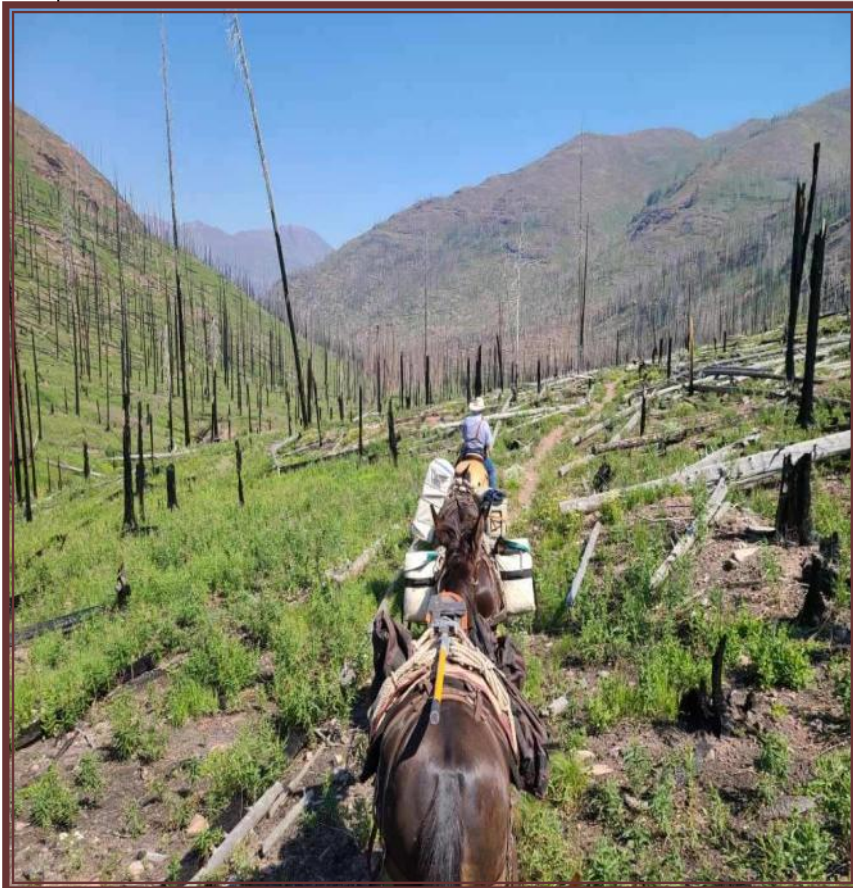


LAST CHANCE BCH AUGUST 4th 7:00 PM MONTANA WILD PAVILLION



Fred and Mike are on the emergency backup packers list to help out BMWF when a packer doesn't show.

Below is the MCC Nevada Creek pack trip and the BMWF second Weed's crew trip My last Trail Crew pack trip plus one.

The MCC Nevada pack in and out was a success even though they did not need a resupply part way through their deployment.

June 26 Tony & Lindsay S, Sherrie L, Nolan W, Mike L, and Nicole A accompanied me, packing in the MCC crew. It was about 3 miles to the trail crew's campsite. We had 7 pack animals with a couple animals carrying very little. The initial request had the LCBCH packing in a cook stove and coolers. This changed. As dry weather increased and a break in their deployment for the July 4th holiday, the crew changed to small cook pots i.e. Jetboil and meals that could be cooked on or in the cooking system. Yes, extra mules but good trail experience. It certainly paid off when Kerry B and I did a recon to Marsh Creek prior to the initial pack in. Even though the trees were trimmed just to the edge of the road. They did not overdo themselves to clear past the road edge. The trailhead itself is a good trailhead.

The pack out was July 14. Trying to beat the heat, I had told the MCC desk we would be at the camp between 9 & 10. We, Clif Caughron, Nolan & Shelia W, Bud C, Terry H, Mike L and myself did beat the heat though the heat was not the issue rather the horse flies. We darn near needed a gun to protect the horses and ourselves. The crew must not have gotten the message as some were still in their tents but that changed when we arrived. It was great to see the crew leads helping pack the panniers. I thought the LCBCH training did pay off. The BMWF had contacted me about packing out a crew from Arrastra Creek TH **July 14**. We were the BMWF backup for July 13. The Foundation did find another packer for the crews planned pack out July 14. They did not need us for that trip.

July 14, I – we were done for the year packing trail crews. Or so I thought.

Thursday July 22, BMWF called about 10 a.m. The packer who signed up for the Weeds #04 Babcock did not show up or didn't get the office notified they could not pack the crew in. The crew was ready and waiting. The Foundation was looking for a substitute packer to leave from Lodgepole TH and pack the crew in about 9 miles. They needed 4 pack animals. I called Mike L, he was in the Elkhorns but up for another adventure. I called the BMWF back and said we were a good to go. Mike L needed to get off the mountain, pack his trailer and go. I was in a similar situation. I needed to gather and load my gear, hoping I wouldn't forget anything and take the dog to the kennel.

We met at the Avon Café and traveled to Trixie's for supper, then on to Monture Creek to camp and meet the trail crew as well as spend the night with the horses in the corrals. We were headed up the road to Lodgepole by 7. The crew was a spray crew and only a small crew. We had four pack animals loaded and one spare. We were off by 9, following another pack string and arrived at the campsite by noon. We unloaded, had lunch and headed back by 1p.m. This was a new proposed campsite as the crew was happy to have a packer take their gear into the Wilderness. We arrived back at camp about 4, rested and let the animals cool off. Headed back to Trixie's for supper and were back in Helena by 8.

That was a full 28 hours, 196 miles and 18.5 miles round trip with the animals.

Thank you Mike for going on another adventure. I had fun even though there were many moving pieces with this pack trip and some SWAG decisions made.

Thanks to all LCBCH who helped me have a great year.

Myself, Lyndsay, and Bob Tomaskie met at the Benchmark Trailhead on Saturday with the intention of packing a Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation Crew in on Sunday. It was a beautiful night with little excitement except for half a dozen mules wandering off up the Straight Creek Trail. The following morning as we were preparing to leave to meet the crew, several mules decided to take a short trip into the campground and visit some horses which delayed our arrival. Bob's good friend Tim, from Great Falls, met us for the ride in.

The trip into Pretty Prairie was a Sierra Club woman's trip: 10 women of varying backgrounds and ages and 1 crew lead from BMWF, who was the only male on the trip. We had 6 pack animals and the pack in went well aside from a bag of tortilla chips that got left behind (Sorry Sam). Upon arriving at Pretty Prairie we had a visit with Kevin Arnold, the Forest Service law enforcement officer who was hauling hay into to the cabin for a law enforcement meeting. It was a quick trip out and uneventful although warm. After returning to the trailhead, we repacked our stuff and headed towards Half Moon Park for a few days which was a great end to the trip.

Submitted by Tony Smith





With Montana burning up, the Woods Creek fire has postponed or may eliminate one of our projects - packing planks into Birch Creek.

So our meeting agenda may be short.

Be sure if you have anything to bring to the group now is the time.

We will have Gatorade and water as well as a treat of some kind.

So plan on attending the meeting at 7:00 Montana Wild Pavilion , next Wednesday August 4th.

During the current drought conditions, be careful in rocky areas with horse shoes causing sparks.



While the rest of us are baking in the sun other members are in Alaska catching fish.

(Russ Wattnem with Sherri and Sam catching all the salmon they can.)