

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 4/8/2015 6:00 PM | Meeting location GRMC Conference Room

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Sharon A. Brown, Cindi deCapiteau, Doug Dexter, Mike Dowd, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Jean Hill, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Russ Imler, Judy Brown Lawson, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Ted Miles, Fran Rawllins, Stan Rawllins, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann, Sandy Weir, LuAnn Wilmeth, Laurie Wlosinski

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Doug Dexter

The much-appreciated presence of LuAnn Wilmeth is hereby acknowledge. LuAnn advised that she was here to check us out. Did we pass muster, LuAnn?

Agenda topic Education Segment | Presenter Mike Netharius, U.S. Forest Service

Mike Netharius is the soil expert and Burned-Area Emergency Response (BAER) coordinator for the Silver City District of the U.S. Forest service. Cheryl Roth, the Gila chapter's steadfast education coordinator, asked Mike to talk about forest restoration and following wildfire, since we've had a couple of nasty ones in the last couple of years. [Conversation]

The Forest Service, Mike said, has been conducting prescribed fires as a way of preventing holocausts like Whitewater-Baldy (lightning-caused, 2012) and the Silver Fire (also lightning caused, 2014). Mike noted that fire is a natural part of the forest development cycle—and can be good for the landscape—but the big ones are disconcerting to see.

Mike explained that in his role as BAER coordinator, he helps assemble a team of experts to assess the burned area's soil, range, timber, and wildlife to measure the effect of a fire on cultural and natural resources. The BAER program is charged to look at post-fire conditions and then to develop treatments to mitigate erosion, sedimentation into streams, as well as to evaluate threats to life and property that result from a fire. For the recent fires in the Gila region, the team has also included a trails person.

Mike stressed that the BAER effort is limited in some treatments they can administer. In the Gila region, they have relied heavily on seeding to reduce erosion on slopes. They use a seed mix consisting of annual barley, as well as native muttongrass, squirreltail, and junegrass. Annual barley does not persist in the environment for longer than about three years, but it sprouts quickly and has comparatively deep roots that hold back the soil when summer rains wash over the burned area. The native grass seed is expensive, but gives the burned area a headstart toward recovery of the grasses that are natural to the area. About 1,200 acres of the 5,700 Signal Fire (2014) sustained high-

severity burn¹, were seeded. The recovery response distributed 25 seeds per square foot over the burned areas. About 15 seeds per square foot were annual barley with remainder junegrass muttongrass and squirrel tail.

Another recovery strategy is aerial mulching, in which large quantities of certified weed-free straw are dumped from aircraft over the burned area. Mulching gives immediate ground cover and helps regain watershed function.

The 2013 Silver Fire, which consumed about 138,000 acres, was the third largest in New Mexico history. Roughly 13,000 acres of high-severity burn mixed-conifer forest were seeded on both the east and west slopes at Emory Pass. The BAER team wound up mulching 2,800 acres on the east side of the Black Range to mitigate concerns about flooding in Kingston and Hillsboro.

Fires such as these have a long-term effect on trails; burned trees will be coming down for years to come. When fire consumes tree roots, trails can become gutted and impassable, such as has occurred in Water Canyon (Apache National Forest—see see map on page 10). Even though the trails are in need of repair, the forest service and recreation budgets for this purpose don't look good. For that reason, Mike expressed appreciation for GBCH members who follow up to clear trails after the BAER mitigation ends. Mike added that he looks at some of the wilderness trails where we can't use chain saws and he questions where the trail system will be in the next five years. Although the Forest Service is deeply concerned, its budgets dictate what can be feasibly worked. Some trails will have to be dropped.

Gerry Engel commented that he keeps talking to Christa Osborn (District Recreation Staff, Gila National Forest) about this. Gerry also noted that the GBCH encourages retiring forest service employees to join the chapter, since it's hard to find people who are physically fit enough to do this work.

Gerry continued, saying that trails through the burned areas provide public access to the national forest, as well as access for firefighters and search-and-rescue teams. Because the trails are part of the U.S. transportation system, they must be maintained. Mike added that the trails need to be maintained for fire suppression so firefighters can get into a burning area in a reasonable time.

Mike reiterated that BAER is an emergency response and cannot address subsequent trail rehabilitation. He noted that the Forest Service used to have a pot of money for long-term rehabilitation and maintenance, but no more. However, if a burned area has critical trails that need to be opened, such as the trails in Whitewater-Baldy and on Hillsborough Peak to the fire lookout stations, BAER can conduct tread work and hazard tree removal. At the moment, the Forest Service is looking sadly at some trails that will never be opened again. Water Canyon, for example could have been restored and maintained at one time, not now. East Railroad Canyon, a challenging path in the best of times, is impassable now after the Silver Fire roared through. Trails like that might never be open again.

Gerry expressed concern that, from a forest access standpoint, the Crest Trail and trails to its east are gone (see map on page 11). We can't access that country at all—the trails need to be rebuilt.

Mike responded that on trails south from the Crest Tail, the Forest Service has set up 17 permanent monitoring points to evaluate effectiveness of BAER mitigation efforts and to measure the effects of seeding and mulching on recovery of the burned area. The team has also established plots south of Emory Pass.

Laurie Wlosinski commented that she has seen lots of regrowth in the burn area south of Emory Pass. The trails there still exist, but any rain will them to mush. Mike replied that trails on the ridges tend to be stable after a fire, but trails that branch off the ridges blow out.

Cheryl Roth asked about the effect of aircraft availability on the Forest Service's perception of trail need. Does the Forest Service believe trails are needed for firefighting and other purposes (search and rescue, for example), or

¹ A high-severity burn area is one where the fire burned with such intensity that the landscape has little left but blackened sticks that used to be living trees. No ground cover remains.

because helicopters are available is the perception that trails aren't necessary? Mike responded that trails were used extensively in recent firefighting. They served as fire lines, for crew access. However, there has been a shift with regard to safety, so if a fire can be fought from the air, the forest service doesn't have so many people on the ground as it did in the past. The Forest Service would want a cleared trail to get people and supplies in, but there is less emphasis on this now.

Doug Dexter observed that trail emphasis is also reduced because fire policy is changing; the policy now is to let fires burn unless they threaten people and property. Mike agreed that there is something to that observation. In the mixed conifer forests burned by the Whitwater-Baldy fire, there was no stopping the blaze and its remote location did not indicate a need to put people in harm's way. The same was true for the Silver Fire. The Forest Service didn't want to have anyone out in that country. Back in 1990s, Mike said, if fire got out of control, people would not be put out in that situation.

Mike Dowd asked about the historical behavior of fire in the Gila region. He noted that the literature indicates fire was more prevalent in the forest system in the past. Mike agreed that the Forest Service policy was to suppress fires for many years. There was also more grazing in the forest that reduced the number of fires. Nevertheless, fire was present in the forest, but those fires didn't burn entire mountain ranges.

Gerry noted that he believed the area of the Signal Fire was an old-growth forest, yet the trees were smaller than he expected them to be. It's likely, he said, that fire visited the area in the last couple of hundred years, so regrowth hasn't had time to get big. As a result of the Whitwater-Baldy fire, we have lost 85% of high forest vegetation types within the last decade. Gerry asked if the loss of so much vegetation has a precedent. Mike responded that it hasn't in his experience. The Forest Service is attempting to discern answers to such questions through the mapping of mid-scale existing vegetation. The service has mapped canopy closure and tried to get at tree diameter size. Mike himself has spent some time in wilderness fire areas and looked at aerial photos. He found the burn pattern be very mosaic. Mike added that historically, fires were more frequent but of much smaller scale—not like the extensive (but mosaic) burning up in Sids Prong (see map on page 12). Mike noted that mosaic fire behavior, in which the fire skips around, burning some areas extensively and leaving other areas either untouched or more gently burned, is a good thing because it allows some parts of the forest to regenerate to varying degrees. In the Silver Fire, the mosaic behavior was aided by rocky outcroppings, where fire couldn't progress.

Mike Dowd asked what can we learn from that? Mike Netharius responded that perhaps the Forest Service can manage a little better. There has been considerable fear among fire policymakers about letting fire get in—and then we have had several back-to-back dry years, during which vegetation from wet years dries out and piles up as fuel.

Gerry added that his personal feeling is that the Gila region used to experience large fire, but they didn't wipe out entire stands of trees the way they do now.

Stan Rawlings asked if controlled burns help? Mike replied that he thinks they do. Nevertheless, prescribed burns and fire-use strategies (in which a fire of natural origin is allowed to burn) can be a tricky affair. The Forest Service is somewhat limited by terrain and weather conditions that sometimes take control of the process. For example, the Baldy portion of the Whitwater-Baldy Complex fire was not a prescribed burn. Instead, it was a lightning-caused fire that was being allowed to burn. When the winds come up, as they did then, things can go to heck in a hurry.

Cheryl asked for more information about post-fire mulching. Mike advised that the mulch is certified weed-free straw which is spread over the burned area one ton at a time from a cargo net carried by a helicopter with a net. Mulching is an expensive proposition, he added, at a cost of \$700 an acre. The expense drives the BAER team to analyze values and risks and make decisions about appropriate post-burn treatments accordingly.

Mike mused that he is a big proponent of seeding. He has seen it hold mountainsides together and it costs just \$75 to \$80 an acre, so there's a lot of return for the money spent. Seeding provides ground cover so first-year post-fire rains don't wash the soil away. In the second post-fire year, the seeded areas can grow from two to three thousand pounds of annual barley per acre. Then, when the barley dies, it makes its own mulch. Typically three years after a

fire and subsequent seeding, the annual barley disappears. As the BAER team monitors its plot on the Crest Trail, they have seen that on one site the barley has persisted—but that's just one one slope. The barley is out of the system by year three. The BAER team conducts its monitoring by horseback and, no surprise here, the horses love the greenery. Moreover, elk are moving into the treated areas on Reeds Peak and McKnight Mountain.

Mike closed by saying once again how much he and the Forest Service appreciate the work done by the Gila BCHA chapter.

Agenda topic *Minutes and approval* |

Nobody requested correction to the minutes from the March meeting. A motion to accept the document as is passed with robust unanimity.

Agenda topic *Finance* | Presenter *Jean Hill*

See attached report on page 13. The chapter's bank balance for the middle of March is \$2969, which includes interest and new memberships. Jean noted that the chapter had to pay additional money for last year's insurance due to underbilling. We also paid state and national dues, based on membership at the middle of March.

Payment for the good old general liability insurance is coming up on June 1. The charge will be based on membership as that date. The state BCH is seeking to have chapters pay for the expenses of sending representatives to the national conference; raising the funds to do so will likely require us to conduct fundraising events or raise our own dues. The amount the state recommends is \$10 additional per membership (same amount for single or family). The chapter already pays state dues of \$10 per membership, so the state dues would then be \$20 if the proposal remains afloat.

Fran commented that the Gila chapter's dues are the lowest in New Mexico. One chapter, she reported, charges \$60 for a family membership. Gerry proposed that board members discuss this and come up with a dues proposal to give to membership.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Hold a board meeting to discuss financing for membership dues	Doug Dexter	Before May 2015 meeting

Agenda topic *publicity* | Presenter *[Name]*

Ted Miles was recently approached by a friend who is putting together a new weekly newspaper—a spinoff from the Silver City Daily Press. This fresh face on the region's newsfront will be called *The Independent*. The publication's organizers hope to dispatch articles on horse stuff on a weekly or monthly basis. Ted offered to submit news from GBCHA. The publication will appeal to younger outdoor types and will have sections oriented toward kids.

The Independent might be a way to attract young blood to the GBCH. Ted requested guidance about what he can pull out for the publication—minutes, trail reports, horse packing stories—and he invited anybody who wants to write something can have it published on the GBCH website (<http://gilabchnm.com/>) and submitted to *The Independent*. The Gila chapter could have its own section in the paper if we had enough interest from enough people to generate regular content.

The meeting attendees authorized Ted to agree to *The Independent's* proposal. He will ask the publisher's what kind of space they want to devote and will figure out how and from whom to get approval on stories to be published there. So ted can say we'll do it and figure out how to get the oks on stories. Also will find out what kind of space they want to devote to this.

Action items**Person responsible**

Follow up on requirements for content in *The Independent*

Ted Miles

Agenda topic *Public service/communications* | **Presenter** *Gerry Engel*

Gerry Engel reported that he's prepared a new trail schedule for the coming months (see attachment on page 14). It addresses the same projects, but at dates different from the earlier schedule.

The Continental Divide Trail needs more work. That trail is still closed through the Signal Fire area. Brian Martinez (Natural Resource Specialist for Recreation, US Forest Service, Silver City) informed Gerry that the trail from Black Peak to the Signal Peak road (see map on page 16) hasn't been done so we'll try to squeeze that in.

A project not listed on the schedule is in the Rain Creek area (see map on page 17). This project is in support of a hiking group that is working on the CDT there. The group has asked us to pack equipment for them. The project will start on April 28 and will last for three or four days.

One more thing: The June project conflicts with the Gila chapter's June meeting. Gerry suggested that June would be good time to not have meeting and to hold a campout instead. Everybody agreed to the proposal. So we will have no regular meeting in June, but will gather at the Celebration site (see map on page 18) for a horse camp.

Action items**Persons responsible****Deadline**

Follow up on availability of Celebration site for GBCH campout in June

Doug Dexter
Gerry Engel

May 2015 GBCH meeting

Schedule horse camp after state BCH meeting on June 13

Doug Dexter
Gerry Engel

Agenda topic *Equine evaproject status* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Doug reported that he has completed the call tree and he passed out a chart to prove it. See the chart on page 19. Doug asked everybody to look at the chart and let him know if corrections needed or if you don't want your number on the list. Laurie Wlosinski asked if we have locations for the people who recently joined the chapter. Doug will get those locations to Laurie.

Conclusion [Closing]

Action items**Person responsible****Deadline**

Get GPS locations for Meyoni, Imlers, Netz, and Wilmeth (if she decides to join)

Doug Dexter

ASAP

Agenda topic *Grant County Search and Rescue* | **Presenter** *Doug and Laurie*

A meeting of various New Mexico search and rescue (SAR) organizations will occur in Las Cruces on Saturday, April 18. Grant County is funding one day's participation for active members of the GCSAR mounted division. Doug, Ted Miles, and Tim Wolcott are planning to attend.

A recent SAR mission near Jordan Hot Springs involved the mounted division. Gerry and Tim went out with several horses for a woman who was injured (sprained ankle) and unable to walk. Gerry, according to Laurie's report, roared in, picked up the woman, put her on a horse, and roared out. Had the mounted division not existed, the woman would have had to stay up there until her ankle healed. The ground team couldn't get in because one of

the ground pounders collapsed and had to be packed out himself. Marc Levesque, GCSAR president, was extremely happy with the result.

The mounted team's high-level participation in missions is providing a great deal of practice, so it's not clear that formal drills are immediately needed. However, it would still be fun to have compass and GPS exercises at the horse camp in June.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Organize SAR-type games for June horse camp	Laurie Wlosinski	June

Agenda topic *2015 rendezvous and other matters of state-wide significance* | **Presenters** Fran Rawllins, Stan Rawllins

Every year the New Mexico BCHA holds a rendezvous of local chapters. Fran Rawllins noted that more information about the 2015 event's timing, location, and cost would be available after a state BCH meeting in June. She commented that the rendezvous is a fun opportunity and she's hoping that the GBCH chapter will be well represented this year.

State dues will be discussed at a meeting in May. Stan Rawllins said that it has been communicated to the state leadership that nobody gets a red cent for insurance until we have a policy in writing that shows what we're covered for. The strategy is to charge a flat rate for each member, whether the membership type is family or single. Members would have to declare then the number of people in a given family membership.

Doug reminded the group that the discussion involves insurance purchased by the state BCHA and which covers a local chapter members for damage caused by his or her horse while attending a BCH event.

Stan mentioned the matter of dues payments to the state. He noted that the state association is strapped for money and would therefore like to ask the chapters to make a contribution to cover the expenses of sending two people to the national BCH convention. The state, Stan summed up, is trying to increase its income.

Agenda topic *adopt-a-highway* | **Presenter** Cindi deCapiteau



On a chilly morning in March, the Gila chapter dispatched a crew of nine people to clean up the roadside detritus along highway 180 between mile markers 108 and 109. The stretch of road hadn't been policed since June and so produced 14 bags of god-knows-what—more than the normal 8 or 9 bags.

We'll schedule another cleanup when the weather cools down in July.

Agenda topic *Dutch oven competition* | **Presenter** [Name]

A Dutch oven cook-off will be held on Saturday, April 11 out in Glenwood. Mickey and Rawlings Lemon are judges for the competition.

Agenda topic *Rattleweed* | Presenter *Ted Miles*

Beware this year's bumper crop of rattleweed, a.k.a. locoweed, crazyweed, yerba loco, chocho loco, milkvetch. This pretty plant, a member of the pea family, causes a condition called "locoism" in cattle and horses. You can learn more about the stuff at http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_b/B-713/welcome.html.

Our terrain is afflicted with two kinds of rattleweed—the silver-blue woolly type shown on the previous page and its equally obnoxious cousin, shown here.



Agenda topic *Trailfest* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Trailfest will occur on Saturday, April 11. Silver City's proximity to the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) makes it an ideal place for hikers and horse folk to access the trail, replenish supplies, get gear repaired, etc. The city received its gateway community designation in 2014 and the Trailfest celebrates that momentous event.

The event will feature booths, seminars, and demonstrations along Bullard Street and the Big Ditch all day on Saturday. The Gila BCH chapter will park a couple of horses and their gear in a fenced lot behind the old Yada Yada Yarn store in order to demonstrate packing principles. We'll be starting at 9:00 on Saturday, so stop by.

Agenda topic *4th of July parade* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Doug mentioned the parade to be held in Silver City on the 4th of July and asked who wants to participate. Cindi deCapiteau and Cheryl Roth volunteered themselves. Doug volunteered Dixie.

Agenda topic *NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference)* | Presenter *Vicki Dowd*

The undaunted Victoria came before us once again to promote competitive trail riding. A while back, she reminded us, she tried to organize such an event at Ft. Bayard, but couldn't convince the Ft. Bayard authorities to turn loose of their somewhat restrictive usage policies. Now Mike Dowd has ridden in on his sturdy war steed, Joustler, with a plan to save competitive trail riding from the stingy sovereigns at Ft. Bayard.

It seems that Mike struck up a conversation with one Mary Miller, who with her husband is associated with the NAN Ranch (a.k.a. [Y Bar NAN Ranch](#)) over there by Faywood. The property is being restored as a conference center for people and an event center for horses. Ms. Miller has offered the 67,000-acre ranch to NATRC organizers for a mere \$10 per horse.



Vicki proposes that the Gila BCH chapter hosts a competitive trail ride as a fundraiser, using the facilities at the NAN Ranch. The two-day event would be organized with a 60-horse limit, at a per-participant charge of \$130. For that price, participants get two physical exams for their horses, a great place to stay (cottonwood-shaded camping on the banks of the Mimbres River), food (presumably only people food), and a rollicking good time on authentic New Mexico ranchland.

The particulars of the competition are these:

- The riding distance for "open" (experienced) riders is 30 miles on the first day, 20 miles on the second. Novice riders would cover 20 miles the first day and from 15-17 miles on the second day.
- The role of the Gila chapter is to front \$50 for a NATRC sanction fee and also to provide volunteers to help set up and support the event. Entry fees would cover the expenses of judges (\$1000 per judge). Vicki believes the chapter could clear nearly \$4,000 on the event and maybe a little more.

Participants would come from Arizona, West Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana (pretty much covers the mountain states region, doesn't it?). Vicki has already received commitments from people in Colorado. The Gila chapter's involvement would provide publicity and clean lucre for the chapter.

A competitive trail ride, Vicki noted, is a rally, not a race. The idea is to ride so you can keep riding for an extended time. You can't use leg wraps and liniment, but you can use cold water. She recommends that interested parties download the rules from <http://www.natrc.org/RuleBook/Rulebook.pdf>

Vicki has pinpointed three dates in 2016 (that's next year, folks): April 29, 30, and May 1, 2016; 4th of July weekend 2016; and the weekend after 4th of July. Participants will be coming in on Friday afternoon of the designated

weekend. Ted Miles, whose divided loyalties include bicycling, observed that the April-May dates coincide with the Tour of the Gila, which closes down highways 15 and 35. That information brought a thoughtful frown to Vicki's lovely face and she said she'd have to check on it.

Vicki said that even though the event is a year away, if the chapter wants in on the deal, we need to start planning now. She tossed out a volunteer exploratory committee call, which was promptly answered by Judy Lawson, Donna Tillmann, and Sandy Weir. Vicki requested contact information for these awe-inspiring women and Cindi deCapiteau said she would provide that via email.

Action items**Person responsible**

Take lead on setting up steering committee

Vicki Dowd

Get contact information to Vicki

Cindi deCapiteau

Agenda topic *Request for group ride with Heidi Collings* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Heidi Collings (Dripping Springs Ranch in Mule Creek NM) breeds Spanish Barb horses. One of her horses needs trail experience, so she's asked the GBCH to organize a trail ride, which would occur on her ranch in Mule Creek.

If you're interested, notify Doug, who will set up a date.

Action items**Person responsible**

Contact Doug Dexter to express interest in a Mule Creek trail ride

Interested parties

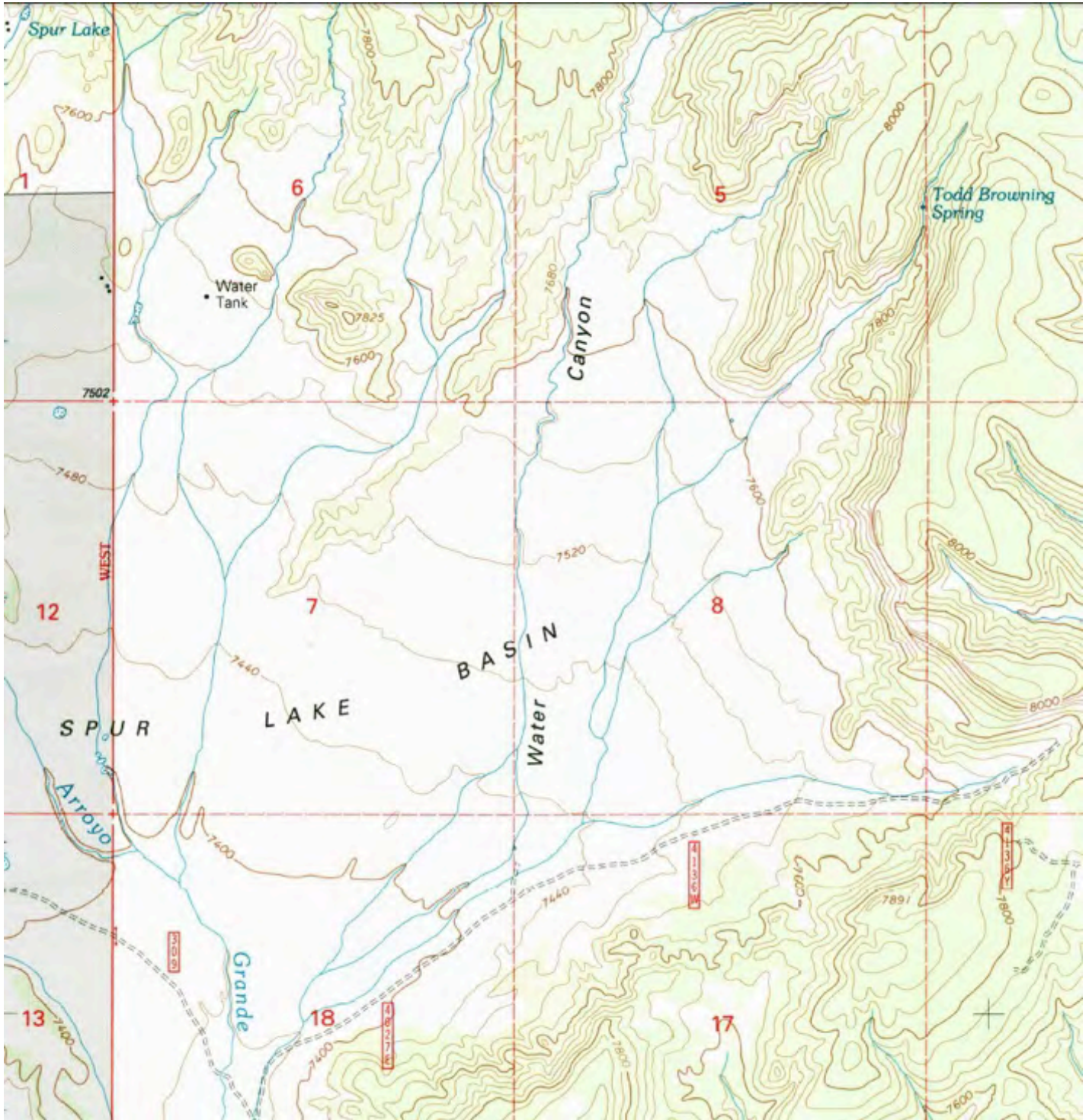
Set up a date for the Mule Creek trail ride

Doug Dexter

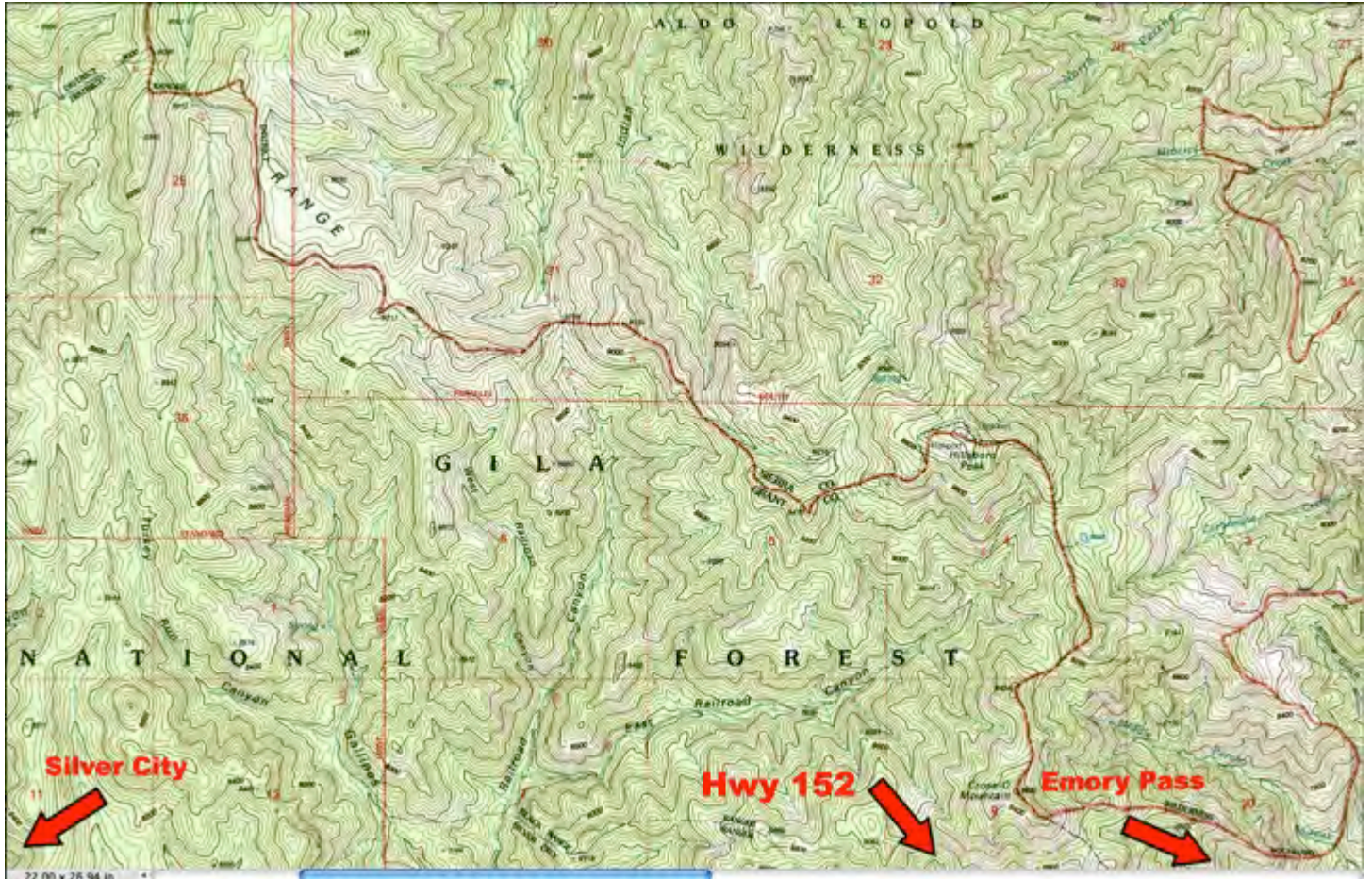
Agenda topic *Need bigger place for meetings?* | **Presenter** *Fran Rawllins*

Fran looked around the chapter's crowded meeting space in the Gila Regional Medical Center's conference room and—recalling the unparalleled number of people who attended our March meeting—observed that we might need a larger venue. Doug said he'd talk to people at HMS (Hidalgo Medical Services, which has a facility in Silver City) and the Grant County Conference Center.

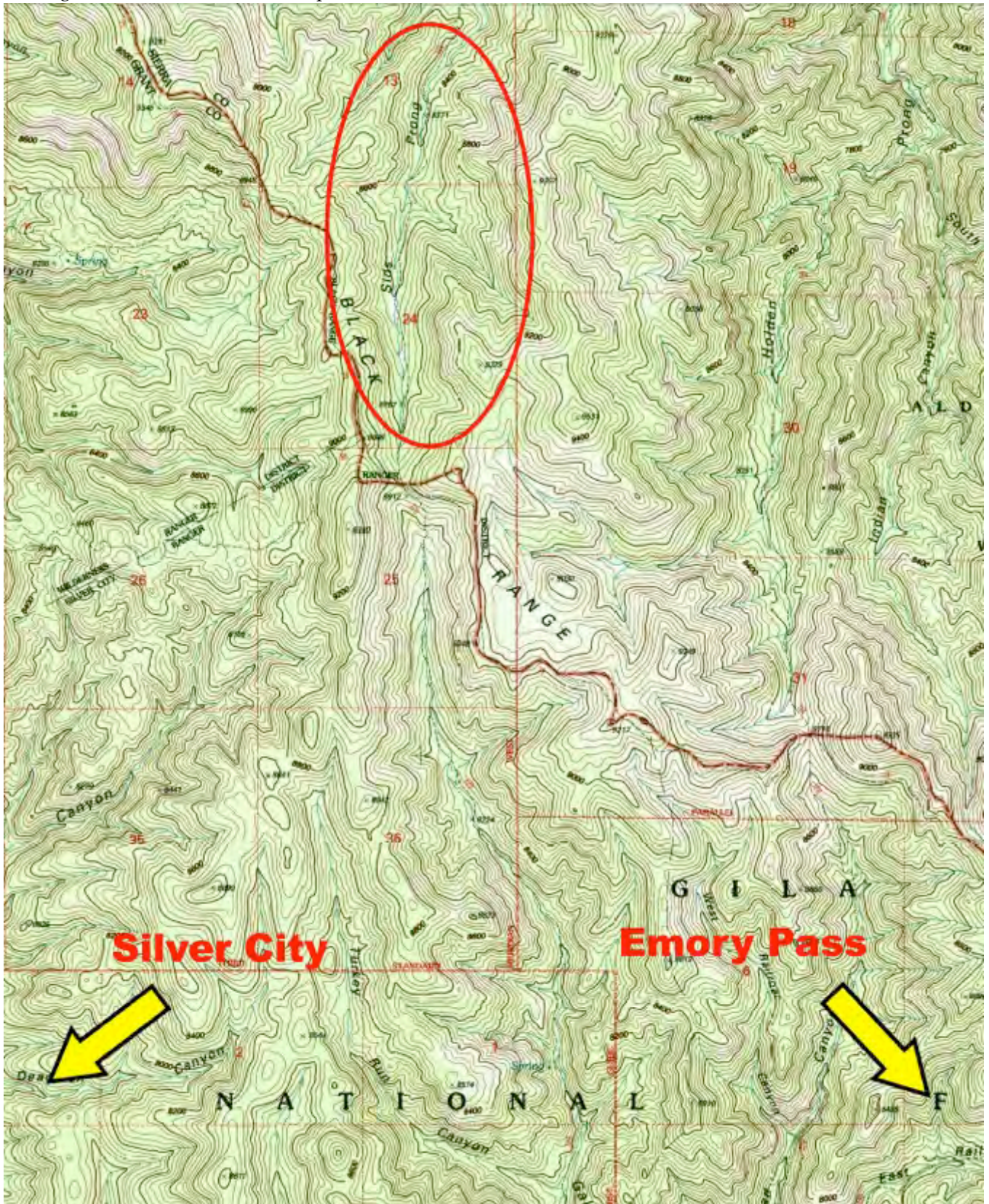
Location of Water Canyon (USGS 1999 Centerfire Bog map)



Crest Trail near Hillsboro Peak – USGS 1999 Hillsboro Peak Map



Sids Prong – USGS Hillsboro Peak map 1999



Bank Balance Feb 17, 2015 \$ 2,969.88

Credits

3/15/15	\$.33	interest
2/23/15	\$ 40.00	membership, Conway/McLeod

Bank Balance Mar 15, 2015 \$ 3,010.21

Transactions After last Bank Balance:

Credits

3/16/15	\$ 70.00	memberships, Folia & Imlers
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Debits

4/8/15 #1276	\$ 26.91	BCH NM, Director's & Officers Insurance, to correct 2014 underpayment
4/8/15 #1277	\$ 126.00	BCH NM, Director's & Officers Insurance, for 2015
4/8/15 #1278	\$ 748.00	BCH NM, 1st quarter dues based on 16 family and 15 single memberships
4/1/15 #1279	\$ 326.57	reimburse Cindi for 2 flags for BCH

Bank Balance April 9, 2015 \$ 1,852.73

Expenses coming up:

USPS PO Box bill	\$78. due 4/30/2015
Reimbursement gas NMBCH	\$25. to pay now.

Membership Update/Email List - no new members since March meeting, total is 48.

State and National Dues for the first quarter of 2015 were mailed to BCH NM on April 1st, based on our March 31 membership:

BCH NM under estimated cost of Directors and Officers insurance in 2014, so we had to pay \$26.91 to them, as well as \$126. for the 2015 D&O insurance. These checks went out on April 1st also.

Note: State BCH minutes from March indicate they want chapters to vote on increasing State dues for single and family memberships by \$10 in 2016. That would change singles from \$5 to \$15 for state (still \$15 to national), and families from \$10 to \$20 (still \$18 to national).

General Liability insurance

BCH NM has not yet sent any definite amount for how much each chapter will owe for each member. This bill is due June 1st, and will be based on our membership on April 15. Last year we paid \$308 for this--2014 was the first year we had to do so.

The cost to send delegates to national BCH conference may be passed to chapters in the future; estimated \$214 per chapter. There are also costs for rendezvous that need to be covered.

Revised Trail Schedule

Draft Schedule of Service Projects spring/early summer 2015: This is our best shot at this point, but all dates could change because of weather or scheduling conflicts. I will try to put out a signup message before the various projects.

Friday March 13st – One-day project to reopen the Little Cherry Creek trail. This trail is pretty good but there are a couple of short rocky steep sections. We will park at an area along side Highway 15 across from the Little Cherry Creek Road and go in and out on the same trail and road. The first 2.5 miles are road so there will not be any work on this section. The trail itself starts about 2.5 miles from the Highway and goes for about 2.5 miles to the junction with the CDT. When I rode this last fall there was not a lot down but there are a couple of really large pine trees that need to be removed. The work can be done with a chainsaw, so it would be good if we have a min. of about 3 people. Parking is limited so we might have to limit participation. Completed: Steve Servis, Gerry Engel, Cindi deCapiteau, Cheryl Roth, Ted Miles, Tim Wolcott, worked on project. 2.5 miles were cleared. We removed 3 trees (two large ones). (Silver City District)

Wednesday March 18th – One day project to begin reopening the CDT (Trail 74). We would park at the Meadow Creek turnoff off of Highway 15 and ride into Aztec park where we would begin work on the trail going toward Black Peak. Not sure how much of this we can get done in a day since this is pretty much all within the Signal Fire area. There could be a lot of downed trees. We will only be cutting trees down across the trail. The Forest Service Fire Crew will be removing hazard trees. Since this is within the burn area, it will be dirty work so expect to get black. We will also have to be careful of hazard trees and will not do the project if it is windy. There is good parking at turnoff to Meadow Creek. This project will be chainsaw. It would be good if we have at least 3 people. Completed on Tuesday March 24th. Gerry Engel, Tim Wolcott, Donna Tillmann, and Cindi deCapiteau participated. We cleared 3.5 miles of trail. Cut or removed 27 trees from the trail. (Silver City District)

Monday April 13th --Allie Canyon Trail (100). We would trailer to the junction of this trail with highway 35 near Wilderness Ranger Station. From there we would clear approximately 7 miles of trail and return on the same trail. All of this trail was cleared 2 year so it should be in pretty good shape. This trail has a couple of steep pitches and one area of slick rock. With the exception of these sections it is an relatively easy ride. I think we can park about 4 horse trailers at the beginning of the trail, so that is the only thing that could limit participation. This is a chain saw job so we will need a minimum of 3 people. (Silver City District)

Wednesday April 22-- One day project to clear the Rabb Park Trail from the junction with Highway 152, as far as we can make it. This trail has not been cleared since the Silver Fire. It is mostly within the Pinion/Juniper veg. type so it is usually not too bad. There is limited parking so we will have to limit participation. We can use a chainsaw to clear this trail. The trail has some steep sections and one area just past Rabb Park that is very narrow and rocky, but other than that, it is a pretty good trail. (Silver City and Wilderness Districts)

Thursday through Monday, May 14th - 18th – Camp at Woodies Corral and work on trails in that area. Some of the trails in this area have already been cleared by another volunteer group. As a result we may have to ride further to get to uncleared trails than originally planned. Depending on how many folks we have, we might be able to brake into two groups and work on trails on both sides of the river. Since we would be camping at the trailhead, folks could come up for part of this time. (Wilderness District)

May 26 through 29th, Tuesday through Friday Pack into the junction of trail 160 and 161 (Little Creek Trail and the Little Turkey Park Trail and work on both of those trails. From this point it is about 8 miles up Little Creek to Little Spring, and about 4.5 miles up the 160 trail to Little Turkey Park. We might go up on the 25th and camp at Woodies and might also camp there on the 29th when we come out. That will depend on folks'

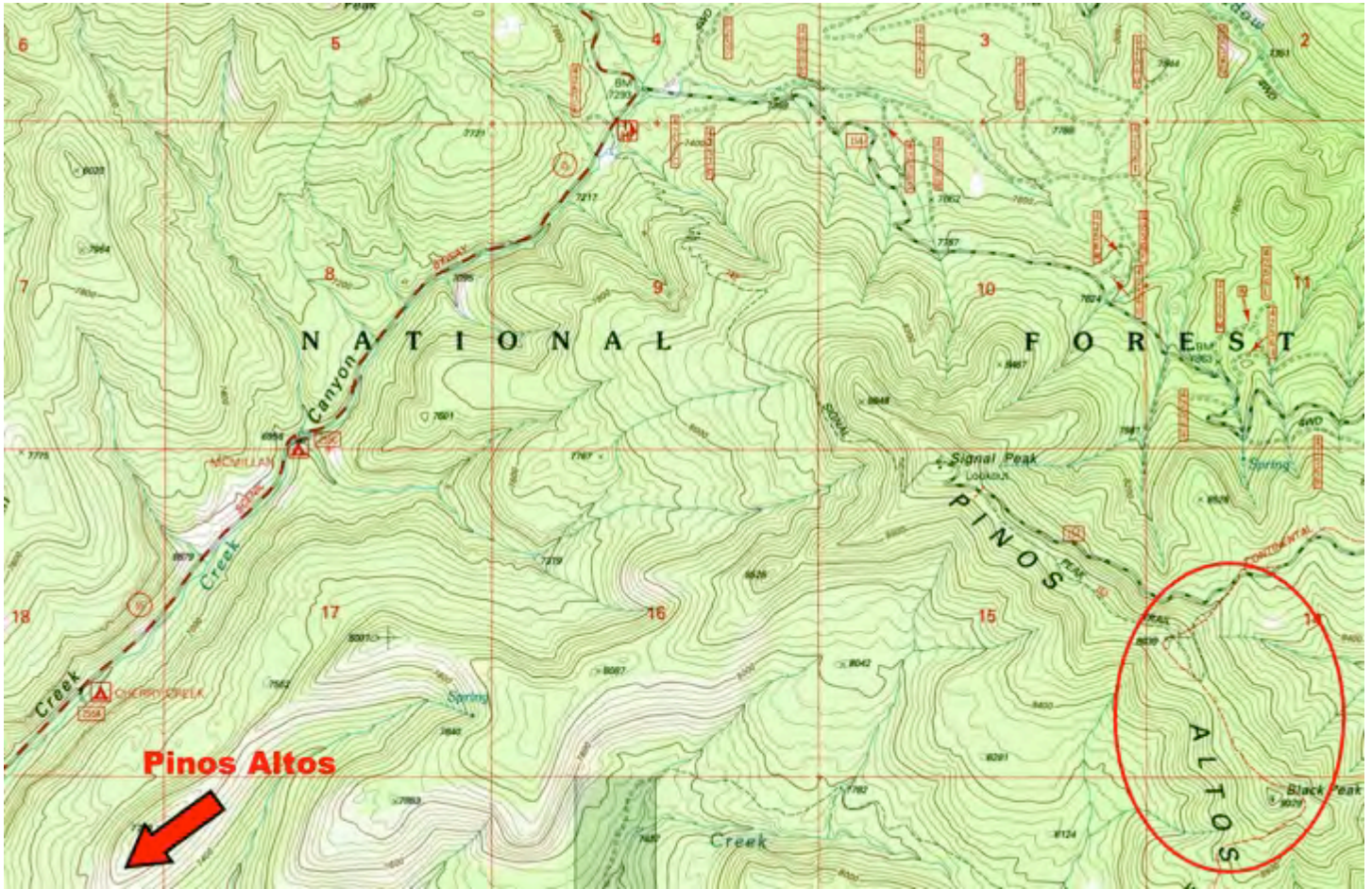
schedules. I would probably try to pack in horse feed before the main group goes in so that we do not have so many animals standing around. (Wilderness District)

June 8th through June 13th, Monday through Saturday - Pack into the head of Little Creek and work on the trails in that area. This is about a 12 mile pack in. We would try to get the Wilderness District to pack in our horse feed right before we go in. This is really going to depend on if there is water in Little Creek. As an alternative, we might do the project up the Middle Fork where Becky Campbell would like us to do building a rock ramp to a section of the trail that was washed out during the flood a couple of years ago. (Wilderness District)

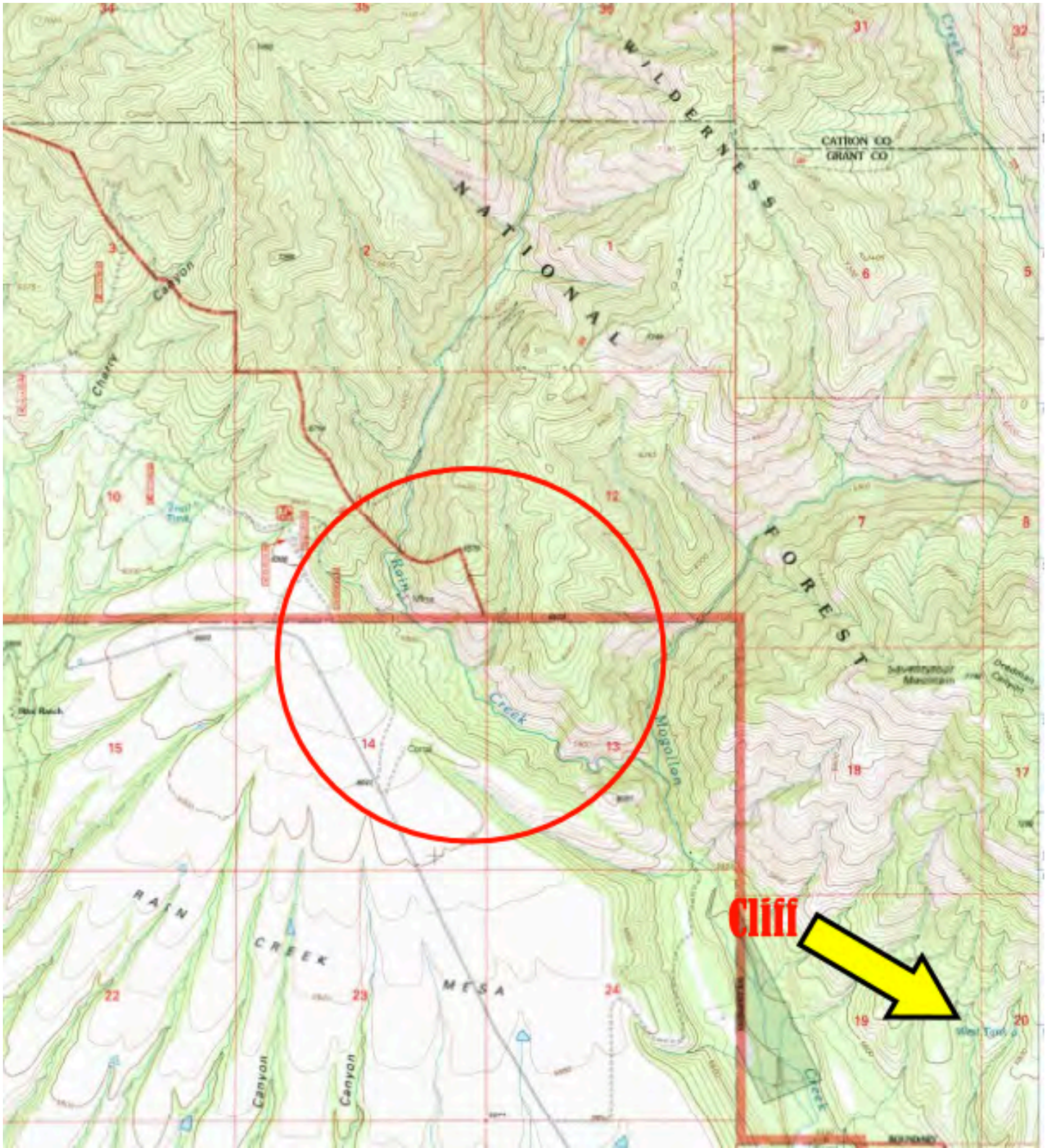
Thursday June 25th - One day project to clear Tadpole Ridge Trail. We would try to work out a shuttle to the Sheep Corral end of the trail with horse trailers left at the Highway 15 end so we can probably only use 2 people and a pack animal on this project. The objective will be to cut the logs off the 8 miles of trail. This trail was not cleared last year but we can do the work with a chainsaw so I think it is possible to accomplish this in one day if we get an early start. (Silver City District)

This is pretty ambitious so I thought I would stop here for now. Depending on how much work the fire crews do, we might need to do additional work early on the CDT in the Signal Burn area. If so, we would adjust the remainder of the schedule or try to squeeze in a couple of days with a few of us. There are a lot more trails we can work after we complete what is listed. I did not list Railroad/Gallinas Trails because after last years flood I am not sure it is worth clearing them. Would be good if someone could take a look at them at some point. I will suggest several additional trails to check out at the next meeting.

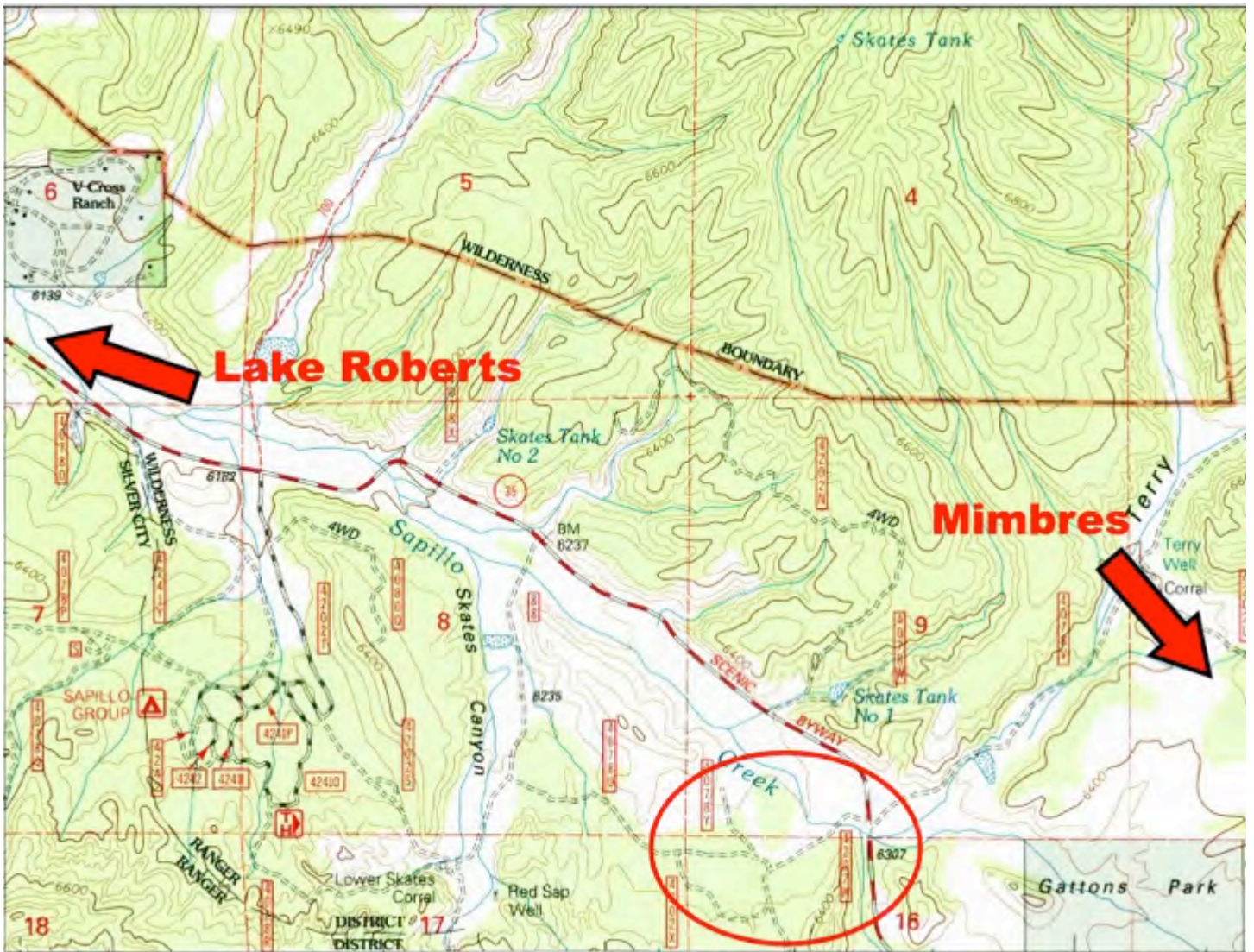
Continental Divide Trail, Black Peak to Signal Peak Road (1999 USGS Twin Sisters map)



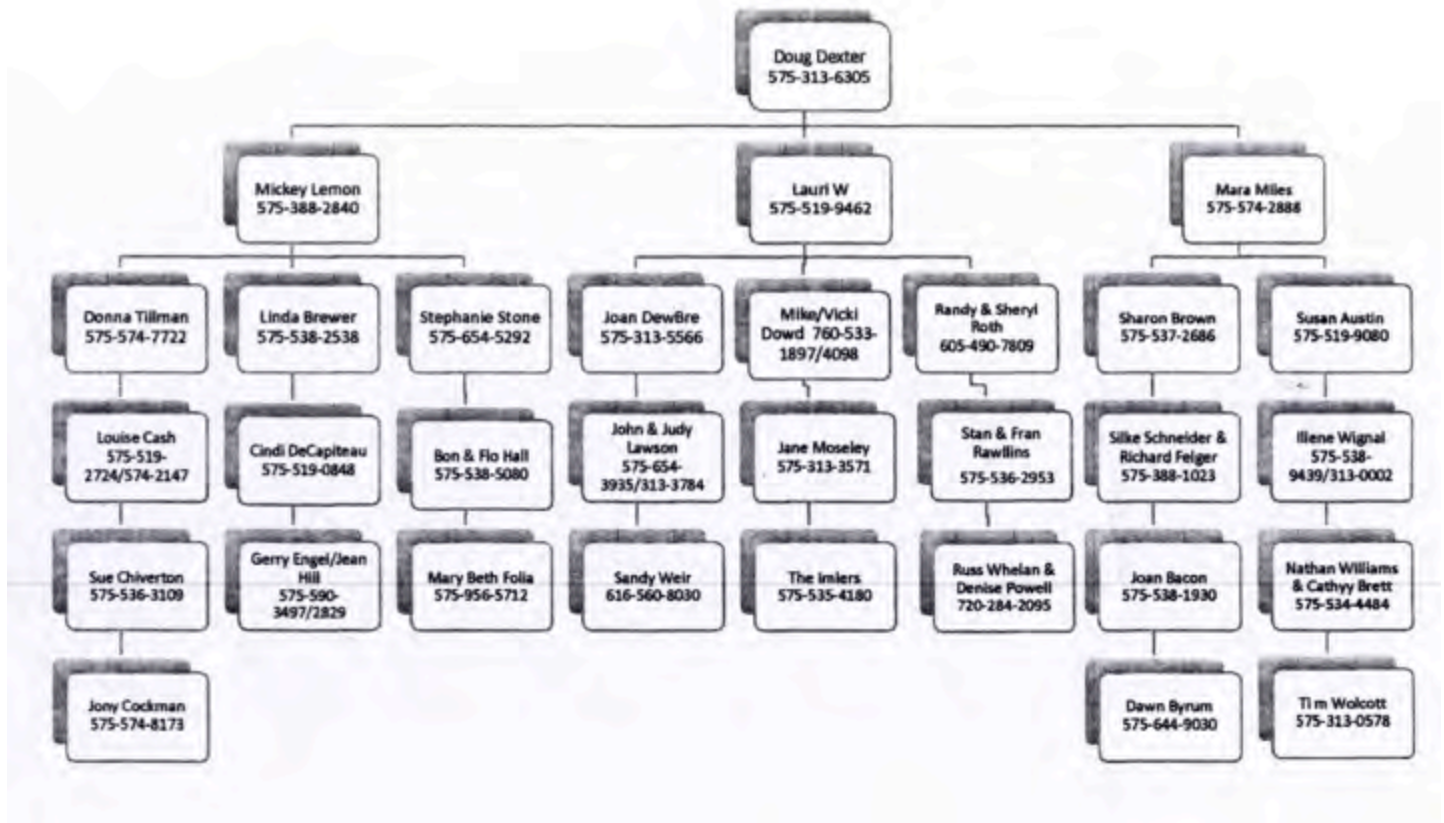
Rain Creek Area (USGS Rice Ranch map)



Location of Celebration Site – 1999 USGS North Star Mesa map
(left turn off Hwy 35 between mile markers 18 and 19)



GBCH Evacuation Emergency Call Tree as of April 2015



Example of how the call tree works:

1. Doug Dexter gets wind of an emergency that involves evacuation in the territory for which Mickey Lemon makes calls.
2. Doug calls Mickey Lemon and tells her everything he knows about the situation.
3. Mickey calls the members attached to her name and relays the emergency information.
 - Mickey calls Donna Tillmann, Linda Brewer, and Stephanie Stone.
 - Each of the three people Mickey calls gives a shout to the person under his or her name. Donna Tillmann, for example, calls Louise Cash. Louise Cash calls Sue Chiverton. Sue Chiverton calls Jony Cockman.

As long as everybody answers the phone, the information gets passed throughout the evacuation area.