

Ride Journal

Annual Sage Hen Clean-Up June 5-6, 2009

Ride Leaders: Ray Ingram & Bill Jones

Photos & Story: Bill & Pauline Jones

Rain or shine, we cleaned trails at Sage Hen. With all the rain this spring, the hillsides around Ola was like a green velvet carpet. They were like they had been painted green with several color flower splotches along the way. Beautiful drive!

When we arrived at the Cartwright Ridge Overflow Campground on Wednesday, we were greeted by at least four black rabbits as we turned into the camp area. It started to rain a little that afternoon. Elizabeth Gilman (Kuna), David and Rose Fisher (Boise) all came in on Wednesday.



We awoke Thursday morning to some more rain. Ray and Bev Ingram, Ed Hartsock and Kimmie

(Emmett) came in and then Rusty, Jody and Washington (Mountain Home) arrived late afternoon—and yes, it was still raining.

Friday, we all hit the trails on the northwest side of trails K and J. They were not too bad, but we cut a lot of chaparral out away from the trail bed, making the trail access at least 10 feet wide in many areas.



Fixing a water bar to drain excess water.



06/05/2009

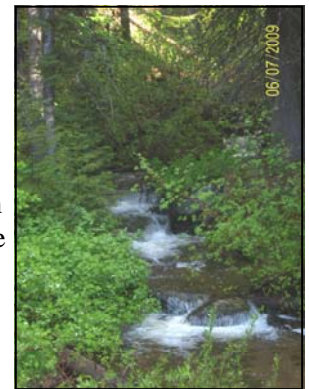
Sage Hen Clean-up Continued—2009 Jim Maxey, Scott and Mary Jo Dickson and Robert McDonald (Boise), along with some more Emmett members came in Friday as well. Ray found some trees that were threatening to fall onto the trail, so he made short work of them. It was still drizzling—yes the chain saws do work when they are wet. On Saturday, we started moving around 7:30 a.m. and gathered up our rain gear—yes, there was still a threat of rain. Darrell McCracken and Doug Mason (Boise) arrived prior to our departure. We divided the volunteers into three main work groups, Ed Hartsock, Ray Ingram, and Bill Jones. We had our safety meeting, issued chain saws and loppers. Linda Brooks,



another Boise member, did not have her ATV yet, so she started trimming the main logging rode from her SUV. Now that is true dedication in wanting to do your part. She later joined us on the trail. We had a total of 31 people attending with 22 members and three dogs cleaning trails—and yes, it did rain on us again. We cleared almost all the trails within the Sage Hen riding area, built water bars, cut eight trees and repaired a bridge. (Side note: Jim Maxey is the master lopper - he broke two pair.)



Sunday morning the Boise and Mountain Home Chapters went on a two-hour, 12.8 mile pleasure ride. We rode all the ATV trails on the east side of the trail system—a first for many. In years past, it seems we only have time to clear and never have a chance to just ride and see the fruits of our labor! The trail width was wide enough that you did not get wet from the rain-soaked leaves and branches.



Quite a few people were tired of the rain and left Saturday evening after Emmett's famous BBQ pork rib pot luck dinner. As usual, the food was superb, especially the hot dishes on cool damp night! The Emmett Chapter was a great host and thanked the volunteers by having a Friday and Saturday night drawing for door prizes—and you did not have to buy a ticket!

Most of us left the campground as the sun started to shine through the trees at noon on Sunday. If you have not been to Sage Hen, you are missing out on a fun and scenic place to ride ATVs. **Thanks everyone for your help!**

