



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

30 YEARS TRAIL TAILS MAY 2010

OFFICERS

President:

Bob Hermance

Vice President:

Ronald Ries

Sec-Treasurer:

Fred Fitzpatrick

State Directors:

Fred Fitzpatrick (09-11)

Connie Manning (10-12)

Alt. State Director:

Bob Facklam (10-11)

Chapter Directors:

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Bob Facklam

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Dale Sand

Steve Hutton

Debbie Ries

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Beartooth BCH

ESBCH-WEB SITE:

www.bchmt.org/esbch/default.html

MONTANA BCH WEB

SITE: www.bchmt.org

President's Letter

Greetings to all,

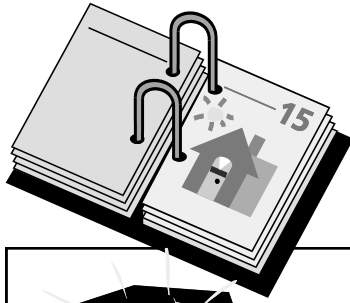
It looks like spring might finally be here. Time to start getting the horses ready for the season. LeAnn and I have already attended one horse clinic at Balkenbush's. A reminder to us all, the horses need to get in shape just like us. A little riding before our full day ride would really be appreciated by your horse. Check out your equipment so we don't have any surprises. Is your trailer floor in good shape? I need to replace the floor in my red trailer before it goes on the road.

The first day ride will be to the Charlie Lincoln Ranch, southwest of Shelby. This is the newly purchased Fish, Wildlife and Parks property on the Marias River. We will be looking over the property for future project possibilities. We will talk more about the Lincoln ride at the regular meeting in Choteau on the 19th. Memorial Day weekend is also around the corner. A group will be heading up to do some trail maintenance in the Beartooth Game Range and look over the original monuments of the firefighters lost in the Mann Gulch Fire. These monuments are deteriorating and it is a part of our history that should not be forgotten.

June 12th and 13th is the continuing Black Leaf trail project. More information will be forthcoming on this. Watch your calendar for the Ray Creek project. For this project we will be camping near the Gates Park administrative site. We will need a big crew for what needs to be done. Hopefully all our club members will be healthy and back from Alaska. Other projects will be at Swift Dam, the Poker Ride and Half Moon Basin.

LeAnn and I are looking forward to a good year and we'll hopefully see you all on the 22nd.

Bob



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS MAY 2010

Gloria Ries, Don Cleveland, Jim Brogger, Mark Himmel, Dick Preputin, Kurt Dyer, Fred Fitzpatrick, Merlyn Huso, Wendy Smith, Julia Drishinski, Bonita Poser, Charlotte Marshall, Helen Suta, Lake Mellott and Marty Metz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

Un Official Minutes of the Directors Meeting April 7, 2010

Opening:

The director meeting of the **East Slope Back Country Horsemen** was called to order at 7:15 P.M. at Bob & LeAnn Hermance's in Conrad by: President, Bob Hermance.

Members present:

Bob & LeAnn Hermance, Steve Hutton, Connie Manning, Lisa Schmidt, Dale Sand, Dick Kinyon, Bob Facklam, Joe & Helen Suta and Fred Fitzpatrick.

Guests Present:

Gary Olson, FWP Biologist

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were read and accepted as read on a motion from Connie Manning.

Treasures Report:

The treasures report was given; Bills were called for and Connie Manning had 2 bills which were \$20.25 for the newsletter and \$44.00 for stamps. On a motion by Connie Manning the treasures report was approved and the bills were accepted for payment.

Correspondence:

There was no Correspondence.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 19: Regular Meeting at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Choteau 7:00 PM

May 22: Fun Ride (Lincoln Ranch)

May 29-31: Memorial Day Work Project Beartooth Game Range

June 2: Directors Meeting at Bob Hermance in Conrad 7:00 PM

June 5-6: Whoop-up Trail Days, Rodeo in Conrad

June 11-13: Work Project (Clarey Coulee)

June 16: Regular Meeting at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Choteau 7:00 PM

Committee Reports:

No committee reports were given.

Speaker:

Gary Olson passed out some maps of the new Marias River WMA and then he gave a brief history of how FWP acquired the property which was formerly the Charlie Lincoln Ranch. Gary also gave a rundown of how hunting season went at the WMA last fall. He then spoke of some of the issues that are pressing with the WMA of course the first thing is weeds, which they are addressing how to best handle them and what approach would best serve the area. They have also some access issues FWP did acquire and build a new road on the Northwest corner of the property. They are also in talks of trading some land for another access road on the east side of the property. Gary asked if we would go and take a ride on the property and see what can be done for possibly some hitching rails and doing some cleanup of the buildings and rolling up wire and just give an assessment of what we can do to help better serve the public and sportsmen that may want to use the area. The main thing is to try and preserve the area as it is now. One comment was that a lot of the area is unchanged from the time of Lewis and Clark.

Unfinished Business:

We then tried to re-schedule the date for the Equine Expo and Tack Swap for May 1st because that is the only date available for the Weatherbeater Building in Choteau, after varying comments it was decided to just cancel the Equine Expo for this year.

We discussed who was going to be the trail boss for

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the Memorial Day weekend and work project at the Beartooth WMA and it was decided that Ron Ries will be the trail boss.

Fred reminded the board that RMRD is holding their chain saw and crosscut re-certification on May 1st at 10:00 A.M. Those members that are do for re-certification are Ron Ries, Merlyn Huso, Don Cleveland and Fred Fitzpatrick.

New Business:

The board then discussed the Whoop-up pack horse race and it was felt that we are just not getting enough participation and the fact that Steve Hutton has decided to retire from racing. The board decided to not hold a pack horse race this year.

The board then decided what date would be good to take a ride and look over what work and recommendations can be made for the Lincoln Ranch and the date was set for May 22nd at 10:00 A.M.

We then discussed about having a Pie Social and membership drive and it was decided to try and have it on Saturday evening before the Poker Ride.

Other:

Bob and LeAnn have treats for the next regular meeting.

No other business was presented.

Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2010. At Bob and LeAnn Hermance's.

The next regular meeting will be at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Choteau on May 19, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment:

On a motion from Steve Hutton the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 P.M. by President Bob Hermance.

May 19th General Meeting

The program for the May 19th general meeting will be a video about saddle fitting, Ron had Bruce Auchly of FWP lined up as the guest speaker, but he had to cancel. Bob and LeAnn Hermance are in charge of bringing treats. We will be signing up for our fun ride and work summation for the Marias River WMA on May 22nd so plan on attending. We will also discuss and have a sign-up for our Memorial day weekend work project at the Beartooth WMA near Holter Lake.

“Sad News”

“We were saddened to learn last week of the death of one our most valuable members, *Someone Else*.” *Someone Else*'s passing creates a vacancy that will be hard to fill.

Someone Else has been with us for many years and everyone of those years, *Someone Else* did far more than a normal person's share of work.

Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as re- sults. “*Someone Else* will do it.” It was common knowledge that *Someone Else* was always the one the organization relied upon to support a particular project. Everyone just assumed that *Someone Else* was a wonderful person — sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much.

Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of *Someone Else*.

Now *Someone Else* is gone. We wonder what we are going to do? *Someone Else* left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things that *Someone Else* did? When you have a chance to participate in our activities, Remember— we cannot depend on *Someone Else* anymore!

ESBCH Notices

The East Slope Back Country Horsemen is going to be having a chapter first-aid program in the very near future and those that are interested in taking first-aid please call LeAnn Hermance to sign-up at 278-5378.

The following ESBCH members that have completed their chain saw and crosscut saw recertification's on May 1st at the Rocky Mountain Ranger District office are; Don Cleveland, Merlyn Huso, Ronald Ries and R. Fred Fitzpatrick.

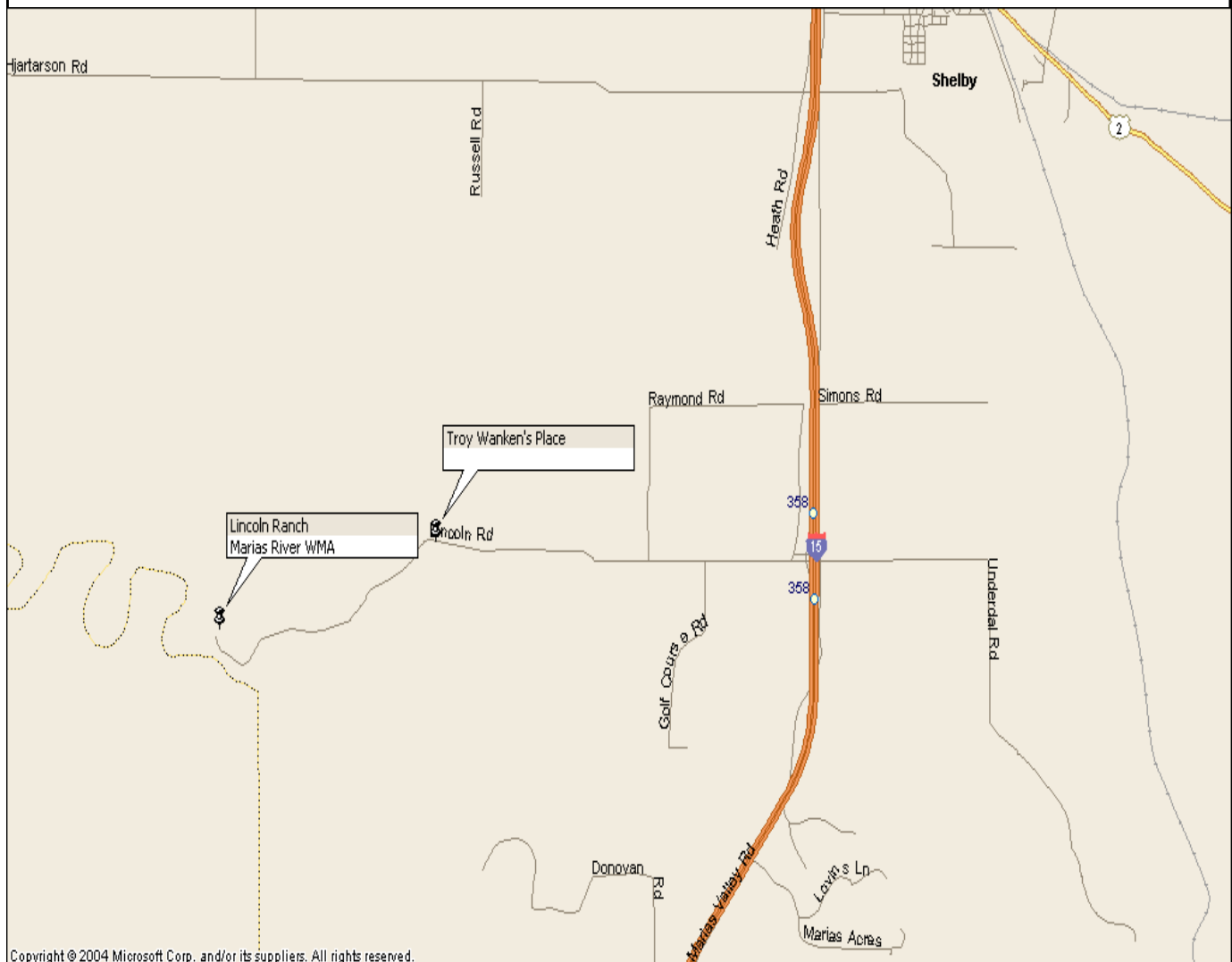
The Back Country Horsemen of Montana is holding their State Board meeting in Lincoln at Lambkins/Seven-up on May 15th at 10:00 A.M.

May 22nd Fun Ride and Work Summation Marias River WMA (Lincoln Ranch)

We will be starting at Troy Wanken's place and riding to the Lincoln Ranch. We will be assessing what work needs to be done as far as cleaning up at the building site and erecting hitching rails and what can be done for possibly erecting some type of horse facility for hunters and sportsmen. This might include some corrals along with feed bunks and a designated parking area. This should be a good chance to get your horse or mule out for a little spring warm up ride.

To get to Troy Wanken's place you need to get off at the Marias Valley Rd exit 358 on Interstate 15. This is also the road that takes you to Marias Valley Golf Course. The exit is a few miles south of Shelby, then head west until you run into an grain elevator this is Wanken's place and this is where we will start. You can not drive any further than Wanken's place the road is closed to through traffic. We will roast hot dogs for lunch the chapter will provide the hot dogs, but you will have to bring your own water or sodas, etc.

We will need to have a sign-up for this ride so the appropriate number of hot dogs can be acquired. To sign-up call Fred Fitzpatrick at 279-3232 or Bob Hermance at 278-5378 or cell 289-0120 or Connie Manning at 453-8010.

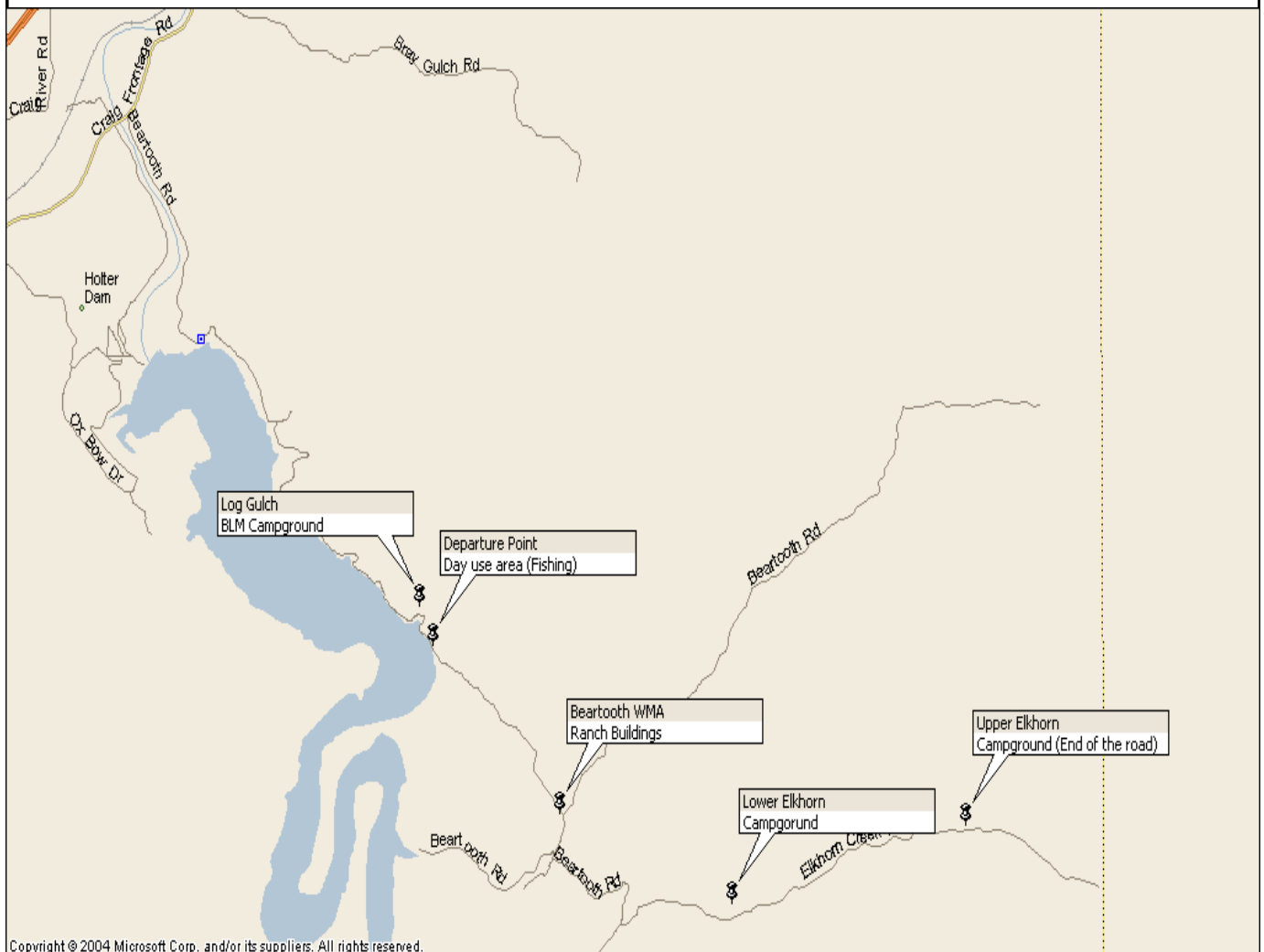


Memorial Day Weekend and Work Project Beartooth WMA (Holter Lake) May 28-31, 2010

We will be having our Memorial Day Weekend work project at the Beartooth WMA this year. Ron Ries is the trail boss for this project and he is requesting enough participants that we can have three work groups of at least 3 people in each group if we have more that is fine also. We will be focusing on clearing the Spring Coulee, North Fork of Elkhorn and the South Fork of Elkhorn trails. We will be camping at the upper Elkhorn campground and the chapter will be bringing the chapter tent for cooking and sleeping, but we may need additional tents or bring your camper if you want. The road up to the upper Elkhorn campground is a single track road and it should be mentioned that long trailers might not be appropriate. There should be plenty of grass for stock, but there is limited high-lining trees at this campground but we can probably fix some high-lines between horse trailers if needed. There is also hitching rails available, you might also want to bring an electric fence if your stock does not picket. If you need further information on this project or to sign up please call Ronald Ries at 278-3727 or 278-3015 or Fred Fitzpatrick at 279-3232.

You can get to the Beartooth WMA from either the Craig or Wolf Creek exits on Interstate 15.

See map below



Has Spring Arrived?



Photo by: Fred