



The Highline

A tri-annual newsletter of the Back County Horsemen of Oregon

April 2017

West Cascade Back Country Horsemen Partners with Detroit Forest Service and National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

Submitted by: Jennifer Paulson, President of West Cascade BCHO

West Cascade BCHO decided to do something different in 2016 at Big Meadow Horse Camp.

The wooden pole and post corrals are always being repaired because of heavy snow loads, tree falls, rot, and horses chewing poles. Oregon Equestrian Trails and some other Chapters of Back Country Horsemen were starting to replace old corrals with steel 12 gauge corrals in other horse camps in Oregon so that more time could be spent clearing trails in national forest and wilderness areas.

West Cascade applied for a grant called "Boots on the Ground" from Nature Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

We were awarded a \$1500 grant but only received \$750 to start until the project was completed. A set of four corrals were \$2045.20. Our chapter did not have the funds to cover the rest. I called Josh Weathers of Detroit Forest Service. He had told me before he could help us. I told him that we did not have the funds needed to pay for the rest of corrals and would probably have to cancel this project.

Josh amazed me and asked how much was needed, and he made it happen. We paid \$762 and USFS paid \$1283.20. I was doing a major happy dance after our conversation. So we put in our order to Noble. We had to wait for the next build date and bundle our order with another organization. These are special made corrals to FS specs with horsemen input for safety and durability. They are not off the shelf like other corrals.

Our order was processed and in September our corrals were built. One of West Cascades members, Eric Dahl and his son Ben, volunteered to drive to Milton-Free Water and retrieve the corrals, driving 12 hours round trip. Another member Arden Corey volunteered to take the lead on the corral installation, and he coordinated with members and Forest Service for gravel and cement.

Of course this all falls in hunting season so we had to plan around members hunting trips.

The install was planned for October 21st. Corrals were brought up to horse camp, a tractor was brought by Bert Morris to remove old corrals and to level the site as much as possible, and haul gravel.



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See your local chapter

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Please feel free to contact our officers or staff if you need any assistance or have a question pertaining to BCHO.

PURPOSES of BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of OREGON

To PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.

To WORK to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To ASSIST the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the back country resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

Come to a meeting and make a difference...

Columbia Gorge Chapter

Meets: The 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr. Hood River OR 97031

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Joy Senger at columbiagorge@bcho.org

East Cascades Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Monday of every month at the Black Bear Diner, 1465 NE 3rd St., Bend OR meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Buck Davis, eastcascades@bcho.com

Emerald Empire Chapter

Meets: the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Utility District building, 33733 Seavey Lp Road, Eugene, OR 97405 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Emily Elias, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at Elmers 3030 South 6th Klamath Falls, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Betty Applebaker, hdntr@bcho.org

North Umpqua Chapter

Meets: The 3rd Thursday of the month at the Douglas County Courthouse, 1020 Oakley Road, Roseburg, OR 97471 in Room #317 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Janet Miller, northumpqua@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

Meets: The third Saturday of the month at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 150 Lewis Court, Cave Junction.

6:00 p.m. in the winter and at 7:00 p.m. in the summer

Contact: Dick Butler, sourdough@bcho.org

Steens Chapter

Meets: As needed! Please confirm meeting schedule and work party dates through SteensBCH@gmail.com or call John O'Connor 541-678-3502

West Cascades Chapter

Meets: The 1st Wednesday of each month at Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market Street NE, Salem, OR. Dinner time is at 6:00 p.m. meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Jennifer Paulson, westcascades-pres@bcho.org

Territorial Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Beaver Creek Fire Department, 22310 S Beaver Creek Rd. Beaver Creek, Or. 97004

at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Tim Lagasse, territorialriders@bcho.org

Wilderness Packer Chapter

Meets: Held by conference call every other month

Contact: Mat Wooley, Wctimberfalling@aol.com

Cover Story Continued...

Josh Weathers, from the Forest Service, came with cement and helped pack the heavy corral panels. It took a while for us to determine the best way to install because of trees because of their roots and slight slope. Once we decided how to do it, the outcome was great. We were all very proud.

Without the Boots on the Ground grant and Detroit Forest Service this would not have happen.

We have eight more sites we would like to install corrals in at Big Meadows Horse Camp in the coming years. Our future is bright.



Thanks, Partners!

Submitted by: **Anthony Benedetti, Recreation Operations for the Fremont-Winema National Forest**



Last May, I attended my second High Desert Trail Riders of the Backcountry Horsemen, Horse Packing and Wilderness skills Clinic in Klamath Falls. I was impressed with the passionate wilderness and trails volunteers I interacted with during the weekend.

I would like to thank the Back Country Horsemen of America for their support of Wilderness and trails across the Country. Wilderness and trails are America's most valuable resource, next to you, the volunteers who work to keep this legacy alive. I would especially like to thank the High Desert Trail Riders of Klamath County for their continued support of the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

The High Desert Trail Riders have partnered with the Fremont-Winema National Forest and other Forests for over 30 years. That is more time than most Forest Service careers. Their dedication and unyielding support makes all the difference in the world to me. Their passion for Wilderness and Trails inspires me to do my best, as a Public land steward.

In 2015, they began providing stock support for our trail crews, which allows us to cover more ground in less time, making us a more efficient trail crew. I would never say the High Desert Trail Riders are the best group I've ever worked with, because I wouldn't want to offend any other groups of volunteers. Just the same, I think they know their value to the community and to the Forest Service.

In closing, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the High Desert Trail Riders for all that they do and for setting the example of what a partnership is.

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Letter from the President

Submitted by: Jerry Bentz

Greetings from the cold and wet Willamette valley. I am sure most of us will not forget this winter.

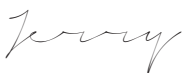
Winter convention this year was at the rodeo grounds in Sisters. We managed to fit it in between snow storms. We had a good turnout with over fifty members attending. BCHO has two new Vice Presidents. Bert Morris from the West Cascade chapter is our new West Side Vice President. Liz Warren from the High Desert Trail Riders is the new East Side Vice President. Both Vice Presidents are eager to get to work on improving our organization. I am excited about our future with their help. We also gave away this year's awards. Along with our Chapter Volunteers of the Year we had numerous other awards. I was pleased to present the President's Award to Jeff Mast of the Forest Service. Jeff oversaw trails for Region 6 and is now the Assistant National trails person. Jeff has been a great ally and help to BCHO. Since getting to know Jeff we have had considerable more influence at Region 6. The Marlene Orchard award for volunteerism went to Becky Wolf. Those of you who know Becky understand I don't need to explain why. This year we had a new award called the Atta-Boy award. We gave out four of those. They went to Dan & Betty Applebaker, Phil & Laurie Hufstader, Dave Price and Bert Morris. These folks have done work above and beyond by taking on special projects. I also was pleased to present Thank You plaques to Joy Senger and Jerry & Molly Schmeltzer for making significant financial contributions to BCHO. Our dinner speakers were Jim & Holly Akenson. Jim & Holly spent many years living in the Frank Church Wilderness and shared some of their experiences. Dinner its self was prepared by our members, onsite in Dutch Ovens. It was GREAT. I want to thank Brenda for heading that up. I also want to thank the East Cascade chapter for all the work they did to help make it a great Winter Convention. I also want to thank Bert Morris and Arden Corey for setting up our crosscut saw competition over the lunch hour. The current plan is to have our Winter Convention at Sisters again next year. It would be great if we could double the attendance next year.

In January, we had our Trails Management Seminar in Veneta. We had representatives from most of our chapters in attendance. The seminar was two days. Saturday, we had speakers from the Forest Service and Sunday our folks talked about all the rules we have to work with in while dealing with the Forest Service. I cannot in one paragraph do it justice. Dennis Dailey flew out from Wyoming to help explain about the Wilderness Act. It was great to see Dennis again. Dan Applebaker along with Dave Price put together a great agenda. Thanks again guys. I think we will try to do something like this again in a couple of years. I want to thank everyone who attended. It would be nice if all we had to do was clear trails to keep them open but it's not that simple anymore. BCHO's Public Lands committee is constantly involved politically trying to prevent the Forest Service from closing trails or restricting use. We need all of your help also. We need to hear from you when problems start to arise. We also will be asking the members to be involved with letters and comments as the need arises. I always like to remind everyone that we are not only fighting to keep trails open and accessible for us but we are also fighting for our grandchildren.

So let's talk about all of the fun upcoming events. First is the Horse Packing and Wilderness Skills Expo, in Klamath Falls May 5-7. This year they are getting back to the basics. The theme is "Our Disappearing Trails" Hikers, Hunters & Horsemen Unite. If you have not been to this event before you need to do so. If you have, go again. There are many changes this year. I will be there I hope you are also. We need to support our Klamath Falls chapter and this great event. Next in line is the State Ride. This year, the State Ride is being hosted by our East Cascades chapter. The ride will be held at Man Camp in the Ochocos. The date this year is July 21-23. There are good trails to ride in the area. There are no facilities there so be prepared to high line your animals. We will have a potluck on Saturday night. The State Ride is always a great time. So, put it on your calendar and join us.

I know we are all anxious for summer to get here. I have shared with you before my love of the mountains. At our Trails Seminar one of the speakers shared a quote. "I go to the mountains to lose my mind and gain my sanity". This year, with all of the snow, it may be a little later than normal when we are able to go to the mountains and gain our sanity. Happy logging to everyone.

See you in the mountains,



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Questions? Contact Rebecca-d@msn.com

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Officer Election

February 18, 2017

The Nomination Committee provided the following candidates for office:

BCHO President – Jerry Bentz

West Side Vice President – Bert Morris

East Side Vice President – no candidate

National Director – Phil Hufstader

Alternate Director – Jerry Bentz

For the office of President, Carole Hopkins made a motion to close nominations and vote, Becky Hope seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

For the office of West Side Vice President, Arden Corey made a motion to close nominations and vote, Phil Hufstader seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

For the office of East Side Vice President, Liz Warren was nominated from the floor by Jim Icenbice. Phil Hufstader made a motion to close nominations and vote, Becky Hope seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

For the office of National Director, Gary Sischo made a motion to close nominations and vote, Molly Schmeltzer seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

For the office of Alternate National Director, Phil Hufstader made a motion to close nominations and vote, Jim Forsman seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

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Baker Beach Pre-Solve Cleanup

Submitted by: Betty Jean Keele, Emerald Empire

"Nothing feels better than giving back to the beautiful world we call home. Thank you so much Jimmie Swain and Jordan Kurahara for giving up their Saturday to pick up trash at the annual Florence Beach clean up. Also huge thank you to the US Forest Service, the Division of Fish and Wildlife for all your help and Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon for making all this possible. Beautiful souls giving back." Quote from Cahill Sphal, one of three U of O students Matt Hope brought with him.

For this year's Pre-Solve Cleanup, we expected 100% rain with 17 mph wind. Luckily for the 11 folks riding and the 3 folks walking, the weather forecast was WRONG. It was a great day! No torrential rains and no 70mph wind as we've had the last couple of years.

Emerald Empire has sponsored the annual Pre-Solve Beach Cleanup for 17 years. But it's not fair to say we've cleaned the beach for 17 years, we were snowed out 1 year and canceled a second year due to the tsunami. This year we picked up 985 pounds of trash. It was a good year for trash. In recent years we only picked 620lb and low of 300lb 3 years ago. Prior to that we averaged about 1000 pounds each year. This year the most interesting thing was found by Della Webb, a little deep warm water tuna crab out of his usual habitat.

We clean the nesting areas for the little threatened Western Snowy Plover before the official nesting period begins. In 2005 we saw 11 plovers, but usually we see just a few each year. This year we saw 14 in one flock. It's the most I've ever seen. And last

year they had 4 fledglings. They are reproducing in the areas we clean!!

Afterwards we had a great potluck with 21 adults including Troy and Joelene's two week old baby, Tripper.

It was a fun day! Thanks to all of you that participate to make this a fun event. Thanks to Solve for providing supplies, and sign up support. Thanks to the USDA Forest Service for providing pickups to haul our bags of trash; thanks to Cindy Burns of the Oregon US Fish Wildlife Service, her son Shawn, and Samantha Solomon OHV Recreation Specialist from the Reedsport USFS. Their cheerful energetic helpful support loading bags of trash made it fun. Thanks to Emerald Empire chapter of Back Country Horsemen and friends for their continued support all of these 17 years.



Your Oregon Contact Information at the National Level

BCHA in an effort to keep all of us better informed has moved to an effort to keep more of our information at the national level in a comprehensive data base. You have the ability and choice to help them with this effort. You can go the **National Website (backcountryhorse.com)**, then the **Member Resources** tab, then the **My Profile** tab and **update your contact information**.

This will keep you in direct contact with BCHA and National information. Your State Back Country Horsemen organization has on multiple occasions voted not to pass on your Email address. So we will not be passing this on to the National Organization directly. But please if you want them to have your email address simply go to the BCHA website and update it directly with them. Take just a moment it is a very painless system. Please be aware that BCH of Oregon will continue get information from BCHA and will pass this on down through our email tree. But this does depends on Volunteers having time.

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If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hufstader, vicepresident@bcho.org



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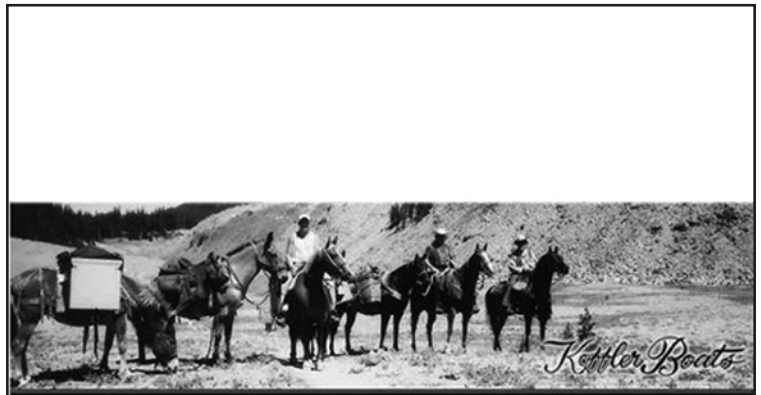
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National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act - HR845: What Does it Mean to BCHO?

Submitted by: Dave Price

HR845 was kicking around in Congress for several years. There was both support and opposition to this Bill from the beginning. For some unexplained reason, the Bill suddenly came back to life and was passed by the House on September 28, 2016 and sent on to the Senate.

Again, a miracle occurred and without any committee hearings, it was passed by the Senate and signed by the President on November 28, 2016. It needs to be clarified that the Bill signed as HR845; the Senate version - S1110, mysteriously disappeared and HR845 became the approved law.

What does HR845 do for us and our dying National Forest Trail System? Answer: THAT DEPENDS!

There are several sections to this BILL that need to be understood.

1. Priority Maintenance Program.

The Forest Service is to identify a minimum of 9, one from each region, nor more than 15 areas that are considered to be "Priority Areas". The selection must be done by May 28, 2017 and will be based on the following criteria, which can be found on Page 10 of the ACT.

- a. Reduced Access to Public Land.
- b. Lead to an increase or risk of increase in harm to Natural Resources.
- c. Jeopardize Public Safety.
- d. Resulted in trails being impassible by the intended users.
- e. Increased future deferred trail maintenance cost.

There are many of our National Forest areas that meet the criteria. In fact, it would be difficult to name an area that does not. Therefore, more finer points for selection will be used to determine which areas to select; How Bad is Bad? Lobbying the decision makers and Politics – yes Politics, which plays a very important role in the selection and implementation of the Bill and selection of priority areas.

BCHO submitted a letter to the Primary Forest Service Official with our recommendations on March 2, 2017. If you haven't read it, you should. Regarding Priority Area Selection, BCHO recommended the Hells Canyon/Eagle Cap Wilderness as #1 and the Wenaha Tucannon Wilderness as a close #2. For the reasons behind this selection, refer to the March 2, 2017 letter.

There will be intense competition for selection of Priority Areas and just because BCHO submitted input, does not preclude you from doing the same!

2. Use of other Available Resources

This concept is described on Page 6 of the Bill. It is significant because the major source of "Other Available Resources" is FIRE. Fire has grown to the point of being the only major resource left in the Forest Service, with other Resources being starved out by the Budget Priority Process.

The act directs the Forest Service to "study" the opportunities to use other resources for such things as trail maintenance. The direction to implement this concept should be NOW and little to NO "study" is needed.

The concept to Non-Forest Service people appears that this is a No Brainer; like you mean that is not happening now? Why not? That is because the Forest Service, generally speaking, no longer operates as "one" organization but, instead is a conglomeration of separate groups who do not willingly share or work together for a common goal. Find that hard to believe? Take the time to look into the bowels of the organization and draw your own conclusions.

In the recent past, there have been isolated attempts to change this ingrained mentality but, this is not encouraged. Having said that, how can the concept of "sharing available resources" be changed? Very Simple! All it takes is the Leadership saying DO IT! So this summer where the Fire Season is stacking up to be below average, and when you see fire people driving around and your trail is logged in, the Trail Heads are a mess, etc., remember, We are "studying" the concept.

3. National Forest Trails Volunteer Partnership Strategy

There are several key points to remember in the Volunteer Partnership part. First is the mandate to Produce a Strategy within 2 years to significantly increase the roles of volunteers and partners in Trail Maintenance. The GOAL is to achieve a 100% increase in 5 years of the enactment of the Act. That would be 11/28/2021. Achievable? Good question. There are more issues here than can be imagined, but if one is to expect success, then we, volunteers and the Forest Service must do things to encourage volunteer participation; make the process as "User Friendly" as possible and make more efficient and effective use of available volunteer resources; get more done with what you have! Sounds easy doesn't it? That depends on the Forest Service changing their policies to make it work.

4. Stewardship and Credit for Outfitters and Guides

Reference Sec 7 Page 12 of the Act. Outfitter Guides are having a tough time staying in business because of the permit system and the trail conditions. The idea of "Fee Credits" for trail work done has been around for a long time. Most agency people don't like the idea and did not have the authority to do it even if they wanted to.

The act discusses all this on page 12 and stipulates a “Pilot Program”, more study, to be tried on 20 administrative units. BCHO recommended that Region 6 be a “Pilot Area”. Try it, you might like it! This is necessary to save the Outfitter Guides and their role in managing our wilderness and back country use, plus there will be more resources available to save our Trail Systems. Who would not want that? By now after reading all this, you are wondering “What good is this act”? There are many problems in the implementation of the Stewardship Act.

Funding? There is no funding to implement the requirements of this Bill. You are saying by now, “why bother?” There is nothing here that helps us. That is where the old answer of “That depends” comes in. There are only two options to solve the funding issue to make the Act work. The first is Congress Appropriate more funding, if that were to happen it would have to come in the form of “Earmarked” funds, i.e. for a specific purpose. Otherwise the funds would disappear down the black budget hole, and would achieve nothing. The other option, which is similar to the “Third Rail”, would be to do a serious over haul to the Forest Service Budget Priority process, which has become flawed. When the priority is to get funding to the on the ground needs then the system works, when it doesn’t then we see what we have now. The on the ground funding has all but dried up, there is little to nothing coming out the bottom of the budget funnel. Until this problem is fixed Nothing will work and HR845 will see limited success.

What can you do on the funding issue? Contact your Congressional Representatives keep the issue in front of them. Contact your Forest Service people, local and regional, and learn more about why we have a steadily declining situation. Learn more about the budget funnel, how much goes in the funnel and how much comes out the bottom. Ask the question where does the money go? Pay attention and be better informed, it will pay off. It’s not a question of no money, it’s a question as to “where does it go?”.

This bill can be helpful, even successful in helping us to save our trails if... We can see the good and we want it to happen. You say, “it doesn’t look like the Forest Service is hot on the idea either.” Isn’t that a game changer? Don’t give up so easy! Get involved! What do you have to lose? Our trails!

Get your ideas and commitment for this matter submitted to the Forest Service NOW. It is easy to do electronically and will take less time than to cut a log out of the trail.

Sent your comments to:
 Dennis Benson
 Acting Regional Trails and Recreation Program Manager
 Pacific Northwest Region. U.S. Forest Service
 1220 SW 3rd Avenue Portland, Oregon 97204

Email – dennisc.benson@fs.fed.us
 CC or send direct to your Congressmen, Senator, Local Officials (County Commissioners, etc.)

Note: The more people that are aware and involved the better.

Will we make a difference? That is up to us; YOU AND ME!

I encourage you to read the Bill and my letter to the Forest Service for BCHO. It will give you further information and details.

Proceeds benefit Territorial Riders, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon.
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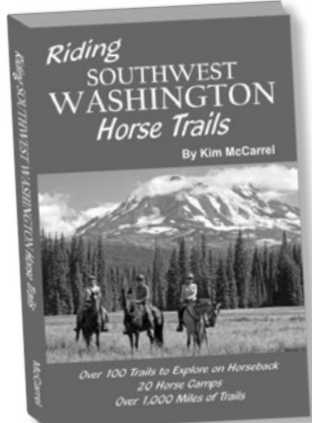

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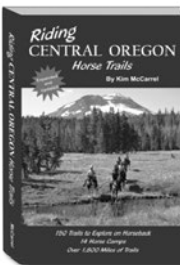
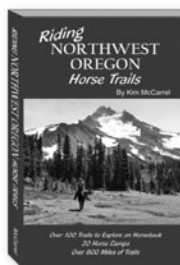
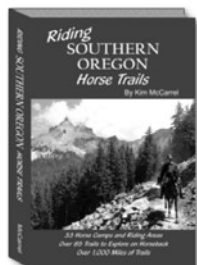
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Cross-Cut Saw Competition at BCHW Rendezvous

By Bert Morris, WCBCHO

In late 2015 BCHO President Jerry Bentz asked Arden Corey and I to do a saw competition and demonstration at the 2016 BCHO Winter Convention in Prineville. In the process of planning and practicing for that event, we became aware of the cross-cut saw competition held each year at the BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg, WA in mid-March. Arden Corey told me that he felt he'd been bitten by the competition bug again. Many members of BCH know Arden as a master cross cut saw filer, but at one time in his past, Arden and his brother Forest held the Jack & Jack cross cut bucking world record at the Albany Timber Carnival by sawing a 30-inch pine log in about 32 seconds, a record that held for several years. The education began with weekly sessions at Arden's house. Arden and I had spent many hours sawing as partners on trail crews together, but this was all about speed with none of the compression or tension issues of bucking logs on a trail. I learned a great deal about the technique and body mechanics that allow the saw to cut as efficiently as possible.

The 2016 BCHO convention came and went with a well-attended, friendly, cross-cut saw competition, followed by a trip for Arden and I to the BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg, WA a week later. We showed up on the second day of competition with just 2 hours left in the contest. Without any chance to warm up, we surveyed the situation and noted that the logs were a bit smaller than we had been practicing on (about 9 inches in diameter) and the best time for the Jack & Jack competitors was a little over 13 seconds. Our cut went very smoothly and we recorded a 7.91 second time, much to the astonishment of those watching, including ourselves. Some of the other teams that had sawed previously came back and tried to improve their time. They were not able to improve, and our time held as the best for the day.

Fast forward to January 2017, and Arden and I began discussing attending the BCHW Rendezvous again. We checked our calendars and found that Arden had a previous commitment teaching a saw sharpening class for the US Forest Service at



Nine Mile Training Center in Missoula, MT. If we wanted to field a BCHO team again this year, I needed to find a new partner. Arden and I both did some looking around and found a willing and able partner for me in the form of WCBCHO new member Eric Dahl of Silverton. Eric and I had never sawed together; Eric reported that he had only sawed a few times with a cross-cut in the past.

So, in late January of 2017, the training and coaching began: twice a week at Arden's house. Eric and I sawed, while Arden timed, videoed, critiqued and coached. Over the following seven weeks, we turned numerous 8-10-foot-long, 10-13-inch-diameter logs into thin slabs as we worked on technique, using different saws filed in different ways and body mechanics--our times steadily improved. Very early on the morning of March 18th, 2017 we headed out for Ellensburg, WA, without our mentor and coach- Arden, who had left a week earlier for Montana.

We arrived in Ellensburg at the 2017 BCHW Rendezvous about the same time as the previous year. The only main difference was the logs they had for the competition were 16 inch, dry and hard peeler cores. Dry logs can be much harder to cut, and can also cause some minor damage to a finely sharpened saw. We were encouraged by several members of BCHO who were attending, and were suspiciously eyed by several BCHW competitors. The best time recorded prior to our arrival was 01:02:00 minutes. Eric and I sized up the log to avoid any knots, rigged up our best saw and proceeded to cut the 16-inch log in 24.15 seconds. Several of the BCHW sawyers made attempts to improve their times, but none of them did better than their previous best time, which now put them in a quite distant second place.

We later attended the BCHW awards dinner Saturday evening and were recognized for our sawing efforts with awards and gifts. A good time was had by all and the BCHW organization should be commended for their hospitality and sportsmanship during the event.

Eric and I hope to continue using our sawyer skills together and sharing those skills with others as we are both members of the newly formed BCHO Hot Shot Saw Team. Arden Corey and I will also be conducting a cross-cut saw training clinic and saw competition at the HDTRBCH Packing and Wilderness Skills Expo in Klamath Falls May 5-7. We hope to see you there, or out on the trails sawing logs.



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Federal Public Lands Under Assault

Submitted by: Jean Clancey, EEBCHO

What's at Stake?

640 million acres in the Western United States are owned by the American people. These public lands are managed by the US Forest Service, the BLM, National Parks Service, and a system of federal wildlife refuges. Most BCHA members are aware by now that the public status of these vast lands where we ride and pack is in grave jeopardy. Over the past several years there have been state and national newsletter articles, reports from our BCHA Executive Committee, and alerts from Randy Rasmussen, BCHA Director for Public Lands and Recreation, that have been sounding the alarm. If we have been paying attention, we know now that without fighting back we may lose our public land. "This issue is probably the biggest issue to face BCHA in years; without the public lands, we don't exist." (BCHA 2015 National Meeting report, P. Hufstader)

What is the BCHA Stand on Sale or Transfer of Public Lands?

BCHA Chairman Donald Saner, introducing a March 8 webinar on the subject, wrote: "The 115th Congress is mobilizing for what could become the most significant 'show down' ever over the control of our federal public lands. The issue has become BCHA's #1 priority in our efforts to protect public access to federal public lands. It is my hope that BCHA members will be prepared and willing to throw their energy into this critical debate." (BCHA: Federal Lands Transfer Webinar - March 8, email March 2, 2017)

The National Board of the Back Country Horsemen of America at its National Board meeting on April 23, 2016, approved a "Resolution to Oppose the Transfer or Sale of Federal Public Lands Managed by the United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture."

It was further resolved that "this resolution be made known to the President of the United States, congressional delegations and elected officials from each state, and agency officials of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture."

So there is no question that BCHA stands firmly against any sale or transfer of our public lands, which are our American heritage and birthright, and acknowledges that the very future of our trails now stands at highest risk.

What Are The Specifics?

- Federal Land Action Group. Two Utah congressmen have launched this group to identify ways Congress could push a transfer of federal lands to state and local governments. Representatives Chris Stewart (R-UT) and Rob Bishop (R-UT), who is chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, are holding a series of forums with the end goal of introducing legislation to move federal lands "back to their rightful owners." (Forward email R. Rasmussen April 28, 2015). Randy argues that these lands were never state-controlled, so Mr. Bishop's use of the term "back to their rightful owners" is not accurate. "Was Mr. Bishop instead referring to Native American tribes?"

We doubt it." (R. Rasmussen, email March 9, 2017). These forums are currently ongoing in 2017.

- Revised Budget Rules Change. In its first day in session, January 3, 2017, the 115th Congress approved new rules designed to make it easier to transfer federal lands to states. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) sponsored the change. Basically the revised budget rules deny that federal land has any monetary value at all, thus allowing the new Congress to get around established requirements that any measure that costs the US Treasury money must be offset either by budget cuts or revenue raising provisions. The impact of the change is that lawmakers cannot raise a budgetary objection if a land transfer bill comes to the floor.

"The Congressional devaluation of national property is the most far-reaching legislative change in a recent push to transfer federal lands to the states. Bills proposing land transfers could now swiftly diminish USFS and BLM lands across the country." (H. Hansman, The Guardian, January 20, 2017)

New Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke is on record against federal land transfers. However, while still holding his congressional seat, he voted in favor of the rules change that include the lands transfer provision.

- H.R.621, The Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act. This bill was introduced by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) on January 24, 2017. It called for the sale of 3.3 million acres currently owned by the BLM in 10 western states. 70,300 acres of the designated sale were in 19 Oregon counties. The bill was instantly met with a backlash from conservation and sportsmen's groups, and Mr. Chaffetz rescinded his bill in just over a week.

- \$50 Million to Transfer Federal Land. Rob Bishop (R-UT) is working on yet another front as of March 3, 2017. He sent a request to the House Budget Committee that \$50 million be set aside to account for the costs of transferring federal land to states or local governments. "In his request, Bishop argued that poorly managed federal lands create a burden for surrounding states and communities." (The Hill, Timothy Cama, March 6, 2017). There has been no response from the Committee to Mr. Bishop's request as of this writing.

- H.R.232, State and National Forest Management Act of 2017. This bill was introduced by Don Young (R-AK) on January 3, 2017, to both the House Committees on Natural Resources and on Agriculture: "To authorize States to select and acquire certain National Forest System lands to be managed and operated by the State for timber production and for other purposes under the laws of the State, and for other purposes." (GovTrack.us)

- Meanwhile in Oregon: OR House Bill 2365, introduced February 17, 2017, establishes a task force to study the feasibility of transferring federally managed lands to the State of Oregon. Chief sponsor Gene Whisnant (R-SunRiver) and co-sponsor Carl Wilson (R-Grants Pass) said that HB 2365 was a first step toward determining whether it makes sense for the state of Oregon to acquire land managed by the BLM and the

USFS. Mr. Whisnant has since withdrawn his name as sponsor but defended his continued support for the bill. The bill remains in committee. (Bend Bulletin, February 16, 2017)

What Is the Rationale for Transfer?

As you can see, these bills are coming fast and furiously. The majority in the new Congress arrived with marching orders to “immediately pass universal legislation providing a timely and orderly mechanism requiring the federal government to convey certain federally controlled public lands to the states.” (GOP 2016 party platform). In brief, there are a few consistent arguments made in favor of land transfers.

Proponents of the sale and transfer of public lands claim that managing millions of acres presents a financial burden for federal agencies. Divesting the federal government of its land would be a benefit for the federal budget.

Proponents argue that allowing communities to actually manage and use these lands will generate not only state and local income tax, but also federal income tax revenues. It will also reduce the federal government’s need to subsidize communities adjacent to federal lands with programs such as Payments in Lieu of Taxes or Secure Rural Schools. (P. Braden, High Country News, January 4, 2017). According to Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), “The long overdue disposal of excess federal lands will free up resources for the federal government while providing much needed opportunities for economic development in struggling rural communities.”(J. Chaffetz, The Hill, February 2, 2017)

Arguments Against Federal Land Transfer

Our main concern should be the loss of open access to and use of our great public lands throughout America. This outcome is entirely possible given the current political climate.

The BCHA Resolution in Opposition, printed separately here, is a clear declaration on behalf of the irreplaceable value of these lands for recreational equestrian saddle and pack stock use.

Other stakeholders are speaking out, too. Bowhunters are on record: “The mystery behind these proposed policies is troublesome, and, as a bowhunting and conservation organization, we are highly concerned for the end result: loss of access and eventual sale and decimation of these lands....States do not have better resources to manage this land. State ownership makes it possible to sell, lease, or close to hunting. Federal Lands are a 100 year old conservation symbol.” (Pope & Young Club newsletter, February 25, 2017)

Twenty groups -- including the influential Outdoor Industry Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers -- sent a letter to the 115th Congress blasting the Revised Budget Rules Change saying the public lands “shape our national identity” and “are critical to the future of hunting, fishing, and wildlife and the sustained economic health of communities bordering these lands.” (Denver Post, February 22, 2017)

Oregon Natural Desert Association conservation director Dan Morse, speaking to arguments against OR2365, said that the benefits to having public lands managed by federal agencies are already clear. Some of the costs to managing public lands can be prohibitive for individual states. He cited a study showing federal land transfer could cost the state \$75 million per year in firefighting costs alone. As a result, the bill could result in land eventually being sold to private buyers. (Bend Bulletin, February 17, 2017)

The economic value of public lands should be fully recognized.

The Outdoor Industry Association in Boulder has tallied \$646 billion in economic impact to the US and 6.1 million American jobs that are created by the outdoor recreation economy. Outdoor recreation leans heavily on accessing public land. (Denver Post, February 2, 2017)

How Do We Respond?

- Inform ourselves. Stay current through BCHA and BCHO emails and newsletters.
- Follow advisories from Randy Rasmussen, consider acting on his suggestions.
- Track the bills described above and ones that will keep coming. Contact Senators and Representatives, both state and federal, expressing opposition to any federal land transfers to individual states, or to any bills that make transfers or sales easier.
- Talk to fellow equestrians individually and in groups. Talk to other outdoor users. Tell them what is going on and what is at stake.
- And to the BCHA Executive Committee and National Board: Be sure that our “Resolution to Oppose the Transfer or Sale of Federal Lands” is made known to the current President, the 115th Congress, elected officials from each state, and agency officials, as was resolved in 2016.

I close by repeating the words of BCHA Chair Donald Saner: “It is my hope that BCHA members will be prepared and willing to throw their energy into this critical debate.”



RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE CONVEYANCE, SALE OR TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS MANAGED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENTS OF INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, the mission of the Back Country Horsemen of America is to work to ensure public lands remain open to recreational equestrian saddle and pack stock use, and

WHEREAS, the public lands of this nation managed by the United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture are a part of our national treasure and heritage, and

WHEREAS, these public lands are held in perpetuity to benefit future generations of Americans because of the renewable resources and recreational value, and

WHEREAS, we support the sustainable management of resources on federal lands in cooperation with other stakeholders, and

WHEREAS, the conveyance, sale or transfer of management authority of these lands will remove large acreages from the nation’s federal public lands system, fragment existing land areas, compromise public access, and set a precedent for the privatization of all public land, and

WHEREAS, specifically the disposal of these federal public lands will decrease the opportunity for all recreational use of these lands,

WHEREAS, no federal lands should be removed or transferred except for lands considered under the Federal Land Transaction Reconciliation Act (FLTRA, PL 106-248),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Back Country Horsemen of America to go on record in opposition of any plan, action or legislation for the conveyance, sale or transfer of management authority of public lands managed by the United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture (except under FLTRA), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made known to the President of the United States, congressional delegations and elected officials from each state, and agency officials of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture.

Equine Symposium 2016

Submitted by: Jean Clancey, EEBCHO

The second annual Equine Symposium put on by Emerald Empire Chapter was a fun and very successful event again this year. It was held at Mt. Pisgah, Lane County Sheriff's Posse outdoor arena, the weekend of June 24 - 26. Over 61 people attended, 18 of whom presented in some manner and the rest participating in various educational stations. The Symposium represents our chapter's commitment to sharing trail readiness skills, safety preparedness, and low impact horse techniques on public lands.

The Lane County Sheriff's Posse participated with traffic control and security. Search and Rescue was represented by Tim Chase, who led an information session on outdoor emergency preparedness, including personal locator devices. Great information.

Local clinician Julie Fisher conducted hands-on training for small groups of riders throughout the day Saturday. Some great trail obstacles were provided by our chapter president, Emily Elias.

Quite a few young people were involved in the clinics, and they got good experience controlling and desensitizing their mounts, and preparing for safe trail rides.

Dani Wright, owner of McKenzie Feed, spoke to the group on equine nutrition and how to pack in food for overnight trips. Thanks to Dani for answering lots of questions and for all the great samples.

Della Webb and Ann Moser presided over several tables of pamphlets and OET books. Their time and sharing of information provided one more means by which people could learn about the treasure we have in our public lands.

Drs. Chris Camp and Jacquelyn Beyerlein from Del Oeste Veterinary spoke to the group Sunday morning. Thanks to both vets for careful explanations of basic horse health, disease and prevention, and emergency treatment. And did they answer dozens of questions! How lucky we are to have these caring professionals who were glad to spend their Sunday morning with our group of horse folks.

Also on Sunday a presenter on Wild Horses and adoption, Sandy Force, put out the good word on mustang and wild horse adoption. Three patient mustangs stood by and greeted curious participants with their good attitude and minds. Maybe a few adopters will come out of it?

Our own Emerald Empire members, led by Jean Clancey, spent all day Saturday teaching Leave No Trace techniques. Instead of teaching to the principles, we divided the information according to these considerations for successful back country trips: How to restrain your horse, feed and water needs, horse needs and conditioning, people needs, back country bathrooms, minimum campfire impact, and communication and navigation. All these subjects were presented throughout the day. Thanks especially to Matt Hope, Troy Hansey, Doc Dockery, and Jolene Anderson for teaching high lining and packing; to Becky Hope for teaching

map and GPS use and feed and water needs as well; to Melanie Kate Mason for horse tack needs; to Lisa Rodriquez for people needs; and to Jean Clancey for handling the subjects of waste and bathroom needs and low impact campfires. The LNT trailer was set up, which gave folks the chance to browse information and equipment on their own. At least 12 attendees participated in all of the LNT stations and earned a certificate "For Successful Completion of the Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop." And several also were given campfire pads cut from decommissioned fire blankets provided by Della Webb.

Recognition is also due to Betty Jean Keele and granddaughter Hannah for managing the ticket sales and welcome table all day. And to Candee Brennan, husband Jim Gerlach, and Molly and Sarah for their hard work helping to set up and tear down the LNT tent and much more.

After dinner, (and many, many thanks to Mark Houston of Houston Outfitters for having delicious food on hand for breakfast, lunch and dinner for 3 days), participants were treated to some great entertainment. Dallas McCord sang and strummed his guitar well into the evening. He was accompanied on a fantastic blues harmonica by Billy Elias, husband of EEBCHO President Emily Elias. And thanks to Billy, also, for the event sound system.

The beautiful evening was also enhanced by wagon rides provided by Troy, Doc, Jolene and their mule team. Troy's voice could be heard all around the pasture as he reeled out cowboy stories and poems.

What more can we tell you about this super weekend of fun, camping, learning, and music?

Well, there were trail rides up Mt. Pisgah, and those who made it to the top had fantastic late afternoon views of Diamond Peak and tips of the Three Sisters. And hot as it was Sunday, when everything was over and packed up, Emily and her students rode off to the Coast Fork of the Willamette River adjacent to the park and went swimming on their horses. How cool is that?

We hope you will consider joining us this year. Valuable education, good company, and loads of fun.



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Dutch Oven Recipes

Peach Cobbler for a 10" Dutch oven

What you will need:

- 1 Box of French Vanilla or yellow cake mix
- 1 1/3 cube of butter
- 1 Gallon size zip-up bag
- 2 or 3 cans sliced peaches 15 oz. (or any canned fruit)

Serves 8-10 and use about 28 coals

- 1) Preheat Dutch oven, knead warmed butter and Cake mix in zip-up bag till you see crumbles.
- 2) Remove Dutch oven from heat and add peaches with liquid and return to heat and simmer till the liquid is steaming and you start to see bubbles. The fruit and liquid need to be almost boiling before you add the crumble mix from the bag.
- 3) Sprinkle the crumble mix from the bag evenly over the fruit. Do not stir
- 4) Bake 25-45 min or until lightly browned on top.



Enchiladas for a 14" Dutch oven



What you will need:

- 1 ½ Lb. of ground beef
 - 3 packets of enchilada seasoning
 - 3 10 oz. cans of Tomato soup
 - 12 oz. Can of evaporated Milk
 - 6 Tbsp. of water
 - 18 oz. of shredded cheddar
 - 6 oz. tortilla chips
- Serves 12-15 and use about 49 coals

- 1) Cook meat and add all the enchilada seasoning packets
- 2) Add soup, milk, water and ½ of the cheese and stir.
- 3) Add tortilla chips and push them down into the mixture so they are covered sprinkle with the rest of the cheese.
- 4) Bake 10- 20 minutes.

Southern Baked Beans (Serves 4)

What you will need:

- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 (16-ounce) cans pork and beans
- 3 tablespoons prepared yellow mustard
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 pound bacon strips, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

- 1) Preheat oven to about 350 degrees F.
- 2) In a Dutch oven, mix onion, pork and beans, mustard, maple syrup, light brown sugar, ketchup, and lemon juice. Top with the bacon pieces. Bake, covered, for 45 to 60 minutes.



Leave No Trace Principles for Horsemen

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Make your plans for where you are going, for food and personal needs. Make sure you think about hazards and unexpected situations you or your animals might encounter so you can be prepared. Prepare for any weather conditions. Thunderstorms can cause fires in the summer, so know an alternate way out. Weather can turn from being very hot to snow quickly, carry a jacket and raincoat. Do you know how to get emergency help from where you are if someone has a serious accident? Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected to be back. Leave a note in your vehicle of what trails you will be on. When we are not prepared, we end up making choices that create unnecessary impact.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

If you're riding on trails, stay on the trail and don't make it wider or cut switchbacks. If you ride off the trail and go straight downhill you will cause erosion. Erosion is the process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action of water, glaciers, winds, waves or other natural agents (aka your horse). Over time this causes the hillside to degrade and look unnatural or worse cause mud slides. That's why you don't want to cut switchbacks in steep country. You create the least impact when you camp in an existing campsite and don't make the area any larger. If you camp and travel in remote areas or off-trail, spread your use out. Don't ride in a line when going cross-country. That creates a trail. Spread out. It takes a lot more work to camp with horses in a remote area and not create impact.

Dispose of Waste Properly

We have all heard of "If you pack it in, pack it out." This includes cigarette butts, candy wrappers and pop or beer cans. Don't leave anything in a fire pit. Human waste is another issue. Always bury your waste unless you pack it out. Besides being disgusting to see waste on top of the ground, it carries germs that the flies spread. Place human waste in small cat hole 6-8 inches deep 200 feet or more away from water. If you have little kids or a group, erect a latrine. This is one hole everyone uses. The concentrated volume takes less time to decompose.

Leave What You Find

Avoid damaging live trees and plants. Don't pound nails into trees or chop on them. Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires are a favorite thing for many people but they can create change in certain circumstances. You should make conscious decisions when it comes to having a fire. Is there enough firewood in the area to have a fire and not totally deplete all the wood that is around? Do you really need a fire? Sometimes during the summer you really don't need one. Fires definitely do leave a trace, if you choose to have a fire, the best place to have one is in an existing fire ring, build a small mound fire or pit fire without rocks and burn all the firewood. Don't leave half burned logs behind.

Respect Wildlife

Avoid disturbing wildlife, especially during nesting or calving seasons. Remember we are in their territory and we are the visitors. Take as many pictures as you like, just don't touch. This includes not feeding wildlife and securing food so bears don't get into it.

Minimize Horse Impact

This one is really important to us. The main areas we influence include the camp area, trails, grazing area and the water. The goal here is when you leave the next hiker or camper should see little to no evidence that you were there.

Be Considerate of Other User Groups

As members of Back Country Horsemen we are examples of horsemen with good behavior and skills. It is part of our mission to teach other users how to recreate with their horses and not create impact. Avoiding conflict is important. We all have different values. Remember that what bothers you a lot may not bother someone else. Visualize for a minute what it would be like if you were a hiker walking up a trail a foot wide and ran into a steaming large pile of fragrant horse waste with flies buzzing around it. You have to break your stride to get around it and you see that monument as disgusting as if it were human waste. That is where many hikers are coming from. We need to be sensitive to that and try to be courteous when hikers are not happy with us. In high use areas and if it's safe stop and kick it off the trail.

Highlines

Most of us are already familiar with highlines. It is a rope tied to tree saver straps between two trees that we tie our horses to. These should be out of the main camp area. Train your horses and get them use to being tied up for hours and hours at home. The animals that paw need to be hobbled and have their needs taken care of which may include bug spray or food and water. The two most important things regarding highlines are to pick a durable location to put up your highline such as on dirt or a rocky area, and naturalizing the area before you leave. That means kicking your horse manure apart, filling in any pawed areas and sprinkling pine needles or twigs back over the area. Lots of horsemen forget to do this and it gives us a bad name.

Trail Etiquette

When riding trails, stay on the trail and don't make it wider by riding side by side. Do your best to have your horse walk through the water or snow as the trail dictates. Perhaps a little test run at home can set you up for success on your trail ride. If you ride off the trail and go straight downhill you will cause erosion. Over time this causes the hillside to degrade and look unnatural or worse cause mud slides. That's why you don't want to cut switchbacks in steep country. If you stop for very long, it's best to tie up off the trail so others can get by. If you are on the trail and encounter a hiker, respectfully ask them to step off on the downhill side of the trail 6-8 feet if they can. Your horse will be more comfortable passing them instead of them passing you. Talking to the hiker while passing them will help your horse relax. Ask them "how's the hike" or "Have you seen any down logs today." Make sure that you "thank" the hiker. Keep in mind that backpacks change a person's shape and it scares a lot of horses. Try to be courteous to others even if they are rude to you. Continuing a rude interaction just makes it worse and gives us a bad name.

Grazing

Horses need to graze at least an hour to an hour and a half morning and night. We need to be careful not to overgraze an area. The rule of thumb is to leave at least 3 to 4 inches of grass. Remember they are accustomed to grazing off and on all day when they are on pasture, so giving them a break of grass along the trail is not a bad idea. Grain is a great tool if you are in the mountains,

in getting them to know where camp is. There are different ways to contain grazing stock. You can hobble them and let them loose if they know they are going to get grain when they get done. When they start to get full they start to wander as they eat. Tie them up at this point and grin them or they may leave. You can picket one by a foot on a rope but you can overgraze an area quickly doing this. A picket pin needs to be moved frequently. Your horse must be trained at home first to do this or he may spook and injure his back pastern if the rope gets tight and he fights it. Don't picket close to water either or you may pollute it. You can also make an electric fence pasture to keep them in. Of course they need to be used to an electric fence first or they may jump out and leave. This pasture needs to be large enough to not overgraze as well and not be close to water. Before leaving a grazing area, it is considerate of horsemen to kick your horse waste. In doing this we are preserving the scenery for the next camper or hiker.

Water

The best place to water is on the trail in a stream crossing where it is hard or rocky. Otherwise try to use a place without banks that break down in the water. If you have to water in a lake, just get their head in and don't ride in unless they have already relieved themselves. If you can, let your horse relax first away from the water. He will probably relieve himself and then you can go water without mishap. With a pack string, when one goes they all think it is a good idea and join in. A backpacker may be reluctant to use the water.

Conclusion

The fourth mission statement of the BCHO is to educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage and leave no trace principles. We must prepare our members and then educate other equestrians or we may lose our riding opportunities. Leave No Trace is not just in the backcountry or Wilderness. It is everywhere in our daily lives. It is an attitude about life and how you conduct yourself.

The Big Question: National Director's Report

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

What is/was the job description of the National Director (ND)?

When I started as a National Director (ND), the primary focus of the position was directed as liaison between BCHO and BCHA. Each year we were required to attend a week-long BCHA National Directors meeting located somewhere in the US. At that meeting, BCHO's Directors would represent all of Oregon's interest for any issues brought to the table. It wasn't uncommon to vote on more than ten or more resolutions in a week's time that affected BCHO. That has all changed in the last six years. BCHA formed an Executive Committee with their primary role to handle all the day to day business for the BCHA. This has cut out the State's National Directors primary role. Now mind you, the ND role has changed, but the role is more complex now. Why, you ask? BCHA feels that they are at the top of the pyramid, and are in charge, which is totally wrong. It never has, or never will be, at the top. The original founders of BCH of Montana, set the mission statements, and the purpose of the organization, so the top level should be at the Chapter level. The next level down is the state organization. The BCHA is at the bottom of the pile. Stop and think through this statement! If a chapter is having problems with local issues, then it should be handled at the local level. If the issue is bigger and might affect other chapters in the state, then the state organization helps out to address the issue. If the issue is a national issue, then it can be addressed at the national level.

Here is an example, a local chapter is contacted by a federal agency that they are about to close a main wilderness trail in their area due to the lack of funding. This is an excellent example of an on the ground issue that the local BCHO chapter can address. The chapter has the local knowledge, and local contacts to meet with the agency to resolve the issue. Now, let's say the agency calls and says that they are closing many wilderness trails statewide due to lack of funding. This decision now affects several chapters and they ask BCHO to step in help out with statewide resources. The lead on this issue still stays at the Chapter level. The last example is the agency now calls and informs the state organization that they no longer have to follow the NEPA process and will be closing several trails located within the region. This decision affects several states, so BCHA would be ask to assist the state organization within the affected states to help out. The ND would coordinate between the BCHA and the states affected to put together a State/BCHA response to help the chapters involved in the proposed closings.

Oregon's bi-laws state that a ND position shall be for two years at a time and that each ND position shall be staggered so as to have a senior director in the position at any certain time. BCHO has two ND and each year an alternate is voted on to cover if the ND aren't available for whatever reason. The position is time consuming staying up-to-date with National issues that may affect Oregon. Currently the two BCHO directors split the duties, one covers the wilderness issues, and the other covers BCHO's political issues that affect all chapters, such as getting insurance for the BCHO membership, help organize BCHO state meeting as assigned by the BCHO President, participate on BCHA conference President's call, and Executive Committee calls, respond to e-mails from different agencies, as directed by the BCHO President, write articles for the Highline, travel to different parts of the state to meet with chapters for their meetings. Something new this year will be a monthly Chapter/BCHO conference call. It will be held one week after the BCHA presidents call to keep the chapters updated on what's going on nationally, plus give the chapters a chance to keep the rest of the state updated on what's going on in their area. Any questions on the ND position, give either Jerry, Phil or Casey a call, and if anyone is interested on helping out with the position we would be glad for the help.

New Recreation Representative for the Steens

Submitted by: John F. Helmer, Steens Mountain Advisory Council, SteensRecreation@gmail.com

The Steens Mountain area in Harney County, Oregon is a fabulous place to visit, especially for those that like to pack and ride horses. Established by an act of Congress in 2000, the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) includes more than 425,000 acres of public land offering diverse scenic and recreational experiences, including horse camps and many spectacular trails.



The Steens CMPA is managed by the BLM, with expertise and advice provided by a 12-member Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) comprised of people representing all the diverse communities that care about this area: ranchers, environmentalists, landowners, the Burns Paiute, hunters, fishers, bird watchers, campers, backpackers, runners, and, of course, horseback riders! The SMAC is a remarkably collaborative group charged with developing creative solutions to managing the diverse demands placed on the Steens.

I was recently appointed as the SMAC representative for “recreation” and in that role I am actively seeking to meet people and organizations that recreate in the Steens. More than this, although new to riding, I am one of you! I started riding quite recently in my retirement but my wife is a lifelong rider and has a horse adopted from the Kiger HMA. I also serve as caretaker in the month of July for the Riddle Brothers Ranch Historical District, just a few miles from the South Steens Horse Camp. If you have not been to the ranch, I highly recommend a visit to this beautiful 1,000-acre spot on the Little Blitzen River, where you can wander through ranch buildings from the early 1900’s and get a sense of the cattle ranch operated for 50 years by brothers Walter, Frederick, and Benjamin Riddle.

I welcome hearing from any and all riders! Tell me what you want to see happen in the Steens. What do you love? What needs fixing? What would you like to see in the future? I am your representative on SMAC and want to hear from you. Contact me at SteensRecreation@gmail.com or drop by the Riddle Brothers Ranch in July. The gate is open and the ranch is accessible by car on Tuesday-Sunday from about 9am-5pm but you can also ride or walk in at any time. This summer my wife Normandy and her Kiger Mustang, Dorado, will be joining me and we plan to do some trail riding.

See you in the Steens!





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- ★ Auction Mules Preview 12-2 pm
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- At the Gate: \$15 Pre-sale tickets: \$12
- Call: 530.260.8121

Saturday

- ★ Trail Trial Competition- Open to the Public
- To Register and for current info
- Call Kelly Behr: 541.892.4844
- or go to hdtrbch.org and click on Expo
- ★ Auction Mules Preview 12-2 pm

Saturday Evening

- ★ Butte Valley FFA Benefit
- Steak Dinner \$15.00
- No-host bar – 5:30 p m • Dinner – 6:00 pm
- ★ Silent Auction, Live Auction, Mule Auction

Sunday

- ★ Cowboy Dressage- Clinicians
- Nonny Largent & Wyatt Paxton
- Contact Jackie Olden: 541.545.6628

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Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Success

Tara Thissell, Public Affairs Specialist, tthissell@blm.gov

28910 Hwy 20 W, Hines, Oregon 97738, 541-573-4519

As described in the Wild-Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 and subsequent legislation, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for protecting and overseeing wild horses and burros on public lands across 10 western states. These animals are the only species the BLM manages – other federal and state agencies take care of deer, elk, antelope, Sage-grouse, and dozens of other birds and mammals, while the BLM manages their habitat.

In managing wild horse and burro populations, the BLM works to maintain a thriving ecological balance that supports healthy horses on healthy rangelands. When the range cannot sustain all of the animals living on it, the BLM gathers and offers some wild horses for adoption to the public.



This adoption process has many options that allow us to focus on getting gathered horses into private care.

In walk-up adoptions, qualified people can simply come to the corral facility, pick out a horse and take it home. Through satellite adoptions, we (the BLM, nationwide) take horses to “satellite” cities – in places as far away as Florida – and hold walk-up adoptions there. In social media ‘adoptions,’ volunteers or BLM employees post photographs and videos of horses available on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Followers then see the horses, contact the BLM, and adopt the horses into private care.

The BLM also facilitates wild horse adoption through a Trainer Incentive Program, where qualified trainers take mustangs to their homes, gentle them, and find an adopter for them. The horses then go into private care and the trainer collects \$1,000 per horse for their efforts. Training challenges, such as extreme mustang makeovers and youth and yearling competitions, bring mustangs and trainers together for 90 to 100 days of training work, followed by a show or expo and competitive adoption.

Internet adoptions are the latest – and increasingly popular – way to connect people to a special horse. Did you know the BLM has an internet-based competitive bidding site where gathered mustangs are offered to the public? That’s right! The mustang adoption site is much like eBay – you register to bid, find what you want, submit bids until closing, and (hopefully) win your desired horse! Oregon mustangs are popular throughout the U.S. and internet adoptions give people in the midwest and the east coast an opportunity to see and bid on these horses. Internet adoptions are held approximately every two months, and we try to offer at least thirty horses each time.

In February 2017, we offered 110 horses for adoption online, all from the South Steens Herd Management Area. Each horse was photographed and filmed individually, then posted online with an identification profile. In Oregon’s typical record-breaking fashion, 93 of those horses were adopted and over 200 people registered to bid. The highest successful bid was \$4,265 and there were many other horses with bids well into the thousands of dollars. Some of these horses will be picked up from the corral facility in Hines; the rest will be shipped via livestock hauling to pick-up locations in Utah, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Illinois.

The BLM’s 2016 population estimate shows 67,000 wild horses and burros on public lands – 40,000 more than what can sustainably exist alongside other animals, land uses and resources. Even though the BLM has placed more than 235,000 animals into good homes since 1971, market trends show a steadily declining private adoption rate.

Nationwide, the BLM is working hard on new population control strategies. In the meantime, we continue to do everything we can to get these horses into private care. If you are interested in adopting a mustang, visit Oregon’s Wild Horse Corral Facility in Hines, or call (541) 573-2748. Want to adopt online? Go to: <https://www.blm.gov/adoptahorse/>

Steens Back Country Horsepeople

Submitted by Laurie O'Connor, Steens BCH

Once the Bundy's left town late January, 2016, life resumed here in SE Oregon, and those of us NOT fighting gov'ment and all, got down and kissed the public lands that we all own and love. We feel very fortunate to have access to so many special places in the Western states, publicly owned, large tracts of wild, rugged, beautiful country. And, we also feel blessed to have good agency people working hard to protect these areas and to keep public access open. While bureaucracy can frustrate all of us on both sides of the equation, learning to work together can often yield great things for the public at large, and to protect access for horsemen in particular.

Spring weather often delays access to the high country, but several members of our BCH chapter did get out in May to explore the historic Shirk Ranch, located in northern Nevada and on the southern edge of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. Hart Mountain NWR has a set of corrals available for horsemen, and it is located right in the heart of wide open, historic ranching country. Feeling penned in? Go take a great, big breath, and invite your horse to join in! Close to Lakeview, Oregon, offering a lot of riding potential, and a gorgeous hot spring facility, free of charge. No horses allowed in the pool. Call for information, 541-947-2731.



Forest Rhinehart, Hart Mountain, during a Steens Back Country work party at the Hart Mountain corrals, 2013.



BLM Wilderness Trail Rider, Katy Bartzokis, packing gear into Big Indian for the ODFW fish surveys.

some very hard physical work dining on dehydrated foods and "gorp", for long periods of time. It was so fun to surprise them with fresh hamburger and all the trimmings, along with cold sodas and homemade cookies.

BLM Wilderness Rider, Katy Bartzokis, asked our chapter for some help and extra pack stock in order to get a dozen ODFW biologists and their gear into Big Indian to spend a week doing fish surveys. Again, this was a worthwhile project and a rewarding experience. And those mules were glad to feel gainfully employed one extra time. We think.

Steens BCH is looking forward to another productive and rewarding year in 2017. We will be volunteering in the forests north of Burns, working on listing and advertising available trails out of the Joaquin Miller Equine campground; helping install kiosks to several USFS trailhead areas; clearing Myrtle Creek Trail, Malheur River Trail, and exploring the Little Malheur Trail south of Prairie City. The USFS lands north of Burns would be a celestial location to camp, ride, and work during Eclipse 2017! Work will also continue around Steens Mountain, with the Northwest Youth Corps team returning to South Steens area, BLM & BCH connecting the Penland campsite to the Barrington Trail; and developing the Moon Hill camp area on North Steens. Anyone interested in visiting SE Oregon to ride and explore, feel free to contact us at SteensBCH@gmail.org

Use, improve, and enjoy your public lands!

Being blessed with a very strong recreation team in our local BLM district, complete with a very capable wilderness rider, it is easy for the Steens BCH to feel like we are all making a difference, working together. Plans are moving ahead to establish a new horse camp north of Fish Lake, off of the Steens north loop road, on Moon Hill Road. Work will also begin on another equine campground from the Alvord side of Steens Mountain, on the Penland Road. Steens BCH will work with the BLM to connect this primitive camp site with the historic Barrington Trail, giving horsemen and hikers access to Wild Horse Creek and Wild Horse Lake.

In 2016, the Burns BLM contracted five weeks of trail work with a solid Youth Corps team, who worked on the lower end of the Nye Trail, Little Blitzen, and started work on the Wet Blanket Trail. Steens BCH members, John O'Connor and Leon Pielstick, helped pack in supplies, deliver fresh food, and move their camp during the corps' extended stay. These kids really do work, and they camp out under some pretty bare conditions. Having no ice or refrigeration, they do



Steens BCH and dedicated Burns District BLM employees, putting in the round pen at South Steens Equine Campground, October 2016

Events Calendar

Event Start	Event End	Event Hours PST	Event Title	Event Description	Event Location	BCHO Calendar Name
3/18/2017	3/18/2017	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	The Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. It is held twice each year at the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center in Canby, on the third Saturday of March and October. The sale includes new and used tack as well as other horse-related items. Parking \$5, admission is \$1 per person.	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013, USA	Public Equestrian Events
3/24/2017	3/27/2017		Northwest Horse Fair and Expo	Northwest Horse Fair and Expo, For more info, visit http://equinepromotions.net/northwest-horse-fair/	3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany, OR 97322, Albany Expo Center	Public Equestrian Events
3/24/2017	3/24/2017	06:30PM - 08:30PM	Packing Training - Betty Applebaker 541-798-5005		Applebaker's home 17657 Hill Rd, Klamath Falls, OR 97603	Hight Desert Trail Riders
3/25/2017	3/25/2017	10:00AM - 12:00PM	Trailer Training Matt Watkins 541-891-8199		Klamath Fairgrounds	Hight Desert Trail Riders
3/28/2017	3/28/2017	06:30PM - 08:30PM	Pack Expo - Maria Meister 541-235-3031		Red Rooster, 3608 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, United States	Hight Desert Trail Riders
3/29/2017	3/29/2017	05:30PM - 08:30PM	First Aid/CPR Carole Hopkins 541-591-1805		USFS Office. Contact Carole to sign up.	Hight Desert Trail Riders
3/30/2017	3/30/2017	05:30PM - 08:30PM	First Aid/CPR Carole Hopkins 541-591-1805		USFS Office. Contact Carole to sign up.	Hight Desert Trail Riders
4/1/2017	4/1/2017	09:30AM - 01:00PM	Spring Tune Up - Betty Applebaker 541-798-5005	This will also be the hand's on pack training session.	Klamath Equestrian Center	Hight Desert Trail Riders
4/21/2017	4/21/2017	09:30AM - 12:00PM	Saw Certification - Dan Applebaker 541-798-5005		Check with Dan for location.	Hight Desert Trail Riders
4/22/2017	4/22/2017	09:30AM - 12:00PM	Saw Certification - Dan Applebaker 541-798-5005		Check with Dan for location.	Hight Desert Trail Riders
4/25/2017	4/25/2017	06:30PM - 08:30PM	Pack Expo - Maria Meister 541-235-3031		Red Rooster, 3608 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, United States	Hight Desert Trail Riders
4/28/2017	5/1/2017		Columbia Cascades Trail Skills College	http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/columbia-cascades/	Marine Park, 355 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014, United States	Public Equestrian Events
5/2/2017	5/2/2017	08:00AM - 05:00PM	Pack Expo Set Up - Ken Gudgeon 541-541-810-3777		Fairgrounds Event Center	Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/3/2017	5/3/2017	08:00AM - 05:00PM	Pack Expo Set Up - Ken Gudgeon 541-541-810-3777		Fairgrounds Event Center	Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/4/2017	5/4/2017	08:00AM - 05:00PM	Pack Expo Set Up - Ken Gudgeon 541-541-810-3777		Fairgrounds Event Center	Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/5/2017	5/8/2017		West Cascades Trail Skills College	Trail Skills College is PCTA's premiere trail maintenance education program. Join us for a free training weekend to learn new skills or refresh the basics. Camping, meals and classes are all free! Registration will open to the general public on Tuesday, March 8. Go to http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/westfir/ for more information or Register on the High Cascade Volunteers Website	MCKENZIE BRIDGE, Rainbow, OR 97413, USA	Public Equestrian Events
5/5/2017	5/8/2017		High Cascade Forest Volunteer/PCTA Trail Maintenance Training	Three Days of Free Saw recertification and First Aid/CPR training along with Basic Trail Maintenance	McKenzie River Ranger District at White Branch Ranch, Lane County, OR, United States	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
5/5/2017	5/5/2017	08:00AM - 10:00PM	Packing Expo - Maria Meister 831-235-3031			Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/6/2017	5/6/2017	08:00AM - 10:00PM	Packing Expo - Maria Meister 831-235-3031			Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/7/2017	5/7/2017	08:00AM - 10:00PM	Packing Expo - Maria Meister 831-235-3031			Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/19/2017	5/22/2017		EEBCHO Out Door Riding, Camping and Hunting Skills Weekend	Two Days of Learning needed skills to go safely out on Trails, and into the wilderness areas around our area and how to do it.	Mount Pisgah Posse arena, Lane County, OR, United States	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
5/23/2017	5/23/2017	06:30PM - 08:30PM	Pack Expo - Maria Meister 541-235-3031		Red Rooster, 3608 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, United States	Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/26/2017	5/26/2017	10:00AM - 08:00PM	Sun Pass - Les Hathorn 541-810-3665	Directions from intersection of Hwy 62 and Hwy 97... https://binged.it/2kK5sqZ You are welcome to join in for a day, for the evening, for a ride, or all weekend. Bring your own food. Sometimes folks potluck it.	Sun Pass chapter campsite	Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/27/2017	5/27/2017	10:00AM - 08:00PM	Sun Pass - Les Hathorn 541-810-3665	Directions from intersection of Hwy 62 and Hwy 97... https://binged.it/2kK5sqZ You are welcome to join in for a day, for the evening, for a ride, or all weekend. Bring your own food. Sometimes folks potluck it.	Sun Pass chapter campsite	Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/28/2017	5/28/2017	10:00AM - 08:00PM	Sun Pass - Les Hathorn 541-810-3665	Directions from intersection of Hwy 62 and Hwy 97... https://binged.it/2kK5sqZ You are welcome to join in for a day, for the evening, for a ride, or all weekend. Bring your own food. Sometimes folks potluck it.	Sun Pass chapter campsite	Hight Desert Trail Riders
5/29/2017	5/29/2017	10:00AM - 08:00PM	Sun Pass - Les Hathorn 541-810-3665	Directions from intersection of Hwy 62 and Hwy 97... https://binged.it/2kK5sqZ You are welcome to join in for a day, for the evening, for a ride, or all weekend. Bring your own food. Sometimes folks potluck it.	Sun Pass chapter campsite	Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/1/2017	6/5/2017		Allingham Trail Skills College	Trail Skills College is PCTA's premiere trail maintenance education program. Join us for a free training weekend to learn new skills or refresh the basics. Camping, meals and classes are all free! Registration will open to the general public on Tuesday, March 8. Go to http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/trail-skills-college/allingham/ for more information or Register on the High Cascade Volunteers Website	Allingham Guard Station	Public Equestrian Events
6/9/2017	6/12/2017		PCTA Skills College - Lona Pippis 541-880-8851	Lona takes the cook truck and her own crew, to feed PCT people. She usually doesn't need help.	Hyatt Lake	Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/12/2017	6/12/2017	08:00AM - 09:00AM	Bridge Project - Jim Icenbice 541-892-2647		Cherry Creek Trailhead	Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/16/2017	6/19/2017		BCHO LNT Training	Once again BCHO will hold the Leave No Trace Training event at Sisters Cow Camp Horse Camp, Forest Service Road 15, Deschutes National Forest, Sisters, Oregon 97759 USA. For details please contact president@bcho.org .	Sisters Cow Camp Horse Camp	BCHO State Calendar
6/16/2017	6/19/2017		Camp out and trail riding	Chapter Camp out and Trail Riding for the Three days	Cyrus Springs	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
6/17/2017	6/18/2017		WCBCHO POKER RIDE	Poker Ride First horse out at 9 AM Last out at 11 AM Prizes, family fun, with food available.	Silver Falls State Park, Silver Falls Hwy SE, Seilimity, OR	West Cascades BCH Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc.

Membership Application

Yes! I would like to help preserve Horsemen's rights to use stock on public lands.

(Print Name)

(Address)

(City) (State) (ZIP)

(Telephone) (E-Mail)

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541-337-3138, membership@bcho.org

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Single \$30.00 _____

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Select Chapter and add additional Chapter dues, as determined by individual Chapters, see below. See Map of Chapters online.

- Columbia Gorge, Hood River \$10
- East Cascades, Bend \$5
- Emerald Empire, Eugene \$5
- High Desert Trail Riders, Klamath Falls area
- High Country Wilderness Packers Chapter, State wide group
- Steens, Burns, \$10
- Sourdough, Cave Junction
- West Cascade BCH, Salem \$5
- Territorial Riders, Oregon City \$5

Total Enclosed: _____

Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident where ever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders and spectators, and also recognizing that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., including its chapters, officers, directors and /or members cannot know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other Back Country Horsemen of Oregon functions, I do hereby release Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., its officers, directors and members from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

*Must be signed by all chapter members 18 years and older.

Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

BCHO website www.bcho.org/chapterlocations.htm

Columbia Gorge BCH
Becky Wolf
32126 S. Wright Rd.
Molalla, OR 97038
(503)829-2694
wolfdn@molalla.net

High Desert Trail Riders BCH
Betty Applebaker
(541) 798-5005
hldr@bcho.org

Steens BCH
John O'Connor
PO Box 471
Hines, OR 97738
541-678-3502
SteensBCH@bcho.org

East Cascades BCH
Marilyn Bernal
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Terrebonne, OR, 97760
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Mat Wooley
Wctimberfalling@aol.com

Sourdough BCH
Kris Baizley
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Emerald Empire BCH
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Territorial Riders BCH
Tim Lagasse
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territorialriders@bcho.org



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c/o Laurie Hufstader
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