

PWV stock committee packers' success is based upon 6 things; commitment communication, dedication, training and practicing, horsemanship and also generosity. Specifically, 6 members; Fred Allen, Tim Van Donselaar, Leigh Cooper, Dan Schultejann, Kasey (Jordan) Konkey and myself. All these members worked hard to make this season, our first real packing season, a huge success and I am proud of their commitment and dedication along with the generosity of Rawah Ranch.

Starting with the spring stock clinic. While we only had few people show up for various reasons however, it was still an overall success and all the above members participated, as well as Daniel VanDonselaar.

Fred Allen Stock committee co-chair; communication, coordination and relationship building.

Fred worked with Matt Cowan to get the youth conservation corps out of the bunk house and up the Rawah trail where they maximized their efforts. In addition to coordinating with Wildland Restoration Volunteers, he spent time at the Rawah Ranch visiting with and building a relationship with the ranch managers, owners and wranglers which became crucial to our success, when we needed horses to get the jobs done. Fred also manned the "mobile communication van" where he has internet and phone access through Starlink. He sent and received in reach messages with the crews so he knew what was going on. During our trips he was the first one at the trailhead parking lot and the last to leave. On the last and biggest pack in, he cooked and served three breakfasts and dinners. When I arrived on Thursday evening, I was rather surprised at the items we were to pack in but taking things one step at a time was what we did. Fred had every item weighed and written down on a notebook and we went to work that night. Fred is also working with Colorado State University, specifically, with the new Equine Studies Professor, Robin who was at the second pack in that was cancelled due to a Conservation crew member testing positive for covid.

Tim Van Donselaar Stock committee co-chair, along with Leigh Cooper took the first Pack trip in along with Big Jake (my pack horse). They caught up with the conservation crew and dropped off their supplies. Tim spoke with crew and communicated that the trees that they had cut needed to be cut again to widen the trail to 6 feet anywhere possible to accommodate pack horses. They widened the trail on their way out which was another thing critical to our success. Rawah Ranch not only supplied a few horses, but a wonderful wrangler named Erin. After the crews work week was finished, Kasey and Leigh along with Big Jake went in to retrieve the orange plastic pack panniers, that the crew used to store food.

When we packed the last trip in this last weekend I worked with Tim loading the horses and it was obvious the time he spent learning different hitches that were vital to a successful trip. I was really impressed with his ability to tie some kind of hitch on the oddball stuff when needed.

Also this past weekend Dan S. had a non-horse related injury and couldn't make the pack in. So, once again we needed more horses. Actually, we needed 5 from Rawah Ranch. They were generous enough to give us a riding horse for myself and 4 pack horses along with our trusty wrangler Erin. We packed in 650 pounds of stuff. Six hundred and fifty pounds of tools supplies and food for a group of about 20+ workers, only two of which were PWV members (not including the two PWV/WRV crew leaders.) We packed in 4 shovels, 3 mcleods, 6 pick ax's 6 sledge hammers, 6 rock bars and more including 4 steel barrels.

Show photos and videos and I'll give a brief narration of them.

Topics for discussion:

We understand the need to document trail work progress via photos. This is our first year and we were so wrapped up in learning packing we did not do that. I will explain Tim V's visual observations the best I can. We may have pictures soon when we get the rest of the tools. Robin was scheduled for that but got stepped on by a horse Monday!

The need for Bear proof panniers. (briefly) And building a box for the pick ax's and sledge hammers.

The need to support organizations such as Wildland Restoration Volunteers to continue the much-needed work on all trails in that area. If we can't do this through our organization, a warm body is better than no body. We can't just neglect the trails that need improvement. We need to continue this work. The Rawah trail was the worst of them all, that's why we started there. We may do several of these work projects next season. We will approach the board on each one individually.