



February 27, 2015

With great excitement and anticipation for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act in the year 2039, Back Country Horsemen of America proudly submits the following articles for inclusion into the Wilderness Act Time Capsule:

- BCHA bandanna, bumper sticker and leather key tag; and
- A horseshoe, pulled in the Gila Wilderness after being put to good use hauling hunting gear 50 years after enactment of the Wilderness Act.

Founded in 1973, BCHA is a national non-profit organization. **Its mission includes a desire to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness.** A large part of its mission includes assisting land management agencies and non-profit organizations in the maintenance and management of public horse camps and backcountry trails. BCHA educates, encourages, and solicits active participation in the sustainable use of the back country resource by the general public and horsemen/women commensurate with our nation's heritage.

BCHA works in cooperation with government agencies to help maintain trails and historic sites, assist ecological restoration activities, sponsor educational seminars and clinics, and assist with service projects as requested. **In 2013 alone, BCHA volunteers documented an in-kind contribution of approximately \$14 million** for various projects throughout the nation, including the clearing of over 13,300 trail-miles located in designated Wilderness.

In an era that has witnessed increasing trail closures to recreational stock use in Wilderness, often based merely on the “social preferences” of other users, BCHA endeavors to apply its passion for Wilderness and its *Leave No Trace*<sup>®</sup> ethic to spur a resurgence of traditional saddle and pack stock use. The primitive mode of travel afforded by packstock represents an important tool for land managers in their efforts to maintain and restore wilderness character.

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