



**Washington State Chapter  
Bethel Springs Habitat Project  
in cooperation with USFS.**

**Date/Time:** Saturday June 27, 2015 9:00 AM

**Location:** Rimrock Lake area, near [Hause Creek Campground](#) (West of Yakima)

**Directions:** We will meet at the [Hause Creek Campground](#), which is just off highway 12 west of Yakima and east of Rimrock at 9:00. Hause Creek Campground at Naches, WA can be used to set GPS directions. If you come late and are heading west on 12, take road #1500 north. Road #1500, north, is only about ¼ mile west of the campgrounds entrance. You will see the work party parked up this road.

See [Hause Creek campground](#) map, zoom in, preceding the Campground Photos. This project returns to the same site where a fencing project was done in June of 2014. Parking outside of the Campground is available on the **north** side of Highway 12 close to the campground entrance. The #1500 road, to the left, can be seen in this picture of Highway 12 heading east ([click to view area west of the Hause Creek Campground and Road #1500/Highway 12](#)). Click to see [area map](#).

Caution: Some areas of Highway 12 are marked as congested areas but visibility is limited by curves and hills, plus drivers may be transiting the area on an already long drive. The project will start by picking up poles at the USFS Ranger station on the North side of Highway 12, hauling the poles to the project site, then building the buck and pole fence.

**Project:** We will do a buck & pole fence to protect sensitive habitat from large animals and wheeled vehicles. The materials will be provided by the USFS and RGS. RGS is purchasing some rails for the project to complete the fence this year. We will be assisted by a USFS project manager. This is a large project, requiring a larger crew than the 2014 fencing project. Volunteer early to permit the chapter to plan the extent and duration of the project. This project is probably the most eastern project that the chapter is planning for 2015.

**Equipment:** You will need a heavy hammer to drive large spikes, 23 ounce framing hammer is recommended, and gloves. We expect that two chain saws will be available for notching the posts, if you have a chain saw in your truck, it would be welcome as a backup. Trucks to haul materials are needed.

**On-site Contact:** Kevin Clements ([kevin@clementsgeneral.com](mailto:kevin@clementsgeneral.com)) says cell phones work, his mobile #206-793-5336

**RGS:** A cold lunch and drinks will be supplied by RGS. Please tell us that your volunteering to make sure that enough lunches are brought to the site.

***For more information, please contact:***

Leonard Tierney/President

28023 NE 140th place.

Duvall, WA. 98019-8389

425-761-3232

**[WashingtonRGS@outlook.com](mailto:WashingtonRGS@outlook.com)**

**George Joyner/Treasurer.....Joel Gessele/Secretary.....Rod Olson/Banquet & Development  
Doug Forsythe/Activities.....Kevin Clements & Bill Neal/co-chairmen Habitat**

## Post Project Review

The members assembled at the Hause Creek Campground. The Campground attendant greeted me and accepted the explanation of the volunteer project. Kevin, Aiden, and Bob were waiting in the campground. Bob picked up nails from the White Center Ranger Station, across US 12 from the Campground. At 9:18 the Members proceeded to the project site from the Campground.

The site for this project was past last years site. Pictures of last years project have been appended to the Notice for last years 2014 [Bethel Springs Habitat Project](#). The USFS Project Manager reported that Aspen Sprouts are thriving in the area protected by the fence.

The site had bucks and rails distributed at the site, defining the perimeter of the fence. The project started by raising the second buck and securing it with three rails. The process was repeated until 12:10 PM when the crew stopped for lunch.

After Lunch, the effort was concentrated on adding rails to the standing joined Bucks. Rails were completed on 8 of the 19 standing joined bucks. A battery operated drill was used to drill pilot holes in the rails. A generator was available to recharge drill batteries. The multiple batteries and generator were enough to drill pilot holes for the morning and afternoon sessions.

About 20 rails remained in a pile near the project. These were moved to the back of the project as the last work on the project.

The predicted and actual temperature was close to 100. The heat was bearable and precautions were taken to keep hydrated.

Four member crews are ideal for the activities of raising bucks, placing rails, drilling pilot holes, nailing rails, and holding rails for the member nailing the rails. This works when the bucks are built and distributed.



Bob with Rail at the first bucks of the fence. The site had been cleared of pines in previous projects to encourage aspen growth. Most of the Aspen were very large, tall and mature. Impressively tall. There was only one smaller aspen visible, 15 – 20 foot single trunk tree, not shown.



High rail being placed on a standing bucks. The standing buck has three rails attached, 1 high and two low. Four more are added close enough to keep juvenile elk out of the fence.



Interior of Fence Enclosure area with the 19<sup>th</sup> buck assembled. A view of the prepared area showing older aspen without a spectrum of aspen ages.



Interior of the fenced area with 9<sup>th</sup> completed buck, Kevin and Aiden distributing rails, left, a pair of the mature aspen, a fir tree and an exceptionally clear, walkable space uncharacteristic of the terrain.