

# Twin Rivers Annual Report 2017

## Summary of our volunteer efforts for 2017

Volunteer Hours	2249 hours
Trail Miles Cleared	37 miles
Vehicle Miles Driven	10198 miles
Equipment Hours	79 hours
Stock Days	193 days
<b>Total Volunteer Value</b>	<b>\$89,526.85</b>

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



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

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



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

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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