



TRAIL TALES

April 2009

Notes from the president

BCHW mission statement: To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage. To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

Hello Whatcom BCH'ers,

It was great to see everyone at last months meeting. I was pleased with the large turnout. Our guest speaker Lief Hazelet from the U S Forest Service, Mt. Baker District gave us a presentation on trail conditions and their 2009 budget. I believe we will have some wonderful volunteer opportunities this year partnering with them. One such project will be to replace puncheon up at Schribers Meadow. Melinda will be in contact with Lief to get the details for this project ironed out. I hope when we get it scheduled that you all try to make it. This is a popular hiking trail and working up there provides us with the opportunity to show a good positive public image.

We will be having a program at our April meeting as well. Members of the DNR, (Department of Natural Recourses) Northwest District will give us a presentation on some of their projects and be available to answer questions. I'm sure we will be made aware of volunteer opportunities working with them as well. Partnering with these kinds of organizations is one way we can work towards keeping trails open for horse and stock use as well as other user groups.

As the weather improves and you start riding more, please let Melinda know of any hazards or areas that will require maintenance. We would like to get more organized with scheduling work parties this year.

I'm off to Ellensburg for the BCH of Washington Annual Meeting and Leadership Training. I look forward to hearing from our state president and mingling with BCH members from all over the state.

Our calendar is filling up quickly, I hope we have something scheduled that interest everyone. March 28th we have a work party scheduled at the Stremler's to get ready for our Confidence Ride which will be held on April 25th. Contact Roy or Fran Van Diest for information regarding these two events. April 4th is our Easter Egg ride, the Long's are going to mark the trail and Toni Blakley is the contact person for any questions or if you would like to help out.

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President's Notes

Please try to attend one of the Whatcom County Parks meetings regarding the South Fork Park master plan that were mentioned at our general meeting. It is important that we show our support for this Park/Trailhead. Meeting time and locations are: Thursday, March 26th 6 to 8 at the Bellingham Senior Center 315 Halleck Street and/or Saturday, March 28th 10 to 12 at Whatcom County Parks Headquarters 3373 Mt. Baker Hwy.

Be safe and Ride!

Susan

2009

TRAIL BOSSES

Adopt a ride for 2009

**WORK PARTY
COORDINATOR**

Melinda Hardin

has agreed to be work party coordinator

temporarily

360-312-1113

Vet Notes Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. What's Up?

One of the most fascinating systems in animals is the vestibular system, the system responsible for maintaining balance and reflex response to gravitational forces, in other words the system that keeps us upright. Three semi-circular canals in the inner ear are oriented at right angles to each other and allow for detection of any rotation at any angle. A similar receptor organ called the macula detects head position and acceleration-deceleration. The vestibular nerves connect to the brain, where they then have major connections to the eyes and spinal nerves. Proprioceptive receptors in the joints transmit information to the brain, telling the brain where each limb is. Put in simple terms this complicated system maintains the appropriate orientation of the trunk, limbs, and eyes to the position of the head. Think of when you have tripped on something. This system kicks in within a fraction of a second, one leg will flail out, your arms swing and with luck you avoid a fall (verbal utterances during falls have nothing to do with the vestibular system).

Proprioceptive receptors within joints can be improved in function. Horses that perform only in an arena (and humans who only walk on smooth sidewalks) can benefit by walking on uneven surfaces. In Europe some stables have installed paths with varying surfaces to improve proprioception.

We don't usually have a problem with lack of varying surfaces with the trail horse. Theoretically an arena horse could have more trouble with balance when first starting out on trails. But perhaps a more important aspect is the headset of the trail horse. Arena riders often ride with the head in a fixed position and the neck flexed. However proprioceptive receptors in the joints of the neck are essential to transmit to the brain how the rest of the body is oriented and are a major factor in the righting reflex. Riders are sometimes encouraged to "steady" the horse if he stumbles by maintaining strong contact with the reins. It is impossible for a rider to help a horse regain their balance by pulling on the reins. Not only would it interfere with the neck movement and the proprioceptive receptors that tell the brain where the rest of the body is but the horse needs to swing the heavy head and neck to regain their balance. It is better for the rider to release pressure on the reins yet keep them up enough that the horse does not get a leg caught. The rider should grab the saddle or the mane and try not to interfere with the horse's righting mechanism. Nature will keep him upright if at all possible.

EDITOR'S POLICIES

Trail Tales is published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Non-copyrighted submissions are welcomed (subject to space limitations). Opinions and views expressed in letters or personal articles are not necessarily the opinions of BCH.

Send submissions to: Editor, Fran Van Diest, 723 Van Wyck Rd, Bellingham, Wa 98226. E-mail to: wbchnewseditors@msn.com or fvandiest@msn.com.

BCH minutes**General meeting minutes Laurel Grange March 11, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Sebastian at 7:05. After the Pledge of Allegiance the agenda was adopted and announcements made. The Okanogan chapter sent a thank you note for our donation for the acquisition of Whistler Canyon.

Visitors were welcomed by Alice Yancey. Ann Leonard introduced her Dad Bob Wallin. He was a good friend of Gene Gilbert. Brenda Batterman is a friend of Chris Paul's. Sharon Sutherland is back in our area. Sharon was our 1st chapter president. It was great seeing Becky and Waldon Haines.

Our guest speakers were introduced. Lief Hazelet is our areas trails and recreation supervisor for the U.S. Forest Service. He introduced Otis Allen. Lief will be retiring, Otis is his replacement. They gave a power point presentation covering 2008 projects and projected projects for 2009. They described trail damage and volunteer hours. Weed-free hay will be required on all forest service land.

They would like to involve BCH in more trail projects in the future.

Treasurers report- Lynn Johnson:=2 0bank balances were given. The proceeds from the auction were given.

Directors report: Rick Olsen described meeting with the legislators in Olympia.. Our LNT display was set up. A small group of BCH members has traveled to Washington D.C. to talk with the Forest Service. All members are encouraged to attend the General meeting and leadership training in Ellensburg.

Legislative- Mike McGlenn: Mike and Rick Olsen attended Legislative Day .Each representative or Senator was met with for about 20 minutes. Each received a BCH calendar and was told of the volunteer hours we contribute .Doug Erickson is supporting a bill that will give a percentage of the sales tax to trails. An introductory statement did not include stock use, he has changed that.

Whatcom County Parks and Recreation has responded to our vote to join the Whatcom Parks Association. Information from the group will be sent to Mike McGlenn.

Trailhead- Mike McGlenn: Rodney Lamb has set up two dates for public discussion of the proposed Acme Trailhead; March 26th- 6-8 PM at the Bellingham Senior Center near Bellingham High School, and Sat March 28th 10-2 at the County Parks Headquarters corner of smith Rd & Mt. baker Hwy. Members are encouraged to attend and wear BCH clothing. Rodney Lamb emphasizes that the plans are preliminary and changes can be made. He emphasizes that the stock area will be separate from other park uses.

BCH has been invited to speak to the Lynden Rotary club next Tuesday, Mike McGlenn will speak on the new trail system.

Trail Dusters from the Everett-Snohomish area are interested in our new trailhead and would like to assist. On April 7th Mike McGl enn will speak to their group.

The Dressage Club has asked BCH to set up a display at their event at Fox Bay Farm.

LNT-Mick Blakely: Mick read tips from the LNT (Leave No Trace) brochure on front county. Sharon Hoofnagle cautioned members that ivermectin de-wormers are harmful to some dogs and can still be harmful in manure. Horses should not be de-wormed with ivermectin and taken to a public trailhead the next day. Cindy Lucas D.V.M. is a small animal veterinarian; she said the danger is breed specific. Sharon and Cindy will research the danger and provide more info.

Sunshine- Toni Blakely: notices will be in the newsletter.

Trail Boss- last meeting a clipboard for Adopt-a Ride was passed around, it has disappeared. Mike McGlenn described some of the work at Blanchard. The DNR (Dept of Natural Resources) has installed double-vault toilets at the hang glider launch. Many of the tie-up trees have been cut down.

Auction: the auction committee was thanked for a great job.

Herman Miller - Mick Blakely: work party will be March 21st. We will finish up last years projects. Newspapers and 4-H groups will be notified. We will start at 10 am, lunch will be provided, and work will continue until projects are finished. Bring buckets, tools, experienced pack stock, and rakes. The building is sealed up and doors are in. We may be able to meet there in the future. March 28th is the 4-H auction at the Lynden Fairgrounds

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General Meeting minutes

Easter egg ride- Toni Blakely: There will be a meeting at Toni's home Tuesday March 31st 7 pm. We need plastic eggs, candy, volunteers to boil eggs, and donations for prizes. The ride is at the Heady Road on April 4th. Chick and Judy Long will mark the trail; the ride will be 1- ½ hours. If the ground is saturated the ride will be on the dirt roads to keep from damaging the trails. It is open to the public.

Confidence Ride: will be held April 25th There will be a meeting at Fran Van Diests Tuesday April 3rd. There will be a work party March 28th; there is not much work to be done. Volunteers are needed to man the obstacles during the event.

NW Region Ride is June 18th at Les Hilde Trailhead. There has still been no response from the Park officials on the parking problem at Lake Padden. Steve Adams is working on the donation box for Stewart.

50-50: Mike Bjornstad won \$33.50, \$33.50 to the club.

The DNR would like to speak at our next meeting. Their new rules are been adopted. Our comments on the rules were heeded; for example livestock are classified different from pets, pets with livestock can be under voice control.

Youth Fair will be at the Lynden Fairgrounds April 10 & 11th. Contact Sharon Hoofnagle if you would like to participate. We will be presenting a skit and talk

Rocky Leavitt reminded us of the logging on Stewart this spring. They will be logging above the metal bridge. He would like a work party at Silver Lake. Waldon Haines described a wash-out above our bridge above Ogallala that needs work. Melinda Hardin is our work party coordinator.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18
Submitted by Sharon Hoofnagle

Tid Bits:

Now that Spring is here, and hopefully the weather will improve more people will be riding the trails. Let Melinda Hardin know of any trails that need work done so a work party can be setup.

Also watch out for low branches, with the weather we have had, there is probably a lot of work that needs to be done on all the trails.

Easter egg ride 4-4- If you can help hide eggs and don't plan to ride that day, please contact Toni Blakely at 332-7120. Also does anyone have any plastic eggs you would be willing to donate? Please let Toni know.

Youth Fair: 4-10 & 4-11: If you would like to participate, please contact Sharon Hoofnagle. Youth Fair will be at the Lynden Fair grounds.

Confidence Ride 4-25---Can always use helpers to help with each obstacles. It's best to have 2 or more people at each obstacles in case of a problem. Helpers will be at each obstacles to assist riders if needed. The more volunteers, the more we can rotate each person or have a helper also try out the obstacles with their horse. Notify Fran Van Diest 734-2567 or fvandiest@msn.com if you are willing to help out!

Adopt a ride: This year we are trying something different. If anyone would like to step up and adopt a ride, please notify one of the officers. The schedule listed a ride on May 16 at Heady road which will be a food drive ride. Does anyone wish to head this ride? So far we have no takers. If no one volunteers, the ride will be cancelled. There wouldn't be too much work to be done, mark the trail for the ride and lead or delegate someone to lead the ride. This ride was to be held at Heady road trails.

Fran

CALENDAR



- Mar 30** Monday **Board meeting at Bob's Burger & Brew, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting**
- April 4** Saturday **Easter Egg Ride at Heady Trails.** Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. If minor, please wear a helmet and need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is a \$3.00 donation, children 12 and under free. Ride will be for about 2 hours and then meet at the meadow to look for eggs and prizes. Be sure to bring your lunch. For more information, contact Toni Blakely at 332-7120.
- April 8** Wednesday **General meeting at Laurel Community Grange--7:00 p.m. Guest speaker from DNR**
Treats: Mike Bjornstad and Susan Sebastian, please bring some goodies/and juice or something to drink.
- April 25** Saturday **Confidence Builder Ride at Stremler's place. 9480 Van Buren Rd. Lynden. Starts at 10:00 a.m. Helpers please be there early. There will be a \$5.00 donation for lunch. Come bring your horse and ride thru the different obstacles. Chili and hot dog lunch.**
- May 4** Monday **Board meeting at Bob's Burger & Brew**

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

LEGISLATIVE:

Mike McGlenn
360/966-9117

LEAVE NO TRACE:

Mick Blakely
360-332-7120

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Fran Van Diest
360-734-2567

PROGRAMS:

Sharon Hoofnagle
360/734-4258

HOSPITALITY:

Alice Yancey
360/733-5063

PUBLICITY:

SUNSHINE

Toni Blakely
360-332-7120

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Sam Miller
360-398-7992

TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE

Mike McGlenn
360-966-9117



Whtcom Website
Check out our Website:
www.Whatcom-bch.com

A Special Thank You to:

Laurel Farm & Western Supply

America's Horse Country

Weylin & Amy Eldred

325 W Laurel Rd., Bellingham

360/398-1216 * 360/398-8050 fax

Hours: Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat: 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

50/50 Draw

Mike Bjornstad won the 50/50 draw. He left with \$33.50. Congratulations!



FOR SALE: Weed Free Hay. It is certified from the Radke Ranch in Tonasket. Each bale is marked and I also have written certifications papers. \$12 a bale. Rosemary Gustafson Son Shine Ranch 360 380 1638



Meetings with Whatcom County Park & Recreation Department

Thursday, March 26, 2009 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Bellingham Senior Activity Center,
315 Halleck St. Bellingham.

or

Saturday, March 28, 2009 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Headquarters,
3373 Mt. Baker Highway, Bellingham

The Whatcom County Parks Recreation Department invites you to an open house to review and comment on the proposed plan for South Fork Park.

Please try to attend one of the above meetings, this is to review and gather ideas and input regarding the park goals. This is the trail head Mike McGlenn has been working on for several years, so here is your chance to bring your ideas and concerns regarding this trail. We met last year at the proposed trail head. We would like to have as many BCH members and any other horse people to attend one of the meetings, so let your horse friends know dates and time of meetings.

For more information you can contact Rob Lamb, Design and Development Supervisor 360-733-2900. You can also send you concerns, questions to parks@co.whatcom.wa.us
Subject line:South Fork Park

Fran

2009 Dessert Auction

Hosted by Cascade Horse Club BCH Chapter

Saturday April 4, 2009 7 PM.

Held at Lake Stevens Senior Center, 1814 NE 124th St; Lake Stevens, WA 98258

This is a fun event, we will have fabulous desserts and cowboy poetry
Feel free to bring a dessert to donate to the Auction. Please let us know so we can have a tag ready for our creation.

For more information, contact Barbara 360-435-6923, boobaa@verizon.com
Penny at 360-657-3245, lakestevensrider@yahoo.com or Arlene 360-794-7702, jjpeteh@aol.com

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Classifieds.....\$3.00 per month

Free Classifieds for members!

CLASSIFIEDS

** Place your classified ad here. Classifieds are free to Whatcom BCH members, or just \$3.00 for anyone else. Send your ad and money to the newsletter editor by the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

**WEED-FREE FEED AND STRAW
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
2009 USDA FOREST SERVICE, PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION**

Q. What is required under the new Forest Service regulation?

- A. All hay, hay cubes, straw, grain, and other crop or mulch products brought on to National Forest land in the Pacific Northwest Region must be certified “weed free” using North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) standards, or better, regardless of how they are used (livestock feed, bedding, erosion control, mulch, etc.).

Note: National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region, primarily in Oregon and Washington, also include small adjacent portions of Idaho (Wallowa-Whitman NF) and California (Rouge River-Siskiyou NF).

Q. Why is it necessary for the Forest Service to require the use of weed-free hay or crop products on all National Forest System lands in these states?

- A. Forage and mulch products sometimes contain seed or reproductive parts from non-native, invasive and noxious weeds. Resulting weed populations degrade the health of native ecosystems. Wildlife habitat, soil and water quality, rangeland, economic values and beauty of the land decline as a result. National Forest lands are among the areas most vulnerable to impacts from weeds and are also, in general, where prevention of infestation is most likely to succeed. A rule requiring the use of certified weed free feed and other crop products is one of the effective tools for minimizing the spread of invasive plants.

Q. What is meant by the term “weed-free feed” or “certified crop products”?

- A. Weed-free hay or crop products have been inspected according to standards used by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) and member states. Under NAWMA standards, fields are inspected to ensure the absence of seed and reproductive parts from listed invasive weed species. Fields which pass the inspection are state certified and the producer may then officially label the products as a weed-free hay or crop product. In a like sense, state certified weed-free mulch comes from fields that pass inspection and are then state certified and labeled for use in restoration and re-vegetation projects.

Q. Exactly what types hay or crop products are included in the closure order requirement?

- A. The closure order requires use of hay, hay cubes, straw, grain or other crop or mulch products that are certified as weed-free. Commercially processed feed pellets or steamed, rolled grains are also allowed under this order. They are considered weed-free feed and need not be state certified (see additional information about commercially processed feed below).

Q. Where do I get certified hay and straw products in Oregon and Washington?

- A. The State of Oregon Department of Agriculture has established their certification program and growers have participated around the state. More growers will join the program as the demand for product increases. For a list of providers in Oregon, please see: http://oregon.gov/ODA/CID/weed_free_forage.shtml or call (503) 986-4620. In addition, Wallowa County has had a certification program for weed-free hay and crop products that is sanctioned by Oregon and North American Weed Management Association. Please contact the Wallowa County Extension Office at (541) 426-3143.

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, in cooperation with county weed boards, manages the inspection and certification program in Washington. It is referred to as the Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch (WWHAM) program and is approved by NAWMA. For information and a list of providers in Washington, please see: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/index.htm> or call (360) 902-2053

Q. Are livestock feeds the only products which are subject to the closure order?

- A. While hay and similar crop products are most often associated with livestock feeding, they are also used as mulch for erosion control, bedding, and other uses. The closure requires that **all** hay, hay cubes, straw, grain or other crop or mulch products, regardless of how they are used, be state certified as weed-free, when used or stored on National Forest System lands.

Q. Why are feed pellets or steamed and rolled grains allowed, while non-certified hay cubes are prohibited?

- A. Feed pellets are made by finely grinding the ingredients, heat treating, and then compressing into pellets. This process kills a very high percentage of viable seed that may be in the source ingredients. Similarly, steaming and rolling grains kills most viable seeds that may be present, including those of invasive, noxious weeds. While commercial processing feed may not in all cases eliminate all weed seed, feed pellets and steamed rolled grains are considered a reasonable option for preventing invasive and noxious weed spread.

Q. Is there such thing as state certified hay cubes?

- A. Yes. Some states, including Colorado, have developed a process and a market for the development of state certified hay cubes. These cubes are made from state certified hay that is traceable back to the field of origin where the inspection occurred. State certified hay cubes are sold in bags which have sewn-in tags, designating the cubes as state certified. If no tag exists on the bag, hay cubes cannot be considered state certified.

Note: Oregon and Washington currently do not have a process for certifying hay cubes.

Q. Does certification of hay or crop products guarantee that no invasive, noxious weeds will be found in the product?

- A. No. Certification is simply the most feasible way to minimize the risk of viable invasive and noxious weed seed being transported within hay or crop products. When fields are inspected, they are inspected for invasive and noxious weeds which presently contain, or could within the next ten days produce, viable seed. Weed leaves and stems may occur in state certified products, but the intent is to minimize the risk of *seed or reproductive parts* transport.

Q. Does the order apply to me if I am simply passing through National Forests or National Grasslands?

- A. No. As long as hay or crop products are not unloaded or otherwise used on National Forest System lands or the Crooked River National Grassland, the order does not apply.

Q. Does the order apply only on National Forests and National Grasslands, or do other public lands in Oregon and Washington have the same requirement?

- A. Currently, there is no requirement for the general public visiting BLM land in Oregon to use only certified weed free feed, but BLM does use certified weed free hay and straw during projects that it conducts. Only processed feed pellets are permitted in the National Parks in Oregon and Washington. No other feed types are permitted; including rolled or steamed grain, loose hay or hay cubes. Oregon and Washington State Parks do not require certified weed-free feed at their horse camps and trailheads.

Q. Are there penalties for violation of these closure orders, and how will the orders be enforced?

- A. Yes, there are penalties for violation under the statutes listed on the closure order. Following the period of adjustment and education, violations of the closure order prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both (16 U.S.C. 551 and 18 U.S.C 3559 and 357).

Q. Am I required to buy certified forage or straw from the same state in which the National Forests I intend to visit are located?

- A. No. Many adjacent states (Idaho, California, Nevada, Montana, et al.) have acceptable certification programs with similar weed lists and certification standards. Refer to the North American Weed Management Association web site for a full list of participating states: <http://www.nawma.org/>

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Products certified in any of these states, *and* bearing the appropriate official labeling or twine, qualify as certified forage or straw products under this closure order. It is important to note that California also has a Weed Free Forage Program that is acceptable under this order, but is not a member of NAWMA. California products that have been inspected, but that do not have appropriate tags, twine, or certificates indicating the certification are not acceptable under this order. No hay or crop products coming from any states without a certification program meeting or exceeding NAWMA standards can be used on National Forest System lands in the PNW Region.

Q. Who conducts the inspections and how is certified forage or straw labeled?

A. Hay or straw is inspected in the field of origin by trained, certified inspectors. Inspectors check the fields of hay and straw growers within ten days prior to harvest. Standing crops found to be free of listed noxious weed seed are then harvested and marked with the legal certification labeling of the state or county. Examples of certification labels include:

Oregon	white tags, purple and yellow twine, transit certificates
Washington	white tags, purple and yellow twine, transit certificates
Idaho	white tags, purple and yellow twine
Montana	red tags, blue and orange twine, blaze orange label on bags
California	colored twine and tags, product certificate, transit certificates
Colorado	blue and orange twine
Wyoming	blaze orange tags, purple and yellow twine

Q. For which weed species are fields and products inspected to achieve certification?

A. The fields are inspected for the presence of seed or reproductive parts of weeds from the NAWMA list, plus any additional weeds identified by the respective state.

Q. Do certified hay or straw products cost more than uncertified products?

A. The cost of certified hay or straw products can be somewhat higher and the price will likely vary with location and availability.

Q. Where do I find more information on certified hay or straw products?

A. The following websites and contacts may provide information on weed free forage. Your local feed dealer or State Extension Service office may also be able to provide you with information.

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Commodity Inspection Division; (503) 986-4620 or website: <http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/weedfreeforageprogram.shtml>

Wallowa County Extension Service, Enterprise, Oregon at 541-426-3143

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/index.htm> or call 360-902-2053

California: Call 916-445-6214

Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture at 208-332-8592 or at website: <http://www.idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/nwffs.php>

Montana Dept. of Agriculture at 406 444-7819 or <http://www.agr.state.mt.us/weedpest/nwffs.asp>

Nevada Dept. of Agriculture at 775-688-1180 ext. 269 or http://agri.state.nv.us/nwac/PLANT_WeedFreeHay.htm

Colorado at 303-239-4149 or <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/WeedFreeForage/weedfree.html>

For more information on the national weed-free certification program and standards, please refer to the North American Weed Management Association: at <http://www.nawma.org/> or (970) 887-1228.

Q. How can a producer get their crops state certified or get information about their state's certification program?

A. If your state has a program, the websites and phone numbers above may be used to learn how to become a participant in the program.

Q. What other steps can recreational stock users take to minimize the spread of noxious, invasive weeds?

A. Feeding animals exclusively with commercially processed feed pellets, steamed rolled grains, or certified hay one or days before your trip will not only help you be sure your stock can eat these products, it will also help prevent transport of weed seed in stock manure. You can also help by making sure your vehicles, trailers, boots, and your animal's coat and feet (both stock and dogs) are cleaned of weed seeds prior to your trip. Finally, keeping vehicles on roads and in designated parking areas also helps minimize the spread of weeds.

Herman Miller 4H Park and Whatcom BCH Work Party

We couldn't have picked a better day to have a work party! The Whatcom Backcountry Horsemen members met on March 21, 2009 at the Herman Miller 4H Park to continue fixing the trail. There must have been between 45-50 people, lots of 4h kids and their parents all helping out filling buckets with gravel and spreading the gravel on the trail. This turned out to be a great work party, plenty of help, people were able to take a break while others pitched in. Rocky Leavitt with his 5 pack mules used the gravel bags to load up. Aaron Leavitt was ready to help dump the buckets of gravel into the gravel bags and then help unload them on the trail. Mick Blakely used his pack animal with the L boards. Roy Van Diest was there with his 2 pack mules, Dixie and Bunny. Each one waited their turn to be loaded up and then head out to the section of trail that needed fixing. At the trail there were several 4H'ers ready to unload buckets and spread the gravel.

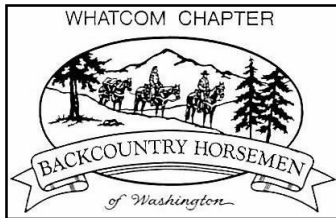
We all stopped for a great lunch, thanks to the 4H group. Afterwards some of us went back to work to finish the area we started.

Whatcom BCH members were: Mick and Toni Blakely, Rocky and Aaron Leavitt, Roy and Fran Van Diest, Sherri Duncan, Verna Walker and friend Andy McCloud and Sharon Hoofnagle.

Thank You everybody for a great job! Fran



(Left picture: Rocky waiting for gravel bags to be loaded. 4H members filling buckets. Right picture: Verna Walker leading Bunny, Andy McLeod and Sherri Duncan waiting to unload buckets with gravel on trail).



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BCHW mission statement: To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage. To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.



Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen
Meeting:
General Meeting: April 8, 2009
6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden
Meeting at 7:00
Treats: Mike Bjornstad & Susan Sebastian

Check out the BCHW
Website at:
<http://www.bchw.org>

