

BCH of Washington – Mt. Olympus Chapter Grant 2016

By Sherry Baysinger



In 2016 my husband Larry Baysinger and I were independent members of BCH of Washington. We learned BCH of America had grant money available for trail maintenance. We applied for a grant to work on one of the Olympic Peninsula’s most beautiful rain forest trails, the Bogachiel River Trail. This trail meanders through old-growth forest following the Bogachiel River from U.S. Forest Service land into the Olympic National Park and an extensive trail system that includes part of the Northwest Scenic Trail – stretching from the Pacific Coast to Montana.

The county road access to the Bogachiel Trailhead had washed out and had to be relocated. After nearly two years the new access road was completed. During that time, heavy trail damage ensued due to winter windstorms and washouts. The trail was nearly obliterated with windfalls making it inaccessible to stock.

In March 2017, Larry and a few

other BCH members formed the new Mt. Olympus Chapter to take care of trails on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. When our grant check arrived, the Bogachiel River Trail became our priority. Larry began contacting other trail enthusiasts to assist us in opening this trail. We coordinated work with Washington Trail Association crew leader Janice O’Connor, who led a weekend trail crew to help with storm and water damage leading to the first horse ford which enabled us to get to the first windfalls. In June several dedicated trail crew members of Mt. Olympus Chapter met at the trailhead with horses and mules to pack in chainsaws, weed-eaters, axes, pulaskis, loppers, shovels, grip hoists, blocks and cable.

We rode in leading our pack stock and started work on the existing trail. We cut out windfalls and worked on fords and water crossings, making it safe and accessible for our stock. A short

time after we completed this trail work, Mt. Olympus Chapter volunteers packed tools, food and gear for Washington Trail Association’s women’s crew to assist them in a week-long project clearing further up the Bogachiel Trail in the Olympic National Park.

As a final project for the Bogachiel Trail, Mt. Olympus Chapter members replaced a U.S.F.S. Bogachiel Trailhead sign, replaced signboards and a put a new roof on the kiosk. The U.S.F.S provided the materials and members did the work.

By the end of our projects, Mt. Olympus Chapter members had worked a total of 354 hours on the Bogachiel Trail which provided access for the Olympic National Park trail crew to repair and replace bridges and punchon (short posts) and remove more windfalls.

As with so many trails, there is more work to be done, but what we accomplished through the help of BCHA grant money enabled several other trail crews access and assistance so they could keep their commitments of trail work on this trail that is so vital to many trail enthusiasts. Members of the BCH of WA Mt. Olympus Chapter wish to thank the BCH of America for the grant of \$750 that enabled us to regain access on one of our favorite trails.



BCHA

Back Country Horsemen of America

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Public Lands Report

By Randy Rasmussen, Director of Public Lands and Recreation

H.R. 1349, Bikes-in-Wilderness Bill

Momentum in Congress behind HR 1349, the “Bikes-in-Wilderness” bill, has slowed considerably. And BCHA’s fantastic volunteers can take credit for that (see below)!

BCHA’s Winter 2017/2018 newsletter addressed the origins and rapid advancement of this bill through the Committee on Natural Resources in the House of Representatives. It has yet to be scheduled for a floor vote before the full House, but could be slipped in with other must-pass legislation at any time.

WE ARE WINNING. BUT WE CAN’T REST ON OUR LAURELS. There is too much at stake.

Please take another opportunity to remind your members of Congress why you oppose HR 1349.

Member contact information can be found at www.congress.gov

The slowing of momentum by HR 1349 is a direct result of your calls and letters. In response to several BCHA member email alerts, hundreds (if not thousands!) of BCH volunteers contacted their members of Congress to voice opposition to HR 1349 and its attempt to amend the Wilderness Act by removing its prohibition on forms of “mechanical transport” within congressionally-designated Wilderness areas. Dozens of BCH state officers also submitted written testimony in December stating their opposition to the bill.

BCHA Volunteers Made Their Concerns Well-Known in Congress!

During February’s “Hike the Hill” annual gathering in Washington DC, BCHA was provided the opportunity to lead a briefing for over 100 trail advocates on the origins and potential impact of HR 1349. Opposition to this bill was one of the key “asks” by Hike the Hill participants the following days, as trail advocates from across the nation met with members of Congress and their staff. At the end of Hike the Hill, during the debriefing meeting, numerous trail partners reported that their members of Congress commented they had already heard loud and clear about opposition to HR 1349—from local chapters of BCHA! What an amazing testimony to our work and the power and reach of BCHA’s volunteers!

Please take this opportunity to remind your members of Congress why you oppose HR 1349.

National Trails System Act 50th Anniversary Celebration

What plans do you have for National Trails Day (NTD) this year, which is Saturday, June 2nd? You might consider hosting or joining a local NTD event. See below.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act when, in October 1968, Congress established the Appalachian and Pacific Crest national scenic trails. Since that time, Congress has expanded the National Trails System (long-distance trails more than 100 miles) to include an additional 7 national scenic trails and 19 national historic trails. The system also includes iconic scenic trails available to riders of horses and pack stock that traverse Arizona, the Pacific Northwest, five states that comprise the Continental Divide, and well-known historic routes that celebrate our fascinating history such as the Pony Express, Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo), Lewis and Clark, and the Old Spanish national historic trails.

Follow BCHA Facebook and Twitter for Details

Mark Himmel of BCH Montana participates in the 50th Anniversary Marketing Committee. You can follow his posts on BCHA’s Facebook page and via Twitter, as we announce events leading up to the 50th anniversary celebration. The celebration culminates in the National Trails System Conference, to be held in Vancouver, Washington (October 22nd - 25th). Volunteers from BCH Oregon and BCH Washington will be assisting with this event. It’s great that we’ll have a high level of visibility during this event.

We encourage any members with an interest to sign up and participate in this conference.

A Rallying Point to Educate Congress

But these events are not simply a celebration. The 50th anniversary provides another important milestone around which to rally trail advocates, generate broad interest in trails and encourage Americans to explore their public lands. Importantly, the anniversary represents a high-profile opportunity to educate elected officials about the importance of trails, the health and economic benefits they provide, and the obligation of Congress to step up with more funding to support trails of all types on federal public lands.

Learn More About National Scenic, Historic and National Recreation Trails

The following description is reprinted with permission from the trails50.org website. Be sure to check this site for information about the current photo contest, finding or planning a trails-related event for National Trails Day (June 2nd), and ways to share your #TrailStory. You can also learn about these events by monitoring BCHA’s Facebook page and Twitter account throughout the year.

This year will be a banner year for BCHA to continue its momentum in creating greater visibility and understanding about the needs of our trails. Please find ways to plug your chapter and states into these and other celebratory events.

THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT OF 1968

The National Trails System Act of 1968 was the direct result of the Trails for America report. While differing slightly from the suggestions in the Trails for America report, this legislation did follow the Report’s original intent. It established three different types of trails: National Scenic Trails, National Recreation Trails, and Connecting and Side Trails. Later in 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed into law a bill that created an additional category of trails: National Historic Trails.

As the Act stands today, as amended, National Scenic Trails are described as extended trails of more than 100 miles in length that provide for outdoor recreation and “for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass.” National Scenic Trails may only be land-based, necessari-

ly excluding any water-based travel routes. These trails may only be designated and authorized by an Act of Congress.

National Historic Trails, according to the Act, are also extended trails, although they may be less than 100 miles in length, and follow historic trails or routes of travel as closely as possible. The purpose of these trails is “the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.” National Historic Trails, unlike National Scenic Trails, may include water-based routes. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as an example is largely water-based, tracing Captain Smith’s 1607-1609 exploration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, as he created maps of the area, and documented Native American communities. Just like the National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails may

also only be designated and authorized by an Act of Congress.

National Recreation Trails provide opportunities for outdoor recreation primarily in and around urban areas and have no minimal length requirement. These trails may be designated by either the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture rather than by an Act of Congress. These trails may exist entirely on state, local, and private property as well as on federal lands.

Importantly, the Act also established the concept of railbanking which gives America the incredible network of rail-trails enjoyed by so many today.

What an incredible gift was given to us today by an earlier generation. Let us all commit to finishing the work they started and paying it forward to future generations.

View from the Chairman’s Saddle

By Freddy Dunn, BCHA National Chairman



National Board Meeting 2018

This year our National Board Meeting (NBM) will be in Spokane, Washington April 23-25. What is the purpose of the meeting? What happens there? Good questions. So, let me tell you a bit about this years’ meeting.

Each state is represented on the Board of Directors of BCHA by two representatives and has two votes. The purpose of the meeting is to review the business of BCHA over the past year and to set goals for the next year. We have a Governance Policy that was adopted in 2011 which identifies the roles and responsibilities for the National Board of Directors (NBD) governing versus day-to-day management. Through proper delegation to the Executive Committee, the NBD provides for day-to-day management. The meeting is conducted using Roberts Rules of Order and usually lasts 3 days. Reports are given by our Director of Public Lands and Recreation, Randy Rasmussen as well as Erica Fearn from our association management company Mindspring Association Management. Mindspring handles the day-to-day business operations for BCHA per a three-year contract signed in 2016. The treasurer gives the financial report for the previous year and presents a budget for the Board’s approval.

In years past, we dedicated a full day to Public Lands. Historically, we had many issues on our plate and had speakers from various land management agencies, as well as speakers from our many partner agencies, such as The American Horse Council and The Wilderness Society. This year, we’re doing something different.

The past year has seen a revitalization of our committees. Per our Governance Policy, we have several Standing Committees and any ad hoc committees formed by the chairman. Those committees are: Education, Expansion, Public Liaison, Media & Marketing, Nominating, Public Lands (Federal), Public Lands (State), Vision, and Volunteer Hours. This year we have two ad hoc committee called Membership and Fundraising. All of our committees were tasked with creating Action Plans which outlines what they are doing, what they have done and what they want to do in the future. As the committees started meeting on conference calls, it became apparent to me that there was some overlapping of issues. SO, we started having monthly Committee Chairmen conference calls where we could talk about each committee’s action plan and how it interrelated with other committees and who should really be doing what.

We’re going to continue this type of dialog at the NBM this year. Committees will be giving reports on the past year on Monday. On Tuesday, we’ll break out into geographical REGIONS. Each region will be able to have discussions (with a facilitator) about any and all issues that are common to their region. Then the Committee Chairmen will visit with each region to learn what issues they have that are relevant to their particular committee. Hopefully, potential solutions will also be offered. The Board will reassemble as a whole body and the Committee Chairmen will report what they have learned complied from each REGION. Committee Chairmen will meet to co-ordinate their efforts and committees will meet to create Action Plans for the coming year.

Every National Director needs to be an active participant on at least one committee. The National Directors job is not a three-day meeting and a report back to the state. Their job is to function year-round for the benefit of BCHA. We have an incredible amount of talent! That’s what so unique about BCHA: we come from all over the country, from all types of careers and have a multitude of talent that can and should be tapped to help us achieve our goals. We’ll be reaching out to our members in the future regarding specific help or skills that could benefit on a project.

So, the meeting this year is about BCHA and making us a stronger, more active, more informed and more harmonious organization. It’s about empowering the committees to be able to work year-round on the tasks and information they received at the NBM: information brought to the NBM by each National Director. So, it’s about listening to what you want BCHA to do for you and then doing it to the best of our ability.

Last, each National Director was tasked with bringing two ideas from their state to this meeting. This could be any type of function, fundraiser, membership recruitment idea or anything that you found to be successful and could be replicated elsewhere. Your National Directors will leave the meeting with a folder containing all of the ideas from each state. I hope you will task your National Directors to give you a complete, written report about the meeting.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chairman for this year.

Freddy Dunn

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.

Recruiting new members for Back Country Horsemen

By Darrell Wallace, Washington BCH

I recently interviewed a guy from my own chapter who is the most consistent membership recruitment guy you ever saw. I have seen his efforts bring in dozens of new members. He tells me that he did the same thing for another chapter clear across the state before he moved, and was equally successful, so I thought I would jot down his practices.

Leaving information on trucks with horse trailers parked at trailheads: he leaves anything – from a business card noting the chapter meeting place, time, and date, along with the chapter website address – to one of many brochures. If it’s a trailhead near town, he might leave a *Front Country Riding* handout with the chapter contact information or maybe *Front Country Leave No Trace*. He always leaves the phone number of an enthusiastic chapter leader. Sometimes, he even leaves an entire packet of materials all tucked under the windshield wipers of the vehicles parked there:

- *Leave No Trace* brochures
- BCH Washington brochures
- BCHA brochures
- local trail directories and maps
- Safety Tips for Riders
- *Trail Etiquette*
- recreational packing lists
- *Things to Always Take with You When You Ride*

All materials were developed over the years. Contact me if you want to see an example of any of these, but I highly recommend that you customize it for your area.

He says he sometimes leaves *Trail Etiquette* flyers (the ones showing that hikers and bikers yield to riders) under the windshield wipers of other vehicles

at the trailhead (SUVs with bicycle racks!) And sometimes they contact him asking about the Back Country Horsemen.

Now, he plans out his activities for each month. When the chapter has something special, like a featured speaker, a fun trail ride, or any other special event, he distributes dozens of flyers in our small-town area. The flyers are not very fancy – often just the facts of what, where, and when – and the cost is usually FREE! He posts them at feed stores, tack stores, trailhead parking lots, parks, libraries, and grocery stores. He forces them on all the area farriers and insists that they hand them out and not leave them on the passenger seat. He has also been known to visit the local radio and TV stations, asking them to make PSA announcements, and taping interviews when they ask him to talk into a microphone. If there is no special activity scheduled for that month, he still leaves chapter materials at trailheads and other places.

But another very fruitful audience is found in his presentations to other equine groups. He solicits and accepts invitations to talk or show slide photographs to 4-H, pony clubs, saddle clubs, rodeo and western games teams, drill teams, and any youth group. He says that while he occasionally gets a new member right away (usually a parent or other adult), he more often sees those young people at a chapter meeting several years later.

I guess these are all good ideas, if carried out in a positive, enthusiastic way. The key is to get someone to have the materials on hand, and plan each month, looking for opportunities.

This membership information was developed by the BCHA ad hoc Membership Committee, and posted (with other information) on the Membership Resources page at <http://bcha.site-ym.com/general/custom.asp?page=membershipsresources> .

Letters to BCHA News

Email Message
Date: January 29, 2018
Message:

I just read Robert Eversole’s article in Back Country Horsemen of America Winter 2018 news. I always find his writings informative and valuable, but this one hit close to home and I applauded the last tip he mentioned, and from a wilderness rider, no less! Wear a helmet. Every horse/mule, every ride, everywhere. Thank you for publishing this article!
From: Dana Esbensen

Facts About the TRAILS ACT

The National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act is cool. Its effects are being multiplied. Here are some stats.



A bird's-eye view.

Volunteer

"liability problem" solved. Agency must significantly increase volunteers' and partners' roles in trail maintenance (and publish a national strategy by 2019).



Did you know?

Seed money

From the agency in 2017 was only \$250,000.



Sharing is caring.

Trail partners

Added \$440,000 in cash and \$750,000 in-kind matching.

In short measure.

Over \$1.55 M of resources

(cash, labor, materials, & equipment) were directed to on-the-ground trail projects.



Over 2,000 miles.
Of trail maintenance
was accomplished in the US in 2017.

More to come in 2018!

The USDA Forest Service's 2018 trail stewardship program was provided \$400,000 to be awarded via competitive grants. If that money is multiplied 4X, it will result in another \$1.9 M directed to the trail maintenance backlog. Funds avoid the overhead and go directly to support projects on the ground. BCHA Idaho & Washington received grants in 2017.

Additional information can be found on the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance website at www.wildernessalliance.org. You may also call Randy Welsh, Executive Director, NWSA at 801-808-2167 or randy@wildernessalliance.org.



2017 BCH Education Foundation Grant

By Deborah McDougald, Wilderness Special Uses Permit Administrator, USFS Sierra National Forest



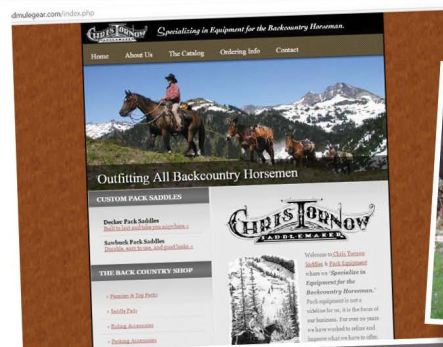
The San Joaquin-Sierra Unit of BCH of California submitted a grant proposal to help cover members' costs for providing volunteer service to the Sierra National Forest. Work parties were organized to work on both wilderness and non-wilderness trails in the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses near Edison Lake as well as a second work party to continue to improve the adopted "Chamberlain Camp" near Courtright Reservoir.

The mountains of central California received near record amounts of precipitation in the winter of 2016-17. Access to the Edison Lake area was delayed for over a month as crews struggled to plow through nearly 18 feet of snow on the top of the 9200-foot Kaiser Pass. Normally open by mid-May, the pass was not able to be safely cleared until mid-June. This made planning of the work party very difficult, as we were not sure when we would be able to get to Edison Lake, or even what trails would be melted out when we could get there. Faced with the challenges of planning trips this season we decided to do one trail opening trip as soon as we were able and turn the second trip into a work party at Chamberlain Camp.

When Kaiser Pass finally did open, we went into a fast scramble to recruit volunteers, organize the food and make plans for a week-long stay based at the High Sierra Pack Station. We ended up

with a total of 14 members that spent all or part of the week clearing trails in both the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses. Even selecting trails proved challenging due to high water levels in the creeks that made crossings unsafe or drifts of snow which covered washed out sections of trails and downed trees. Overall the trip was successful and we cut a total of 28 trees and brushed out a 200-foot section of badly overgrown trail at a creek crossing.

In lieu of a second wilderness-based trip we chose to spend our second work party at Chamberlain Camp near Courtright Reservoir. This is an historic cow camp that is on the edge of the John Muir Wilderness. The San Joaquin-Sierra has adopted this area and over a number of years and work parties, has made numerous improvements such as building an accessible outhouse, installing bear proof food lockers, building hitching rails and tables. Old fencing has been removed from the perimeter of the meadow and packed out. The camp is less than two miles from the trailhead, over easy terrain, and this makes the camp an ideal location for the unit to take novice riders, youth groups and members that are interested in learning to pack without the difficulties of packing on a longer wilderness based trip.



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Catch Pen

BCH Central Arizona

By Lori Stavropoulos

BCH Central Arizona chapter members Marc & Lori Stavropoulos, Craig Stevens, and Janet Gabrielson completed an interesting and challenging packing assignment in December and January. We assisted Wildlife Biologist Janie Agyagos from the Coconino National Forest Red Rock Office packing out old fence materials from the Cottonwood/Mesquite Springs area near Camp Verde. It took some creative packing, master skills, and seasoned stock to pack out several sheets of tin, 50+ coils of old wire, and dozens of metal t-posts and wooden stays.



BCH Idaho

By Marybeth Conger

2018 is on target to be a fun and educational year for interested Backcountry Horseman of Idaho (BCHI) members.

The BCH of Idaho 2018 Directors meeting and Annual convention added chapter member education to this amazing event. On Saturday March 10, the first-ever BCHI chapter training was held in the afternoon. Presented by various volunteers, these educational workshops and presentations were open for all members to attend. What a great way to learn more about your current chapter position or find out details about something in which you may be interested for the future. Some workshops even covered topics to help us better help BCHI grow in both numbers and membership development. With feedback, we can make this training an annual BCHI event and improve to meet our chapters' educational needs.

April 13 - 15 marks the date for the 2018 Idaho Horse Expo held at the



Ford Idaho Park. SBBCH members Bill and Marybeth Conger are some of the clinicians at this year's event. Their presentations will cover lightweight recreational packing and camping techniques. In addition, local BCH chapters will man a BCHI booth. These types of public outreach events help the BCHI organization to grow and educate the public on the wise and sustaining use of our backcountry resource.

Karen Kimball graciously volunteered to be a BCHI education co-chair to help coordinate education efforts up north. Making sure chapter education chairs are familiar with all of the relevant education materials maintained



by BCHA and its member states is one way for her to accomplish this. Thank you, Karen!

Education updates on the BCHI website are starting to happen and expect to see more once Marybeth successfully completes the Master Educator course. Well, this covers the first quarter and then some. Happy Trails!

Service Has No Borders: BCH Missouri Partners With Shawnee Trail Conservancy

By Paula Hull, BCHMO Publications Chair

Eight members of BCH Missouri (BCHMO) traveled to southern Illinois to join members of the Shawnee Trail Conservancy (STC) and three Forest Service employees for a volunteer service day on Sept. 21, 2017. We hauled gravel by pack animal into Lusk Creek Wilderness and made improvements on one of the most popular trails in the area, the River to River Trail. Local STC member Lucy Walker served as trail guide for the weekend. Shawnee National Forest Trail Project Leader was Kelly Pearson. Maury Mertz coordinated the project on the BCHMO side.

Because mechanized/motorized equipment is not allowed in designated Wilderness areas, pack animals were used to carry in the stone. BCHMO member John Stewart worked with his mule Obie prior to the event getting him used to the pack and panniers, as well as being led by John on his other mule, Maggie. BCH Illinois member Dwight Pray provided STC members instructions and training in how to pack and made sure the animals and their leaders were ready to haul. BCHMO member Maury Mertz on his horse Reese led mules from Hoosier National For-

est-Cedar – Paul, Belle, and Lollipop. Six other horses were outfitted and led by four more volunteers on horseback. Each mule/horse carried 180 pounds of gravel in panniers weighing 90 pounds per side.

Additional volunteers loaded five-gallon buckets filled with 45 pounds of gravel into the panniers while others used hand tools to spread the gravel once it was dumped on the work site. An estimated 16 tons of native stone was carried in and spread on the wilderness section of trail in one day by this dedicated group of 21 volunteers and their pack animals. And all this was done in 90-degree weather!

The trail maintenance project is just one of several River-to-River Trail improvements taking place along the 157-mile trail. It is made possible with a U.S. Forest Service grant from the National Stewardship Wilderness Alliance.

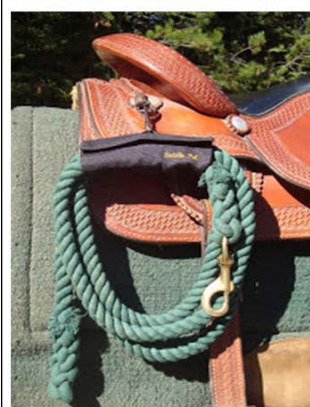
BCHMO would like to thank the Shawnee Trail Conservancy for their hospitality and looks forward to a continued partnership with them and the Shawnee National Forest to keep trails open for all.

BCH California Mother Lode Unit Supports Fontanillis Lake Trail Repairs

By Mike Kohlbaker

BCH California Mother Lode Unit completed a pack support project for the Tahoe Rim Trail Association in the Desolation Wilderness in partnership with the American Conservation Experience (ACE). ACE reported, "The focus of the project was to build a causeway through a heavily trafficked meadow near the outlet of Fontanillis Lake. In the Spring and into early-Summer, this meadow is heavily saturated and has historically seen the creation of social trails by users at-tempting to get past the wet areas. This caused damage

to the meadow by creating multiple entrenched trails in the vicinity. The successful completion of the causeway has elevated the trail above the meadow, creating a durable and sustainable surface for users, while preventing further negative impacts to the meadow and allowing the area to rehabilitate in the years to come. The crew also built steps nearby to prevent further erosion on steeper sections of trail near the lake." BCHC Mother Lode Unit volunteers used six pack animals to carry their equipment, kitchen, and supplies.



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Special Interests in Government Are Not Always Bad!

By Ginny Grulke, Kentucky BCH

I am one of the founders and a member of Kentucky BCH and serve on the BCHA Executive Committee. I have been a trail rider since age 13 and I confess that next to horses, my other passion is politics. Some of you may thinking “Get a Life!” or simply “UGH!!!” My interest, however, is in the crumbling of our democracy due to special interests and big money (in the pockets of legislators).

It occurred to me recently that BCHA working with our partners are a special interest. Our interest is in keeping public trails open for everyone. Did I have a blind spot in my distaste for special interests when it comes to BCHA?

Unfortunately, many special interests (read: lobbyists and large corporations) give the term a bad reputation. Those type of special interest groups do NOT care so much about the pub-

lic good, but care more about making more money and profits for their stockholders and billionaire executives. After reading some history of our country and how safety net laws and regulations were developed, especially after the Depression, I found the difference between the bad reputation special interests and the good which puts BCHA on the good guys side.

Good special interests work for outcomes that *benefit the public good*. Special interests that offer support and enriching lives for ALL citizens are the type of special interests we need. Our work in BCHA to take our special interest to Washington is for the betterment of the country – not for lining our own pockets to the detriment of the rest of the country. Groups like BCHA and our partners struggle to get attention in a world where armies of bad-reputation and well-funded lobbyists dominate the

ears of legislators.

But there are other ways to make progress, and BCHA is doing all of them.

- First, we work directly with the agencies (e.g., National Forest Service, BLM, National Parks) to see if we can get the outcomes we need without new laws or modifications to laws.

- Second, we use our ground troops (YOU) to put VOTER pressure on our legislators.

- Third, in all we do, we are viewed as the people in the white hats: Honest, hard-working, knowledgeable, persistent and dedicated to our cause.

In all we do, we work first and foremost for the Public Good.

This is our call and our mission. This is what keeps us strong and proud to be part of BCHA.

Collaboration on Wilderness Study Areas

By Ken Brown, Vice-President and Issues Chairman for the BCH of Missoula

The Montana Legislature passed a bill in the last regular session to recommend to the U.S. Congress to remove some portion of Montana’s Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and to designate other portions as Wilderness. Montana Republican Senator Steve Daines also introduced a bill that would eliminate five WSA’s without any public process.

A lot of conflicting media coverage is out there on this issue. It seems to be a black and white issue of either “for” or “against.” However, there is a middle ground. There should be public input first to review each WSA individually regarding what should be non-Wilderness and what parts of each WSA should be designated Wilderness.

On Dec. 19, 2017, the Granite County commissioners, in reviewing the Sapphire WSA, voted to object to Sen. Daines’ bill. They instead set up a public volunteer study group made up of the different interest groups to review the area and give them their recommendations. The Sapphire WSA has about 99,000 acres. I’ve ridden that country and know it well. Some of that

land could be looked at for multiple use but much of it is appropriate for Wilderness. The basic premise is that there will need to be compromise and collaboration to make the best plan for this area. This is an example of what could be done with the other WSAs. The Granite County commissioners talked with Sen. Daines and, we are told, he expressed that he was willing to have public input and change his bill proposal accordingly. It is time to work together, hold Sen. Daines accountable, and find collaborative solutions for each WSA.

Editor’s Note: On Feb. 6, 2018, the Montana Standard reported the Granite County commissioners reversed their earlier position and voted to support Sen. Daines’ bill. Ken Brown responded via email:

Shortly after the reversal of the Granite County commissioners’ decision, Sen. Daines came to Montana. He held “private meetings” in Philipsburg, Missoula, and Hamilton. Many of us

found out about the Hamilton meeting. At 9:27 p.m. the night before the meeting in Hamilton, the Ravalli Republic newspaper questioned Daines about the meeting. Daines posted a public hearing notice for the next day in Hamilton at 1:00 p.m. The folks I was with arrived about a half hour early. Daines was already talking to people and was done by 1:00 p.m. He left by the back door without speaking to opponents who arrived at the designated meeting time.

If you look at the 1964 Wilderness Act, it clearly spells out what public input should look like. Unfortunately, Daines is using a top-down approach to making decisions. Rep. Gianforte (R-Mont.) has introduced a bill to also release the Wilderness Study Areas under the Forest Service and is now adding the Bureau of Land Management WSAs as well. This is the largest attack on public lands in Montana’s history! Not much chance for compromise when you cannot even get an opportunity to formally address the issues.

BCH California Mother Lode Unit Promotes BCHA

By Lucy Badenhoop

On March 9 and 10, the American Endurance Ride Conference held its 2018 Convention at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nev. The Mother Lode Unit (MLU) once again attended and represented the Back Country Horsemen of California (BCHC) by setting up and manning a booth to promote membership and Leave No Trace principles.

The convention offered a chance to network with equestrians from all over the continent. Not all visitors to the booth were logged, but the 58 that stopped and visited were tallied.



Mountain Ladies are Here to Stay

By Ed Haeffliger, BCH of Washington



My wife Sue and our mule Gus leading part of our string scrambling into Spike camp Olympic National Park.

“Oh, my goodness, what in the devil has Ed conjured up this time?”

As far as this Copenhagen dipper and cigar chomper is concerned, ladies will probably will head for the gun vault and declare open season on me as they read what I am about to write. First, I would like to set the record straight. I am just the messenger and I get all of my stats from Robert Eversole the TrailMeister (so blame him). Lady equine owners are entering into the trail riding scene faster than any aspect of the equine sporting world. One would think that would have very little to do with me. However, it has had a lot to do with me, both in my past and hopefully in my future.

I had just come off of a packing trip, where we carried food in for a Student Conservation Association youth trail crew. It was my most productive trip for photos of our operation so far. As I was previewing the 650 pictures, I noticed that my wife Sue was in most of them. That should make some of the ladies happy if I post her photos on the internet, say on Facebook or another social media outlet. Why is it important to make our counterparts happy? That is about the dumbest question you have ever read in one of my works to date! Only a guy with a too-tight hat could ever purpose such a question, but I did for the sake of the forthcoming contents. Therefore, now I will make every effort to cover my tracks, considering that “by and far” most readers of anything I will write, will be of the fairer sex.

Today there are programs dedicated to woman in the wilderness. I have had the opportunity to organize and instruct a goodly number of packing classes attended by mostly ladies who were interested in learning how to get out into the back country packing and camping with their horses and mules. I have many personal experiences with ladies as packers. I have had several gal packing helpers in the past years. I have, at the time of this writing, been packing for the Olympic National Park for nineteen years. My goal us to get someone to help out with this chore for both safety and to offer someone else the chance to learn and gain experience in this skill set. I must have been a poor judge of character – or the candidate pool was very small – because I drew some pretty difficult gents. After a few years making excuses for their dysfunctional behavior, I quit asking for their help by informing them that we were from different planets and I then continued going it alone.

After some more time and long trips on my own, it became clear that I could use a bit of help, at least from a safety viewpoint. Sue was still working full time limiting the help from her, so I took her on all but an occasional trip. “Okay, I need some help, but where to find it?” I then remembered one gal. Unbeknownst to me at the time, the guys had made it clear that they would rather not have a gal around and thus had somewhat driven her off. So where was she now? I ran her down and with some Ed’s charm (e.g. smooth talk, B.S.) and convinced her to give my program a second chance. She turned out to be a great helper. She was always willing to help and never saw fit to tell me how to do what I had shown her how to do. I did not have to worry about her thinking that working with me was a democracy or run by a committee, thus making my world so much safer running the project. “Safer? How the heck could that have anything to do with safety?” Because of the major change in the attitude climate around the work site, the element of hostility and anger was now nowhere to be seen. This made the element of safety and the goals of the project far easier to focus on.

She was easier on my mules and on me. Instead of some snarly, grumpy, tired, and sore old coot like me, she came down the trail happy to be there and occasionally singing a song or remarking about the beauty we were passing through. My back was just as tired and my behind was just as sore as before, but thoughtful fabricating of any preplanned methods for whacking my helper did not cloud my mind now. Sadly, a while back we lost this team member to cancer. Since my initial lady packer, this world it has never been anything but a good experience.

I have, in the past, realized that all gents are not equipped to give up their apparent dominant status to a woman. Therefore, to these fellers, I offer a serious warning “get over it!” Ladies in the mountains are here to stay. No more testosterone dripping off the mountain trees.

A quick look at the packing staff of the Olympic National Park is a great example. Of the four employed full-time packers, three are of the fairer sex and doing a Cracker Jack job. In my alter-life, as an instructor of packing and such, I explain that mountain trail riding and packing is a combination of attitude to do it right and blending of all of the varied life experiences one has had. Therefore, when I added ladies to

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my team, I obtained an even more varied and stronger problem-solving base, to guarantee a better and safer outcome for my packing projects.

In closing, I offer a serious warning. If you are an advocate of the bull-of-the-woods management style, you are in for trouble. However, if you were to be somewhat housebroke, before you take on an all-lady crew, it can be a very positive adventure. (Note: I am so house-broke that I put the toilet seat

down in the men’s rest room!) I now have been able to run a more integrated crew of some of the best gals and guys you could hope to find, however, never at the risk of losing any of the girls on the team.

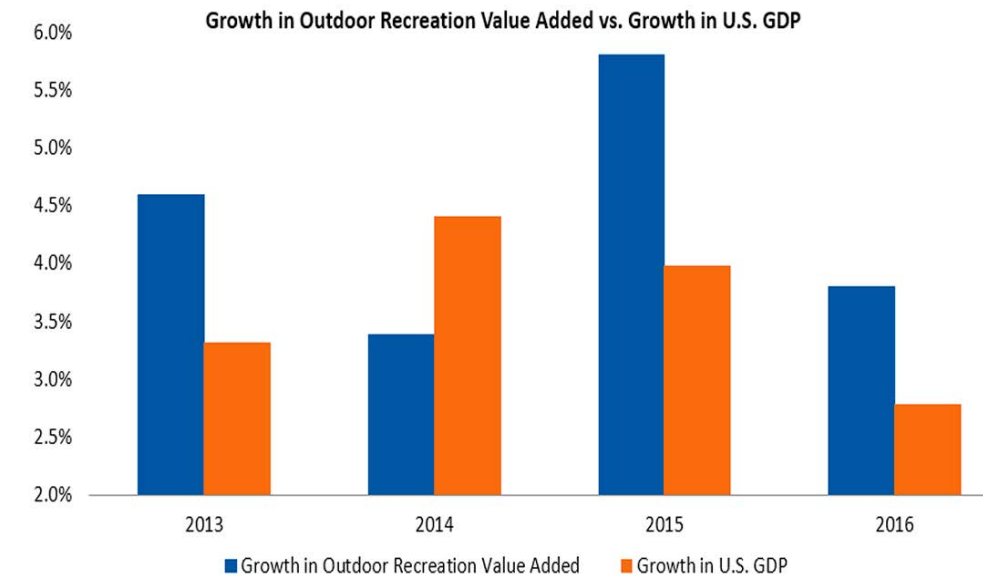
Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account: Prototype Statistics for 2012-2016

News release published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, February 14, 2018

Outdoor recreation accounts for 2.0 percent of GDP in 2016

Prototype statistics from the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) released today by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) show that the outdoor recreation economy accounted for 2.0 percent (\$373.7 billion) of current-dollar GDP in 2016 (table 1). In addition, the outdoor recreation economy grew 3.8 percent in 2016, compared to growth of 2.8 percent in the overall economy.

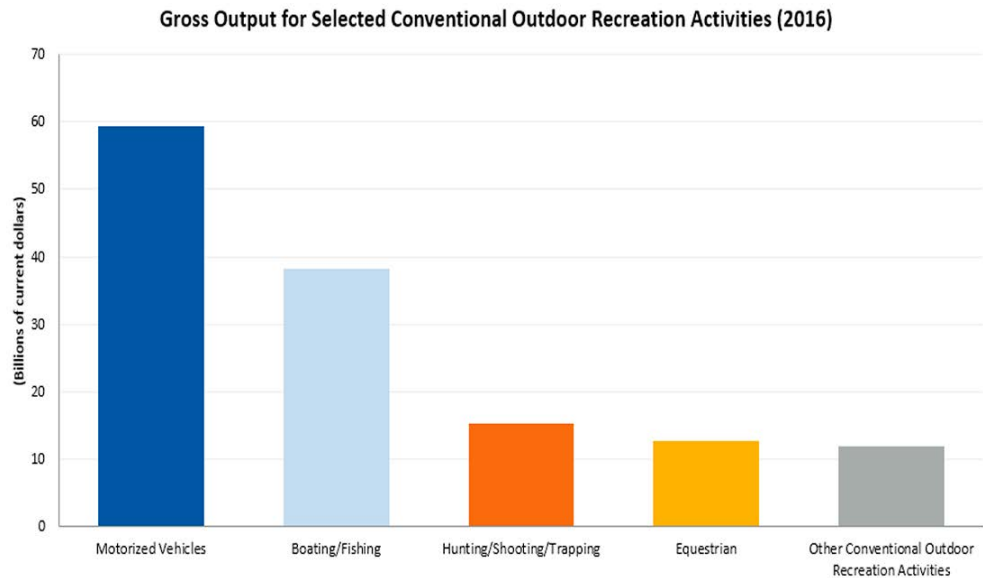
“Businesses need the right data to help them hire, invest and grow. The historical lack of detailed federal data regarding outdoor recreational activities has handicapped both the private and public sectors. The public will no doubt be surprised at the economic importance of this industry as we release prototype statistics measuring the impact of activities like boating, fishing, RVing, hunting, camping, hiking, and more. This release is a milestone for business executives, small-business owners, entrepreneurs, and government officials, who will rely on these detailed data to plan, grow, and gain new insights into this dynamic part of the U.S. economy,” said U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.



The new account is the latest addition in a series of satellite accounts complementing BEA’s statistics, including accounts on travel and tourism and arts and cultural production. These accounts do not change BEA’s official statistics, including GDP. They provide greater detail and allow closer analysis of a specific area of the economy by extracting information embedded in the official economic statistics.

Outdoor Recreation by Activity

In the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, gross output—principally a measure of sales or receipts associated with the outdoor recreation economy—is presented both by industry and by outdoor recreation activity. Outdoor recreation activities fall into three general categories: conventional core activities (including activities such as bicycling, boating, hiking, and hunting), other core activities (including activities such as agritourism and outdoor festivals), and supporting activities (including construction, trips and travel, and government). In 2016, conventional recreation accounted for 36.7 percent of total outdoor recreation gross output, other recreation accounted for 22.1 percent, and supporting activities accounted for the remaining 41.2 percent (table 2).

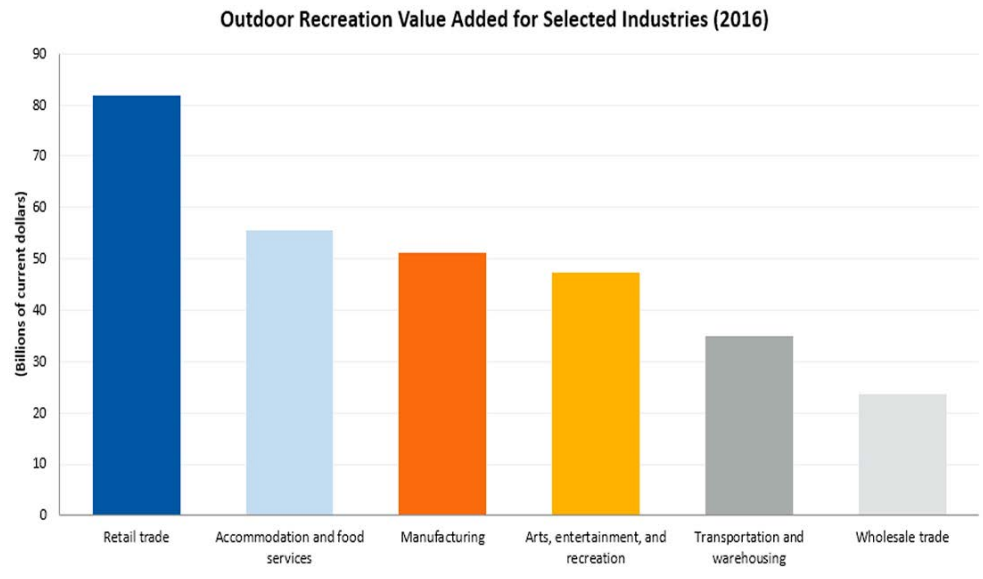


- Motorized Vehicles was the largest activity within conventional outdoor recreation in 2016, accounting for \$59.4 billion of gross output. Recreational vehicles accounted for more than half of this value at \$30.0 billion.

- Boating/Fishing activities were \$38.2 billion in 2016, an increase of 4.0 percent from the previous year.
- Hunting/Shooting/Trapping activities were \$15.4 billion in 2016, with hunting accounting for over 60 percent of this value.
- Multi-use apparel and accessories, which include backpacks, bug spray, and other general-purpose gear and accessories that could not be allocated to specific activities, grew 7.2 percent in 2016 and accounted for 35.0 percent of conventional outdoor recreation gross output.

Outdoor Recreation by Industry

Outdoor recreation value added is presented by industry in the ORSA and shows how an industry’s participation in the outdoor recreation economy contributes to GDP. For example, the data show that the retail trade, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing industries were the largest contributors to the outdoor recreation economy in 2016, accounting for half of all outdoor recreation activity (table 1).



- For the retail trade industry, outdoor recreation value added was \$81.7 billion and accounted for 21.9 percent of all activity in the outdoor recreation economy.
- Outdoor recreation value added was \$55.7 billion in accommodation and food services, with about 63 percent of this value coming from accommodations and 37 percent from food services and drinking places.
- Outdoor recreation value added for manufacturing was \$51.3 billion, primarily reflecting activity in the subcategories of petroleum and coal products and other transportation equipment.
- Outdoor recreation value added was \$47.4 billion in arts, entertainment, and recreation and accounted for 24.7 percent of that industry’s total value added.

Public comment and feedback

The public is invited to submit comments and feedback on these preliminary statistics by emailing OutdoorRecreation@bea.gov. Final statistics are scheduled for release in the fall of 2018, and feedback will be used to help finalize the definitions, data sources, and methodology that underpin the new account and the format in which final results are displayed. To ensure consideration, comments should be submitted no later than April 27, 2018.



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