

Fall 2017 Public Lands Report

By Randy Rasmussen, Director for Public Lands & Recreation



President Obama on a hike at Great Falls National Park, VA (official White House photo).

Shifting Tactics in Congress to Promote Public Land Transfer

Entities promoting the sale or transfer of federal public lands have been forced to shift tactics. The shift can be attributed in large part to public backlash against proposals to transfer title (i.e., ownership) of large swaths of federal public lands to individual western states.

The public’s collective voice is being heard loud and clear—We don’t want our public lands to be bartered or sold to the highest bidder. Public access is best ensured by keeping public lands in public hands.

BCHA’s one-page resolution on the topic is posted on our website. Our members must be prepared to repeat this message over and over again with elected officials. We need the constant drum beat.

Politicians ignore strong public sentiment in favor of public lands at their own peril. Witness the backlash early this year when Congressman Jason Chaffetz reintroduced a bill to sell over 3 million acres of public lands to western states (HR 621). Many viewed the bill as an attempt to prime the pump for future, and larger, public land giveaways.

As reported in BCHA’s Spring 2017 newsletter, the congressman was loudly rebuffed by an angry public, both within his home state of Utah and throughout the nation. He quickly retracted the bill. The congressman then hastily resigned from Congress in late June, albeit for reasons probably not related to HR 621.

This spring, massive public land

What does advocacy do for you?

- Secured President Obama’s signature on the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (PL 114-245, Nov. 2016)
- Act represents a major milestone and represents the first bill intended to enhance trail maintenance on national forests – ever.
- Resulted from a five-year effort by BCHA and partners to focus attention on Forest Service trail maintenance backlog and the important role served by volunteers.
- Spurred new agency \$250,000 matching grant program in 2017 to attack deferred trail maintenance; expected to grow to multi-million-dollar program over next several years.
- BCH Washington secured \$8,000 grant via the 2017 grant program.

rallies were held in Boise, Idaho; Missoula, Montana; Cody, Wyoming, and elsewhere. Backcountry horsemen and women joined hunters, anglers and other public land advocates to convey loud and clear the message to retain our national heritage—our public lands.

In response, state and national elected leaders who mistakenly assumed

public land transfer would be broadly embraced, bid a hasty retreat. They had to conjure up another, more plausible, rationale to plunder the wealth of our public lands for the benefit the few, the elite. And now that plan is playing out, just slightly “under the radar,” in statehouses and in Congress. It includes

[continued inside on page 2]



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Public Lands Report

By Randy Rasmussen [continued from front page]

handing over the mineral wealth of our public lands to the states—to the detriment of the national Treasury—and concocting ways to nullify pesky federal regulations that slow or limit the outright pillage of federal lands.

A bill introduced in late July by Tennessee Congressman Diane Black (HR 3565, euphemistically titled “Federal Land Freedom Act”) touts that the U.S. would achieve domestic energy independence if only those pesky federal regulations no longer applied. The solution? Hand over federal minerals to the states, yet keep the feds responsible for “managing” the land and, presumably, any clean up and reclamation costs associated with mining or oil and gas development in the complete absence of federal regulations.

Granted, it’s hard to say how such issues directly affect BCHA’s narrow mission (see sidebar, page 10 for BCHA mission statement). Yet there is little doubt that changes to public land management sought by some members of Congress have the potential to significantly alter the scenery and increase

human and industrial activity in “back country” landscapes currently enjoyed by horsemen.

The Outdoor Alliance (OA) recently posted the following article that provides a good overview of the shifting political landscape, and change of tactics, regarding public land transfer:

<http://www.outdooralliance.org/blog/2017/8/16/whats-the-latest-on-the-plot-to-steal-your-public-lands>

In a nutshell, the OA claims Congress and pro-transfer forces will attempt to minimize the public’s voice in federal land management decisions by doing several things, including:

1. Allowing the destructive cycle of “fire borrowing” by the US Forest Service to continue by resisting reforms promoted in a strongly-supported bipartisan bill before Congress (HR 2862), that would treat major wildfire seasons like other natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and floods;

2. Undermining the Land and Water Conservation Fund by giving it little

funding and not renewing it next year (effectively ending 50 years of beneficial LWCF-supported projects); and

3. Further slashing the budgets of agencies like the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, in order to make the agencies appear inept and incapable of managing public lands.

Details on the importance of each of these issues are available via BCHA’s website.

The OA’s article and its accompanying detailed article (with citations) makes for a good read.

BCHA will be monitoring closely what Congress puts into play this fall. We might have to change our tactics in response, if indeed land transfer no longer appears to be the end game. Yet we cannot let down our guard and must assume more plays will be made for outright sale or transfer of public lands.

In the meantime, I encourage you to contact your representative in Congress to ask they please cosponsor House Concurrent Resolution 27. This is a “positive” concept that BCHA members can and should support. The Resolution expresses “the sense of Congress that America’s Federal public lands are a national treasure that belong to all Americans and which should be maintained for future generations.”

That’s a positive development we can all get behind. BCHA will not cease advocating for this ideal.

We Need to Hear from You!

By Yvette Rollins, BCHA Executive Committee

Let’s say that I decided to start the Rollins Trail Riders Organization. We are a little standalone group that works on local trails with the forest service. We have a good volunteer working relationship but then they decide to close the trails we’ve maintained for years.

- Where can I turn to for help and advice?
- Are there other groups that have been in this situation?
- Is there a national organization out there that can help me?
- Where can I find the resources I need to help me keep trails open for everyone
- How do I bring together people with the same interests?

We want to hear from you and here is what we need.

- 1) We need to know what Value you place on your membership
- 2) We need for you to be engaged with BCHA, participate, share
- 3) A real commitment-what can the organization expect from you
- 4) What do you really want
- 5) What do you really need

The Executive Committee has formed an ad hoc committee for membership. Darrell Wallace is the acting chair of the committee. We would like for any member who would like to serve on this committee to contact Darrell at: dlwallace700@gmail.com.

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View from the Chairman's Saddle

By Freddy Dunn, BCHA National Chairman



Empowering BCHA – And YOU

By Freddy Dunn, Chairman

“Ya know what you guys oughta do?” How many times have you heard that from someone – member or not? Unfortunately, 99% of the time, that someone is not willing to participate in making his or her suggestion a reality. And the problem is a really good idea never comes to life.

We have the same problem funding Back Country Horsemen of America. We get suggestions all the time about how the national organization can support the states and chapters in many different areas. As a result, during the 2016 National Board Meeting in Great Falls, Montana, the Executive Committee presented the National Board Members with a Business Plan that pretty much covers all of what ‘we guys oughta do’.....

1. Advocacy, Legislation & Partnerships

Three of the primary responsibilities of BCHA are advocacy, legislation education, and partnerships at the national level. For the most part, these important functions are professionally managed and carried out by the Director for Public Lands & Recreation. However, other BCHA members, especially elected officers and committee chairs, may be involved. Even though challenges may arise as local issues, they often involve federal agencies or national legislation. Many times, these issues require involvement by national or regional partner organizations. Ultimately, it is BCHA’s role to assist the state or local chapter to resolve the issue. Advocacy at the national level is an organization priority because public policies at the national, state, and local levels have a tremendous impact on the financing, maintenance, and access of back country trails.

Effective public policy advocacy work requires organization and planning. We learned a long time ago that working independently did not help us make the progress that is needed. Working together strategically, we can cause the changes needed in the political, social, and economic contexts. Our Director for Public Lands & Recreation has the knowledge and experience to

coordinate and effectively implement our collective efforts.

2. Administration

A professional management company provides accounting, data collection, financial, membership, communications, and other services that are necessary to maintain an effective organization that is comprised primarily of volunteers. Professional management also helps the board ensure efficient, appropriate use of funds. The cost of professional administration is far less than most nonprofits. A fairly common rule of thumb is 30% while our costs are only 14%.

Included in the administration costs are printing, shipping and mailing, and other member communications expenses make up a necessary part of an effective organization. Keeping members informed and alerted to action is part of supporting our #1 priority. Even with those costs added, our administration costs are at 24% and still well below the generally accepted 30% standard.

3. Trail Maintenance

A key function of national BCHA is keeping trails open to stock use by helping to fund the work you do to physically maintain trails on public lands. While most trail projects are organized by state or local chapters, funding is often a challenge, and BCHA will continue to seek grants and find other ways to subsidize costs of organized trail work. At least 6% of the budget is allocated to keep the dollars available to subsidize the state and chapter trail work.

4. State Development

While some BCHA states have been active for over 30 years, others are new to BCHA and have not developed Leave No Trace, saw certification and safety, membership renewal, publication, advocacy, legislative, and other programs vital to energetic BCH programs. Newer member states need technical assistance to develop themselves. We have not yet implemented this program but plan to send volunteers from established states to assist those states in need of some help setting up sustainable programs. Multi-state BCH regional alliances will be used to further this goal where effective. The costs are a modest 5% of the total budget and mainly covers the travel expenses of volunteers.

5. Fundraising

BCHA’s Trails Forever Fund (TFF), Legacy program, grant writing, advertising, and other fundraising efforts, including incentives, that are necessary to fund this plan will need startup investment.

- An essential first step is to develop consistent contributions from the membership to the Trails Forever Fund (TFF) so that BCHA can demonstrate that commitment to potential corporate and foundation funding sources. This will necessitate messages at all levels of leadership in BCH.

- A team approach to fund raising (involving the officers, paid and contract staff, Executive Committee members, and others) must be implemented in order to meet our strategic objectives. Coordinated efforts to es-

Back Country Horsemen of America a modest-growth Business Plan proposal for 2017-2022

What will all this cost per year?

Plans for where your dollar is spent:

HOW YOUR DOLLAR HELPS YOU



establish relationships with representatives of potential funding sources must be undertaken before any actual funding can be expected.

- BCHA members and staff with fund raising responsibilities will need to be committed, make status reports, and coordinate with a single point of contact within BCHA (presumably the Executive Director but clearly authorized by the National Chair).

Another thing to consider is raising money costs money. Whether it’s a mail campaign or planned giving or grant writing, there is a cost associated with developing funds for your important work. For example, we propose trail maintenance and state development work can be partly funded by grants. These important programs need professional grant writing and grant management reporting.

While different fundraising efforts may yield different returns on investment, our modest 3% investment in fundraising will result in a high rate of return to programs and services for our members.

6. Membership Development

In order to be viable, BCHA needs to recruit new members in states where no state organization exists or where membership development is not a strength of the state organization. Some state organizations may need assistance with retention and growth. Both may be accomplished by direct efforts or by development of state expertise, or by offering incentives.

The last three segments of the proposed dollar chart include:

7. Program Support

Committee work to ensure that member education, public lands, volunteer hours reporting, incentive awards, expansion, and youth involvement are promoted appropriately. Minimal costs to allow communication of best practices, emerging issues, and outreach by established experts within the membership. For example,

- Providing literature (like a new/updated brochure) and guides (BCHA Guide book and Organizational Handbook) to help new members and states become well organized and productive (this requires someone to write them or redesign/update them and money to print them)

- Provide a website that functions like a library for the membership (it takes people power to search for or create and curate all of this information)

8. National Board Meeting

Over 30 state BCH organizations

need to meet in person once per year in order to conduct business, share best practices, and make democratic decisions. Currently financed primarily by the member states, we are concerned that this may present disincentive to new and undeveloped states with few resources. A possible remedy would involve the development of less expensive regional meetings and a reduced national meeting.

9. Reserve Fund

In order to maintain a stable, sustaining presence, a reserve fund needs modest but consistent investment.

Funding: Whose job is it?

As you can see, we need money to achieve these goals. Funding comes from many different areas: Dues, charitable gifts, donations and grants. The estimated total costs for this very modest business plan proposal is \$340,000 a year or about \$26 per member. However, our estimated 2017 income is only \$224,000. Part of the reason is we have worked hard to keep your dues low because we recognize you contribute ‘sweat equity’, animals and trucks, hauling costs, and veterinary bills.

Unfortunately, that doesn’t show up on our balance sheet for potential donors to see that our own members heartily support us financially above and beyond dues. Your contributions speak volumes to potential funders who look to see if BCHA is supported by its members.

That’s why we’re asking for you to join the TFF Fund which gives 30% of the funds collected to the BCH Education Foundation to distribute as grants to support those programs not supported by dues dollars. If you prefer, you can send in a one-time donation. Small donations from LOTS of people add up. One person CAN make a difference. Have a challenge in your state or chapter for the number of people who have donated.

Our business plan is sound, but we need to build the financial foundation under it. It is every member’s responsibility to donate something above and beyond the dues. So please, join the TFF Fund. When you make a financial donation, along with giving your time, you’re setting the example for others to follow. And, as you know, your contribution will make a huge difference to empower BCHA to help YOU.

Keep in mind you can help us identify potential grants or donors to help us grow our capacity to deliver on trail maintenance and support to your state or chapter.

Thank you in advance for your donation.

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Membership Recruitment – Some Ideas to Consider

By Sherry Jennings, Editor

State organizations and local chapters are encouraged to reach out to other equestrian groups and trail users of all types when thinking about potential members. Outreach should not be a once-in-a-blue-moon event – it should be ongoing. Lynn Golemon of Big South Fork Chapter in Tennessee provided a great example of how such outreach should be an ongoing project for all BCH organizations. The outreach also raises awareness of how much BCHers are doing to help maintain trail access while protecting the landscapes and viewsapes we all enjoy.

Over the fall and winter, think about how those you know can benefit from some type of membership in your organization. Even if they don’t own a horse or a mule, they can support and be a member of a BCH organization. You may already have something in place. But if you don’t, how about a special “Friends of the Back Country” supporting membership? Many professional organizations have non-voting members. Friends and other community members who are not stock owners don’t need to be voting members to volunteer for, or participate in, your fundraising events or trail work. Some non-voting member benefits can include:

- Subscription to your newsletter
- Subscription to the national newsletter
- Alerts and notifications about trail use issues
- Discounts on products and services offered by your sponsors or participating vendors
- Eligibility to participate in BCH task forces on trail issues or trail work groups
- Invitations to socials or other special meetings that don’t involve needing four-footed transportation

You might also give people access to the “members only” pages on your website or let them know about all the value available through the BCHA website and social media:

- Calls to action or information at <https://www.bcha.org/blog/current-alerts/>
- Invite people to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bcha.org> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/bchofam-erica> for regular updates and more information.

Thank you, Lynn, for stimulating some ideas about involving members who might not otherwise think about joining BCH!

Hi Trail Riders,

Our local chapter of Back Country Horsemen of the Big South Fork is making huge efforts to maintain and improve our trails, as well as getting new trails dedicated for horse use. We have created several new trails in the last few years, and we are currently making the crossing of White Oak Creek at the Zenith Crossing much safer by the use of cement blocks created entirely by our volunteers. This is with the full cooperation of the Big SouthFork Park authorities, and at considerable cost to our organization. We are very aware of your continuous trail efforts as well.

My name is Lynn Golemon. My husband, Bill, and I live in White Oak, in Allardt, Tennessee. I am also the membership chairman of the Back Country Horsemen Association of the Big South Fork. I know you are constantly asked to “join”, to “give”, to “help”, and so I would like to explain why it is so important for all trail riders to join Back Country Horsemen through our local chapter: BCH of the Big South Fork. The US Congress and the US Senate, along with state and local governments are constantly approached by lobbying groups such as various Wilderness groups, Hiking groups and Bicycling groups, and who knows how many more. Most of them would like to eliminate horseback riding for any number of reasons.Many of you have seen this happening, and it is actually one of the reasons I moved from West Virginia to the Big South Fork area.

The horse industry has very few lobbyists who are interested in maintaining our trail systems, and we have very little money to lobby. I have seen the Wilderness groups and those concerned with endangered species in action over the years because of my endurance riding. Their intensity and persuasive abilities are absolutely amazing. These lobbying groups are much larger than the horse lobbyists, and they have a great deal of money to spend lobbying. They constantly receive huge donations, as well as extensive grants from individuals and corporations, and far too often their plans include the elimination of horses from the trails.

Back Country Horsemen is a national non-profit (501c3) organization with offices in the State of Washington, and www.backcountryhorse.com is the web page. We are a local chapter of this national organization, and we need the membership rolls of BCH to be large enough to have a national impact in Congress and the Senate. This is the only way we will keep our trails open in years to come. The folks in Washington need to see that we are out there riding the trails, and that we care. This is the only way to get their attention.

The cost to join BCH is only \$20 per year, or \$30 per year per couple. This is such a small price to pay for what we have, especially compared to the cost of everything else we need to maintain our horses. All donations are tax deductible. Of course, we would also love to have you participate and enjoy our events, and also your help working on trails. However, we realize that sometimes this is not possible. But I simply cannot stress enough how important it is to have your names on the roles as members when we are represented in Congress.

Attached is a membership form. Please join and please pass this information along to any others you think might be interested. And I would also like to invite you to our annual fundraiser at Zenith Campground this coming weekend. We will have excellent meals, a raffle, a silent auction, and, of course, a trail ride including a scavenger hunt. Please come.

And I would like to thank you personally for taking the time to read this lengthy e-mail. And please forgive me if you get duplicate copies, I am trying to reach everyone.

Sincerely,
Lynn

Annual Membership Dinner & Auction

By Freddy Dunn, Chairman

Our chapter has an annual dinner and auction that is a great event/tool for renewing memberships. For the price of a single membership, you receive one dinner and a family membership gets two meals. There is a nominal charge for additional family members – between \$8.00 and \$10.00 per plate. This once a year event is a wonderful time to ask members to bring other horsey friends who might be interested in Back Country Horsemen. We also get to renew friendships with those folks who may not be as active as they used to be but are **precious checkbook members**. We have a committee who will go out and solicit auction items from local business. And they don’t have to be horse related. Movie passes, car washes, truck maintenance, season passes to Utah State Parks.... just about anything. We also ask folks who are coming to bring a donation. Then, of course, you have to have a wonderful and entertaining auctioneer. We’ve always been lucky to have an amazing

auctioneer!

Over the years we’ve done pot lucks, and then partial pot lucks and now we normally cook the meat ourselves and cater the rest. Attendance averages about 60 people and we receive renewals that evening from about 70% of our membership. The money that we raise with the auction has generally been between \$1100 and \$1800 after expenses.

I strongly encourage chapters or states to try this type of event. Even if you’re spread out over a large geographical area – getting together once a year can truly be a treat. Just use your imagination on how to make this fun and folks with want to attend.

Then, I’ll send out invoices to all the folks who have not renewed AND I send them out to folks from two or three years ago, in an effort to get them back.

If you need any specifics on making this work, don’t hesitate to contact me freddydunn@gmail.com.

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I Ride for the Brand

By Ken Carmichael

While watching a western movie several years ago, I heard a cowboy talking about where his loyalty lies. You may remember the movie. The statement was “I ride for the brand.” That stuck with me. It’s about loyalty and trust. I like to say it in another way, “Go home with who brought you to the dance.”

A book called Focus on Sustainability by Dennis G. McMillan describes four very basic ways to ensure that a nonprofit is sustainable. The first one is FOCUS. Organizations that have a clear focus can answer two key questions: “Who are we?” and “Where are we going?” Organizations like BCHA must laser focus on the founding principles, have discipline on strategic

planning, and also adapt to the future.

Who are we? When I joined BCH in 1987 I knew, or shortly learned, that BCH is not a social club, it is a service organization. We have a mission – the short of which is to preserve and enhance the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land. I know that we like to ride and be sociable but that is not why BCH was formed. We were formed as a service organization (this organization brought us to the dance) and that is who we should go home with.

Where are we going? That is a good question. What brought us to the dance is Education, Advocacy and Moving Dirt (trail work). Are we still headed in that direction? When we make deci-

sions about BCH at all levels we should always keep in mind that what we do should support these efforts.

The strength of BCH is in its size (stronger together) and the diverse talent we represent. Our mission is a big one and everyone is needed. In the Ponderosa Chapter, I count 40 volunteer opportunities and there are probably more. That is just what is on the list. Fortunately, we all have different talents, skills and interests. Some are good at operating a chainsaw and others create newsletters, take pictures and keep the finances straight. The point is that there is a place for everyone in BCH, and we need and appreciate EVERYONE.

There is no need to try to fit a round

peg in a square hole. Your talent, or what you want to learn, is needed. So what if you cannot run a chainsaw or balance the books? Find something else. Just look at the list and pick a volunteer opportunity that floats your boat. I firmly believe that those that are involved and have skin in the game have the most fun. It is not as fun sitting on the sidelines as it is being in the game.

Bottom line is that we have all joined a SERVICE ORGANIZATION and that organization needs your help. Back to my original question: DO YOU RIDE FOR THE BRAND?

The Trails Forever Fund

The Trails Forever Fund (TFF) was unveiled at the April, 2016 BCHA National Board Meeting. Immediately, enthusiastic BCHA supporters donated to the fund, some with a small monthly amount and others with a single annual donation. TFF is designed to help BCHA grow and provide additional support and resources for chapters and state organizations.

Our membership continues to sign on to the fund, and we want to say THANK-YOU to all of those listed below who have donated. If you have not yet had a chance to, please join your fellow BCHA-ers in their generosity and support by signing up for the Trails Forever Fund at <https://www.bcha.org/trails-forever-fund>

The first TFF project, which will be completed by December, 2017, will be announced in October. Stay tuned!

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BCH of Missouri Hosts Land Managers at Annual Trail Ride

By Paula Hull, Back Country Horsemen of Missouri

What started in 2009 as a way to introduce Missouri’s public land managers to Back Country Horsemen of Missouri (BCHMO), has now become an annual event spanning eight years. Each June, BCHMO invites federal and state land management agencies to participate in an equestrian trail ride, followed by an informal, working lunch. The Land Managers Ride, the purpose of which is to foster a positive working relationship by getting to know various land managers, continues to be more than just a trail ride.

The trail ride gives land managers an opportunity to experience, first-hand, from the back of a horse, the recreation opportunities BCHMO seeks to preserve. It also lets them see the effort and dedication our organization provides, as much of the ride takes place on a section of the Ozark Trail,

within the Mark Twain National Forest, that is maintained by BCHMO. The luncheon afterwards provides time for socializing, networking, and discussing how BCHMO can best work with the agencies to provide volunteer service, as well as education to the equestrian public regarding minimizing impact to trails and conflicts with other trail users.

The 2017 event was held on June 22, at Brushy Creek Lodge and Resort, near Black, Missouri. Once again, it proved to be a successful, fun-filled day for all. Eleven representatives from three agencies; US Forest Service, National Park Service, and Missouri Department of Conservation, saddled up on horses provided by Brushy Creek, for the two-hour trail ride. Three Department of Natural Resources-Missouri State Parks representatives



did not ride, but joined everyone at the lodge for the luncheon. Eight members of BCHMO, including board members, committee chairs and chapter leaders served as hosts, bringing their horses and mules to ride.

After the trail ride, staff at Brushy Creek prepared a delicious lunch. Agency representatives interacted amongst each other and with BCHMO members, amid smiles and praise for the event. More than one person was heard to say, “I will be back next year.”

BCHMO would like to thank each

agency for taking the time out of their busy schedules to participate in this event and continuing to foster a positive working relationship. We would also like to extend our thanks to Brushy Creek Lodge and Resort for providing the trail horses and facilities over the past eight years, which has allowed BCHMO to host this important interaction with public land managers in Missouri.

San Juan BCH – From Southwest Colorado Working hard to help keep our Wilderness Trails open!

By SJBCH members JoAnn Senzig & Kristie Hefling

Providing recreation opportunities is one of the Forest Service’s highest priorities, but budget limitations make it difficult for Forest Service staff to maintain trails for the ever-increasing number of visitors.

Donating time to trail maintenance is one of the most important solutions to inadequate funding. San Juan Back Country Horsemen is one organization dedicated to helping clear trails in the Pagosa Springs area. SJBCH has adopted two trails, Anderson and Archuleta, in an effort to keep them safe and keep them open to hikers and horses. Over the last several years this has become a huge challenge in southwest Colorado, with beetle kill taking over so much of the area mountain forests.

The club scheduled two trail work days on August 29th and 31st , 2017, on the Anderson Trail, in the Weminuche wilderness. The first of the seven trees to be cleared was located at four+

miles in at over 8,500 feet of elevation, through some very difficult trails! Ten club members carried in cross cut saws, hand saws, pole saws and pruners and worked a combined total of more than 65 hours clearing fallen debris, rocks and overhanging branches. Seven downed trees that were blocking the trail were completely cleared. As of August 31st, the trail is open to the tree line! Five stock horses were ridden in and several people hiked in to work on some very tough brushing and rocky areas and cutting downed trees!

Sincere thanks to Donna Fait, Lee Pierce, Nancy Seay, Kristie Hefling, Annie Pack, Chuck Wanner, Dennis Gallegos, Kim Mason, Randy Senzig and Jo Ann Senzig for their commitment, devotion and hard work.



“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”
-- Helen Keller

BCH Washington Northeast Chapter Assists Kalispell Tribe

By Traci Stewart, Northeast BCHW Chapter
Reprinted with permission of The Trailhead News

NEBCHW members have provided horses to the Kalispell Tribe’s Goose Creek Camp for the last few years during which time intermediate school children attending camp were taken on a supervised trail ride. NEBCHW members were concerned that these children had little or no prior horse experience when they were put up on a horse to go for the trail ride. As a result, NEBCHW requested that the children who would be participating in the trail ride attend a multi-day horsemanship and trail class designed to provide them with the basic horsemanship skills and trail etiquette for safety.

Three sessions were held: June 29, July 6, and July 11, 2017. The kids arrived by 9:30 a.m. and left by 3:30 p.m. each day. During the first session, they were taught how to approach, halter, tie, groom and lead a horse including stopping, backing and turning. They were also taught basic trail etiquette and LNT principles. During the 2nd session, the kids were asked to demonstrate what they had learned in the first session, fitted to saddles and then worked while mounted with an individual NEBCHW member to learn to move the horse forward, stop, turn each direction and to back up. They were also taught what to do if a run-away occurred and how to make an emergency stop. During the final session, the kids demonstrated what they learned in the first two sessions in an enclosed arena without individual members walking with them. They passed a basic trail challenge which included stepping over obstacles and following a mock trail with appropriate spacing, and then participated in a short trail ride out in an open area.

A total of 15 people “graduated” from the three-day session including 9 children, 4 mentors (high school age helpers) and 2 adults.

The horses, equipment and facilities utilized were provided by NEBCHW members. During the three sessions, there were a minimum of 8, and as many as 14 NEBCHW members volunteering their time and/or horses to make the sessions as safe, organized and successful as possible. While mounted, it was one member per child. All children wore helmets and boots, which were also provided by NEBCHW members.

The Camp trail rides were scheduled for July 18, 19, and 20th. Many of the NEBCHW members that attended the three-day class took horses to the camp and rode with the class graduates. All these activities were planned and executed as part of the Horsemanship Development Committee endeavor to interest more people in utilizing horses for recreational trail riding in a responsible manner.

The Northeast Chapter extends a big thank you to Doug and Traci Stewart of the Northeast Chapter for providing the facilities, much of the equipment and horses for the qualifying classes. Traci’s excellent instruction contributed immensely to the ultimate success of the Kalispell Camp Trail rides. It was great education also for the chapter members who attended!



Horsemanship Training - Goose Creek Trail Ride Graduates

Kids	Mentors	Adults
Dennis Campbell	Jalyna Castillo	Cory Swennumson
Teresa Campbell	Bryce Nomee	Wendy Ostlie*
Roleand Campbell	Will Pierre	Ione Yellow John*
Selena Wynne	Joey Tinney	
Mody Wynne		
Taressa Pierre		
Samantha Nomee		
Jackson Tinney		
Jason Cullooyah Jr.		

*Wendy Ostlie participated in the training and “graduated”, but didn’t ride at the camp.
*Ione Yellow John was not able to participate in the training with the horses, but was able to ride at the camp (she grew up with horses).



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Our BCHA newsletter is read by passionate trail riders, saddle and pack stock owners, avid back country packers and others who have an investment in saddle and pack stock and public land management. We serve over 14,300 members nationwide who belong to 180 active chapters/units and affiliates in 27 states. Visit www.bcha.org for more information on BCHA.

Display Sponsorship Rates

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Artwork is accepted in these formats: Adobe Acrobat PDF, Photoshop JPG saved for PC format. Images must be at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch at the actual size used in the artwork. All ads will be black and white unless special arrangements are made.

Note: For questions or graphic design and layout of your ad, please contact Deborah Schatz at (406) 314-1084 or deborah.bcha@gmail.com.

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Back Country Horsemen of Montana's Youth Program

By Greg Schatz, Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead, and Kathy Hundley, Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen, Montana

BCHMT's Youth Program would like to thank everyone who came out to help with youth education at summer camps this summer. We presented hands on packing demonstrations at three summer camps for 68 kids from age 11-17.

The three camps included:

The Glacier Institute, a private non-profit providing hands-on, field-based educational adventures to people from all over the world in nature's wildest places, Glacier National Park and the Flathead National Forest, located within the Crown of the Continent ecosystem;

Camp McGruder, a ministry of the OR-ID Conference of the United Methodist Church, which relies on volunteer groups to provide a quality learning environment;

and The Boone and Crockett Club's Anderson Conservation Education Program on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, west of Dupuyer, Montana, at the foot of the Rocky Mountain Front. The Boone and Crockett teaches outdoor skills and welcomed the Back Country Horsemen for the third year in a row.

Most of the kids were from Montana. Several had horses of their own and some knew how to pack. We had several adults sit in on our demonstrations as well.

The BCHMT Youth Program continues to look for additional summer programs to add to our schedule. If you find a summer camp in your area, we are happy to help you communicate with the leaders of the camp, and develop a syllabus that will meet their needs. Contact Greg Schatz at gregschatzbuilder@gmail.com and Kathy Hundley at montanakath@yahoo.com.

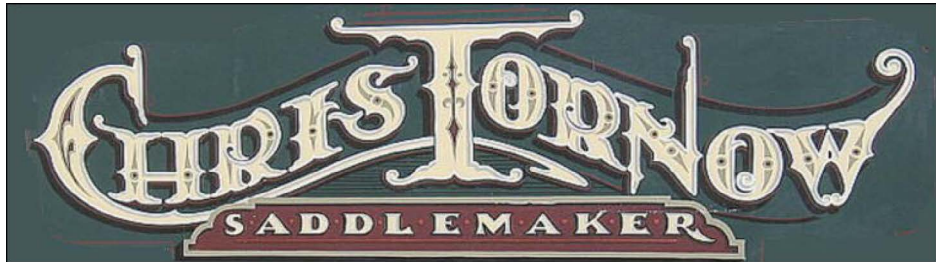
Photos clockwise from top:

Greg Schatz and June Burgau are having fun with tree savers.

Yes, you can pack a wheelbarrow!

Kathy Hundley accompanies the students as they lead the pack animals with the finished loads.

The students display their finished mantied loads. June Burgau teaches Light on the Land.



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Sawtooth Trail Collaboration

Submitted by Trish Foster, Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen, Montana

Future hikers and trail riders who embark on a trip into the Bitterroot National Forest, via the Sawtooth Trail, will begin with access to a newly constructed stock bridge across Roaring Lion Creek. The 49 feet long by 10 feet wide structure required collaboration by several forest savvy groups. Leadership for this project came from Bruce Scott and Kathy Hundley of the Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen (SPWBCH), a small chapter that works on trails throughout Ravalli County. Kathy wrote the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Recreational Trails Project grant that awarded over \$17,000 for materials in the spring of 2016. Bruce headed up the project and coordinated efforts with the Montana Conservation Corps and the Forest Service.

The SPWBCH volunteers had worked on the Sawtooth Trail for years, clearing brush and downfall and repairing sections of the trail that had seen many years of neglect. In the summer of 2016, parts of the trail and the footbridge near the trailhead were destroyed by the Roaring Lion Fire. That event forced the Forest Service to remove the old bridge and heightened the importance of the collaboration that would lead to the construction of this

pack bridge. The Forest Service provided engineering expertise so that the bridge could be made to withstand decades of foot and stock use and exposure. The SPWBCH started months in advance by ordering supplies and lining up delivery at the trailhead, which is just south of Hamilton, west on the Roaring Lion Road. Finally, on August 8, 2017, SPWBCH volunteers were joined by the Montana Conservation Corps, led by Steve Bull, at the bridge site and work began.

The first three days were prep days getting the abutments ready and all material on site. Then on day four, a crane was hired to position the four 49 feet long laminated beams that would establish the foundation for all other work. The banks on either side of the bridge had to be reinforced with boulders and some mortared rock work. After five days of brutally hot work, the bridge was nearly complete. As the group of about 40 workers took a break for lunch, they watched the first pair of hikers cross the bridge and head up the Sawtooth Trail on the other side. The hikers and workers casually waved to each other with no real acknowledgment of the importance of those first steps across the bridge.

The construction of this bridge will

increase the usage time for this trail by several months. In the past, riders and pack stock had to cross through the creek, which could not be accomplished until spring high water had subsided, typically in July. With the new bridge, access will be much earlier and trail maintenance can occur well in advance of the anglers, hikers, and trail riders each year. In future years the focus for SPWBCH will be to repair and maintain this rugged and pristine trail.



Photos from top:
Abutment beams hauled to creek sides using old-fashioned muscle power!
Crane swings laminated beams into position.
MCC and FS crew members prove that moving rocks ROCKS!
SPWBCH volunteers proud of the new bridge over Roaring Lion Creek.



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BCHA Mission Statement

- 1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.
- 2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational use.
- 3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- 4. 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.
- 5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

Coming soon...

Check out our on-line calendar for up-to-date events at:
https://bcha.site-ym.com/events/event_list.asp

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Reporting Volunteer Service

By Larry Zauberis, Volunteer Hours Committee Chairman

BCHA members have seen or experienced the need for volunteers to take on increased burdens in aiding the public land agencies with the trail maintenance backlog in the current climate of diminished federal funding. The volunteer response from BCHA is an opportunity to gain standing with the agencies as we increase our efforts.

Volunteerism is one of the most important activities Back Country Horsemen can use in our effort to perpetuate enjoyable common sense use of pack and saddle stock in the backcountry. It is a central point of our mission statement to assist government agencies in maintenance and management of public lands.

By volunteering our time and resources, we help insure that public land remains open to recreational stock use by earning a seat at the table where we can influence the decisions concerning access to public lands by pack and saddle stock users. The value of being able to speak with public lands managers from the position of having provided volunteer service cannot be overstated. It is important to remember that the purpose of our volunteer effort goes far beyond the satisfaction provided by the trail work itself.

However, it seems that while our members are more than willing to volunteer their time and resources to maintain trails all across the country, many are reluctant to report the hours and expenses incurred in that effort. The hours and value of volunteer service by Back Country Horsemen is consistently underreported. The hours spent and expenses volunteered add to the credibility of our collective voice in discussions with public land managers whether on the local ranger district or in Washington D.C.

It is up to us at the chapter level to track and report our service. Each chapter should have appointed a Volunteer Hours Coordinator (VHC) or committee responsible for reporting the effort of members. The VHC submits the chapter report to their state organization who compiles a state report for submission to BCHA Volunteer Hours Committee.

A few things for the volunteers in each chapter need to remember are:

- Travel time is the time spent getting to a project and back. All participants on the project can report this time.
- The driver should report his mileage as well. Report as stock hauling vehicle mileage if you are pulling a loaded trailer.
- Volunteers should report hours spent riding a trail in preparation for a trail project as Recon hours. These are the hours needed for the project planners to determine the resources and level of effort required to successfully undertake a project.
- Always report all pack and saddle stock use. This is a valuable contribution

Backcountry Horsemen of America				
Volunteer Hours Report				
Back Country Horsemen of America				
2016				
	Totals	Rate per hour/mile/day	Total Value	
Total Basic Hours	104559.47	\$24.14	\$2,524,065.61	Calculated per hour
Total Skilled Hours	55431.55	\$36.21	\$2,007,176.43	Calculated per hour
Total Trail Recon Hours	10363.55	\$24.14	\$250,176.10	Calculated per hour
Total LNT - Education	25681.26	\$24.14	\$619,945.62	Calculated per hour
Total Public Meetings	13637.46	\$24.14	\$329,208.28	Calculated per hour
Total Administrative Service	58126.90	\$24.14	\$1,403,183.37	Calculated per hour
Total Travel Time	73702.57	\$24.14	\$1,779,180.04	Calculated per hour
Total Hours	341502.76			
Wilderness Trail Miles	16796			
Other Trail Miles	33692			
Total Trail Miles	50488			
Personal Vehicle	1128205	\$0.90	\$1,015,384.10	Calculated per mile
Stock Hauling	771042	\$1.10	\$848,145.65	Calculated per mile
Total Travel Miles	1899246.05			
Power Equipment	6744.05	\$26.00	\$175,345.30	Calculated per hour
Heavy Equipment	2666.00	\$81.00	\$215,946.00	Calculated per hour
Total Equipment Hours	9410.05			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	11461			
Total Stock Days	20700	\$100.00	\$2,070,000.00	Calculated per day
Total Donations	\$97,935.54		\$97,935.54	
		Total	\$13,335,692.02	

by volunteers. Remember that using an animal for any part of a day constitutes a Stock Day even if it is only used for a short period.

- Report the time members spend participating in planning meetings with public land agencies as well as the travel time getting to them.
- Report the time preparing and presenting educational events.


As chairman of the Volunteer Hours Committee, I want to make sure that everyone knows materials are available on the BCHA website for chapters and state organizations to use to track volunteer hours and expenses. As a committee, we worked hard to update the MS Excel workbook to be more user-friendly. The Volunteer Hours Reporting Guidelines is a companion document which goes into detail to explain the entries for all the columns on the form.

Please go to the BCHA website for additional information. Download and use these materials from:
<https://www.bcha.org/get-involved/volunteering/hours/>

While we will accept Volunteer Hours reports in just about any format, using the form provided on the website greatly aids us in creating a report that clearly expresses the nature of all our volunteer efforts on public lands.

Please feel free to contact me (Larry Zauberis, 970-759-5629, larry@77outfit.com) at any time if you have questions concerning reporting your volunteer service.

Volunteer Hours



State volunteer hour reports are very important to BCHA.

- Volunteerism is one of the most important activities BCHA can use in our effort to perpetuate enjoyable common sense use of horses in the backcountry.
- Volunteerism earns horsemen a seat at the table where decisions concerning access to public lands by pack and saddle stock users are made.
- Individual volunteer efforts support the Back Country Horsemen of America mission statement.
- Volunteer service by BCHA is consistently underreported.

All National Directors:

are reminded it is time to have their state volunteer hours coordinators submit reports to the BCHA Volunteer Hours Chairman:

Larry Zauberis (larry@77outfit.com) (970-759-5629)
or to Erica Fearn, Executive Administrator (efearn@bcha.org)

2017 Volunteer Service Report

By Larry Zauberis, Volunteer Hours Chairman, and Mary K Church, Co-Chairman

The Volunteer Hours committee met to finalize the 2017 report of the BCHA volunteer effort and select a recipient of the Double Diamond Award.

To more correctly identify the purpose of the committee, the committee recommends renaming it the Volunteer Service Committee. This action will reflect that volunteer efforts by members encompass far more than the hours spent on projects. Beyond the work hours, there are more resources involved such as travel time, equipment and stock use, and in-kind contributions.

The members of the committee are: Larry Zauberis, Chairman (Volunteer Service), CO
Mary K Church, Co-Chairman (Awards), MO
Carla Beasley, IN
Diane Freese, MN
Diane Cherry, VA
Russ Wright, AZ
Melinda Wagner, GA
Joanne Mitchell, TN (absent but involved)

Volunteer Effort

The committee received reports from nearly all the states in the organization. The exceptions were Illinois and West Virginia. We are glad to report a significant increase to the total volunteer effort in 2016. We believe this is due to more accurate reporting as well as an increase in the effort provided by the membership.

- 341,502 hours of basic and skilled work, administrative service, ed-

ucation, public meeting and travel time participation valued at \$8,912,935.

- 1,899,246 miles were recorded for personal vehicles and stock hauling valued at \$1,863,530.
- 9410 hours of equipment use were recorded valued at \$391,291.
- 11,461 head of pack and saddle stock were used with a value of \$2,070,000.
- In-kind donations of \$97,936 were reported
- The total value of the volunteer effort reported in 2016 was \$13,335,692.

These figures were based on the value of volunteer service for 2016 determined by the Independent Sector (https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time). The value used was \$24.14/hour.

The committee decided to retain the hourly rate for skilled labor to one and one-half the value for basic labor. The value used was \$36.21 (\$24.14 x 1.5). It is noted that the skilled labor reporting significantly increased as members are beginning to understand that sawyers' and packers' hours should be reported as skilled labor.

This was the case as well for equipment use as member reported chainsaw and other equipment usage more accurately. Power equipment usage is valued at \$26.00/hour and heavy equipment usage at \$81.00.

Other values for stock use (\$100/day) and vehicle usage (\$0.90 – POV; \$1.10 – Stock hauling) were maintained

at rates determined in previous years.

I believe the accuracy number of trail miles cleared is questionable. I am not sure that this value is being recorded consistently by members in accordance with the guidelines provided on the BCHA website.



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Double Diamond Award

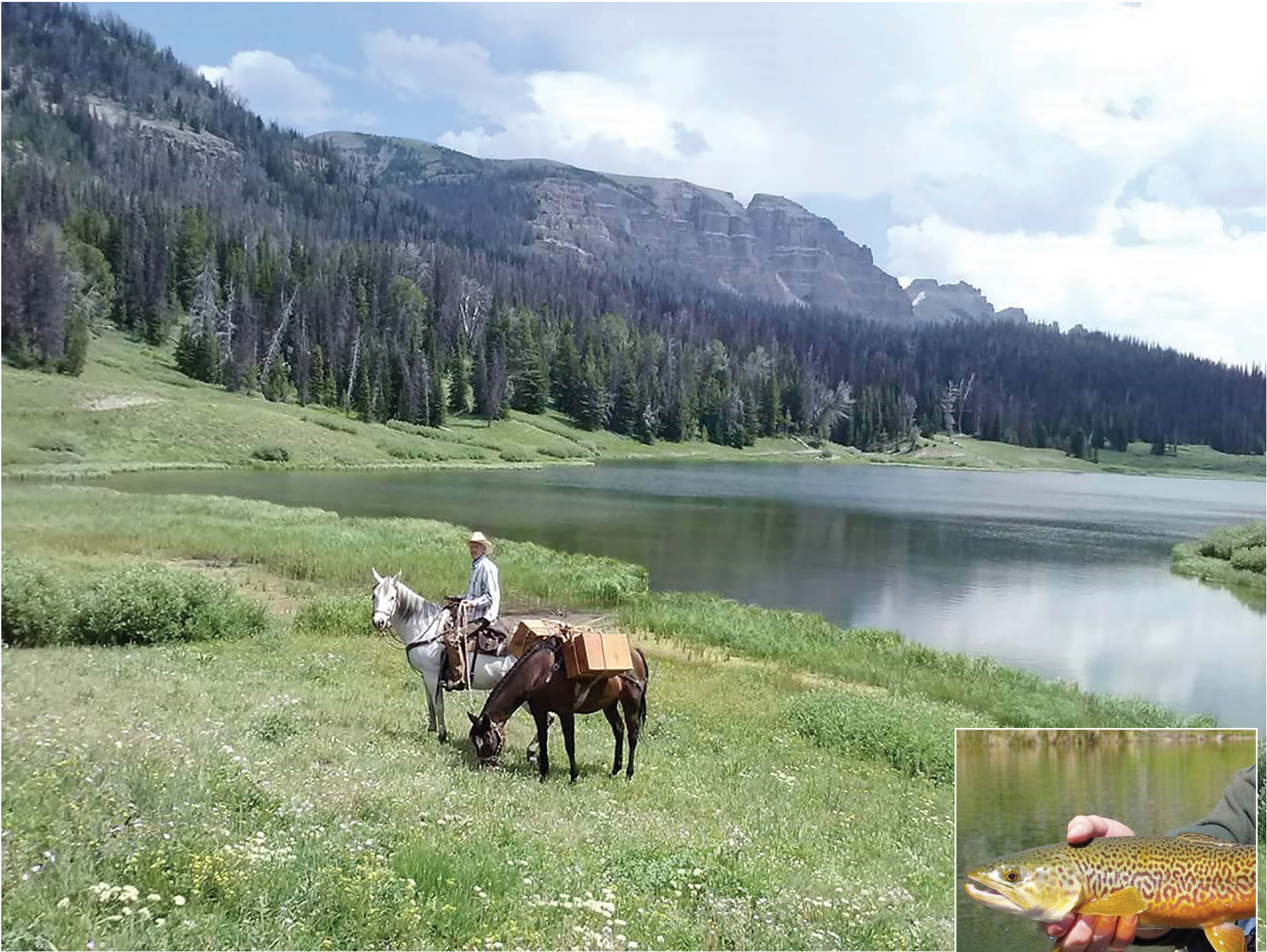
The Volunteer Hours Committee received eleven nominations for the 2016 Double Diamond Award. Every nomination was an outstanding effort to promote the mission of Back Country Horsemen in the areas of service, education, and advocacy. The nominations received were:

- BCH of CA – Mid Valley Unit for Tournament of Roses Parade
- BCHW for Twisp River Drainage Trail Maintenance Project
- BCHW Peninsula Chapter for Share Trails Safely “3S” Program
- Bristlecone BCH, NV for Restoration after Carpenter 1 Fire
- Cabinet BCH of MT for Midge Creek Trail Project and Cindy Betlach
- E Cascades Chapter, BCH OR for Trail Conflict Education, signage project
- Mountain Ridge Chapter, BCHU for Dimple Dell Regional Park Project
- BCH of NM, Pecos Chapter for Beatty’s Cabin Project
- San Juan BCH and 4C BCH, CO for Pine River Trail Head Corrals
- San Juan BCH, CO for Williams Creek Trail Mud Bog Project
- San Rafael BCHU for Candland Mountain Trail Head Project after fire

The effort by the Mid Valley Unit of BCH California to prepare and participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade was selected as an exceptional effort to represent Back Country Horsemen of America before millions of viewers. The success of this project was the result of a sustained effort by the Mid Valley membership over the course of more than two years.

BCH of California's Mid Valley Unit received BCHA's 2016 Double Diamond Award for their participation in the Tournament of Roses Parade.





Tigers in the High Country

By Al Sammons, Wind River BCH of Wyoming

There’s tigers in the high country of the Absaroka range in Wyoming. Not the furry striped kind with claws and fangs but the kind with gills and scales. Thanks to the cooperative effort between the Wind River chapter of the Wyoming Back Country Horsemen and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, several high mountain lakes are now the home for a new fish species - Tiger Trout.

On August 1 of 2017, fourteen Wind River Horsemen met with state

Game and Fish personnel northwest of Dubois, Wyoming for a “pack in” of Tiger Trout to several lakes located at the upper reaches of the Brooks Lake drainage. The two- to three-inch fingerlings, raised in local Wyoming hatcheries, were hauled to the trail head site by Game and Fish truck. They were then off loaded into plastic bags of ice water, placed in hard sided panniers, and reloaded onto pack horses for the trip to the stocking sites. The operation required 18 pack horse loads to move

the approximate 8,000 fingerlings to their new mountain homes.

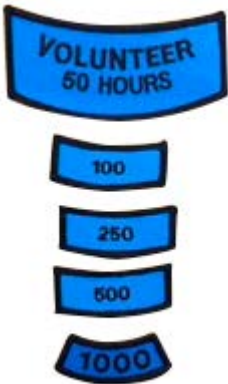
Because there were no motorized routes into the stocking sites, transporting the fish could only have been done via helicopter or pack horse. Helicopter rental was cost prohibitive so when the Back Country Horsemen volunteered their packing services the problem was solved.

The Tiger Trout is a relative new hybrid trout developed through a cross between and Brook and Brown Trout



species. Because the Tiger is a sterile hybrid, it is expected to grow quickly and reach a larger size than its parent species. Wyoming Fish personnel are hopeful this new species will be “creel” ready within several years and maybe produce a new state record.

Outfit yourself and your family and friends for safety while riding and volunteering on BCH projects!



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