

# The High Uinta Back Country Horsemen

## Chapter Activities & Work Projects

Projects in August 2010, May and June 2011

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The Uinta Mountains visually describe the heart of the Rockies. It happens to be the highest mountain range in the contiguous United States that runs from West to East and is located in Northeastern Utah. It is home to Utah's highest peak, Kings Peak, at 13,528 feet. This provides a unique wildlife finding opportunity as well as some of the most unpredictable weather situations. Most notably, Mirror Lake Scenic Byway travels through the western portion of the Uintas. What better way to view it all than from horseback. Trails that lead through this rough terrain are home to the High Uinta chapter of Back Country Horseman of Utah.



*This HUGE stack of corduroy is only a small portion of the amount needed.*

*Packing the corduroy in, BCH members provide use of their stock, packing gear & labor to bring it up the trail where needed.*

This last August, our chapter elected to continue an ongoing trail improvement project for Crystal Lake Trail, located in the central area of the Uinta Mountains. Most accomplished three trips, from trailhead to the next bridge construction area, with a pack equine carrying corduroy (pressure treated wood, looking like small railroad ties). This

forested area with over 10 lakes and multiple streams, likens a place out of Camelot and entices hundreds of hiking, fishing and camping visitors each year as it is among the most visited areas in the mountain range. Again for 2011, we will happily pack corduroy in as this project requires a significant amount more until completion.

We are also assisting the state department on an ongoing bear study. Every two weeks, each study station is checked; collection of hair, restocking of bait and gathering other pertinent information. This is utilized in building a detailed database regarding the bears frequenting which areas and how often. The hair gathered will provide crucial DNA information; bear age, sex and health. This particular activity seems to be a member favorite!

Between the service projects and chapter rides, our short summers are literally packed with adventure and memories. No one could wish for a better group of people to ride with, it's truly an experience of a lifetime.