danger logs that are beyond our capability to remove. This section is somewhat hiker friendly and possibly WTA could take this on as it wouldn't take as much yearly maintenance to keep it open to hikers. By taking this 3.7 mile section off our plate, we opened up crew time to maintain and improve Frosty Wildhorse and Snowall Cradle trails. Both of these trails have graze and usable camps and are much friendlier to stock and hikers! This will be a much more reasonable use of our time and resources.

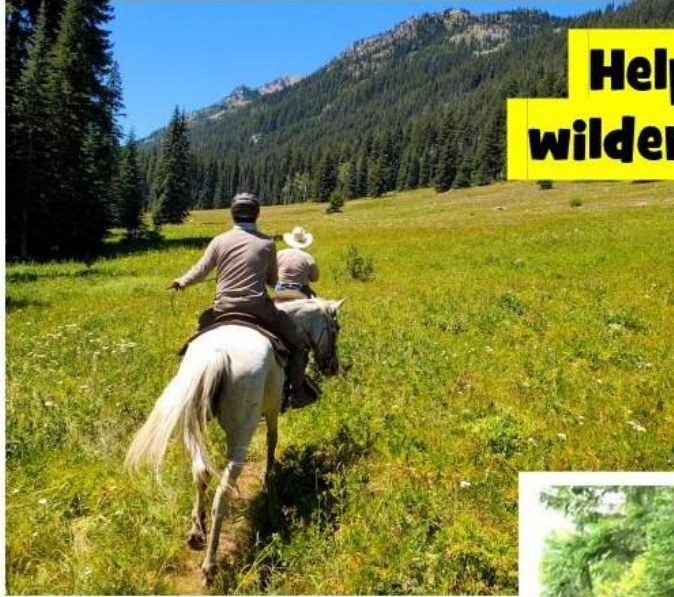
I want to thank all our crew members for a spectacular year. All crews worked hard hours, and it shows. I also want to recognize our unsung heroes. Icicle Outfitters, Tim Main, and Terri Tincher were all willing to change their schedules and accommodate us with their stock at the drop of a cowboy hat. Terry Swaitkowski came to every Black Pine work Party last year and was a huge asset! Kenny and Terry Tincher and Tim Main were on call to remove logs that came down after work party season. Wenatchee BCHW built manure bunkers at the Black Pine Camp. Carol Candler of 'Go Explore Us' found a local well expert, got us a reasonable bid, and oversaw the installation of new well pipe and a hand pump at the Black Pine Camp. We have water again! Thank you!

First, thank you to the Wenatchee and Ellensburg BCHW chapters for joining in the Black Pine efforts.

Trail Work On,
Barb Talbot

AND

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT IN 2025!



**Help us keep our
wilderness trails open**

Join us this summer on
our Black Pine work
projects in the
Alpine Lakes Wilderness

Five projects available for the
beginner to advanced trail
worker

Contact Barb Talbot for more details
barb@stillhavinfun.com
or go to

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