

Collecting Volunteer & Education Hours - Why and How!!

Keeping track of all our volunteer efforts is one of most important things we can do in our efforts to keep our access to riding areas. "How" you ask? All of the land managers and other trail users have trouble closing areas to us when we are doing large portions of the trail work - much higher percentage of the work than our numbers should be turning out. As a user we represent about 10% to 15% of the users, but in trail work we continue to show approx. 60%-75% of the volunteer hours being turned in. Our national total of \$3.5 million is a dollar value that gives our national representatives significant clout when trying to emphasize why they should be listened to.

The BCHA Board in conjunction with multiple land managers has asked for the following hours to be kept.

?? All Volunteer Trail Work done on public land; this does not include private lands such as private timberlands unless will eventually turn into public lands. Included are any work or meetings held in preparation that will lead to trail work or trail preservation; any meetings where recreational trail usage is discussed; anything from phone calls to talking to land managers that eventually lead to trail preservation.

?? All LNT Education hours and preparation hours, and if they could be broken down as to which were youth hours, even better.

?? Trail riding on public lands(form for this yet to be coming)

How should these hours be reported:

?? Each chapter should identify one person to be responsible to collect these hours. Whether they do it themselves or have the hours given to them is up to them and what works best with each chapter or group situation.

?? There is a form to use and it is available in Excel, Word, on CD, or hard copy. It doesn't matter what form the hours are turned in. What matters is that the hours are turned in. Directions on how to use this form are available on the BCH America website (www.backcountryhorse.com), and have been sent to each National Director who in turn will forward to the Volunteer hours person for his/her state or affiliate.

?? Locally, each chapter should be turning its hours into the land managers in the fall on the land manager's time schedule. Ideally, within BCH the hours should go to somebody identified in the state or affiliate to collect these hours, but if no one has been identified, then the National Director is ultimately responsible for getting these hours to the National Board of BCHA.

?? The national volunteer hour person needs these hours by March 1st. The reports should be sent to Peg Greiwe, BCHA Executive Secretary, via her e-mail address (peg2@mashell.com). The hours will then be compiled and made available to the National Board at the National Meeting in April.

Additional ideas that may be helpful:

BCH States may want to keep track of volunteer hours by agency so that discussions can be held at the state level with state agency representatives as to the value of BCH contributions.

Expanded forms on computer are available to keep track of these hours. If interested contact Peg Greiwe or Becky Hope at mbhope@juno.com.

If you have any problems, concerns, or questions, please contact us. We probably have solutions that could make your life easier. Remember the key is that these hours get turned in. This is the ace up our sleeves.

Thanks, Becky Hope, BCHA Volunteer Hours Committee Chair.

Back Country Horsemen of America Volunteer Service Hours

| | <u>Hours</u> | <u>\$Value</u> |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 2004* | 204,700 | \$5,450,000 |
| 2003 | 136,161 | \$3,420,000 |
| 2002 | 108,919 | \$1,735,600 |
| 2001 | 128,200 | \$2,001,000 |
| 2000 | 154,600 | \$2,834,000 |
| 1999 | 87,300 | \$1,802,000 |
| 1998 | 105,370 | \$2,658,000 |
| 1997 | 92,300 | \$1,790,000 |
| 1996 | 74,410 | \$1,456,000 |
| 1995 | <u>61,424</u> | <u>\$ 896,000</u> |
| Total 10 years | 1,153,380 | \$24,039,600 |

*17 of 19 states reporting

Volunteer Hours Form Explanation

1. **Project Summary or Chapter Summary or State Summary, Group Report, Individual Report**, -check or note which one applies to your situation.
2. **Project Date:** Date or dates of this reported service.
3. **Reporting Ind. or Group:** Who did this work?
4. **Agency:** Check or write in agency, for which the project done. To be used for Report Summaries: For summaries at the state level and national level. Need this info from the local level.
5. **Agency and District** involved

6. **Agency Contact Person:** The agency rep. working with your group.
7. **Project Name:** Actual project name, educational clinic, seminar, public meeting, etc.
8. **Project Location:** Where was the work done?
9. **Description of Accomplishment:** What was done, to what purpose, i.e., how many logs, many feet, number of miles, how many trained, who, purpose of public meeting.
10. **Volunteer Name(s):** Anyone that participated.
11. **Activity Date:** What are the dates for this entry?
12. **Trail Work(1):** Trail maintenance/recon hours not requiring additional skills i.e., brushing, clearing, drainage work, etc.
13. **Skilled Labor(2):** Actual hours for activities requiring skilled labor such as packing, bridge construction, chainsaw operation, teamster, etc.
14. **Education(3):** Actual hours spent in preparation and conducting educational clinics, seminars, classes, etc.
15. **Public Meetings:** Actual hours spent in attending or presenting at public meetings relating to BCH goals or issues.
16. **Administration Hours(4):** Any time spent that relates to BCH goals or issue, i.e., phone calling, contacting people, and related paperwork.
17. **Travel Time(5):** Actual hours going from home to projects, educational, or public meetings and back.
18. **Personal Vehicle Mileage:** Actual personal vehicle miles from home to project, educational, or public meetings and back.
19. **Stock Hauling Mileage:** Actual miles (truck/truck and trailer) from home to project and back.
20. **Power Equipment Hours:** Actual hours of use of personally owned power equipment used on projects, i.e., chainsaws, power pruners, etc.
21. **Heavy Equipment (Local Rate)** Total comparable local daily or hourly rate for heavy equipment used on projects, i.e., tractors, post driver, backhoe, etc.
22. **Dollars or Materials Value:** Donation of money, material (nails, gravel, etc.), supplies, etc., from chapter coffers, personal account, or business accounts.
23. **Pack and Saddle Stock, Number of Stock Used:** Number of stock used to complete a project.
24. **# Of Stock Days(6):** Number of stock used times number of days.
25. **NOTE:** Please turn in all your volunteer hours to your organizational contact, and/or land manager, by OCT. 1st or whatever your organization or land managers request. Please check.
26. **Volunteer state hours need to be turned in to BCH America by March 1st.** Please send to Peg Greiwe, BCHA Executive Secretary, via mail or e-mail. Peg2@mashell.com

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