

Canyonlands Chapter Backcountry Horseman of Utah 2019

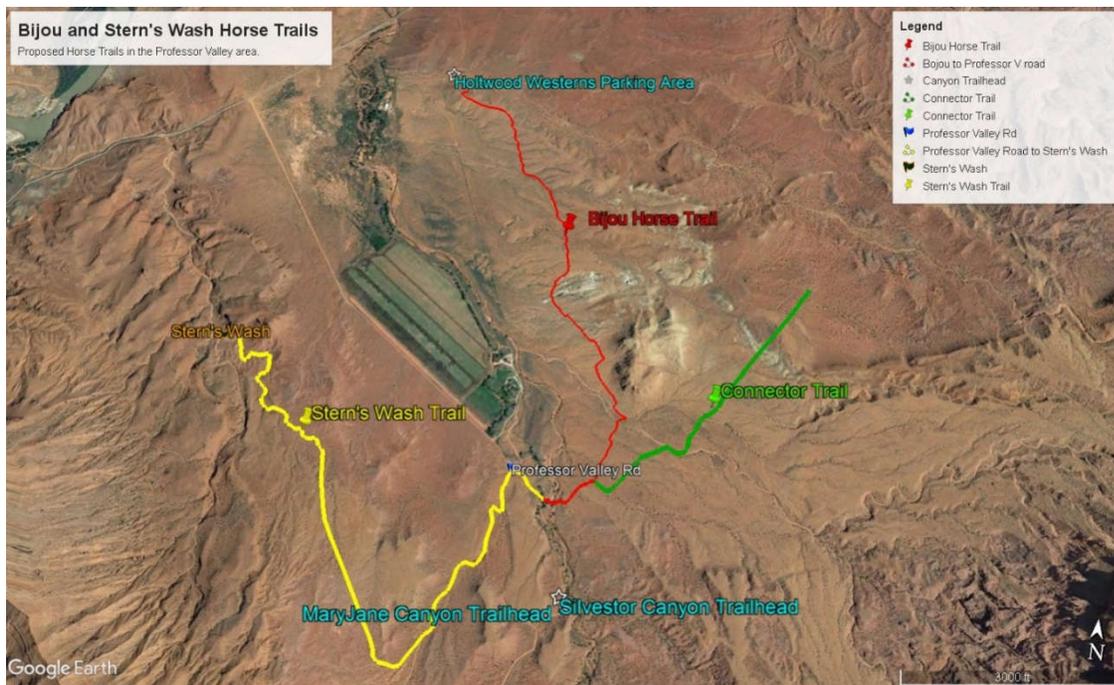
In 2019, The Canyonlands Chapter continues to work with our local partners: the Moab BLM, the US Forest Service and the Grand County Trail Mix. We are very active in the equestrian community, promoting horse recreation and horse trails and the Moab area. Last year was a bit less active for Canyonlands chapter due to some personal commitments and work.

Canyonlands BCH chapter 2019 statistics look like this:

- 59 total members (that's 37 separate memberships, Family counts as 2)
- Treasury is currently \$627.46 (2020 dues yet to be collected)
- 52 group rides documented
- 16 total meeting days (included Trail Mix, BLM and USFS meetings)
- 2 work projects
- 1 new trail approved (The "Bijou Trail" near professor valley)
- 1 new Corral proposal on La Sal, Mountains
- 1232 total volunteer hours
- 7296 total volunteer miles driven (includes all stock hauling miles)

Canyonlands BCH Volunteer Hour Specific are:

- 63 hrs. "Basic Work" Doe canyon and Onion creek corrals
- 227 hrs. "Skilled" mostly Richards and Gayle's GPS rides
- 673.5 hrs. "Recon" from general trail rides
- 12 hrs. "Educational" mostly Elizabeth's hours on OTC fund raising
- 36 hrs. "public meeting" mostly from Steve and Trail mix
- 128 hrs. "Admin services" mostly from Richards time uploading pictures, maps, GPS tracks and maintaining his website for the "public good".
- 8 Hrs. "Power tools" From Chuck Bauer & Naomi Wilson @ Onion creek corral work and Stephen Schultz @ Doe canyon running the chainsaw.



Projects

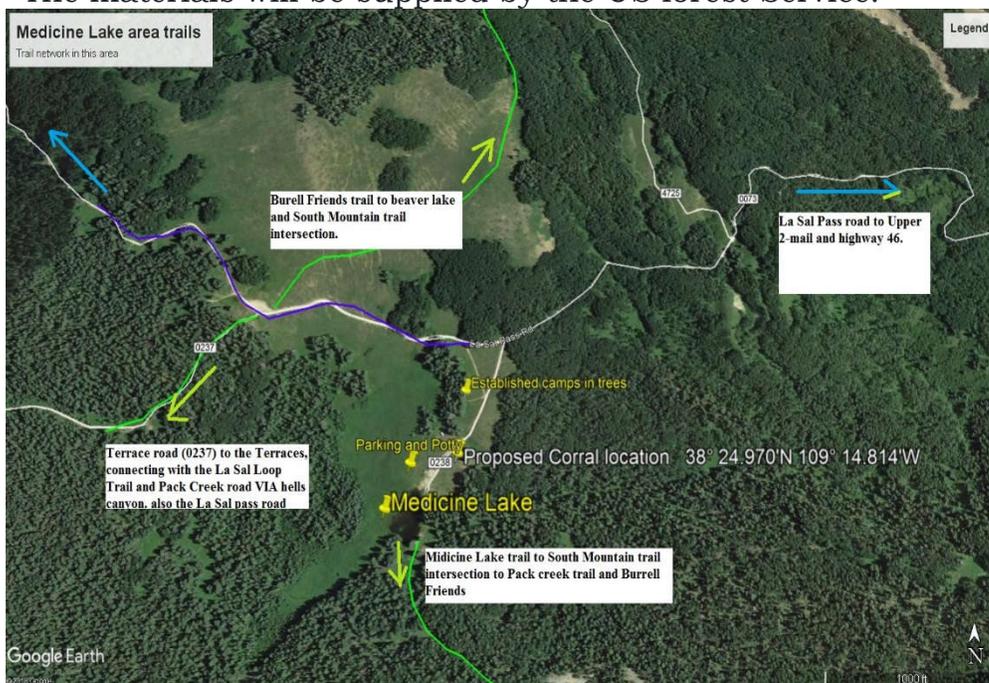
- 1) We elected a new vice president in 2019, Mrs. Tammy Tucker. Tammy and her husband Jeff, are experienced horse people from a small town in Utah. Our group guided several group rides and went on regular rides, but everybody's summer was super busy. No major work projects were scheduled until the fall. Tammy wanted to lead her first trail work project. She set up a work project on USFS trail #1 called Doe Canyon. The day was very productive and a great success. The entire trail was cleared. We finishing the day with a chili dinner.



- 2) Our second project was a “refurb” of the Onion Creek corrals. One of our members, Mr. Chuck Bauer helped set this project up. These are 4 cedar corrals made from post-N-rail construction for a rustic look. The Canyonlands chapter built the Onion Creek Corrals over a 12 years ago. Over the years the wood shrank in the dessert heat. The structure was getting rickety. Our workers re-set several posts and tightened the 100+ carriage bolts holding it together. We then cut and filed EACH the old bolts to be “Horse safe”. The floor of the corrals were “hollowed out” from shoveling manure and horses loosening the soil and it blowing away. In a rain storm it became a big soggy puddle. Working with our partners in the BLM field office, we obtained a dump truck load of ‘Reject Sand’ to fill in the corral floors and promote drainage. We spread the sand and removed the old manure. The project went very well. We have plans to add an additional “double corral” in 2020.



- 3) In September of 2019, Stephen Schultz and Marc Lindsay wrote a proposal for new corral construction in the La Sal, Mountains. The proposal was for 2 double size corrals to be installed at Medicine Lake Trail head. Several new trails have been added in the past two years making it an ideal location to camp and ride. The lake is well over 10,000' elevation and is only accessible for 5-6 months each year. The proposal was met with favor at the Manti-La Sal USFS office. The USFS recreational director, Brain Murdock, is supporting the project. It is currently in review (awaiting the NEPA Process). We hope to have approval in early 2020 and preform the actual construction this year. The materials will be supplied by the US forest Service.



- 4) A “sub-group” of our chapter members are Endurance Trail Riders. The Canyonlands BCH have historically supported the endurance ride community with hundreds of volunteer hours. For many years, the “Moab Canyons Endurance Ride” was set-up and staffed with Canyonlands BCH members. The endurance riding group is planning a “La Sal Mountain Endurance Ride” in 2020 or 2021. The local Forest Service office is supporting this proposal also. There has not been a “Horse Event” in the La Sal, Mountains for over 10 years. The event will bring riders, visitors, and attention to our area.
- 5) Our member Elizabeth Eliason has been working on funding for a set of Old Spanish Trail silhouettes. This is an ongoing project over the last two years. We have been able to purchase the first silhouette and are close to purchasing the second. We hope to install 4 silhouettes in the summer of 2020.



Conclusion

We have not had time to elect officers quite yet, but I believe we plan on leaving Stephen Schultz the president, and Tammy Tucker as the vice president. With the understanding that Steve will train Tammy up to take over as President next year. We have an idea of who will then move in as Vice President in 2021. We scheduled our next chapter meeting for January 24th. We will vote in the officers for 2020, and renew memberships for the year.

We are hopeful for 2020 and as always- hoping to spend more time out on the trails, with our horses!

Thank you
Canyonlands Backcountry Horseman