

High Desert Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Nevada

2021 Annual Report

Happy New Year!

2021 was a year that will be remembered. In spite of challenges, our chapter managed to contribute \$56,039.54 in volunteer hour contribution.

Our July 4th, Independence Day celebration was significant for exploring trails and trail access in BLM Rough Hills Wilderness, trail head reconnaissance for packing trail crews into 76 Creek and Camp Draw Creek in the USFS Jarbidge Wilderness, in Cattle Driving, and most important, for visiting, socializing and riding our horses.

In hindsight, the reconnaissance for trailhead parking was crucial. We found the only place where we could park our rigs within a mile and half of the trailheads. Within 30 minutes of when

Danny and Vikki arrived to pack the crew, a whale of a thunderstorm made the road too slick for towing trailers. It was still dicey five days later when Steve Clifford arrived to help pack the crew out.



High Desert Chapter at Rough Hills WSA

The High Desert Chapter could be the only BCHA chapter reporting cattle driving and branding on our annual reports.

Cattle herding is a horse activity in Northeast Nevada. BCHA purpose Number 1 is "To perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas " Purpose Number 4 is "To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage".

Our public lands are checkerboarded with private property. If public users were to help, perhaps private landowners would look more favorably on public access.

Cattle driving and branding with horses is a skill that is part of our heritage. Many of our members: de Braga, Krenka, Clifford, French, Nebeker, and Riddle are actively involved in driving cattle and in branding. If we account for our hours, we are more likely to enhance and continue in a constructive manner, perhaps developing a mentorship program for training new members



High Desert Chapter driving cattle



Kimberly was a victim at First Aid Class

Friends of Nevada Wilderness offered an opportunity for two members to participate in Wilderness First Aid training at Washoe Lake State Park.

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2021 was our second year of a four-year fish treatment program at Great Basin National Park. The plan in 2022 is to pack in biologists and equipment for the second chemical treatment at Baker Lake, then in 2023 we will pack in Bonneville Cutthroat.

In the past two years, we tried to use a minimum crew to minimize our impact on the park. We were successful in demonstrating "Leave No Trace" practices. This next year, 2022, we would like more members to participate so you can enjoy horse riding in the park. Our motivation is work with the park service to enhance horse riding opportunities in the park. It is by working through the problems of accommodating equestrians, resolving conflicts between user groups, safety, and conservation stewardship, that we are making a difference.

A long-term goal is that the park service will recognize a need where Back Country Horsemen can help, and that we will continue with projects after the successful fish treatment operation.



Most of the Great Basin National Park Fish Crew

The Arc Dome Wilderness, Twin Rivers trailheads to Jett Canyon, Werdenhoff Pasture, Arc Dome, and Toiyabe Crest Trail project was more of a challenge than we expected.



Where Steve Clifford and the Riddles spent a cold night.

On good trails, we can expect to pack in for 9.3 miles, drop the load and return the same day. This was not good trail. It was late afternoon before we packed the 9.3 miles and dropped the load. Instead of trying to return on a bad, steep, narrow, rocky, briar thicket, 20 creek

crossing trail in the dark, we opted to spend the night, without our own food, (we bummed supper from the trail crew). We did not bring sleeping bags or tent.

During the Arc Dome Wilderness project, we were needed in our back yard in the Ruby Mountains. At the same time, the Sierra Club was working on a back country trail project. Steve Clifford along with BCH members from the High Sierra Chapter were able to get the job done.

To avoid the stress and possible failure, this year's project is "Tentatively" planned for June 16th to 23rd at Slide Creek in Jarbidge



High Desert Chapter trail ride at 7th Canyon Ranch.

In April we had a nice trail ride near Lamoille.