

OVCBCHW

Trail Boss Report

March 31st, 2012

Dave Sunde

Our work season is well underway for 2012. The month started with Chainsaw Certification on March 10 at the USFS building in Tonasket. Next came the Rendezvous and annual meeting in Ellensburg on the 16th – 18th. Several classes relating to trail maintenance and construction were offered. On the 27th Trygve, Stan, and I rode up Whistler Canyon to survey possible locations for a new bridge just past the green gate. After that we rode on up the canyon to assess the snowpack. There was snow at the gate and we turned around just past the Judd Memorial with the snow depth in places over 12 inches. It will be a month before the entire trail is passable from Wilcox to US97. If any of you see Michael Alvarado, please give him a big thank-you for the work he has done on the upper end of the new portion of the trail. I don't know how many buckets of dirt he has hauled in by hand (or where he even got it) to cover the exposed rocks, but it was many. That section of the trail shows a marked improvement. Your horses should thank him also.

On the 29th Trygve and I rode some of the trails in the Sinlahekin to assess the amount of work required to open them up. We found that the local beavers had a busy winter. Our work party was well attended on the 31st. All in all we had 11 people show up. We got snowed on, rained on, and briefly the sun poked through the clouds. We got all the scheduled trails cleared. The trail is clear from HQ south to the north end of Blue Lake. The trail behind the lake on the west side has been cleared. We improved the tread across the wash just before the trail drops down the switchback near the south end of the lake. We did not have time or materials to do proper maintenance on the switchback though. We placed 7 Carsonite trail markers starting just past the bridge and ending just short of the observation shed at the end of the ADA trail.

The trail from the Hunters Camp to the south end of Blue Lake has also been cleared. The south ½ mile of that trail needs Carsonite markers and that will be done on the 1st if I have time.

After the work party we were treated to a roaring fire, hot coffee, and a potluck with hamburgers and hotdogs thanks to Cathy Kvistad and Gail Sunde. We also got to watch some Big Horned Sheep on the rocks across the valley.

April brings new challenges. There may be a couple of unscheduled work parties within the first two weeks. The first scheduled work party is at Bannon Mountain on the 28th. Prior to that work party is a ride on the 21st so the members can appreciate and enjoy our labors in the Sinlahekin. We are planning a BBQ/potluck after both of these events too.

Watch for emails and check the website, www.ovcbchw.com for any updates. Or, just call me or Trygve.