

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

By Ken Carmichael

The equestrian area at Riverside State Park, near Spokane Washington provides a wonderful venue for horsemen. Many of us take advantage of the campground, arena, round pen and trail obstacle course. Groups use it for events, individuals use it for training and exercising their horses, campers come for a visit and travelers use it as a stopover to rest horses as they come through Spokane. The equestrian area is connected to about 80 miles of trails in the park. It serves many equestrian needs of our community.

Now the **Ponderosa Chapter of Back Country Horsemen** is developing plans to do maintenance and additions to the features. Here is a quick summary of what we want to do:

- Trail obstacle course – perform maintenance on current obstacles and create new obstacles.
- Arena – new stain on the rails.
- Campground – add more corrals to the existing campsites.
- Trails – limb some trees that have grown out over the trails.

We have committees established to work on each project. The process includes:

- Identifying the work to be done
- Cost estimates
- Parks approval and assistance where required
- Materials/tools
- Funding
- Work parties

As you can see a lot goes into the projects prior to the work parties. We hope to do the maintenance on the trail course and stain the arena this year. Additional trail course obstacles will probably be in the Spring. Other work will be done as labor and funding is available.

Where can you help?

- Funding for projects like this is always important. In this case the **Ponderosa BCH** and the **Riverside State Park Foundation** are taking the lead. However, we always need cash donations for materials and in-kind donations of materials can reduce the costs. Individuals and organizations can make “restricted donations” to Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen. Contact me for ideas on specific materials needed.
- Work parties are really the fun part of the project. This is where we get together and see the final results of our hard work. If you, or your organization, would like to help we would love to have you.

How can you express your interest?

- Contact me. I am always ready to talk about the project, provide more information or accept your contributions and labor.
 - ✓ Ken Carmichael 509-466-2225 or kcarmichael2225@gmail.com
 - ✓ Ponderosa BCH PO BOX 1184 Airway Heights WA 99001
 - ✓ PayPal donations can be made through the PBCH website www.pbchw.com.

Thank you for your support. We want everyone to enjoy this great equestrian venue. Come join us.

NOTE: Back Country Horsemen of Washington is a 501C3 non-profit with the mission of preserving and enhancing the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land. We do this through education, advocacy and moving dirt (trail work). And we have fun doing it.