

First Work Party of the Year-Battle Ground Lake January 28th

Nancy, Claire and myself gathered to plan out the 2012 trail maintenance work parties. Traditionally we kick off the year at Battle Ground Lake and this year we are sticking to our strategy of starting local, low and working our way up.

In January and February it is not feasible to bring in the heavy equipment so all of our plans for the Battle Ground work party revolve around pruning back vegetation and working on water drainage. What we really wanted was to shake off the winter doldrums and have a gathering of WTRA and BCH members and anyone else who could focus on having fun while improving our most heavily visited local trail.

What we came up with is an idea to get as many members of the various user groups out as a work/publicity event as possible. So we created teams that would have specific tasks at the work party. While we had fun coming up with ideas and names for the teams, the fact is without your help this is not going to go very far. With one of our members down and the other restricted by rotating shifts frankly we need your help. We need to know is how many of our members are on board to make this a happening event. We need all types to pitch in whether it is out on the trails, in camp supplying food for the workers or those who can work on the publicity angle. Here are our ideas spelled out by teams:

Hot To Trot Team - These workers would solicit sponsorship from Starbucks to supply hot coffee and chocolate to those working on the trail. They carry the hot liquid to members along with carrying walkie talkies reporting back to the work party coordinators. You need a horse that can hustle around the trails moving from one group to another.

Shovel Monkeys – These workers clean out the water bars on hills and work on drainage control.

Sitting Tall in the Saddle – Do you have a horse that will stand still while you trim the upper branches of vines and trees leaning over the trail? Well this is a job for you.

Got my Goat – We are working to try to get a few of the goat packers to join us and take some gravel up to the trails out of the horse camp. If we get them to join us we might want a few of our members as ambassadors that will work with them.

Going Over the Edge- Maybe a few workers with weed eaters can walk the trails attacking those blackberry vines before they attack us and our horses in the spring.

I Saw it All – Only those that are skilled with chain saws may apply for this position. Usually by this time of year a tree or two is over the trail that needs to be taken out.

Chuck Wagon – Have an RV or Camper that can keep the coffee warm and maybe get some folks to make chili or soup for the workers for lunch?

Well I guess this about sums it up. What we need to know is how many are on board with us? Will Claire and I be sitting there at Battle Ground Lake on Saturday January 28th all by ourselves? Please let us know by emailing pineywoman1@aol.com or calling Claire at 254-3288 or cell phone 904-0642