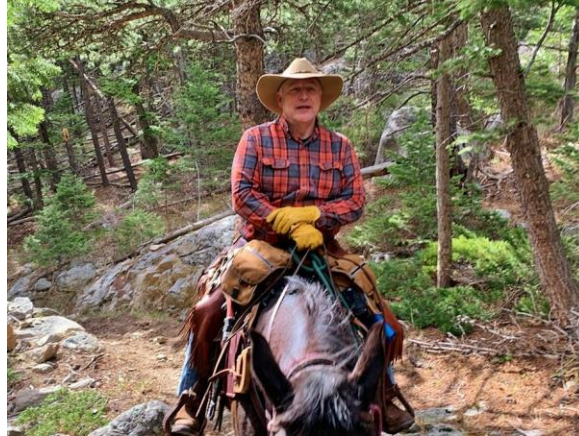


Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

It's been a wet rainy month off and on, but good for grass at my house. I understand it's dry up on the high line and around the CMR.

Unfortunately, we've missed a couple of trail clearings due to inclement weather. This happens periodically. We'll talk about possibly rescheduling these later in the year. But we did get the Main Stillwater, Deer Creek and Ernie Strum done. The last one was a really wet one. Thanks to a brave crew of two, the Guckenbergers, a portion of the West Fork of the Stillwater was also done this last past weekend. Thanks to all who helped on the clearings.



The general meeting this month will be outdoors at Itch-Kep-Pe park on the Yellowstone River in Columbus. The topic will be equine dentistry. Then we'll take a break from general meetings until September.

Coming up...later this month we'll do our first pack-in. And there's the state campout also at Monture Guard Station. If you haven't been out on a ride with the club yet this year, join us on one of the pack trips. And check your emails for the fun rides and parades. We have purchased new signs for a couple of trailheads and for the Ernie Strum Lookout. We'll need to be putting those up soon. So, stay tuned.

John Jenkins

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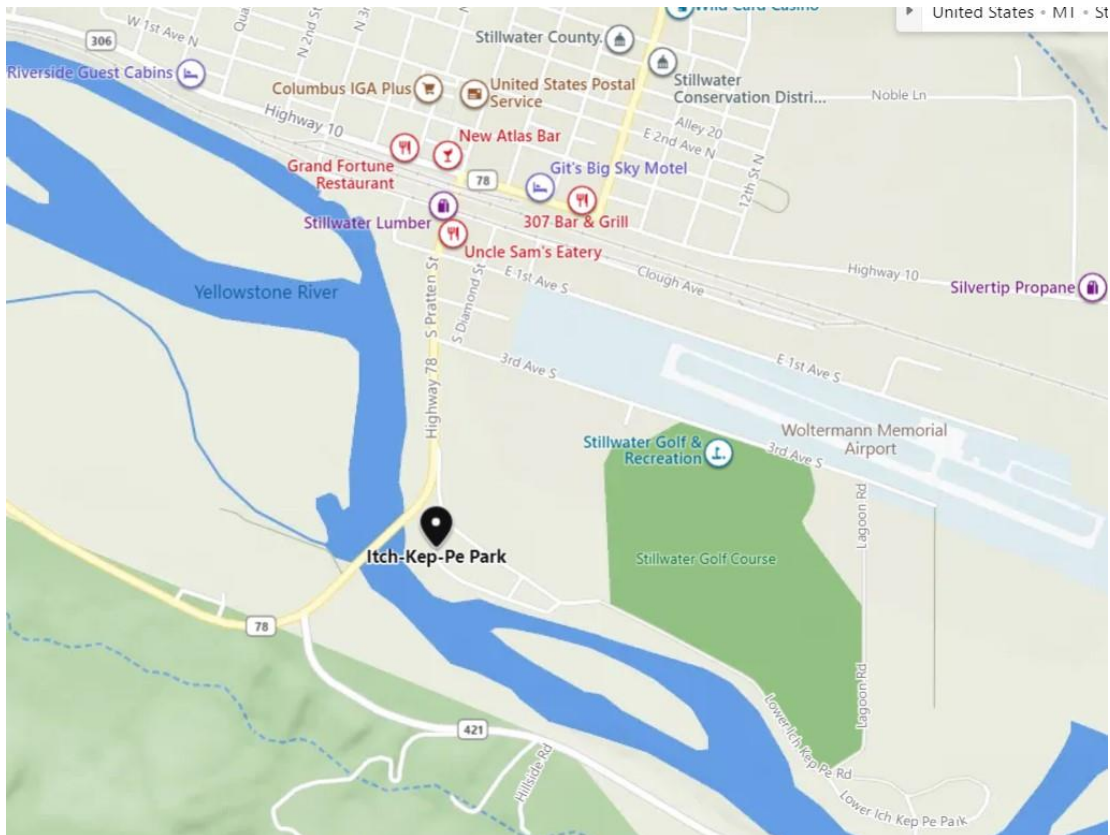
Potluck

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

June 20th – 6:30 p.m. Potluck
Meeting @ 7:00

Itch-Kep-Pe Park
Columbus, MT

Southeast side of the Yellowstone Bridge



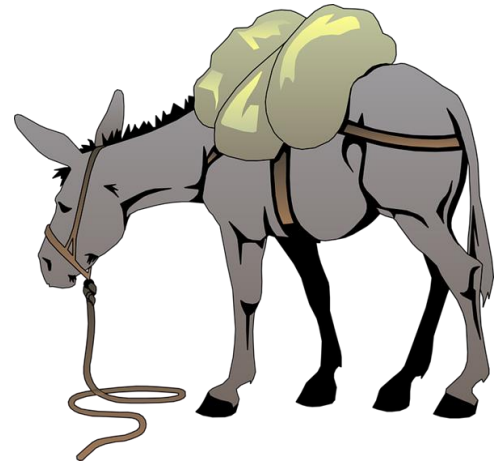
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2022 – BBCH PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

All dates are subject to change and depending on weather.

*Note changes to the schedule are in **Red!***

- **COMPLETED!** May 7th - Crosscut Saw Certification with Forest Service completed.
- **COMPLETED!** May 14th-15th – Stillwater River Trail clearing. Cleared to Big Park (11 ½ miles).
- May 21st-22nd – Line Creek/Face of the Mountain – Trail clearing. To be rescheduled - too much snow!
- May 28th, 29th, 30th – West Fork of the Stillwater/Initial Creek – Trail clearing. To be rescheduled - too much snow!
- **COMPLETED!** Deer Creek – Trail clearing from West Fork of Bridger to the cabin. We *may* schedule another clearing as the recent winds resulted in more downfall.
- **COMPLETED!** June 18th-19th – Ernie Strum Trail
- **June 25th – pack in; July 1st – pack out** - ABW Main Stillwater, 11 miles
- July 6th-12th – **ABW** - Meat Rack, Main Boulder, 5-6 miles; camp out; possible rendezvous and pack clinic
- August 18th pack in; August 23rd pack out – **ABW** - Fox Lake, near Cooke City, 5 miles
- August 31st pack in – September 6th pack out – **ABW** – East Fork of Mill Creek; same campground as 2021; mileage unknown
- September, End of Year Campout, Meyers Cr, Date to be determined
- Fun Rides, New Member Rides, June, July or August, Dates to be determined



August 7th for approximately 18 days – Buffalo Fork – **FWP fishing/tagging trip. Needing people to move camps during full 18 days. Moving approximately 3 miles at a time. More details to follow.

Please contact Dave Heinle with any questions or concerns at brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com

Save the Dates . . .



Back Country Horsemen of Montana invite you
to the 2022 Rendezvous at Monture Ranger Station

June 24-26, 2022

We are looking forward to another good time of comradery , trail riding and helpful presentations. If you have any skills or presentations you would like to share, or see, please let us know.

More information to come.

Contact: Randy Velin, 406-544-4582, rhvelin@gmailcom or
Wade Murphy, 406-431-1717, wadeandlonnie@hotmail.com

Looking forward to a great time!!

-----,-----,-----

STILLWATER TRAIL CLEARING – MAY 14TH

Submitted by: Robin Morris

We had a good size crew lined up for just a little bit of work. I counted five large trees on the main trail to Tripod Hill, four or five on the By Pass, and several small-diameter trees across the trail in the old-growth lodgepole forest before Flood Creek. Additionally, there were dozens of small lodgepole pines and lower boughs that needed to be limbed between miles seven and ten. I couldn't see the



entire work crew heading that far, especially as several planned to camp overnight and would be leading pack stock. Everyone was to meet at the tailhead and "swing a leg" at 9:00 a.m. I volunteered to arrive early (just after 7:00 a.m.), head up the trail to clear miles seven to ten, and then meet up with the rest of the crew. The air was brisk, windy, and slightly overcast. Looking toward the top of the mountains, clouds full of precipitation were already forming. I was ready with my slicker tied to my saddle. It was a peaceful morning. Although it was chilly, I was comfortable. The Wilderness has a way of warming my soul.

I started cutting down trees and lopping tree boughs between miles six and seven. I got more serious at mile seven – my self-designated piece of geography. It was easier to hike than continually dismount and mount in several places. Although, I got a workout on that front. I started switching it up, taking turns mounting and dismounting from both sides. Someday I will need a knee replacement and figure it's a great time to become fluid on both sides.

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I started seeing bear signs – lots of flipped rocks. They must be after the moths. And then, there was the biggest pile of bear scat I have encountered this year – and it was fresh! I hopped down to capture a picture. At mile 9, past the meadows and at one of the Outfitter camps, is a large pine with boughs hanging over the trail. The only way to reach the branches, I am just 5'2", was from Beau's back. Thank goodness several years ago, Jody and I cleared overburden on Spread Creek, and Beau got a full day's training on quietly standing while I stretched to cut and lop. He did break that "rule" a couple of times today and got an earful of expletives. Sorry, Beau – you know better 😊.

I turned around at mile 10 as it

was clear beyond that point. When I reconned the trail earlier in the week, I removed the few small pines across the trail between miles 10 and 12.

Beau alerted a little over six miles from the trailhead. And then I saw Tara and Craig riding my way, fully attired in their raingear. I asked where everyone else was, and they said, "Somewhere back there." They filled me in on



the rest

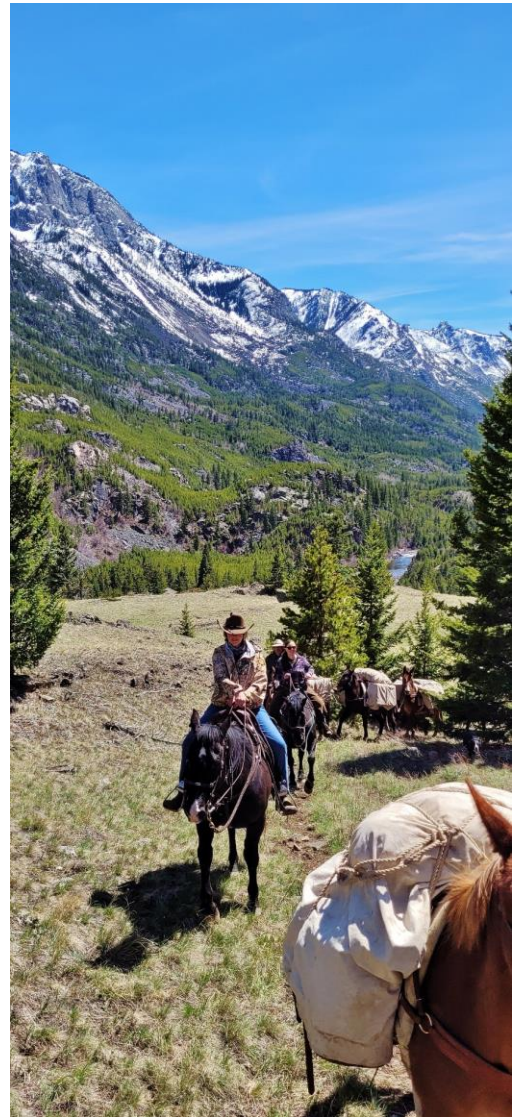
of their morning. While the others were loading their camping gear onto pack stock, Tara and Craig headed up the By Pass. I understand. It is tough to watch others tack up when you are ready to head out. They cleared the By Pass, then headed up the main trail. They cut the log at 2 ½ miles, and the rest of the group caught up as they started to clear the cluster of downfall at mile three. Tara and Craig's gaited horses out-pace most non-gaited horses. With the slower moving pack stock trailing behind, they quickly lost sight of them as they looked to meet up with Beau and me. When we met up, it was close to 1:00, and we were all ready for lunch. We turned around and headed back up the trail to the Overlook. I knew the others planned on camping at the Outfitters camp, but given the quick change in the weather, I was betting they scrapped that idea and headed to Tripod to get settled before the rain hit the ground.





The three of us enjoyed a lovely lunch break and decided to see if the rest of the crew was at Tripod. Sure enough – after navigating the tightly bunched Quaking Aspens, we were stopped by their electric fence. Knowing that they were hustling to get horses and mules untacked and tents set up, we decided to head to our trailers. The ride out was terrific – not a tree across the trail! It is gratifying to lend a hand in keeping public trails accessible for hikers and riders. My tally for the day included: cutting approximately 35 lodgepoles, 6' – 10" in diameter; lopping a

couple of dozen lower tree boughs; clearing six quaking aspen/dogwoods that were tough to get around without getting caught in your stirrups. That night - I slept really well! Laura O'Connor reported, "Packed in with ominous looking weather, had some rain through the evening, but bluebird skies on the way out made for a fun weekend in the mountains with good friends and good ponies!"





ERNIE STRUM – WEST FORK OF THE STILLWATER TRAIL CLEARING

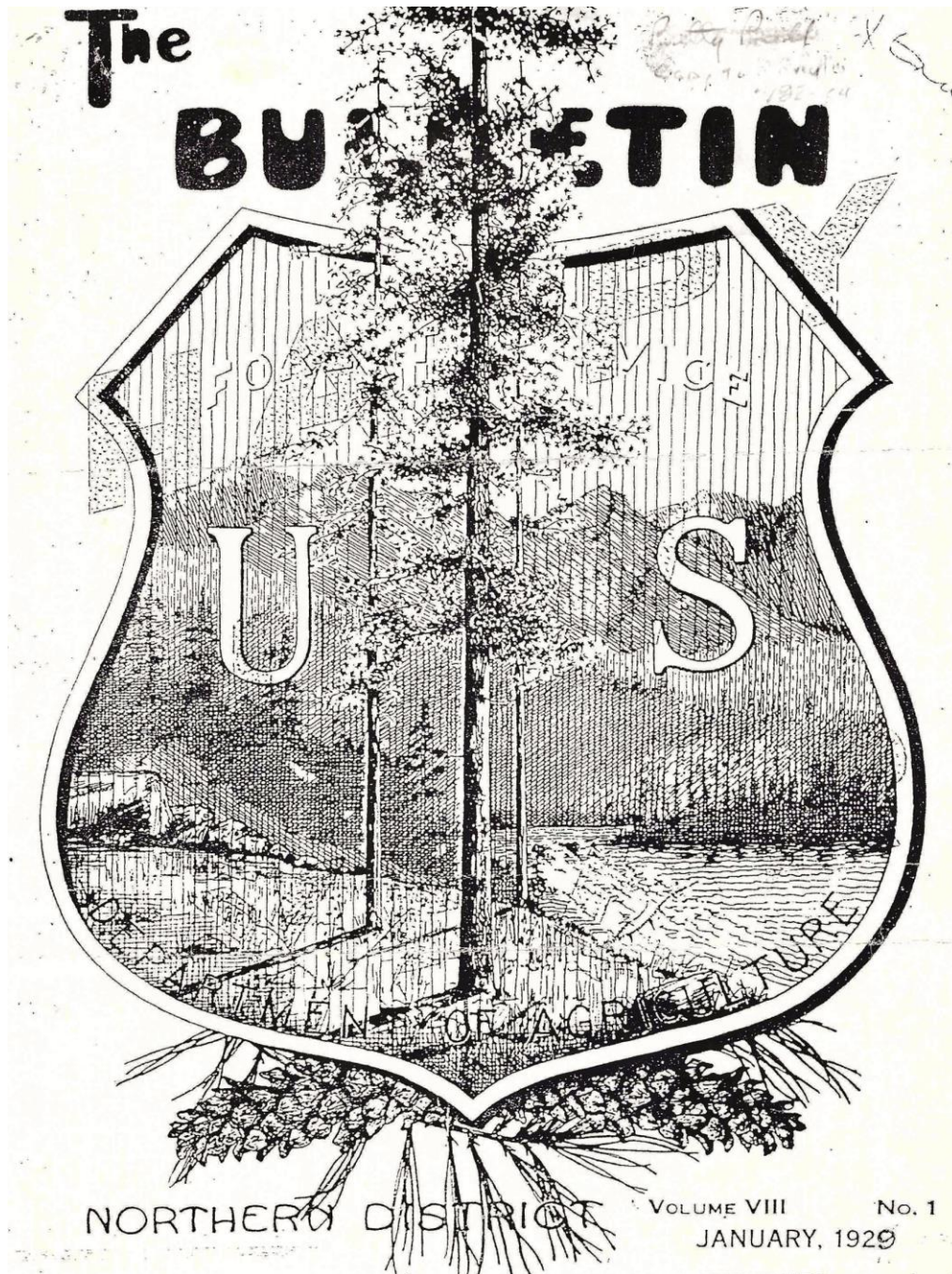


The rescheduled trail clearing for the West Fork of the Stillwater was canceled – again. So, the crew headed up the Ernie Strum Trail – in the rain. The trail only offered up four trees to be cleared, but the crew got a good soaking! I imagine they were happy to get a fire going so they could dry – a bit – before the ride out. We later learned that Jeff and Rosi Guckenberger braved the road to the Initial Creek and cleared 54 trees in approximately 5 miles. Thanks to both crews. We will schedule another trip to the West Fork of the Stillwater and hopefully, a return trip to the Ernie Strum Trail to post signs and try to locate the old trail to Island Lake.



A STEP BACK IN TIME- JANUARY, 1929

Submitted by: Dave Heinle



The following article is reprinted from the "The Bulletin," January, 1929. The preface read:

"To Harry S. Kaufman, pioneer of the Absaroka, this issue of the Bulletin is dedicated in recognition of more than a quarter century of loyal effort and accomplishment in the public service."

Harry Kaufman served in the Forest Service from 1903-1941.

HARRY S. KAUFMAN

By W. M. Rush

Twenty-five Years in the Forest Service

In the spring of 1903, a young man, just off the spring round-up, appeared at Supervisor Russell's ranch on Butcher Creek, Carbon County, Montana, applied for and was given a job as Forest ranger.

For the magnificent sum of \$60 per month, this young man was to furnish two horses, riding and pack outfits, camp outfit, and his own services twenty-four hours per day. His first trip was to Jardine, Montana, 300 miles through a hostile country. In those days a Forest ranger was about as popular as a coyote in a poultry yard and traveling for the ranger was not altogether a joy. Arriving at Jardine, he set up camp at Pine Creek and started in on his job of protecting his section of the great Yellowstone Forest Reserve, comprising what is now seven National Forests. Returning to his camp one day, he found most of his food supplies stolen; only a little canned stuff remained. In opening some of this, the ranger noticed a very small round hole through the side of the can. Upon inspection of the remainder, he found that every can had been punctured. So ptomaine poisoning was the first way the natives tried to rid the earth of this boy, come to make a National Forest out of their domain. Next, plain assassination was tried on the road to Gardiner and the ranger was forced to spend the day amongst the big rocks out of sight of the killers' rifles. Then they stole his entire outfit and set him afoot.

Such was the beginning of Harry S. Kaufman's career in the Forest Service, and for a few years the going was anything but tame. Fighting trespass stock, cattle thieves, tough timber operators, game poachers, was the order of the day. Not the least element in P.R. those days was the six-shooter on Mr. Forest Ranger's hip. Judge Colt still had some influence in this western country.

In six or seven years a wonderful change took place in public sentiment and some real progress toward Forest administration was made.

Kaufman was in charge of the building of the first telephone line on the Absaroka. He has seen the Supervisor's office grow and move from Russell's ranch near Red Lodge to a dingy one-room office near the freight yards in Livingston, to a spacious two rooms in an uptown building, to three rooms in a regular office building with electric lights, janitor, and everything, and on to the present location in the Federal Building. In 1903, the property on the Forest was exactly

nothing, not even a tent. The trails were pure and simple game runs. All travel was done with horses. Timber sales, even free-use permits, had to be approved in Washington. No expense account. No forage allotments. THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

Forest officials with whom Kaufman has made field trips include such men as: Gifford Finchot, Jess Nelson, Elers Koch, Sherrard, Kirkland, Paul Redington, J. A. Fitzwater, R. Y. Stuart, Silcox.

In 1910, Kaufman was in charge of the Swamp Creek fire on the Cabinet Forest when the big blow-up came, and, after getting his sixty men on a rock slide, he suffered the supreme agony of seeing four of his men break away and run into the fire and death. The story of getting this fire crew out through the burn and to hospitals in Plains and Sandpoint over a railroad where the bridges and trestles were burned out, is an epic in itself.

After the 1910 fires, Kaufman was detailed to grazing work on the Cabinet, Coeur d'Alene, Pend Oreille, St. Joe, and Kootenai Forests, coming back to the Absaroka in 1915, where he has been in charge of the Boulder District ever since.

Harry is known and respected by every old-timer (and many of the new ones, too) from Cody, Wyoming, to the Yellowstone Valley, and by his genial personality, fair dealing, and hard work, he has probably done more to put the Forest Service in its present favorable place in the public's estimation than any other person in that wide region.

Twenty-five years' experience in Forest Service work. Just think of the long rides; snowshoe trips; fires fought; disputes settled; good times in town; headaches next day; fish caught; deer killed, bridges, trails, and telephone lines built; hard work in all kinds of weather; pencils worn out making reports; and the hundreds of other tasks successfully completed in this quarter century of service. AND emerging from it all with a whole skin. (It does seem, though, that a few teeth were lost once.)

He has an inordinate fondness for horses, and can spend more hours in the saddle without tiring than any other man I ever saw. There is always a good string of saddle horses at his ranger station, too. In the many years that I've known Harry, there has never been a "bear bait" in his string. One of his famous rides was in 1911 when he rode "Brownie," a Government horse, from Gardiner to Livingston, a distance of 59 miles, in eight hours.

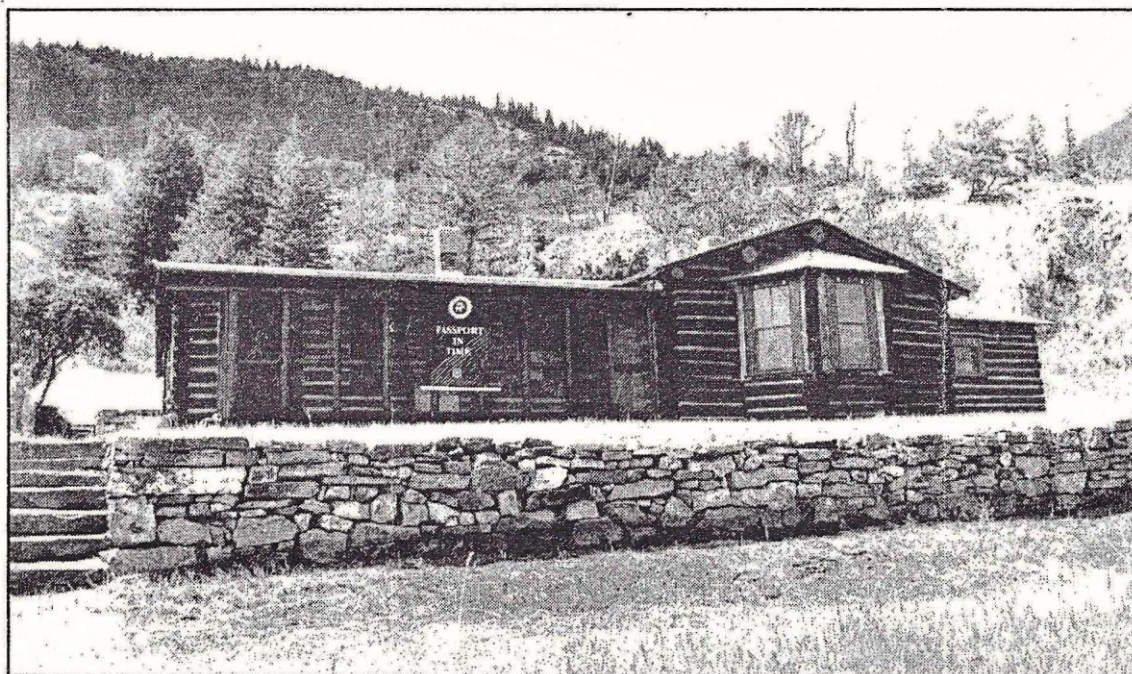
As Principal Forest Ranger on the Absaroka, Harry still does his stuff, always smiling, always ready for a

joke or story, and, by the way, that reminds me -- I was telling him a funny story one day and right in the middle of it he started laughing. "What are you laughing at?" I asked, "I haven't come to the funny part of my story yet." "Why," he returned, "I was laughing at the bully story I am going to tell you as soon as you are through with yours."

The worst feature about Harry S. Kaufman is -- he gets up at five o'clock every morning.

o.o.o.o.o

Page 8 — BIG TIMBER (MT) PIONEER — Week of July 16 - 22, 2004



Forest Service cabin restored by volunteers

The Big Timber Ranger District held an open house at the Main Boulder Station on June 25. The Main Boulder Station is being restored to circa 1920 through the Forest Service Passport in Time program, whose goal is to preserve the nation's past with the help of the public. At the time of the open house, volunteers had finished reroofing the building and had stained the enclosed front deck. The Big Timber Ranger District hopes to eventually turn the building into a museum with donations from the family of former Ranger Harry Kauffman, who lived and worked in the cabin, with his family, from 1903-42.

(Sandy Smith Photo)

GENERAL MEETING – MAY 16TH, 2022

BBCH GENERAL MEETING NOTES MAY 16, 2022

The Meeting was convened at 7:00 PM at the Columbus Fire Hall.

Welcome to several new faces.

Lee Schmelzer Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent provided questionnaires and contacts for the extension service - inquiring about the needs of county residents. Treasurer's Audit is scheduled next week, and account balance is still good. Activities Schedule has been updated and is in the last newsletter. Meeting notices are posted in local newspapers

Next General Meeting June 20, 2022. The meeting will be held at Itch-Kep-Pe Park outdoors in Columbus. Pot Luck at 6:30. Dr. Lacey Fahrmeier will discuss Equine Dentistry.

Old and new business items discussed:

Report from state board meeting in Deer Lodge May 14 by Bonnie Chepulis. Last Weekend of June, June 26, is the State Meeting/Campout at the Monture Guard Station in the Lolo National Forest. Opportunity to discuss land management with USFS. USFS Region 1 has provided \$40,000 to the BCHMT to defray costs of work projects. This money will be divided among the 17 BCHMT chapters at year's end based on documented work. SO, KEEP TRACK OF ALL MILEAGE, STOCK USE, ETC., and report it. Even if it's recon. This could mean a few thousand dollars we have for work projects.

Motion made to purchase additional PPE and equipment for trail clearing, including additional hard hats, wedges (and bag/holder), eyewear and one axe. This money was already budgeted. The Board of Directors approved purchasing signage for three trails at their last meeting.

Education Program Presented by John Chepulis. Sawyer safety videos showed and discussed. Safety gear discussed. Hard hats are needed with all crosscut use. Videos emphasized communication between workers and not getting either too aggressive or too passive when a project is not going as planned.

Submitted by John Jenkins

TRAIL DETAILS

Submitted by: Melissa Codner

Who is ready to hit the trails? I know we are all anxious to get out there! From time to time, we receive inquiries about our local trails. As a club, we decided we need to have detailed information to pass along to those inquiries. Many of our BBCH members are new to the area and/or have only enjoyed a handful of our local trails. Thus, this resource will provide key details for BBCH members as well as the public.

For that to happen, we need your help!

If you have a favorite trail, could you share what you know? We are collecting this information through an online, anonymous survey. Your email address is not collected, and you can fill it out as many times as you'd like. Some of the trails you may be familiar with include:

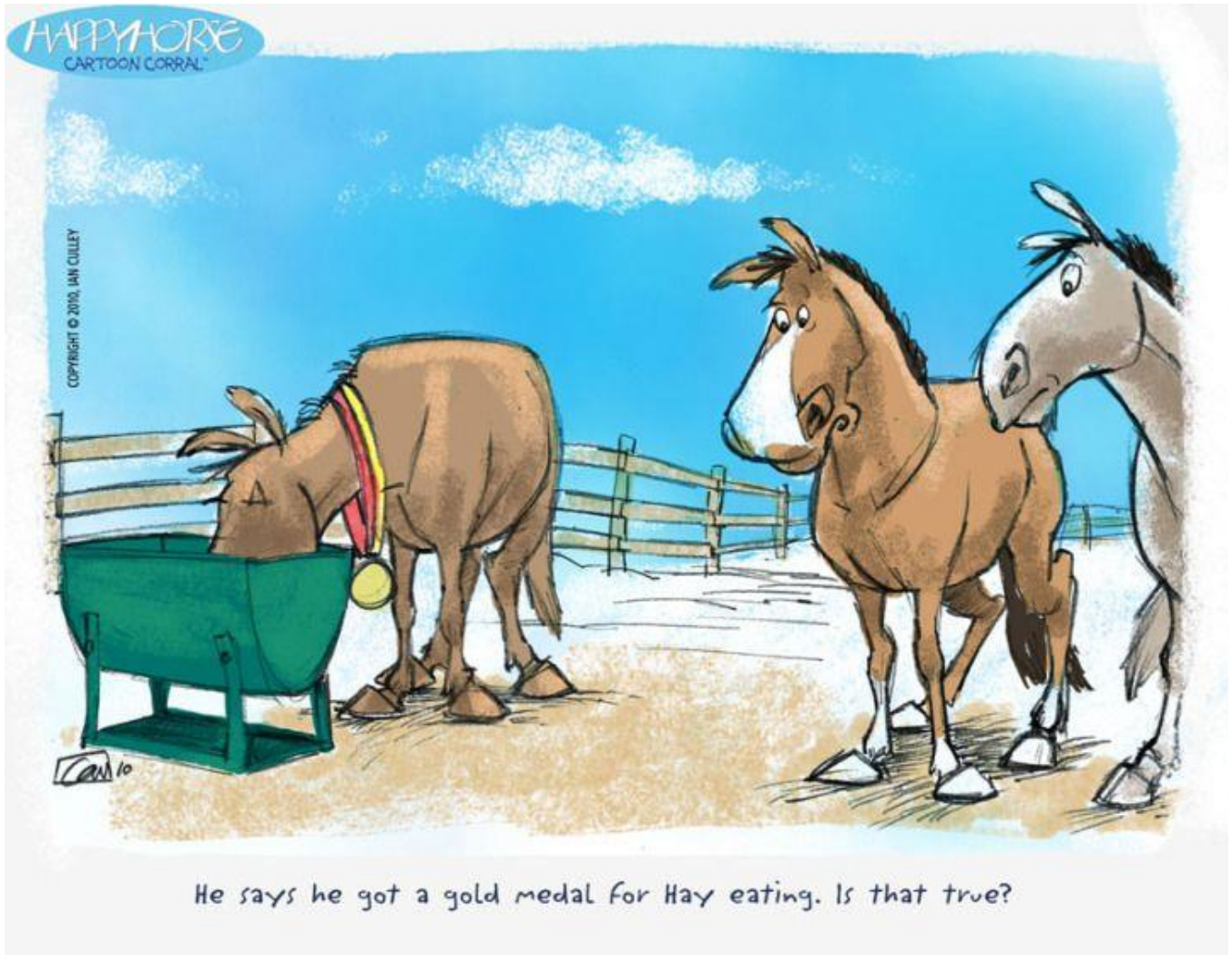
Ernie Strum
Island Lake
Stillwater/Woodbine
Line Creek/Face of the Mountain
West Fork of the Stillwater/Initial Creek
Deer Creek
Meyers Creek
Fox Lake
Meat Rack
East Fork of Mill Creek

Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/w6i4pmzBQC6VkmXz7>

We would appreciate your contributions. I just submitted my views on the Stillwater Trail (Robin speaking). It was quite easy and took just a few moments. We welcome everyone's thoughts about each of the trails. The more details we can collect, the more details we can share.

Happy Trails!

LAUGHING STOCK





May 13, 2022: Jim's Gulch – West Bridger Creek

Forester Allie Wood, mentioned she got a call about the downfall up Jim's Gulch. We just cleared that trail and cut a LOT of downfall! So, Tara Smith and I headed to the trail. It was fine. I did take some time to limb the small boughs hanging over the trail – after all, we were there. There was downfall on Tie Cutter - the motorized trail, which we are not responsible for.

Please send any submissions for the Newsletter to Robin Morris, junkerette@msn.com, by the 5th of each month. Thanks!

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