



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Enhancing Habitat – Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

BEND CHAPTER

PO BOX 6618 BEND, OREGON 97708

ALL HANDS, ALL BRANDS FOR YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

DERR MEADOW IN THE OCHOCOS – JUNE 14 – 19, 2021

Robbie Piehl, Ochoco National Forest Wildlife Biologist and other employees began preparation work on Derr Meadow on June 14th. OHA members began assisting on June 15 and as the week continued the momentum of additional volunteers including RMEF and retired USFS employees jumping in to get the preparation work completed was evident. Wire fence had to come down and T posts removed. Those that were certified with chainsaws cut out a line on the east side of the project so that the buck and pole material could be put in place and built.

Guzzlers 4 through 10 along with 900N and 900S were checked with some fence repairs being done, aprons cleaned and water bowls cleaned.

73 people came to Sugarcreek Campground with some just participating mid week. OHA Chapters that participated were Bend, Capitol, Redmond, Tualatin Valley, Mid Willamette and Emerald. RMEF, BHA, NWTF, ODFW and USFS were also part of this volunteer event. The name All Hands, All Brands For Your Public Lands was certainly evident.

Bend OHA had 28 members participate (including children and spouses) resulting in 562 hours of volunteer time which included travel time. Selfless dedication to a great cause was evident everywhere when you consider the cost of fuel and wear and tear of members personal belongings. One member had a tire destroyed and had to buy a set of four tires when he learned that his tire size was not available.

1,146 hours of volunteer time was recorded for the fence build and travel. An additional 40 hours for guzzler work. According to Robbie Piehl there was just over a mile of fence built which is protecting 32 acres of the meadow.



Gary Holtz, Bend OHA placing fence material 10 feet at a time. A large amount of material was moved using ATV's with a choker set up.



Rex Parks setting the choker and Eric Brown right moving the material.



Cassie Henry, NWTF manages a smile in a mosquito infested meadow.



L: Greg Jackle, ODFW Prineville. R: Tony Hilsendager, Kelli Powell and Cody Koch, Emerald Chapter. Yes, that entire meadow behind them is now fenced.



L to R: Dave Fuller, RMEF, Steve Wilcox, Gary Holtz Bend OHA and RMEF Roger Bennett and Elly Young.



Lilly Brooks, Violet Newman, Elliott Newman & Charly Brooks hauling material. When asked what they were doing was told, "We're building" and off they

marched.



Mikal Cline, Upland Game Bird Coordinator for ODFW and Chad Marks-Fife, USFS did a superb job of providing entertainment after dinner.



Ian Isaacson, Oregon BHA Co-Chair gives an update at our potluck dinner.



L to R: Robbie Piehl, Monty Gregg and Greg Petsch preparing breakfast. Many thanks to Rich Stutheit (Capitol Chapter) for once again bringing his massive bbq and cooking the steaks to perfection.



DONORS

A free raffle was held for those in attendance. Many many thanks to our donors including Sig Sauer who donated a range finder, Nosler Firearms who were so generous with lots of SWAG, Gerber Knives, Benchmade, Oregon Pack Works who provided 4 Bino carriers, Napa View, BackCountry Hunter & Anglers with T shirts and Hats, NWTF, Bend OHA, USFS, Oregon Antler Works and Bryan Cook for helping to make this a successful and meaningful raffle.



Above: Some of the crew that came out for the fence build. All but impossible to get everybody in one place at the same time.

During this build there were five teams spread out throughout the fence line building fence. A 6th team was rolling up wire and removing T posts. It was impressive to see.

OTHER DONATIONS:

RMEF, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative and USFS each provided \$20,000 for materials. Bend OHA provided \$4550 for hardware and another \$530 for steaks and breakfast.

BREAKDOWN OF WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT

- 28** Bend OHA to include children and some spouses
- 05** Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- 04** BackCountry Hunters & Anglers
- 20** USFS – This includes parents, children, friends and retirees. The employees were at the project during the week and then came back for the weekend campout, potluck and main work day. This included one parent of an employee that is an Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Lieutenant in Salem.
- 02** National Wild Turkey Federation
- 03** Emerald Chapter OHA
- 01** Tualatin Valley OHA
- 02** Mid Willamette Chapter OHA
- 04** Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife
- 02** Unknown
- 01** Capitol Chapter

73 Total. Most of the ODFW and USFS staff are also members of the different NGO's. An enormous number of volunteers belonged to more than one NGO.

In conclusion I would like to thank Robbie Piehl for having the patience to work with several volunteers from different NGO's and his dedicated work in preparation for this event which made it a huge success.

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