



Legislative Report

March 3, 2009

Well, the annual BCHW Legislative Day has come and gone for another year. Several members from around the state converged on Olympia on March 2nd. We met for dinner at the Clarion in Olympia on Sunday evening to map out strategy, sort through our presentations, and assemble packets to give to legislators. On Monday morning we all met at the LNT tent location outside the capitol building before visiting our elected officials. All told there were 63 BCH members who signed in. There were a few late arrivals, so we are putting total attendance at about 70 members. The bills we asked our representatives and senators to support were: 1232, 5817, 5070, 5956, and 5496. These bills all speak to some part of our mission statement and are still alive at this point.

Gail and I had a good conversation with Shelly Short followed by an interesting visit with Joel Kretz. Joel knew all about our ride over Sweat Creek last summer. I suspect Shelby Buhrig mentioned it to his wife. Senator Morton was on the floor and unavailable, but we met with Kimberlee Cusick, his legislative Assistant. We left his packet with her. All three received an invitation to come on any of our rides or work parties. Representative Short seemed most interested in taking us up on that invitation.

Gail and I also stopped by Peter Goldmark's office even though we knew he would be out of town. We left a packet with his assistant also. We asked that she remind him he has an open invitation to ride with us this summer in the Loomis Forest or anywhere else he desires.

All were interested in the spreadsheet showing volunteer hours. They all expressed their thanks for the work we do. We reminded them that there are a finite number of volunteer hours available each year and asked them to consider opportunities to finance large projects that would benefit recreational user groups across the board. I pointed to the Whistler Canyon Trailhead as a success story in progress involving cooperation between user groups and governmental agencies.

Dave Sunde
OVCBCHW Legislative Chair