

BCHO



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF OREGON

The Highline

JULY 2024 ISSUE

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Team Work makes the Dream Work

By Becky Hope and Dani Wright, Eugene Chapter



Picture Credit Oregon State Parks

During the second week of January 2024 the Springfield-Eugene area got hit with two days of continual temperatures below 25 degrees. With unrelenting rain, a continual layering of ice covered everything. There were many reports of 1-2" of ice burdening trees, power lines and roads. Power lines and poles, limbs, and whole trees came down everywhere. Many lost fences and more. Some residents had no power for more than a week, and many others were without as long as two weeks. Many will be cutting and cleaning up tree debris for months. But humans are very good at coming to the rescue and many hunkered down and got to work.

Like many others, Becky and Matt Hope had an initial emergent need to get power back to their fence lines and water. Friends arrived to help cut trees off fences. Everyone had work to do at home.

But local equestrians, once their homes and animals were safe and cared for, needed a place to get out and ride. Dani Wright, as the OET ambassador for Elijah Bristow Park made the initial calls on January 14 to Park Manager John Mullen, and Park Ranger, Steve Hancock. What was the situation at the park? Lane county was closing all their parks. John and Steve were both out of town and did not know the extent of the damage. Once they returned John let Dani know the damage was extensive and it would be months before they could reopen the park. John could not promise timely contract crews due to the month-long bidding process. Dani found this unacceptable and quickly reached out to Della Webb, who suggested Becky Hope and Eugene Emerald Chapter of BCH may be able to help with their saw exper-

(Continued on page 4)

BCHO State Officers

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Leonard Smith

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~

Membership

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.

Come To A Meeting And Make A Difference

Columbia Gorge Chapter

When: The 3rd Wednesday of the month

Where: Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr., Hood River, OR 97031

6:00pm—8:30pm Please confirm meeting with Joy Senger, columbiagorge@bcho.org

East Cascades Chapter

When: Monthly on the second Monday,

Where: Abby's Legendary Pizza 1938 S Hwy 97, Redmond, OR 97756

6:30pm—8:30pm Please confirm meeting with Rhonda Marquis, eastcascades@bcho.com

Emerald Empire Chapter

When: the 2nd Wednesday of each month

Where: Emerald People's Utility District, 33733 Seavey Loop Rd., Eugene, OR 97405 6:30pm—

8:30pm Please confirm meeting with Barbara Dumsenil, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Country Wilderness Packers

When: Held by conference call as needed ~ Please confirm meeting with contact

Contact: Mat Wooley, hcwp@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

When: The 3rd Tuesday of each month

Where: Waffle Hut 106 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

6:30pm Please confirm meeting with Betty Applebaker, hdtr@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

When: Monthly on the second Monday,

Where: Foots Creek Chapel, 913 Foots Creek Rd, Gold Hill, OR 97525

6:00pm—8:00pm Please confirm meeting with David Browne, sourdough@bcho.org

Steens Chapter

When: Held as needed ~ Please confirm meeting with contact

Contact: SteensBCH@gmail.com

Territorial Riders Chapter

When: The 2nd Tuesday of every month

Where: Beaver Creek Fire Dept., 22310 South Beaver Creek Rd., Beaver Creek, OR 97004 7:00pm-

9:00pm Please confirm meeting with Dan Dahlke, territorialriders@bcho.org

West Cascades Chapter

When: The 1st Wednesday of each month

Where: Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dinner at 6:pm Meeting at 7:pm

Please confirm with contact Arden Corey, westcascades-pres@bcho.org



BCHO Members Rally in Sale for Recreational Immunity

From the desk of: Jean Clancey, EEBCHO

On February 12, a group of BCHO and OET members joined over 70 volunteer trail advocates from around the state in “For the Love of Trails” day at the Capitol. Oregon Trails Alliance (OTA) organized the event. The purpose was to address the critical need to restore recreational immunity this legislative session with the passage of SB 1576-3.

A little background, Recreational Immunity is a law that encourages landowners to open lands to the public for recreational use by protecting the landowner if a recreational user seeks damages after an injury. All fifty states have enacted statutes that confer some degree of liability protection to landowners.

Oregon’s recreational immunity law was thrown into question last July when the Court of Appeals ruled the city of Newport could not use recreational immunity to dismiss a lawsuit from a woman who sued the city after slipping and breaking her leg while crossing a trail bridge. Consequently, some Oregon communities closed trails to the public, and many others considered doing so in light of the increased liability. This unfortunate precedent could have spread from cities and counties to trails throughout Oregon’s public lands.

Volunteers spent the day meeting with Senators and Representatives to explain the critical situation our trails are in. We urged them to fix Oregon’s recreational immunity law to provide clear protections for all landowners who open their lands for recreation free of charge. We urged them to return Oregon to the same liability standard as every other western state so individuals who engage in inherently risky activities (hiking, biking, horse riding etc) will accept responsibility for their activity. Businesses will still be held accountable for the safety of their operations.



Since our February 12 campaign, the Senate passed SB 1576-3 by a vote of 25-2. It cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee

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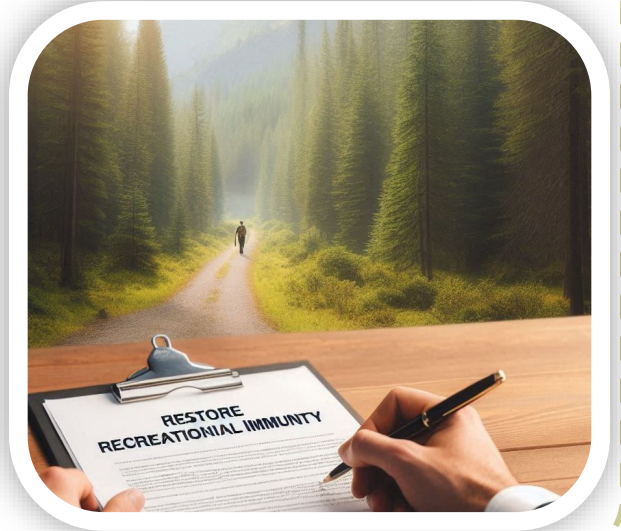
Recreationalist at Salem Legislative day 2-12-24

(Continued from page 3) **BCHO Members Rally in Sale for Recreational Immunity**

unanimously, and on March 5, the bill was passed in the Oregon House by a 50-0 vote! On March 27, Governor Tina Kotek signed the bill into law.

This is a temporary fix, however, and will sunset in 2026. A more permanent law will be required in the longer session next year.

BCHO thanks Senator Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, for shepherding this stopgap law through the Senate. Thanks also to Michelle Emmons, of Oakridge Trails Alliance, and Steph Noll, of the Oregon Trails Coalition, for delivering live testimony before the Senate hearing committee. Thanks also to the members of BCHO and OET who “hiked the hill”, representing equestrians in support of restoring recreational immunity and thereby continued access to Oregon’s public lands and trails.



Team Work makes the Dream Work

(Continued from page 1)

tise. Della also connected with the Scorpion Crew, our local volunteer trail crew. One issue to overcome was getting the trust of the local Land managers. Unlike the Forest Service, who has a history of working with volunteers with saws, the state park folks were unfamiliar with the capabilities of our volunteers. BCH and OET are used to running trail projects and park leaders were not used to letting volunteers out on their own. So Dani wrote to John Lively, Oregon State Representative, and brought to his attention the damage and the park situation.

On Jan 31st Lively responded and he agreed that it was imperative that “danger” trees be removed from trails as soon as possible to allow for safe recreation, and he sincerely appreciated all the hard work volunteers in our organizations are undertaking on behalf of the public. He reached out to John Mullen who, blessedly, agreed to allow a variety of help due to the extensive damage and extenuating circumstances. Within a couple of days, Becky and Dani had experienced crew leaders and certified sawyers to lead groups of volunteers and local horsemen. Using email lists, social media and word of mouth they got word out about planned work parties. Within three days the equestrians were removing trees off the trails. People stepped up to do what they were able to do. Some fed lunch. Some took care of paperwork. They all moved limbs. The biggest Job was raking the trails. There was so much small debris on the trails, this needed to be done to make the trails safe. The Scorpions who have large tree removal experience, cut out the really big fallen trees and unsafe trees. Working over a week, the volunteers cleared the 6+ miles of trails at Elijah

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BCHO Tech Corner – Using the Google Bar to Access BCH Cloud Services – Part 1

Navigating the internet and accessing either BCHO or BCHA Cloud resources can be challenging, especially for those who are new to it. This guide will help you understand how to start a web browser, use the Google Bar, log into a Google account, and manage multiple Google accounts in case you have access to a BCHO Cloud account. Click “Sign In”: Look for the “Sign In” button, usually in the top right corner of the page.

Web Browsers

A web browser is a program on your computer or device that allows you to access the internet. Popular web browsers include Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, and Safari.

How to Start a Web Browser

1. Find the Browser Icon: Look for an icon on your desktop or taskbar that looks like a colorful circle (Google Chrome), a blue “e” (Microsoft Edge), an orange fox wrapped around a blue globe (Firefox), or a compass (Safari).
2. Double-Click the Icon: To open the browser, double-click the icon. This will launch the web browser and open a new window.
3. Accessing the Internet: Once the browser is open, you’ll see an address bar at the top where you can type in web addresses (www.google.com) to visit different websites.

Accessing the Google Bar

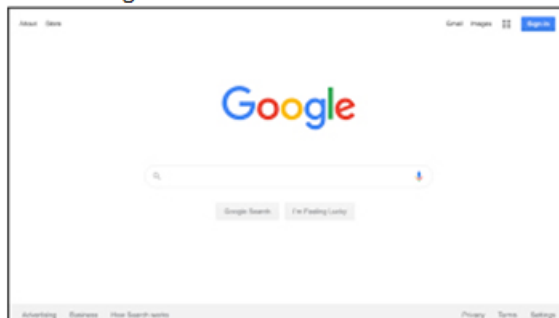
1. Open a Google Service: In your web browser, type www.google.com in the address bar and press Enter.
2. Identify the Bar: The Google Bar is the strip at the top of the page. It includes links to Google services like Gmail, Google Drive, and more. Look for this in the upper right corner.



Logging into a Google Account

1. Visit a Google Service: Type www.google.com or mail.google.com in the address bar and press Enter.
2. Click “Sign In”: Look for the “Sign In” button, usually in the top right corner of the page.

3. Enter Your Credentials: If you have a Google account (such as Gmail), enter your email address and click “Next”. Then, enter your password and click “Next” again.



Know the Account Tied to a Browser Tab

1. Check the Google Bar: When you’re logged into a Google service, look at the top right corner of the page. You should see your profile picture or your initials in a circle.
2. Click on the Profile Picture: Clicking on this circle will show you the email address and name associated with the account currently in use on that tab.

Changing Accounts

1. Open Account Menu: Click on your profile picture or initials in the top right corner of the Google Bar.
2. Select “Add another account”: In the drop-down menu, you will see an option to “Add another account”. Click on it.
3. Login to a Different Account: Enter the email address and password for the new account you wish to use. This will log you into that account without logging out of the current one.
4. Switch Between Accounts: To switch between accounts, click on your profile picture again. You’ll see a list of all accounts you’re logged into. Click on the account you want to switch to.



By following these simple steps, you can easily navigate the Google Bar, log into your Google account to access Google Workspace and BCH applications, identify which account is active, and switch between accounts with confidence.



Happy browsing!

For more information:

<https://www.bcho.org/bcho-cloud-services/>

THE JUDY MITCHELL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023

WITH CASCADE VOLUNTEERS AND US FOREST SERVICE

From the desk of: JEAN CLANCEY

WORD HAS IT THAT I AM THE RECIPIENT OF THE JUDY MITCHELL VOLUNTEER AWARD FOR THIS YEAR. WHAT AN INCREDIBLE HONOR!

I REMEMBER YEARS AGO WHEN JUDY FIRST STARTED THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. ABOUT A DOZEN OF US STOOD AT A TRAILHEAD IN THE MCKENZIE RANGER DISTRICT. IN A PRETTY HEAVY RAIN, SOME OF US WITH HORSES IN HAND, JUDY EXPLAINED THAT THE FOREST SERVICE NEEDED HELP MAINTAINING TRAILS. SHE WOULD SHOW US HOW, AS VOLUNTEERS, WE COULD HELP FILL THAT NEED.

HOW THE PROGRAM HAS GROWN! I AM BOTH GRATEFUL AND PROUD TO HAVE PARTICIPATED ALL THESE YEARS. GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE TIME SPENT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SATISFACTION THAT COMES FROM HELPING CLEAR WILDERNESS TRAILS. I AM PROUD TO BE PART OF THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME, KNOW-HOW, AND PASSION TO GETTING THE JOB DONE.

I WANT TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT, ESPECIALLY TO THE HORSES. AS AN EQUESTRIAN, I KNOW HORSES AS OUR STRONG AND KIND FRIENDS WHO CARRY HEAVY LOADS FOR US: CROSS-CUT SAWS, WEDGES AND AXES, WEIGHTY AND AWKWARD TRAIL TOOLS, CAMPING SUPPLIES, FOOD, WATER, AND SO MUCH MORE. HATS OFF TO THE OWNERS AND TRAINERS OF THESE CAPABLE ANIMALS. HORSES HAVE TO LEARN TO STAY TIED FOR EXTENDED PERIODS (MOSQUITOS NOT WITH STANDING), SENSE THE WIDTH OF THEIR PANNIERS SO THEY WON'T BANG INTO TREES, NOT SHY AT THE SOUND OF FALLING TREE LIMBS, DEVELOP STAMINA TO WORK HARD AT HIGH ELEVATIONS, MANEUVER AROUND OR OVER DANGEROUS OBSTACLES AND WATER COURSES.

FINALLY, I NEED TO SAY THAT THIS HONOR BELONGS TO ALL MY FELLOW BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN AND WOMEN AS MUCH AS IT DOES TO ME. THEY HAVE SHARED THEIR KNOWLEDGE WITH ME AND SO MANY OTHERS. I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF MY ROLE WITH THIS OUTFIT AS A SUPPORTER OF THE REAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS: MATT AND BECKY HOPE, PHIL AND CASEY HUFSTADER, DELLA WEBB, EMILY ELIAS, BETTY JEAN AND STEVE KEELE, TO NAME ONLY A FEW. THEY ARE PASSING ON THE SKILLS AND ETHICS OF HORSE PACKING, SKILLS THAT ARE IN DANGER OF BEING LOST. HORSES ARE ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING OUR WILDERNESS TRAILS OPEN.

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE JUST ONE TEAM AMONG MANY REPRESENTED THIS EVENING. DIVERSE AS WE ARE, WE ALL SHARE THE SAME PASSION AND CONVICTION: TO BUILD, MAINTAIN AND ASSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO TRAILS ON OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

AGAIN, I AM GRATEFUL AND PROUD TO BE A PART OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY OF TRAILVOLUNTEERS.

~THANK YOU SO MUCH, JEAN

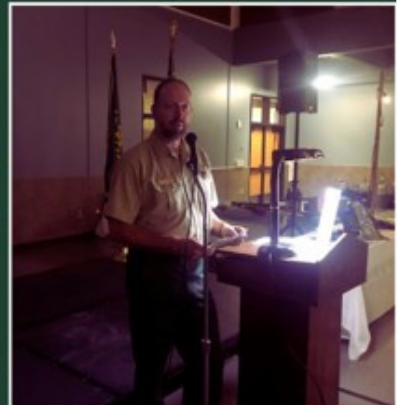


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Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event

A record number of volunteers turned out for this year's recognition event. The Willamette National Forest and Cascade Volunteers celebrated our volunteers and their accomplishments as stewards of our public lands at the 2023 Willamette National Forest Volunteer Appreciation Night on November 17th. Approximately 120 guests were treated to an amazing evening of dinner, libations, live music, and raffle prizes donated by several local businesses.



Three volunteers were recognized for their exemplary service:
Arden Corey: Cascade Volunteers 2023 Trail Stewardship Award;
Sig Johnsen: Willamette Lasting Impact Award;
and **Jean Clancey:** Judy Mitchell Volunteer of the Year Award.



Guidebooks!



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TBM SADDLES

Trail saddles for the 21st century / tmsaddles@gmail.com

TBM Saddles is the result of years of hard work in the saddle and tack industry. Although we provide saddles for all disciplines, our focus is on trail riders and packers. Those of us involved in TBM Saddles have over 200 years of combined experience in the saddle, tack and leather industry. We also offer custom saddle fitting for the most comfortable fit for you and your Mule, horse or donkey. All saddles feature 10yr warranty on tree. One year warranty offered on material and workmanship.



The Outrider



The Montosa



Working Trail Saddle





OREGON HORSE COUNCIL

OUR MISSION
Strengthening,
Representing, and
Advocating for the
Equine Lifestyle
Across Oregon.



OHC Provides Marketing & Value to Equine Businesses & Organizations throughout Oregon!

- Marketing sales, promotions, events, and more through our active website, popular Facebook page, and regular e-newsletters
- Discounts to attend trainings and programs such as the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue courses
- Legislative alerts and representation of the equine industry at the local, state, and national levels
- Premier directory listings in online and printed directories
- And much more!!

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Oregon Horse Directory
at Feed/Tack Stores
Across Oregon!

For Directory, News, Events and Membership Info...
www.OregonHorseCouncil.com

Team Work makes the Dream Work

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Bristow State Park.

The park opened back up to horses on Tuesday, February 13th. Caution was still advised, and the park continued to have contract crews working to eliminate any possible unsafe areas. John Mullen repeatedly indicated how amazed he was at the scope of work that was completed and the speed it was done. He believes the entire group's effort led to opening the park in an exceedingly speedy manner.

Here are the Statistics of this powerful effort:

BCHO, OET and OPRC (Old Person Riding Club) members and some not affiliated to a group showed up.

73 individual visits (some folks working three days, some doing one day)

514 total volunteer hours - combining working hours with driving hours

47 individual persons (not counting the Scorpions)

This could not have been done without the cooperation of all the local volunteers, park leadership and equestrian groups. Good job and "Way to Step up" Everybody!

The effort was then transferred to Mt. Pisgah, another local area with equestrian and hiking trails closed due to the storm damage.



East Cascades BCH Hold Packing Skills Field Day

From the desk of Lisa Rodriguez and Taylor Tatum

Sisters Cow Camp was the location of the first EC BCH Skills Day. The goal was to invite anyone interested in learning more about riding, camping, or packing in the back country. Rhonda and Pat Marquis and Lisa Rodriguez set up a demonstration of gear that they use when packing with one pack horse. Stan Shepardson led a hands-on workshop for highlining, and several horses got to experience it for the first time.

The main demo of the day was given by Casey Hufstader, owner of CH Pack string. He shared information on pack saddles, purpose and fitting of gear to stock, creating and tying loads, feeding stock in the back country, hobbling, highlining and safety. There was plenty of time for questions and hands on practice. After demos on Saturday those that had stock with them went on a ride and came back to have a wonderful potluck featuring some dutch oven delicacies. More riding took place on Sunday before everyone departed for home. Participants came from as far away as Philomath, Sweet Home and Lake Oswego as well as from Central Oregon. It was a successful day and we plan to do it again next year.



TERRITORIAL RIDERS HOSTS A SCAVENGER HUNT!

From the desk of By Rebecca Duren

The Hunt for Big Foot, was Saturday, June 22 nd

Territorial Riders (TRBCHO), after five long years, decided to host another fundraiser event since the last one on July 19, 2019! In the past several years, TRBCHO has hosted poker style fundraisers. A scavenger hunt would be a big change for our organization! So, what should we have riders hunt for? The idea was thrown out on what we should hunt for? What is hunted in the Pacific NW more than the Big Foot! Of course, we would hunt for Big Foot, the elusive creature!

Members were provided a pattern to create a 17" tall Big Foot silhouette cut out of cardboard and instructed to cover both sides of the silhouette in whatever materials they could imagine, something that could be difficult to find along the designated trail. Members were instructed to have fun with their ideas. With a few weeks of time, members came up with 20 silhouettes to place along the trail. I of course had to name them, I had names such as "Captain Obvious" (covered in green glitter), "Acorn Squatch" (covered in a small acorn print fabric) and "When Hairy met Salad" (covered in German Shepard hair and a salad looking fabric), to name a few!

Finally, the day of our fundraiser was here, it was show time! How would it go? All the volunteers took their positions and handled them smoothly, there was much comradery with all involved. Brats with the necessary condiments were served, members brought salads and cookies, making for a great lunch that was included with the entrance fee.

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From the Public Lands desk

BCHO Public Lands current activities/notes

BCHO 2024 PL Committee Accomplishments 5/2/24

PL committee Meeting monthly with good representation from the state chapters. Considering using Google Meets...

Working in conjunction with OET on many subjects

Detroit RD Camp Sites going into the Reservation systems with concessionaires

Columbia Gorge advocating stock access does a newly being develop trail system. Mosier to the Dalles Trail. Jim Forsman

Letters written:

- Cascade/ Siskiyou National Monument revision equestrians' effects
- Deschutes, Ochocos Corral Flat Comment Letters
- Trails funding Y-25 support
- Recreational Immunity State Bill passed

BCHO states volunteer hours totals.

Emerald Member Bonnie Samoa Presenting how to work with equestrians at CV trails maintenance Skills this weekend.

Working on supporting Santiam Wagon RD Festival, show casing driving and packing from Fish Lake on Sept 28th

White Fish Horse Camp Trails/Crescent Ranger District

- Multi-organizational/with FS personnel support
- Info from Bill Kujawa Crescent Ranger District
- Road 60 open only about 1-2 miles, Working with the Crescent RD fire Crew as available, and youth corps
- Kevin Foss, Patrick is excited about Saw recertifications. Also new seasonal Justin...
- Are asking for Stock to ride when possible...

Farwest PL Issues

- WA. Still going ahead with Grizzlies all along the Cascades
- Person Leading Mtn Bikes/E-bikes on Lake Tahoe's trails is going to be lobbying at the Federal level.

Previous PL issues

- We continue not to be able to have a Volunteer Saw program and are depending on another Volunteer Organizations to get our members saw certified, and with a decrease in available Certification programs Ww are having more trouble getting our sawyers certified.
- We have had to mount an aggressive campaign against a state park that was going to allow a E-Vehicle race in an Equestrian Park did not allow E-Vehicles. We were able to get it cancelled.
- We continue to have horse camps that are occupied by non-equestrians
- We are three years into a limited entry permits in three of our central wildernesses. Some of our members have found it hard to get these permits, some are using horse camps for access. Some

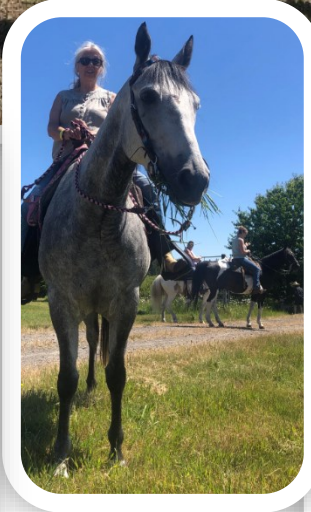
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Public Lands Update

TERRITORIAL RIDERS HOSTS A SCAVENGER HUNT!

(Continued from page 12)

In the end, it was a busy day and we received wonderful feedback from the riders. To be noted is that without the great volunteers we had, there would be no success! Thank you to all that helped. We're already planning another scavenger hunt in 2025, stay tuned. And, just in case you needed to know, "Acorn Squatch" was the most elusive Big Foot of all!



From the Public Lands desk

BCHO Public Lands current activities/notes

(Continued from page 13)

chapters are finding increased membership trail maintenance activity due the desire to get a go anywhere any time award permit.

- Have been losing some trailheads and horse camps due to severe forest fires damage.

BCHO State Public Lands Focus

- Willamette and Deschutes Forest wilderness limited entry permits looking for feedback, what is working and not working. Use incident form on the BCHO.org website please fill out.

- Horse Camp incidents again fill out incident form on website, but also keep a copy of it and be sure to make a report to a land manager. Better if you do it but unable please encourage your public land coordinator that it needs to be done.

- Be sure to report your volunteer hours for your projects to both Land manager and BCHO. Please ask if you do not know how. Also have somebody attached to those projects write an article for that event.

Chapter info:

Cascades is partnering with BLM to help enlarge the Larry Chitwood trailhead at the Badlands and are providing input into the expansion of trailhead and defining hiker/horse and bike trails on Horse Ridge.

Emerald: Harrelson Horse Camp, rehab after Fire damage. Not open couple more years

HCWP: Taken on packing/stock training for Land Managers and other Chapters.

HDTR: FS on corral and bridge replacement planning and design for the Bootleg Fire in the Gearhart and packing fish into Blue Lake. Continuing plans for more new corral construction at Fourmile Lake Campground when the snow melts out. Packing support for grip hoist work on large rock and large trees on Divide and Cherry Creek trails. Trail clearing on Rye Spur trail.

Sourdough: BLM offering 1280 acres in the Butte Falls area to Equestrians for future equestrian-hiker -only trails with an Equestrian only staging area. This is in the EA process now. Joy Trevey-Lowell has got herself in a position to write articles to Pacific Northwest Endurance Riders newsletter to talk about what BCHO and OET are doing for the Horse Community...This reaches, OR, CA, WA, ID, MT

West Cascade: Detroit RD turning all campsites over to concessionaires namely the Linn County Parks and Rec and what that means for equestrians in this area.

PCTA: Jack Rawdin. a Pd Staffer to job to help lead crews to do more detailed work on the PCT in the Mid- Oregon section of the PCT

Submitted Becky Hope, Public Lands Chair

Public Lands Update

From the Public Lands desk

Public Lands Update

Trail Stewardship Partners Summit in April 2024 / notes

Present: Zack Jarrett (Region 6), Duane Bishop (Willamette FS Forest Supervisor), Omero Torres (Rec Staff Willamette Forest), John Bretta Mtn. Hood FS, BLM Rec staffer for Oregon, Stephanie Noll (pd. Staff OTC), Michelle Emmons (Oakridge trails ass. and water trail rep.), Chip Coker ED for Cascade Volunteers, Two representatives from Travel Oregon, Steve Kruger ED Trail Keepers of Oregon (TKO), Oregon Mtn. Bike Coalition, Jeff Malik ED for National Forest Foundation. Jana Johnson Deschutes trails coalition, Becky Hope as representative for equestrians.

- Notes: in region 6 with FS 55% of trails budget provided by Volunteers
- Next 10 yrs. Trail challenges. Decrease Administrative Burdens, Identifying sustainable trail Systems, Work force Assessments
- GAOA funds going toward differed maintenance through Partners and extra Bridge work getting done
- Public feedback will be being gathered on recreational priorities in Fire burn areas.
- Matt Petterson Has moved to National FS level and Jennifer Sorenson is moving to the Region level.

I talked about:

- Thx OTC for support of needed trails education (first aid, CPR saw recertifications)
- Need to work with consistent local Land managing representative to identify trail projects and resources.
- Available packing support and need for reimbursements of associated costs.
- Question the need for multiple volunteers' agreements across multiple forests
- Trouble with FS staff being gone for extended times during planning times of the season. Frequent rotations of FS staff just as we are learning how to work with them and need introductions for new staffers.
- Still having trouble with non-equestrians in our limited horse camps



National Directors Update

From the Directors desk

2024 National Board Meeting Report / Notes

From Oregon National Board Members

Casey Hufstader and Becky Hope

BCHO National Directors:

Becky Hope /37245-Wheeler Rd Pleasant Hill OR 97455 / 6fhope@gmail.com / 541-337-3138

Casey Hufstader /PO Box 543 Veneta OR 97487 / chpackstring@aol.com / 541-914-3724

-Involved at the National level. Education committee, Public Land committee. We meet monthly on National phone call after the Executive Board meets.

-National will be requesting membership lists quarterly through Shared Drive. Craig Allen

-Incident Reports as needed for E-Vehicles, Mtn Bikes, Horse Camps, Trail head.

1# Report, Copy, Send to Land Manager, Send to State and National contacts.

-National Annual Meeting: BCHA 31 states, & gt; 11 million worth of Value.

-Light on the Land; see the samples and everybody will be sent a digital copy of this... George has agreed to be on the National Educational committee to help provide needed tools for LOTL education.

-Working on developing a new website

-Per Media committee. Needing articles... ok to send in larger articles then is stated on Website.

-American Horse Council 2022 Financial Report 9.8 of households 14.5 billion dollars of economic Value 87% of horse riders are Trail riders. .5% of visitors to FS are equestrians

-BCHA has youth program up and working, they have funding for youth Scholarships. They will pay for memberships and youth just must do a project either trail work or educational.

-BCHA president working on A national challenge cost share agreement to get reimbursements for Stock days provided and expenses.

-QR code for membership on Signs/handouts extra...

-National Reports Finances look much better after donations and auctions done at the National Board meeting and through donations throughout the year. Oregon did our share.

-New Dues increase of \$5.00/ membership to be collected on 1/1/25 this coming year. Have develop a process to collect dues fast this next time.

-2025 Next NBM Mide April Prescott Arizona (horses will be welcome)

-2026 S. Carolina Savana Georgia.





LIGHT ON THE LAND ACTIONS & ETHICS

Be Light on the Land!

Light On The Land is the Back Country Horsemen of America educational platform of ACTIONS and ETHICS to perpetuate the common-sense use of saddle and pack stock and encourages the wise and sustainable use and enjoyment on our public lands.

BCHA continues to support and partner with other educational programs. (i.e. Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly, etc.) *Light On The Land* is specific to stock use and contains so much before, so much in addition to, and so much beyond the content of other resource programs.

With over 50 years of knowledge and experience within BCHA, *Light On The Land* harnesses those best practices to compile a comprehensive platform of resources specific to stock use in the wilderness, back country, and front country. These resources can be accessed shared efficiently, practically, and free of charge to all BCHA members and the general public.

Plan Your Backcountry Trip

Preliminary preparation will provide the means to ensure safety and enhance the experience while minimizing the impact on natural and cultural resources.

Fundamentals:

- Know the regulations, special concerns and restrictions for the land resources you are using.
 - Check for required permits or restricted scheduling.
 - Verify health certificates required, pet restrictions, leash statues, etc.
- Communicate with others who have experience in your destination.
- Utilize maps
 - Download maps offline if using an electronic mapping device.
 - Identify land ownership/management of planned route.
 - Study maps to determine routes and amenities available.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use, if possible.
- Trailer and Vehicle preparedness.

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- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
 - Explore emergency communication options – cell service, satellite phone, two-way texter, etc.
 - Plan for extreme or changes in weather – excessive heat or cold, strong winds, unpredicted snow, flash floods, etc.
 - Pack your trailer with extra food, water, and emergency supplies for people and animals, especially if you will be starting from a remote trailhead far from emergency services.
- Plan for stock containment
 - Determine best option – hobbles, highline, portable fence, staking, etc.
 - Practice techniques to be used before heading out.
- Take only animals that are fit, calm, and experienced.
 - Practice riding with the group you are going with before the trip if possible.
 - Animals should be accustomed to performing in unfamiliar surroundings and on different types of terrain that could be encountered – rocky, steep, water crossings, etc.
 - Prepare your stock for other users and interactions on the trail - backpackers, kayaks, llamas, bicycles, etc.
 - Always use familiar tack and gear - ride with the gear you will be using for the trip - any extra ropes, saddle packs, etc. to get the stock used to the weight and feel of the equipment.
- Take only equipment you need to reduce the stock needed.
- Predetermine how you will feed stock – graze, pellets, hay, etc.
 - Introduce any new feeding method in the weeks before the trip.
 - Remember that stock will likely be eating more than normal as they are burning more calories than normal.
- Plan your menu.
 - Repackage human food to minimize waste.
 - Utilize bear resistant containers for food.
 - Pack extra light-weight meals in case of losing packs or unexpected delays.
 - Avoid cans, bottles, double packaging on dry goods, etc.

Trails Usage, Etiquette and Safety

Responsible use of trails will allow travel through areas without detriment to resources, maintain consideration for others, and increase the overall experience.

Fundamentals:

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July

Date	Time	Chapter Cal.	Event Title	Location	Description
Jul 10-13		East Cascades BCH Chapter	ECBCHO - Met-Win Todd to Quinn Work Party		Trail work party to clear the 6.8 mile section of the Met-Win trail between Todd Lake HC and Quinn Creek trail. For questions or to participate, contact Amber.
Jul 10-11		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Fish Packing to Blue Lake		9am start time, Blue Lake trailhead HDTR Fish Packing with ODF&W into Blue Lake from Blue Lake Trailhead in Gearhart Wilderness CONTACT: Betty Applebaker (541)891-8220
Jul 12-15		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Warner Mountain chapter trip (day rides)	Pepperdine Horse Camp, Cedarville, CA 96104	Warner Mountain chapter weekend trip with day rides, all are welcome to come and campout and help cook at trailhead (even if not day riding) Pepperdine Trailhead Horse Camp CONTACT: Betty Applebaker (541)891-8220
Jul 12-15		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	EEBCH PCT North Diamond Peak		Contact: Becky Hope, 6fhope@gmail.com
Jul 17-20		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR tentative Cherry Creek Tree removal		
Jul 19-22		East Cascades BCH Chapter	ECBCHO - Whitefish HC Work Party	Whitefish Horse Camp, NF-60, Crescent, OR 97733	Contact: Work party to clear trails out of Whitefish Horse Camp. Campsites will be made available for work party participants. Contact: Lisa (ECBCHO) 541-913-3738 for questions or if interested in participating.
Jul 20-22		BCHO State Calendar	BCHO Whitefish Horse Camp Lisa Rodriguez	Whitefish horsecamp	Contact: Pat Marquis, pnrmarquis@gmail.com

August

Aug 2-5		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	EEBCH Waldo 100		Contact: Becky Hope, 6fhope@gmail.com
Aug 14-21		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR tentative Pack-In Camp/Gear to Margurette Lake for Divide Rock project (plus Sky Lakes & Snow Lakes log out)		tentative Pack-In Camp/Gear to Margurette Lake for Divide Rock project (plus Sky Lakes & Snow Lakes log out)

September

Sep 12-13		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Pack-In Harriet drop camp via Varney Creek TH	Varney Creek Trail Klamath County, OR	
Sep 14-15		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Chapter Fall Picnic Potluck	5536 Seagull Dr Bonanza OR 97623	BYO side dishes and chairs No horses RSVP to Jackie Olden: (541) 545-6628
Sep 14-16		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Columbia Gorge campout	Cyrus Horse Campground, Prineville, OR 97754	Contact: columbiagorge@bcho.org
Sep 15-16		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Pack-Out Harriet drop camp via Varney Creek TH	Varney Creek Trail Klamath County, OR	
Sep 28-29		BCHO State Calendar	Santiam Wagon Road Festival	Fish Lake, Oregon 97524	for more information Becky Hope 541-337-3138 6fhope@gmail.com

October

Oct 1-4		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Columbia Gorge campout @ Gibson Prairie Horse Camp	Gibson Prairie Horse Camp, Oregon 97055	Contact Jim Forsman, columbiagorge@bcho.org
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October - Continued

Oct 7-12		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR TBD Pack		
Oct 19	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Public Equestrian Events	Support for Heather Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013	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.

December

Dec 8	02:00PM - 05:00PM	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Columbia Gorge Christmas party	Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr, Hood River, OR 97031	
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March

Mar 15	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Public Equestrian Events	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013	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.
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Please Verify event with the listed contact



It's Summer Fun Time, Come check out an event !!



(continued from page 19)

- Know trail designations of planned routes.
- Travel in small groups with the minimum number of animals necessary.
- Split larger parties into smaller groups.
- Concentrate use on existing trails, do not create or utilize social trails.
- Avoid muddy trails, if possible, especially on multi-use trails.
- Ride or walk single file in the middle of the trail, especially when wet or muddy.
- Do not cut corners or switchbacks.
- Do not ride around obstacles that need to be removed - it creates new impacts.
- In pristine areas, disperse use to prevent the creation of new trails.
- Carry a saw and clear obstacles especially those over 16 inches above trail tread.
- Human restroom stops should be done off trail and no signs (trail lilies) should be left.
- Scatter manure at all rest stops.
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
 - When taking breaks or setting camp do so away from trails and other visitors.
 - Avoid loud voices and noises - let nature's sound prevail.
 - Be courteous. Just because you have the right of way does not mean you should always take the right of way.
 - Communicate and cooperate.
- Communicate and cooperate - some users are unfamiliar with stock. Generally, livestock have the right-of-way. Calmly and politely ask whoever you meet to step off the trail in plain view (preferably downhill side). This allows the stock to know they are there. You may experience someone who does not wish to follow standard etiquette. Stay safe and do not escalate the situation. Report a negative occurrence if necessary to local officials.

Camp Establishment and Usage

Minimalizing camping impacts are challenging and careful consideration is required to multiple components.

Fundamentals:

- Camp Site Selection
 - Good campsites are found, not made.
 - Select established sites, if possible, or durable surfaces - rock, gravel, dry grasses, snow, etc. Avoid areas where impacts are just beginning. Choose a campsite that offers the least impact.
 - Pick a location with water, grass/feeding area, and a good containment location.

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(continued from page 22)

- Observe camping setbacks from lakes, streams, trails, other campsites, and historic and cultural sites and structures.
- Pick a site for your latrine tent if using for longer stays.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- Do not picket stock in wet meadows.
- Do not tie stock to trees, except for rest or loading and unloading.
- Tie stock so they cannot chew on the tree bark or eat the leaves of woody vegetation. A high line between trees is recommended. Use tree saver straps to protect trees.
- Fill in all holes and return all trampled areas to their natural state.
- Disposing of Camp, Human and Stock Waste Properly
 - Pack in, pack out.
 - Do not throw left over food into campfires. It won't burn completely and is an attractant to bears and other animals.
 - Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all unburnable trash.
 - Leftover food should be packed out or incinerated in a closed container such as a portable woodstove.
 - Deposit solid human waste in holes dug at least six inches deep at least 100 feet from water, camp, and trails (check regulations for distance). Cover and disguise/naturalize the hole when finished.
 - Strain dishwater and pack out or incinerate in closed container.
 - To wash yourself or your dishes, use small amounts of biodegradable soap.
 - Rake or scatter manure when breaking camp, especially around highline.
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
 - ALWAYS be aware of local fire restrictions.
 - Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the resources - do not have a campfire if you cannot control it.
 - Be aware of your surrounding area and make sure you have a safe location for your campfire.
 - Consider using a lightweight propane stove for cooking.
 - Use established fire rings or use a fire pan.
 - Build a mound fire using fire retardant material underneath (old fire shelter)
 - Keep fires small - use sticks that can be broken by hand when possible.
 - Sawing and splitting logs should be done in a manner that minimizes visual impacts to the other visitors.

(continued on page 25)

Backcountry Horsemen

The Purpose of Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

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

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

~

To ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.

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To EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

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To FOSTER and encourage the formation of new BCHO chapter organizations.



(continued from page 23)



- Burn all wood and coals to ash and put out campfires completely. **DEAD OUT!**

Minimize Wildlife Conflicts

Fundamentals:

- Observe wildlife from a distance - do not follow or approach.
- Become familiar with animal signs that could indicate which type of animal is in your area – tracks, scat, rubbings, etc.
- Be familiar with proper response when encountering an aggressive/predatory animal in different situations.
- Be prepared for encounters on the trail with dogs, moose, bear, deer, elk, snakes, etc.
- Carry bear spray when necessary and transport in a proper container - bear spray is considered the best deterrent in preventing an attack.
- Never feed wild animals - feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors (habituates), and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing/hanging rations, grain, and trash in approved bear-resistant methods - remember some personal hygiene items may be misinterpreted as food by some animals.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, winter, etc.

Preserve the Integrity of the Backcountry

Fundamentals:

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not disturb cultural or historical structures and artifacts.
- Leave natural objects as you find them - check local regulations as removing these items may be illegal.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native plant species.
 - Clean seeds, etc. from tack and stock.
 - Use certified weed-seed free hay and grain, ideally 2 to 3 days before the trip begins.
- Check local weed-free public land requirements.

From the Membership desk

Membership Reminder



**“\$5 Dues
increase after
Sept 1 2024”**

Membership Reminder

Fellow Back Country Horsemen of Oregon,

If you have not already renewed, it is that time again to renew our annual memberships for 2024. Please note, BCHO now encourages members to either join BCHO or renew your membership online at <https://www.bcho.org/membership-form/>. A Single Membership will be \$35, and a Family Membership will be \$45 for 2024. Still a bargain though for everything Back Country Horsemen does to keep riding accessible to our members!

Just a heads up, BCHA increased dues by \$5 for 2025, and the BCHO board voted to pass the \$5 dues increase on to the BCHO membership at the 2024 Rendezvous. A Single Membership will be \$40, and a Family Membership will be \$50 for 2025. Renewals for 2025 can be submitted starting September 1, 2024.

If you would still like to join or renew for 2024, membership in a BCHO Chapter helps keep you in touch with folks who are doing rides and projects in your area. In addition, please know that we at the BCHO State level have plans for ongoing education, projects and opportunities to get together that make membership in BCHO so rewarding. Also asking that you take a moment and make what we want to do possible by considering making a Tax-Deductible donation through the Website.

WWW.BCHO.ORG (or scan the QR code on Membership page of this Highline.)

If you find it easier, you can also still join or submit your renewal through your local chapter, or via US Mail to the BCHO Membership Coordinator via the printable form located in the membership section of the BCHO website as well. Also, chapter specific dues will not be collected during the online registration process, or when sending your membership via US Mail to the BCHO Membership Coordinator. If your local chapter has any chapter specific dues, that amount will still need to be paid to your local chapter directly.



Thank You,
Tim Lagasse, BCHO Membership Coordinator
PO Box 488
Colton, OR 97017



Membership Application

(you can now fill out your Membership On-line at BCHO.ORG)

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc.

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

(Print Name)

(Address)

(City) (State) (ZIP)

(Telephone)

(Email)

(Please check one)

New _____ Renewal _____



BCHO Membership Dues:

Single \$35 / *\$40 _____ Patron \$100 _____

Family \$45 / *\$50 _____ Benefactor \$250 _____

Sustaining \$500 _____

*** Post Sept. 1 2024 the Dues for Single and Family increase \$5**

The membership dues collected here are paid to the State and National organizations

Please select the Chapter nearest to you, below.

Note: Some Chapters have additional dues, please pay them directly.

[See Map of Chapters, www.bcho.org/chapters/](http://www.bcho.org/chapters/)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia Gorge, Hood River | <input type="checkbox"/> Steens, South East Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Cascades, Bend | <input type="checkbox"/> Sourdough, South West Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Empire, Eugene | <input type="checkbox"/> Territorial Riders, Oregon City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Country Wilderness Packers | <input type="checkbox"/> West Cascade BCH, Salem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Desert Trail Riders Falls area | <input type="checkbox"/> Member At Large |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Klamath Falls Area | |

Mail your application along with your check made out to BCHO, to:
BCHO-Tim Lagasse, PO Box 488, Colton, OR 97017
For questions email membership@bcho.org



Our newsletter, the Highline, will be emailed to you at the address you entered above.

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter by US mail.

Check here if you prefer to exclude your email address from the information sent to BCHA.

(Please note, excluding your email address will prevent you from receiving three emailed BCHA newsletters per year)

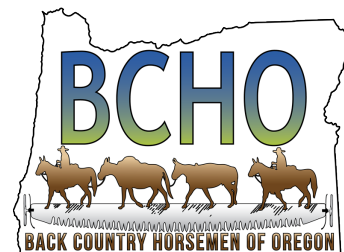
Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident where ever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders and spectators, and also recognizing that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., including its chapters, officers, directors and /or members cannot 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.

Some Dues maybe deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

*Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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



BCHO website: bcho.org/membership/

BCHO Highline
C/O Sara Lagasse
PO BOX 488
Colton, OR 97017



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF OREGON

