

Ponderosa BCH Work Parties
By Ken Carmichael

A lot has been happening in Ponderosa BCH (PBCH). We initiated three projects:

- Riverside State Park Equestrian Area
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Creek Recreation Area (AKA Escure Ranch)
- BLM Hawk Creek/Coffee Pot.

The following is an update on what we have done and what we will be doing this year:

RIVERSIDE STATE PARK EQUSTRIAN AREA:

The equestrian area 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.

- We installed 5 new metal corrals in the camp area
- We repaired 4 of the features in the obstacle course
- We stained the 140X240 foot arena
- Design work is being done to install about 4 new features in the obstacle course.
- Work in the spring will repair 3 of the posts in the arena fence
- We will clear more low limbs across the trails in the equestrian area

ESQUIRE RANCH:

This approximately 12,000-acre old ranch provides fantastic riding across open ground. We have identified 6 rides out of the camp so we can stay busy for a week. The equestrian campground currently has 2 corrals, highlines, equestrian water, outhouse, manure bunker and large, level open area for camping. This area is about 2 hours southwest of Spokane and south of Sprague.

- We are working with BLM to install 8 new corrals, 3 picnic tables, 2 fire rings and parking barrier in the equestrian campground.
- This is a collaborative effort where BLM and PBCH will share material costs and PBCH will do the labor. BLM has offered the use of some equipment.
- This work will be done in early Spring ready for camping.

HAWK CREEK and COFFEE POT:

This area is west of Davenport. It is not a large riding area but connects us to other land. This is not exactly trail work. However, BLM is a great partner in providing some fantastic riding areas and this is a way we can work with them. Besides, we have experience in this type of work.

- We will take out 1.7 miles of 2 strands of barbwire fence at Coffee Pot.
- Then we will move to Hawk Creek to take out 4 miles of 4 strands of barbwire fence

We have committees working on all of these projects. It is amazing the amount of time and energy it takes to put all the money, equipment, tools materials and personnel together before we hit the ground with work parties.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

These equestrian areas are great assets, but we need to maintain and improve them. Ponderosa BCH is proud to take the lead in performing this work. Now our biggest obstacle is funding the Riverside and Escure Ranch projects. We do this through membership dues, fundraising events and donations. We can always use your help. If you would like to donate, please do so by going to the PBCH website www.pbchw.com and use PayPal. Or you may send a check to Ponderosa BCH at PO Box 1184 Airway Heights, WA 99001. Please indicate that this is a donation to the project.

PBCH hopes that you will join us as we enjoy the many wonderful riding areas around Spokane, WA.