

Mt. Hood Chapter Report 2007

In 2007 we completed our usual hefty schedule with meetings, fun times, rides, work parties and camp-outs. The Corncob Ranch was a new place for us and proved to be a hit with lots of riding, cows and the Spray Rodeo. Another new camp-out was at Big Meadows by the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness.

This was the year of the "Sandy River Delta". Our "MUD" team attended regular Multi-Users of the Delta meetings all year. OETers also cleared the Historic Corrals of briars, mowed, raked, picked-up litter, reclaimed the Flood Dike Trail, and recruited new members for MUD. HUGE maps of the SRD were exhibited at the Round-up.

With 16 members in attendance at the Round-up it was the highest turn-out in our 11 year history. Mt. Hood contributed two baskets that sold for \$50 and \$40. A nice surprise was winning the Jack Peasley Award for the most volunteer field services hours for 2006. The chapter "scrapper" team put together an excellent display and scrapbook to share our story.

OET stayed on course with our commitment to the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness with our sixth rehabilitation of Douglas Trailhead and logging out Eagle, Douglas and Plaza Trails. For the fourth year we logged out our 14 mile section of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. August brought a flurry of activity in the Mt. Hood Wilderness with cross-cut clearing on Zigzag Mountain Trail and Hidden Lake Trail. The yellow-jackets were bad on Zigzag but none on the other trails.

Mt. Hood completed our three-year project to cross-cut a large accumulation of logs out of Gordon Butte Trail, Badger Creek Wilderness. Badger Creek Wilderness has been hard-hit by the extreme amount of trees dying in the last 20 years. At the September 8th Forest Service Volunteer Picnic in Government Camp Mt. Hood received an Achievement Award for our volunteer commitment to the Mt. Hood National Forest.

NEW and unexpected this year was the decision by the Forest Service to fund corrals for eleven sites at Clackamas Lake Horse Camp. North Valley and Mt. Hood selected sites and put in stakes. Also unexpected was a storm that took out the bridge to Riley HC, Mt. Hood Wilderness. In October North Valley and Mt. Hood cleared trails near Riley HC after a temporary bridge went in.

Mt. Hood Chapter also: Had four members take saw certification training; Held our Third Annual Pot Luck (very hot); Participated in Sandy Mountain Days (19) and Gresham Teddy Bear (10) Parades; had eight volunteers at the OET State Fair booth; attended various meetings related to the Sandy River Delta; OHV management; Recreation Priorities for Mt. Hood National Forest and Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area; a Forest Service symposium at Timberline Lodge concerning volunteer partnerships; Pacific Crest Trail agreements with the Forest Service; worked at OET booth at the Endurance state meeting; attended PCTA annual meeting; participated in the four OET quarterly meetings; taped a TV interview, and recruited two new members at Santa's Breakfast in Corbett.

Speakers for meetings: Stacy Livermore on her 100 mile ride from Asotin to Joseph, Oregon; Karen Bragg, Horse Psychology; Chuck and Candy Willis, Natural Hoof Care; Rebecca Wirth, Trail Competition; and Missy Wryn, Wholistic Horsemanship. The Christmas Party, always a special event, was even funnier this year with 33 members making sure that no gift was safe.

Donations included: Linda Lesowske...post hole digger, shovel, heavy-duty loppers; Bonnie Whiteman, four hard hats; Shane Sundling, Fishing Adventures fishing trip; and Blue and Fairview Lakes Land Trust, \$1,000.

Rides and Campouts:

New Year's Day ride at Mclver Park, March Fort Stevens Beach Ride; April Deschutes River Ride; May 6th ride at Mclver Park; Memorial Day Weekend at Corncob Ranch; June Joe Graham camp-out; July 20-21 Big Meadow HC with 20 mile ride to Blue Lake; and the Sandy River Delta ride. Web page report year-end 2007