

Preserve Our Awe-Inspiring and Breathtaking Views

By Marybeth Conger, Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho's Roving Reporter



The Grand Canyon is a land that inspires our spirit. Exploring this precious resource on mules with backcountry friends is a trip of a lifetime. Our access to public lands is being challenged. The time is now, to donate to the Backcountry Horsemen of America Legacy Fund to protect and preserve our access. Read about my trail experience in Arizona to see why.

On April 19, Bill and Marybeth Conger met Doug and Teri Argo at the Grand Canyon's Village South Rim which is about 7100 feet elevation. The temperature was 79 degrees. After getting weighed in (there is a 200-pound limit and Bill was sweating it), they checked in at the Bright Angle Lodge. The Grand Canyon is one of the most inspiring landscapes and overwhelming to one's senses. Our group took many photos of the sunset and rock formations this first evening at the South Rim.

The morning of April 20, the temperature was 60 degrees. Arriving at the mule corral we mounted our assigned mules and the adventure began. Any-

one who might have concerned about the trail height quickly got distracted by the breathtaking views of the rock layers which are windows into time.

Our group shared the Bright Angle trail with many hikers. At times, these encounters were quite close on the trail, but the mules weren't bothered by anything and all users extended courtesy. About three hours later, we were getting close to the bottom and started seeing the Colorado River, which for the past 5 or 6 million years has carved the Canyon. The temperature was rising and all drank plenty of water on the trail to keep hydrated. We traveled through a very long and dark tunnel to get to the stock bridge that passed over

the Colorado. The mules thought nothing of this tunnel.

We arrived at Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Angle Bright Trail on the Colorado River about 3:00 p.m. We saw some ancient Indian ruins that illustrated how the Grand Canyon has sustained people for thousands of years. The temperature now was 90+ degrees. The cabins had air conditioning, so this roving reporter is giving the rooms at Phantom Ranch a five-star rating. We also had a fabulous steak dinner with all the fixings.

At 7:00 a.m. on April 21, the temperature was 70 degrees. The Phantom Ranch served a delicious family-style gourmet breakfast.

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Preserve Our Awe-Inspiring and Breathtaking Views

By Marybeth Conger, Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho's Roving Reporter
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By 8:00 a.m., we started back to the Rim on the South Kaibab Trail. Our trail boss Mike let us choose where to ride in the string. His only condition was Bill must ride behind him so they could share packing stories and jokes. Mike pointed out a lot of memorable sites along the trail, including some fossils. The view on this trail really showed the geologic layers of the Grand Canyon. The mules were given many stops on the way. After too many Kodak moments to mention, our group arrived at the South Kaibab trail head and each became a member of the renowned order of the Master Mule Skinners of the Grand Canyon Trails.

There are some things in life that are hard to describe, but experiencing the Grand Canyon on a mule allowed all of us to see how the geologic process played out over time showing the size, color, and dazzling erosional forms along the rugged landscape of the south side of the Grand Canyon.

We cannot lose these awe-inspiring opportunities to see the wonders our beautiful country has to offer. Your support with a donation to the Backcountry Horsemen of America Legacy Fund can and will preserve our access to such dazzling experiences.

What are you doing to INCREASE MEMBERSHIP?

Notes from Ad Hoc Membership Committee Chair
By Dennis Serpa

It's that time of year when we start planning projects for the upcoming season. Let's reach out to nonmembers and non-active members and get them involved in our activities. In the last issue of the newsletter, we requested that all chapters create a Membership Development and Retention Committee. I hope you have taken the steps form a committee that will have focus on guiding existing and prospective members to become active.

We must constantly be innovating and finding new ways to get people to be part of BCHA and learn more about our important mission of keeping the trails open and accessible to everyone. Our national membership committee has developed a power point presentation to help Membership Development and Retention committee members with the process of developing and retaining members. In the presentation, we've brought back ideas from other chapters may have seen in previous newsletters or on websites. Sometimes it helps to have inspiration to help our formulate programs for developing and retaining members. By building on the ideas of others, we're borrowing the brilliance of what worked in the past. Combine and connect others' ideas and become a brilliant borrower! (Thanks to former aerospace scientist, Fortune 500 executive, chief innovation officer, inventor, and software entrepreneur, David Kord Murray, for that turn of phrase).

For more ideas on recruiting and developing members, look up the Washington Membership Development Handbook on our website. You will also be able to download the Membership Development and Retention power point on the website .

Dennis M Serpa
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Create a Lasting Legacy – Make a Bequest to the BCHA Legacy Fund

By Latifia Rodriguez



The Legacy Fund was established in 2019 to ensure BCHA will have a strong and solid, long-term financial base our work well into the future – Keeping Trails Open for Future Generations. This fund is similar to a large savings account with strict limitations on withdrawals. The principal may not be withdrawn for any reason. Earned income can be used by BCHA to support important programs. Eventually, when the principal amount is significant, BCHA will establish an endowment fund similar to those of many other non-profit organizations.

How can you help to sustain BCHA in the future? One way is to create a personal lasting legacy by adding a charitable bequest to your will, trust, or estate plan. A bequest is typically a financial asset transferred from your estate to BCHA. Of course, the is yours and only yours during your lifetime. A bequest is an easy way to leave a gift to BCHA as a part of your estate plan. Your gift will help us fulfill our vision for the future. When you are updating your estate documents with your financial or legal counsel, you can designate a bequest to the BCHA Legacy Fund.

How You Benefit

- Your estate can claim a charitable deduction for 100% of the value of the assets transferred to the BCHA Legacy Fund, generally removing assets given from estate taxation.
- Making a gift through your estate plan allows you to maintain full control of your assets for as long as you live. The ability to maintain full control of your assets means you will not jeopardize your own financial security in order to make a gift.
- Making a gift through your estate plan may make it possible for you to make a much larger gift than you might otherwise have considered in your lifetime when you need the assets and income.
- You may give cash or a specific item of property. You may specify a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the residue of your estate.
- A bequest of IRA assets may be particularly tax efficient, enabling your estate to avoid estate taxes on IRA assets and your heirs to avoid income taxes on IRA distributions.

What Are Your Personal Legacy Goals?

After you have provided for your loved ones, your children and grandchildren, where else might you give? Where can your gift be most meaningful? How can you feel assured your bequest is going to an organization that shares your values and will continue to support your love of horses, mules, and America's heritage of trails and public lands? BCHA can help ensure that our tantalizing viewscapes in the backcountry are available to be enjoyed by your family for years to come.

The Values of BCHA Are Your Values

You appreciate BCHA wants to ensure everyone's access to public trails and lands — now and in the future. You recognize the importance of BCHA being financially strong and secure to accomplish this important work. You know our future success requires BCHA to have a firm, informed, continuous national voice with public officials, lawmakers, and land managers.

For more information, please contact us at 860-586-7540 or fundraising@bcha.org. All inquiries are confidential.



William Pritchard and grandsons Colby, 7, and Noah, 3, enjoying a lovely North Carolina day trail riding.



View from the Chairman's Saddle

By Darrell Wallace, BCHA National Chairman

Spring is coming, and I am looking forward to it! Riding my horse, working on trails, and seeing friends at the National Board Meeting. This year, I will see them on my computer screen as we conduct our first digital National Board Meeting, due to the restrictions based on COVID-19.

I am especially excited about two recent developments. Let me start with BCH's meeting with the United States Forest Service about clearing the trail backlog. Some very senior U.S.F.S managers agreed to review and try to solve the issues we raised in our Resolution regarding Minimum Resource Analysis. I am grateful for those managers' responses and I'm hopeful that something good will happen as a result.

I'm also grateful and excited about the wonderful response from our members to our fall fundraising campaign. Fundraising Committee Chair Tif Rodriguez and her crew did a great job of reaching out for donations. Please see Tif's article elsewhere in this newsletter about how you can continue to further BCH's mission and create your legacy around your love of the back country and the amazing experiences it offers. Check out Idaho's Roving Reporter Marybeth Conger's story about the Grand Canyon. It's important to preserve our opportunities for such magnificent adventures.

On another note, I see my role as chairman to create a team environment where everyone has a sense of shared accountability. It's important for board members to feel engaged and useful. That's why I asked our new Treasurer Mark Himmel to share some of his thoughts in this column about fundraising and how he learned much of what he needed to know in his former role in Media & Marketing.

Happy Trails!
Darrell



The View from BCHA Treasurer Mark Himmel

This past year I moved from the position of Chairman of the Media & Marketing (M&M) Committee to Treasurer. Nearly everything I needed to know about fundraising I learned from Media & Marketing. It's all about cultivating and building relationships. You know how it works on Facebook. Someone posts something and other people are inspired to share the content. Sharing allows people to inform others about the good work at BCH and maybe it encourages some action like joining a chapter. A few years ago, a BCH post would reach about 30,000 people. Today, it's not unusual to reach 100,000. That comes from building relationships based on good and trustworthy content.

The M&M Committee joined with the Fundraising Committee last year to brainstorm ideas and ways to encourage donations. We started the birthday fundraiser that you'll hear more about at the National Board Meeting in April. These types of fundraisers are easy to set up and can help reach people we normally

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.

Thank you to our Advocacy Partners:

- Equine Trail Sports
- Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association
- North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)
- North Carolina Horse Council
- Old Dominion Endurance Rides Inc.
- Pennsylvania Equine Council
- Walkers & Talkers Saddle Club

BCHA Advocacy Partners are organizations, alliances, and coalitions involved in a common goal of Keeping Trails Open. To learn more about your organization becoming an Advocacy Partner email Partners@bcha.org.

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NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE



would not.

A major fundraising event for all nonprofit organizations every year is *Giving Tuesday* in December. Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 to raise awareness about the work of nonprofits and it's grown into a global movement. *Giving Tuesday* was a focus of our joint committee work in 2019. Due to our increased efforts to get the word out, we raised six times what we did in the past. We reached over 500,000 people and that's quite impressive! How much did we raise? Well, you'll need to wait for the National Board meeting to find out. In the meantime, as Chairman Darrell mentioned, please consider other ways you can support the meaningful and quality work that BCH does.

Thank you,
Mark

Summer Sponsorship Deadline:
June 5th, 2020

BCHA Newsletter
Media Kit

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 13,000 members nationwide who belong to 194 active chapters/units and affiliates in 31 states. Our mailing list includes members, public land agency personnel (Forest Service, BLM, National Parks, state land agencies), elected officials, advertisers, other trail and horse organizations. Visit www.bcha.org for more information on BCHA.

Display Sponsorship Rates

Newsletter Ad SizePrice per Single Issue

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2.5 inches x 2.5 inches.....\$55
2.5 inches x 5 inches.....\$95
2.5 inches x 10 inches.....\$135

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Deborah's specials

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across bottom of page.....\$175

20% bonus for sponsorships in four issues (one year). All prices are for black and white ads. Ask about full color prices. BCHA reserves the right to refuse advertising space to any person or company. All ads must be paid for before inserting in the newsletter. The 4-issue package must be paid at time of first insertion.

Mechanical Requirements:

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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Public Lands Update

By Director of Public Lands and Recreation Randy Rasmussen

Congress Acts to Reverse Public Lands Maintenance Backlog, Provide Full Funding for LWCF

Efforts to improve trails and recreational opportunities in national parks and U.S. public lands took a positive turn in early March when a bipartisan group of senators introduced Senate Bill 3422 (S. 3422), the Great American Outdoors Act. The legislation is intended to tap both on- and off-shore drilling royalties paid to the federal government in order to address the nearly \$12 billion maintenance backlog in our national parks and other public lands. It is also intended to ensure full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) each and every year going forward.

BCHA is thrilled that Congress heeded the call of the outdoor recreation community to take decisive and lasting action for the benefit of our public lands. We must do everything in our power to promote the swift passage of S. 3422.

Importantly, unlike previous bills that were introduced to benefit agencies solely within the Department of Interior, S. 3422 includes resources to address the maintenance backlog of the U.S. Forest Service. As such, it is broader than the current Restore Our Parks Act (S. 500) which drew widespread support when introduced last year—and during the previous session of Congress—but had not made its way to the President’s desk. Inclusion of the Forest Service has been a priority for BCHA, its membership and the national recreation coalition of which we are a part (see, for example, the Public Lands Update in BCHA’s Spring 2019 newsletter).

Specifically, S. 3422 would establish and fund a “National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” If passed, it would allocate up to \$1.9 billion each year, over five years (up to \$9.5 billion), to be divided among federal land management agencies in the following proportions:

- National Park Service – 70% of yearly funding
- U.S. Forest Service – 15% of yearly funding
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – 5% of yearly funding
- Bureau of Land Management – 5% of yearly funding
- Bureau of Indian Education – 5% of yearly funding

S. 3422 would also ensure that LWCF is funded to its full level—\$900 million each year—as was intended by Congress when the fund was established in 1964. For various reasons, Congress had chosen to fund LWCF at its full level only twice during the last 56 years.

Inexplicably, Congress allowed LWCF, after its 50-year sunset date, to expire a few years ago. In early 2019, Congress passed legislation to permanently authorize the LWCF. LWCF justifiably has been characterized as America’s most important conservation and recreation program. Today it remains the only federal program dedicated to the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, as well as creating and developing state and local parks, and building or expanding over 1,000 trail projects across the country. Yet the LWCF reauthorization that passed last year left the level of its annual funding up to the whims of Congress. And we know how that has worked out.

To view a fact sheet with information on how LWCF has benefited trails, recreation and public lands in your state, see the state-specific fact sheets at: www.lwcfcoalition.com/tools/. This webpage also includes information on the history of LWCF and the sources of its funding.

In sum, the Great American Outdoors Act includes two of the most robust and far-reaching mechanisms for the support of our national parks and public lands in over half a century. It is not intended to replace or diminish the annual funding (appropriations) provided by Congress to the federal land management agencies. That process will remain an important annual priority for advocacy efforts by BCHA and its allies. Yet, S. 3422 represents both an investment by Congress in perpetuating the public’s long-term use and enjoyment of our public lands and a long overdue recognition of the beleaguered condition of visitor facilities throughout our national parks, forests, BLM lands and national wildlife refuges.

The Great American Outdoors Act was introduced by U.S. Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Steve Daines (R-MT), Rob Portman (R-OH), Mark Warner (D-VA), Angus King (I-ME), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Richard Burr (R-NC). At the time of this writing, S. 3422 enjoyed the support of 58 Senate co-sponsors (and growing).

A companion bill has yet to be introduced in the House of Representatives. But it is reasonable to soon expect a similar bipartisan effort in the House. When that happens, BCHA will issue

an action alert asking members to reach out to their representatives to request broad support and swift passage of this important legislation. Indeed, the Great American Outdoors Act appears to represent a nearly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to steer significant federal funding directly to the maintenance backlog throughout our public lands—a backlog that has grown to staggering proportions over several decades.

Given the gravity of this enormous and positive development, BCHA is calling upon its membership to act in support of the Great American Outdoors Act by contacting your senators.

Thank Your Senators and Encourage More Support for S. 3422

This is a great opportunity to contact your U.S. senators in order to thank those who currently support the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422) and to encourage those who have yet to be listed as co-sponsors for this important legislation. You can view a list of the current bill sponsors at: www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3422/cosponsors

We’ve found that constituent phone calls to both the local (states) offices and to your senator’s Washington DC office are more effective than either emails or letters sent via the U.S. Postal Service. Contact information for your U.S. senators can be found here: www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Talking points to use during your phone call can be as simple as:

- “I’m calling from (city/town/county) and would like to leave a message for my senator.”
- “I’m a (volunteer/officer) of Back Country Horsemen of (state/chapter).”
- “I support S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act.”
- “I want to thank the senator for co-sponsoring this important legislation” [if they are listed as a co-sponsor] OR, alternatively, “I want to encourage the senator to co-sponsor this important legislation” [if they are not currently listed as a co-sponsor]
- [note: you might choose to describe why you support the bill or why they should consider being a co-sponsor.]
- “Thank you. A phone number I can be reached at is...”

Thank you for taking action and for supporting BCHA’s efforts to capitalize on this near once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bolster outdoor recreational opportunities throughout our public lands!



Thank you for taking action!

Forest Service Launches 10-Year Trail Challenge

In mid-February, during the annual Hike the Hill gathering of trail advocates in Washington DC, Chief Vicki Christiansen of the U.S. Forest Service proudly announced the rollout of the agency's 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge. The Challenge is intended as a national "call to action to increase our collective capacity to care for trails and increase on-the-ground results." It will specifically address and focus resources on the agency's trail maintenance backlog. Chief Christiansen made clear that she doesn't expect existing partners, like BCHA, to double their output. Rather, a key part of

the Challenge will be the identification of new partners from outside the agency, including nonprofit organizations, schools and universities; local chambers of commerce; state and tribal governments; outdoor recreation-related businesses; and the health- and fitness-related industry. One aspect of the challenge will be to encourage these partners to create a trails endowment independent of the federal government in order to support grants that go directly to trail maintenance projects.

The 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge was a key concept identified in the agency's 2017 Nation-

al Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System. These efforts are a direct result of the multi-year campaign led by BCHA and its partners, American Horse Council and The Wilderness Society, to make trails and their maintenance a higher priority within Forest Service. Chief Christiansen has embraced these concepts and now has committed the agency to launching and implementing a solutions-oriented Trail Challenge over the next ten years. BCHA has fully embraced the Challenge and applauds Chief Christiansen for her leadership and desire to make trails a greater priority within and throughout

the National Forest System. As such, we encourage all BCH states and chapters to learn more about the Challenge and join us in this decade-long push to address the trail maintenance backlog. We welcome your ideas, which should be directed to your regional representative(s) who serve on BCHA's Public Lands Committee.

More information about the Challenge can be found at: www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/10YTC

Words Matter

By Greg Schatz, Rich Carl, Ally Pike, Elle Eberts, Marion Willmus and Melissa DiNino

Although this article is written in first person, all six of us had a hand in writing it

Vice President of the BCH Missoula chapter Ken Brown asked me to come to their general meeting and talk with them about getting youth involved. I thought that it might be kind of boring to have an old guy stand up and drone on about youth. I saw [Melissa DiNino](#) a couple of days later and she offered to help. You might have already guessed that Melissa is part of the younger demographic of BCH. She gave me the idea to moderate a panel discussion with younger members on the panel. A couple of days after talking to Melissa I asked Elle Eberts if she was interested and she immediately said yes. [Ally Pike](#) overheard me talking to Elle and she asked if she could join in. One of them suggested that I connect with [Marion Willmus](#) and she immediately agreed to help out.

A few days later, we were all sitting in Smoke Elser's historic barn at the entrance to the Rattlesnake Wilderness one afternoon. A trip to Missoula isn't complete without a stop at Smoke's barn. For those of you who might not be familiar with Smoke, well, [he's a legend in the wilderness packing business](#). Smoke, the four young women, and I were talking. As we were talking, I asked the women why they all responded so enthusiastically to help me out with a presentation to the BCH of Missoula. Their responses were instant and almost simultaneous, they said I was aware — aware that words matter.

"You're aware that words matter." That was a sincerely appreciated compliment because I make it a point to be very aware of the words I use. How I speak to others, regardless of their age, matters. I am very aware of the choice of subjects I introduce. I never, ever, tell others what to do or tell them my opinion of anything unless asked. Even when asked, I still may not share absolutely everything I think. Using words or choosing not to is something I can control. Words matter.

I have been the co-chair of the BCH Montana (BCHMT) youth program since Rick Potts threw down the gauntlet in 2013. He looked around the room of BCH members and said, "If I were you I'd be gettin' some young colts in my string." At the 2019 BCHMT convention, I heard some rather annoying comments made by several different people. I felt it was

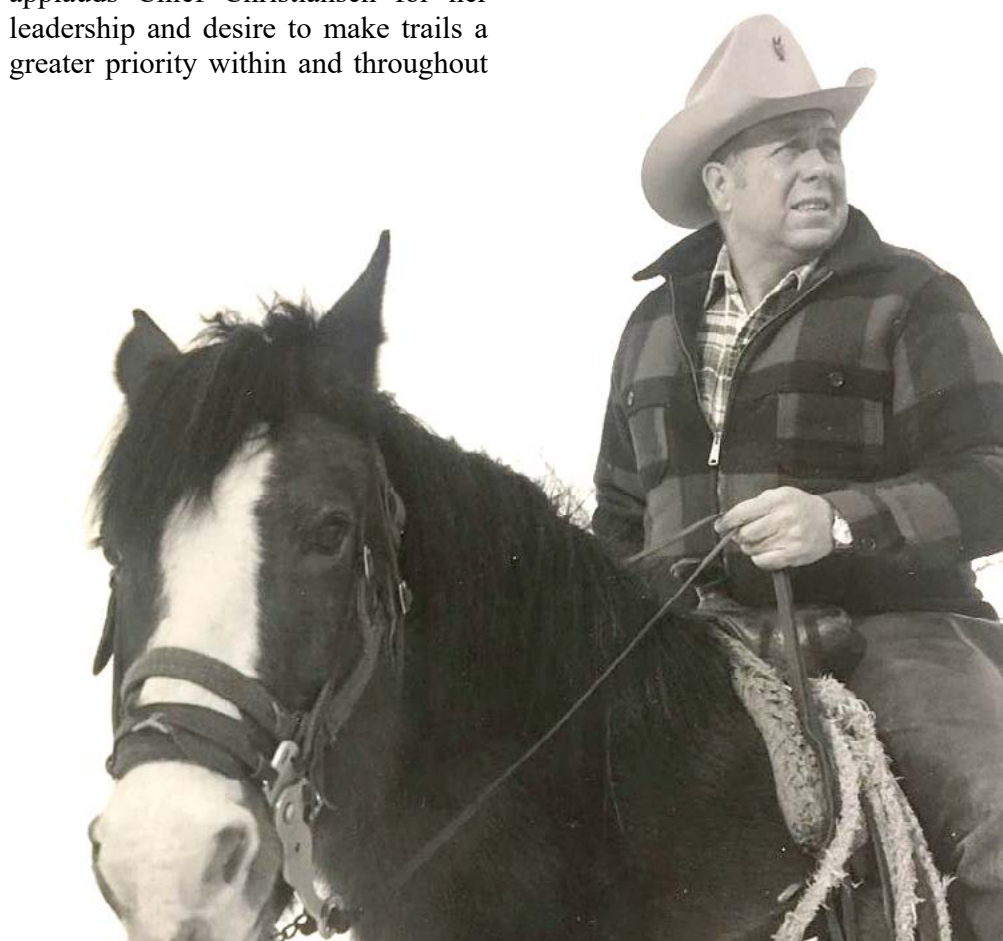
time to say something to the BCHMT Chair Rich Carl. I assumed I might be overreacting and Rich would say I should keep to myself. When I brought the subject up, though, Rich immediately said, "Yes, we have had some issues with inappropriate language and comments."

So, Rich and I knew we had a problem, but we didn't really know how to describe it or what to do about it. Rich deals with human resources and I own a building company. On the jobsite, dealing with bad behavior can end up with someone getting fired. You always hope it doesn't come to that, but a boss has leverage. It's a much more difficult situation in a volunteer organization. You can't really fire volunteers.

As I rode down the trail this summer with Ally, Elle, Marion and Melissa, I began to realize why BCHMT has a hard time keeping young members involved. We get them to come to our gatherings once or twice then we don't see them again. As an organization, I feel we need to change how we speak to others. If we use the phrase "kids these days" to degrade young people, they are not going to hang around. If we need to debate who is being too sensitive and who is not, they are not going to hang around. If we complain about the time young people spend using technology they will not hang around. If men call women "girls" they will not hang around. Women can call women girls. Men can never call women girls. Ever. Words matter.

Here are some more examples of what I mean. Am I teaching or mentoring? Teaching tells them I'm right and they're wrong. Mentoring shows them how I do it, let them do it the way they choose and see the results. Do they help me or do we work together? Remember, words matter. If they help me, they're subordinate, if we work together we're equal.

Over the past 30 years, I have sat around many BCH campfires all across the state. Sometimes the subject matter at these campfires is totally inappropriate. Why are we talking about anything besides horses and wild country? So, you want to start a discussion with a new member. How about what kind of horses do you have? Where do you like to ride? Have you been riding long? Have you been in the Bob? Where is your favor-



Smoke Elser, courtesy of shows.acast.com.

ite place to camp? Words matter.

One thing I have become very aware of the past few years is that young people aren't going to hang around and put up with the rude comments like I did when I was that age. My wife Deborah and I were in our 20's when we joined BCH. There were a lot of inappropriate comments made and people saying things that never should have been said. A lot of the same thing is still happening today. I expect that with what I know today, if I were to go back, I would not have stayed a member of BCH.

I expect that the way to keep young people involved with BCH is to be kind and to make them feel like welcome members of the BCH community. Words like *sugar*, *sweetie* and *honey* are out. Any reference to female or male anatomy is no longer accepted today. Any type of touching can make someone feel uncomfortable. Ogling or staring or looking a person up and down is considered demeaning and inappropriate. Off-color jokes and gender-based humor are frowned upon these days.

BCHMT is the organization that started it all and we are professionals at what we do. Thinking about how words matter will bring BCHMT to the next level and increase our younger membership. I'm challenging all of BCH to remember your honorable roots, the bigger purposes we stand for, and to be the image of how we want to be seen. To all BCH chapter leaders, ask why you are involved in BCH? What has kept you coming back? How has it enhanced your life, what can you do to make new, young members feel and

appreciate those same qualities of our BCH community? Choose your words. Words matter.

About the panel members/authors:
Rich Carl was the BCHMT chair 2018-19. Ally Pike lives in Whitefish and is a crew leader for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation in the summer. This winter she is working as a carpenter apprentice. Ally loves riding fast horses, skiing deep powder and climbing steep mountains. Ally rides my young horses for me. Elle Eberts is the 2019 recipient of the BCHMT scholarship to Long's Packing Skills Class. Elle is a packer who has the good fortune to live with her pack string on her family homestead in the Flathead with her parents and grandmother. Elle doesn't ever remember not having horses and has become very proficient at packing. Unfortunately, she never had the chance to talk about packing with her grandfather who was also a packer in the Bob and Glacier National Park. Marion Willmus is the 2017 recipient of the BCHMT scholarship to Long's Packing Skills Class. Marion is a senior at UM and also doesn't ever remember not having horses. Marion is working on two degrees, one in Resource Conservation and the other in Biology. She plans to work with people living in the area around the Wilderness. She has taken most of her classes in the wild country of Montana. Marion rides my young horses for me. Melissa DiNino is the 2018 recipient of the BCHMT scholarship to Long's Packing Skills Class. Willa is Melissa's horse she is training while living on a ranch near Potomac and working as an artist.

Parking Whoas

By Michelle King

Here in east Tennessee we have miles of old logging roads turned forest service roads that lead to lovely mountain trails. What’s the problem, you ask? Parking! Sure, they’re accessible to hikers and bikers in a single vehicle but not a rig hauling a four-legged, trail-blazing equine machine...or two. One such location is Roan Mountain located in Carter County. Roan Mountain is dotted with small communities and farms. The mountain range has over 20,000 acres of protected land between Tennessee and North Carolina. That’s a lot of territory to explore if we just had somewhere to park. Enter Vice President Bill Watson and an entire community of supporters.

Bill came up with a plan to make sure we were included in the county’s new project. He pleaded our case and shared our story with whomever would listen. He worked tirelessly on one of our biggest successes in recent years. Watson, along with Russell Sutton, Larry Jeffers and a host of community members and leaders jumped head first into this project – a project that took over two years to complete. A total of 450 tons of gravel and matting were required. Over \$16,000 was raised to see this project to completion.

On June 8, 2019, we celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of a multi-use parking area which made over 40 miles of Roan Mountain trails accessible to all types of enthusiasts. The parking area has been aptly named Happy Trails Park. It’s located on Old Railroad Grade Road in Roan Mountain and is open to boaters, cyclists, hikers, anglers, and horses! It sits along the Doe River providing access for anglers and paddlers. It also provides parking for those looking to enjoy an extension of the Tweetsie Railroad trail on foot or by bicycle. For the explorers that seek the solace of the woods on horseback just ride a short distance down the old railroad bed and up the old forest service road through rhododendron-lined trails. Large hardwoods and massive evergreens tower overhead providing cool shade in the summer and a windbreak in the winter. Wildflowers abound in the spring and the views are breathtaking. The trail system offers a combination of road beds and single-track trails.

This isn’t the end of the Roan Mountain access. Watson and his crew are busily working with the United

States Forest Service and community members for an additional parking lot that will open up another trail system on Roan Mountain. We are in the process of raising the funds. This latest project will cost roughly \$17,000. We’ve already had a few donors step up to help. The U.S.F.S. has already cleared the area of trees and brush and have it ready for matting and gravel. We hope to report another completed parking area soon!

In the meantime, we want to thank all of the sponsors and partners that made Happy Trails Park a reality. Our members, Northeast Community Credit Union, Carter County Bank, Carter County Parks and Recreation Board, a private family from Roan Mountain, Roan Mountain Citizens Club, Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation, United Way of Elizabethton Carter County, Elizabethton Carter County Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Electric Operation Pocket Change, and Grow Carter County. These sponsors stepped forward and improved the recreational opportunities for all who enjoy the great outdoors.

Bill Watson said, “This park is a great example of our county offices, our businesses, and our community organizations coming together to make the wonderful place in which we live even better.”



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Wolverton Stock Camp Open for Business

By Dick Cochran



Trailheads Museums Lodging Dining Rodeo Entertainment



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Please go to our website at www.shoshonebch.org for more information on Shoshone Back Country Horsemen and our efforts to preserve this great heritage. Ride the trails less traveled and pack out the experience of a lifetime along with what you packed in.

For additional information on Shoshone National Forest:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone>

For more information on the Cody, WY area:

<http://www.codyyellowstone.org>

IN COOPERATION WITH THE PARK COUNTY TRAVEL COUNCIL

The Wolverton Stock Camp, located in Sequoia National Park in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California, is now open to private stock users. This camp, the first of six stock facilities provided for in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) issued in 2015, provides private stock users with two improved campsites as well as two corrals. The Wolverton Stock Camp (WSC) is located near the giant sequoia trees for which the park is

famous. The nearby General Sherman tree is among the largest living things on earth. A former commercial pack station was located at this same location. There are multiple trails that can be accessed by riders. There is ample parking for stock rigs as well.

The facility will be open from approximately June to October each year. There is a reservation system established to make reservations for the facility. To access the system a user will need to go to the official website for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) and go to the Camping portion of the website and then to the part describing the Wolverton Stock Camp. The user will then be directed to access a further part of the website in order to get more details about the facility and to apply for a reservation. There is a \$22 fee per day to use the facility.

The WSC is best accessed by coming from the north through Kings Canyon National Park from Highway 180. There is a scenic drive between the two parks to be enjoyed. Another way to access the WSC is up Highway 198 from Visalia but this route has numerous hairpin turns and steep grades and is difficult to navigate pulling a horse trailer.

The High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California has been working with management of SEKI to get the WSC up and running and is collaborating with SEKI management to implement the remaining five facilities.

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Creating Next Generation Back Country Horsemen

By Rick Mathies, NorthWest Chapter Back Country Horsemen, Montana

In 2015 the NorthWest Montana Back Country Horsemen chapter was chartered by a group of individuals with a specific goal in mind: to figure out a way to carry forward what Back Country Horsemen started 42 years before. Many members of BCH chapters in the western United States are aging out of active involvement with furthering the mission of keeping the trails open and accessible. Combined with older members' difficulties as they age, it is increasingly difficult to attract younger generations. Multiple factors are at work, such as family financial constraints and alternative youth activities. We knew we needed younger folks to help clear trails and to provide packing support, but how to get them involved?

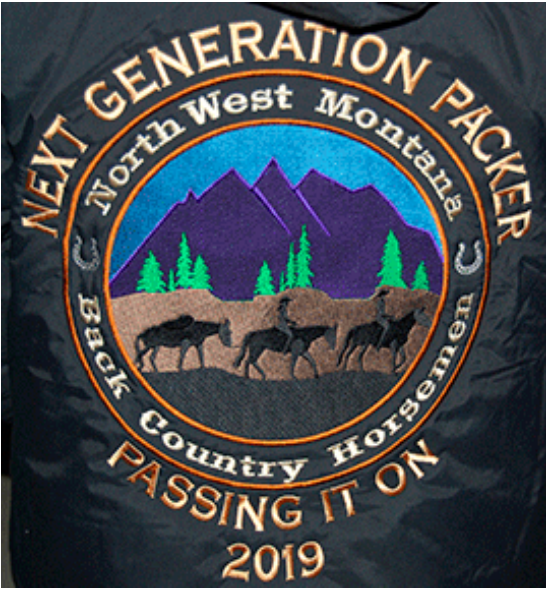
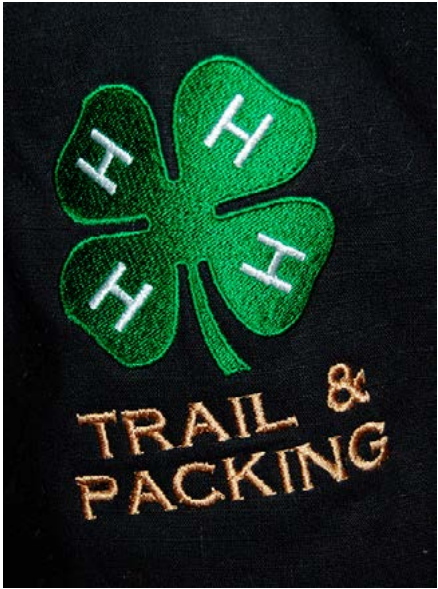
Owning and maintaining horses is not an inexpensive proposition. Our basic idea was we needed to start with individuals who already had a commitment to horses. Another proposition was reaching out to people who had yet to explore the back country. If we exposed people to the wonders of the back country, we might just get them to want to help us preserve access to our valuable public lands. Without an emotional connection to these wonders, people just don't seem to have the time to volunteer to keep them open.

When NorthWest Montana Back Country Horsemen was asked to provide a packing demonstration to the 4-H kids during an annual "Horse Camp" in 2015, we felt that this was a huge opportunity to reach families who owned or were interested in owning horses. Horse Camp is a three-day event where 4-H kids learn and practice new skills with their horses. Our premise was teaching 4-H kids to pack and get their horses ready and trained for trail riding. Over a period of year, we believed we could open up to a large number of people what BCH does and why we do it. This was the beginning of our 4-H Trail and Packing Program with the Flathead County 4-H.

We officially started the program in 2016. Since that time, we have trained an average of 20 kids per year, with some of them staying on for multiple years. Kids in the 4-H program range from as young as 8 years old to 18 years old. One of the interesting things we discovered was, by reaching the kids, we were also reaching and training their parents. Parents ages average between the 30's and 40's. We were reaching two younger demographics at the same time. What a bonus!

The goal of 4-H Trail and Packing is to educate the kids on all aspects of packing, training a horse to be safe on the trail, Leave No Trace principals, trail etiquette and proper care of the back country resources. With that in mind, we have an objective to create individuals who will help our chapter of BCH do the work in our area pursuant to our mission and vision.

In 2019 we graduated our first two kids who have made that step. Let me introduce Patrick and Melanie Totten. Patrick is 18 and Melanie is 16 and they completed their first-ever on their own packing support trips for some of our partners. They planned the trip, drove and trailered their stock, fed their stock, fed themselves, took care



of their stock, weighed their own loads, packed and loaded their own loads and completed the project! They graduated from students to skilled packers. The impact of our 4-H Trail and Packing program is evident in the amount of in-kind giving they have added to our chapter volunteer totals. In 2018 they contributed \$38,529.16 and in 2019 their contribution was \$43,499.33. We have several 4-H kids who will reach graduate from students to skilled packers in the very near future.

We brought several families with kids into our chapter with this program. We know that this is a long-term venture and it could take as much as 20 years to replace our current membership. However, it is definitely a way to pass on the values and mission of BCH to the next generation.

As Back Country Horsemen, we must start to think outside the box and be able to change and adapt to a new social and economic environment. If we don't, what we have done over almost the last 50 years will die out as the baby boomer generation ages. We

cannot continue to do the same old thing and expect different results... it frankly just does not work.

For more information on this proven program contact any of our board members at NorthWest Montana Back Country Horsemen:
www.nwmtbch.org.

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BCH Without Horses?

By Barb Talbot

Did you know BCH of Washington has a number of members who don't have horses and don't ride? We have a growing horseless trail work crew. Due to muddy weather conditions in the winter time, the local trails are closed to stock and the high country is snowed in, so some folks put their horses away for the winter and sit around and watch football. A small group of folks decided they could still get out on the local trails in the winter months and clear logs over the local riding trails, fix tread, and tend to bridge repairs on foot. With land manager support, many local trails have maintenance access from nearby roads. It didn't take long for this group to figure out that they could meet at the local greasy spoon at 6 a.m. without hitching up the big rig, tacking up horses, and loading tools in saddle bags. While having breakfast, they would have a safety meeting, plan for the day's work and be out on the trail working breakfast off by 8:00 a.m.

I liked the idea of breakfast and a good day's work so I joined in. As we worked on the trail, often winter hikers would stop to see what we were doing and end up working with us. Trail work pictures are shared and talk of weekly projects came to be The Horseless Crew and grew as new folks joined BCH. At monthly BCH meetings, the word spread. More horse people would occasionally join us along with non-riding spouses of riding members. The non-riding and horseless members of the BCH families began to feel more included in BCH.

Once the local trails open in the spring, riders can use the trails until the U.S. Forest Service declares the spring melt is making trails too muddy for stock. Then, it's back to work for The Horseless Crew. We usually base camp at the trail head. We load up our vehicles with chainsaws, cross cut saws, various tread tools, camping gear and head for the Washington Wilderness area trail heads. The Horseless Crew can usually log and clean up to four miles of trails. Even though chainsaws are not allowed in the Wilderness areas, we can chainsaw from trail heads outside the Wilderness and up to the Wilderness boundary. Then we switch to crosscut saws. By the time we get the first four miles of Wilderness trails cleared, the trail is usually

in good shape for stock trail crews to get in and take over where we leave off. The saddle and pack stock trail crews get a head start and can work out about eight miles and come back to camp that makes a 16-mile day with work.

BCH of Washington has a week-long statewide work party in a different Wilderness area every year. The Horseless Crew and Coordinator of the State Wide Work Party (SWWP) Jason Ridlon got together and figured out that if our Crew was packed in to the remotest areas and left to work for three days, they could get a heck of a lot of trail brought back to standard in a short time. In 2018, the SWWP was held in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The access road to the horse camp and trail heads was disabled because a bridge was washed out for many years. When the bridge was re-established, we had our work cut out for us. You couldn't get a rig into any of the campsites because they were so overgrown. From this camp there is a 22-mile main trail loop of which six miles was impassible.

Before the SWWP could happen, many things had to take place. A month before, Ridlon set up a work party a month to open up the camp to accommodate the rigs that come from all over the state to participate. It took three days of chainsaws, weed whackers, chippers and 60-plus BCH volunteers. The six-mile impassible section needed to be scouted prior to sending in a full work party. My husband and I backpacked to that part of the trail loop and spent a week with a GPS, flagged it and recorded log restrictions and trail conditions. Each side of the trail loop had to be made passable to stock to get to the non-existent trail from both sides of the loop. Then the big job for Ridlon was to coordinate all of the trail work that needed to happen.

When it was time for SWWP 2018 the Horseless Crew's assignment was to reestablish four miles of trail where it had been flagged. We knew this was going to be an elite assignment which required camping on the ground and three long work days in rugged country. There were six Horseless Crew crazy enough to sign up. Ridlon arranged pack stock to get us in eight miles. There, we set up our spike camp and started working that afternoon. After a delectable freeze-dried dinner, we

were in our tents by 8:00 p.m. With breakfast of granola and Starbucks Via coffee, we had our boots on the trail at 6 a.m. We had very good reconnaissance of how many logs and what sizes needed to be cut in the four miles that was flagged. There were 68 logs in that section ranging from 6" to 40" and a lot of slide alder and vine maple. Because of the recon, we were able to bring only necessary tools and minimize what we needed to carry each day. We divided up into three pairs. The two groups closer to camp carried the heavier (and better) Royal Chinook bucking saws. The pair going out the farthest carried a lighter felling saw which worked fine. We had the 68 logs out in a day and a half. We also had time to repair some of the steeper narrow tread. We made it back to camp between 6 and 7 p.m. each night, in time to do a freeze-dried dinner and roll into bed.

Ridlon had the saddle and pack stock crew of 16 working the other side of the loop. Six miles of the trail was clear of logs. Two miles needed to be found and had some very technical tread work and, of course, a lot of logs. This crew never made it back to camp before 10 p.m. each night. Bottom line is our Horseless Crew of six were able to get a lot more work done than our younger, stronger Horse Crew got done because we didn't have to take care of horses and we were spike camped at the job sight. Let me qualify that and say that the Horseless Crew would not have had the energy to get to this remote area with tools and camp and do the work we did without pack support in and out. Now, all of the BCHW State



Wide Work Parties along with most of the Hot Shot (smaller, more intense) work parties include The Horseless Crew.

BCHW have gotten folks from different hiker organizations, such as the Washington Trails Association and the Pacific Crest Trail Association to Join BCH. These folks are seeing the benefit of being packed into scenic remote country to work trail. Sound interesting? Talk Horseless up at your chapter meetings. Start small with a winter work party in your local area. What spouse in BCH who doesn't ride might like to get out and work trail? We need youth members! What high school student needs a community service project? Take him or her on a Horseless Work Party. When you are out working and hikers stop to see what you are doing, ask for help, loan them a tool and get their contact information. The Horseless are an untapped resource for BCHA membership!

Some Thoughts on Bringing Technology to Meetings

By Mike McGlenn, Past Chairman BCHA

With cringing recognition as one who has run a wide variety of meetings over many years, I read a column from Inc. (the full column titled *The Verdict is In: People Who Bring Their Phones to Meetings (Even in Silent Mode) Instantly Get Dumber* <https://flip.it/15fy-hd>). As I read it, I thought of all of you who I know who also run many meetings. The University of Chicago study reported in Inc. should open some eyes as to what a cell phone does to your mind. I've shared a few excerpts below with the hope you will find this information as enlightening as I did. Even though I didn't write the opening, I sure could have.

"A friend asked me to sit in on a staff meeting a few months ago.

'How do you stand that?' I asked him later. 'It was like a class where no one looks at the professor.'

Eye contact was almost nonexistent. One person was doing something on his laptop; the other nine people thumbed their phones, occasionally glancing up to seem like they were paying attention" (Haden, 2020, para. 1-3).

As Haden reported, research shows that (a) cognitive capacity is significantly reduced when your cellphone is nearby and (b) even though we think we're great at multitasking, no one is. The University of Chicago research tested people who had their phones in the meeting room and another group who left their phones in another room. Then they gave them a series of cogni-

tive tests. You know, using your brain like you're supposed to in meetings. What the researchers found was having the phone nearby decreased mental performance. Just having the phone within reach was a distraction to the first group. Really. You have to concentrate on NOT touching the phone.

For all you folks who think you're multitaskers, think again. The University of London found that constant emailing and texting actually reduces your IQ. Trying to flip between emails and text messages instead of concentrating on the business at hand produces the same effect as missing a night's sleep or smoking cannabis. Actually, the researchers said you might perform better if you were stoned.



If you're attending a meeting, leave the phone outside the door. If the meeting isn't important enough to give your complete attention to, then why bother in the first place?

Non-Equestrians Occupying Horse Camping Sites

By Rhonda Marquis, East Cascades Chapter, BCHO

For more years than I care to think of there have been reports of non-equestrians occupying horse camping sites on Public Lands. A horse camping site is any site designed to accommodate saddle and pack stock use on Public Lands (e.g., tie rails, hi-lines, tie-stalls, box stalls, corrals). So, when I started asking questions of our local Forest Service friends, the answer came back that there aren't any provisions that enable them to ask non-equestrians to vacate horse camping sites. Listed under the U.S. Code: "36 CFR 261.16 - Developed recreation sites", it only states: "(l) Bringing in or possessing a saddle, pack, or draft animal except as authorized by posted instructions." This means that horse camping sites are "authorized by posted instructions" and are not explicitly designated for equestrian use only. This limits the Forest Service in how they can manage horse camping site facilities.

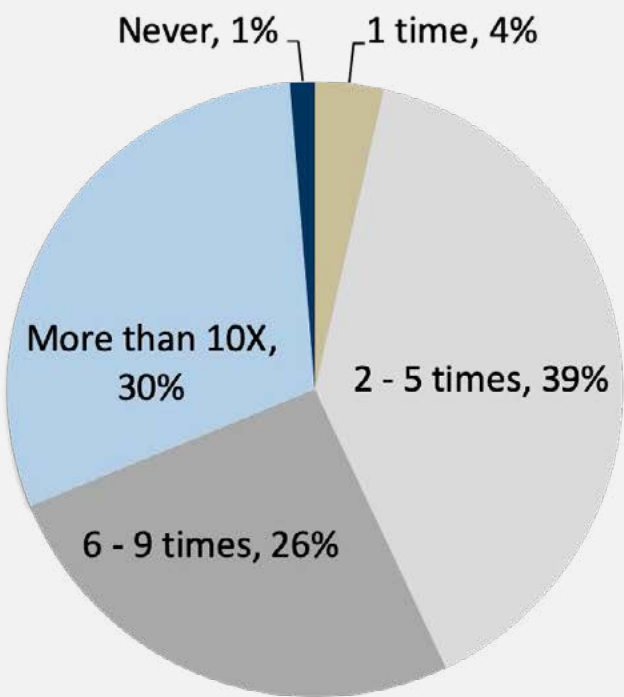
The Forest Service personnel with whom I talked always asked me, "How often does this occur?" This is a good question! I've heard many stories of encounters with non-equestrians occupying horse camping sites, but couldn't find enough of them in writing to help make my case. In conjunction with Back Country Horsemen of America, BCH of Oregon and Oregon Equestrian Trails, data was collected via a survey to help determine the extent to which non-equestrians occupy horse camping sites. Nearly 3,500 people responded. Survey respondents were from 45 states.



Horse Camping Sites Survey

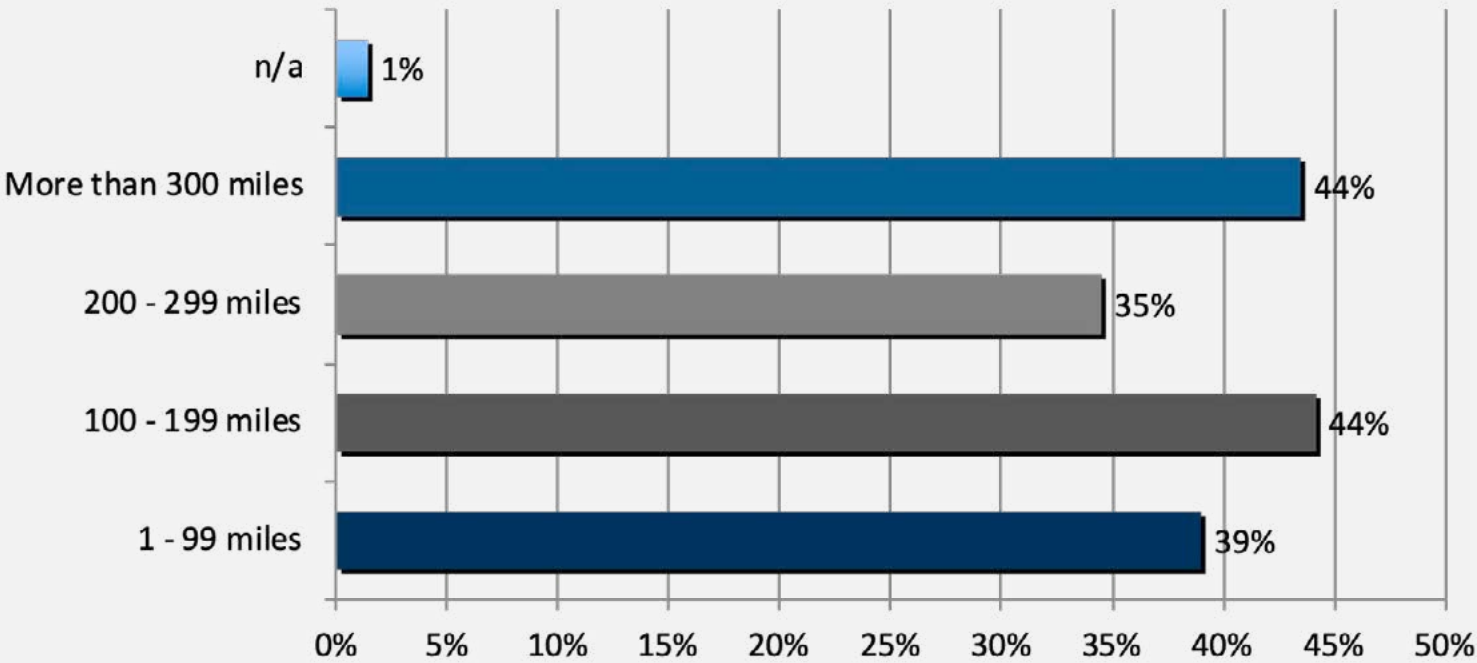
Here are some highlights from the survey conducted from January 14 – February 15, 2020. The results are from 3,474 respondents from across the United States.

How Often People Visit a Horse Camping Site in a Year

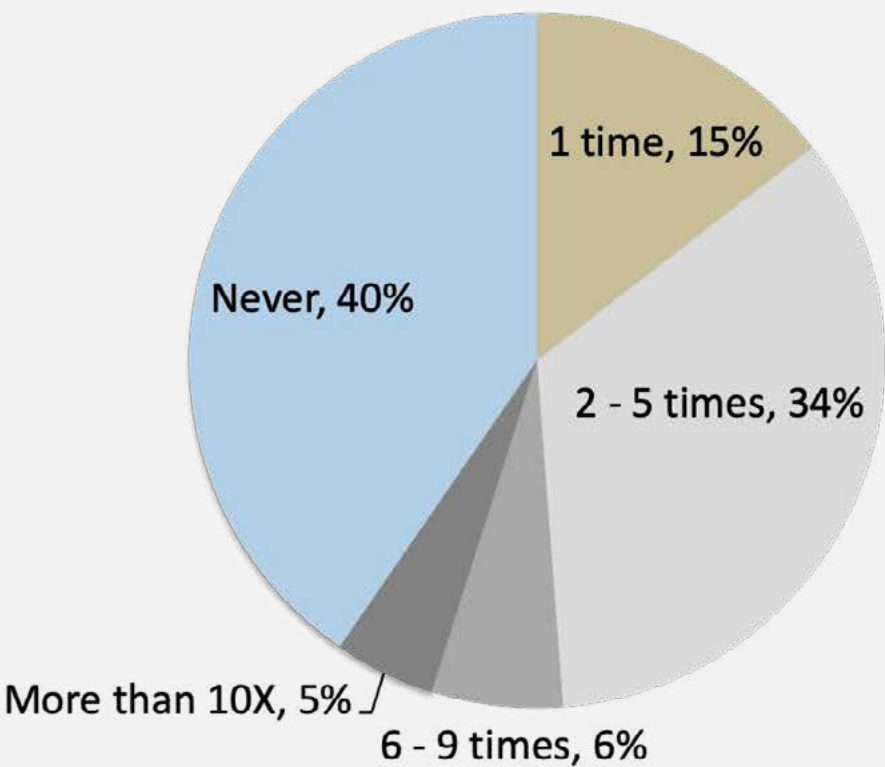


94% of respondents disapproved of non-equestrians occupying horse camping sites.

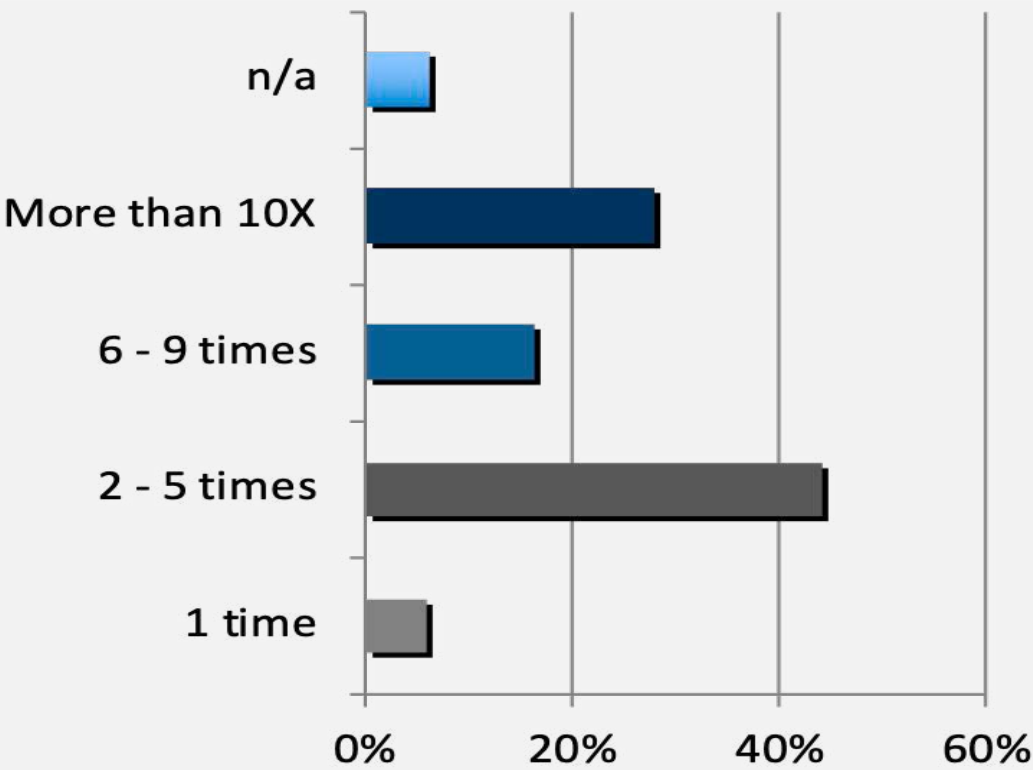
Distances Driven to Horse Camping Sites



How many times were you denied a reservation, only to learn some of the sites were occupied by non-equestrians?



How many times have you observed non-equestrians occupying a horse camping site?



More often than not, respondents observed more than one horse camping site being occupied by non-equestrians (83%).



A Tribute to Pat and Mylon Filkins

By Peggy Whitaker

The 2019 December Dinner/Meeting, of the Kern Sierra Unit of the BCH of California, was special for all attendees. We had the opportunity to honor a couple who have been members of our unit from the day it was formed. Pat and Mylon Filkins have contributed countless hours of trail work and support to our unit. Mylon Filkins is also a familiar name at the state and national level of BCH. But we wanted recognize, as cliché as it may be, “Behind every good man stands a better woman” (or something to that effect). Pat Filkins is that woman – wife, mother, (four children), exceptional cook, trail

companion /worker, friend, and most of all cheerleader/baton twirler. Mylon would often tease Pat, after a long day in the saddle or working on a trail, that her injury from the baton twirling days must be acting up. Pat never missed a beat and never stopped smiling, her sunny disposition always prevailed.

The Kern Sierra Unit was privileged to recognize the dedication, hard work, and support contributed by Pat and Mylon. The unit donated \$1,000.00 to the BCHA Legacy Fund in their honor and presented them with a plaque. Pat’s and Mylons’ adult children surprised their parents by traveling from as far away

as San Francisco to be present for this special occasion. The enthusiasm and love for this couple continued to flow. After the presentation, another \$1,500.00 was pledged to honor them through the Legacy Fund.

As I wrote this article I wanted to share the humility that Mylon exhibited whenever he volunteered or was asked to help out with unit activities. Nothing expresses it better than the following poem he composed after lending a hand with our fall ride at Tejon Ranch.



The Fall Ride

By Mylon Filkins, D.V.M.

The Kern Sierra Fall Ride was on the Tejon Ranch
Peggy’s assignment to me would make some blanch.
She told me exactly what I had to do
Deliver the sanitary units - better make it two!

Backcountry horsemen arrived, driving rigs so dapper
I drove in hauling “The Crapper.”
It’s hard to look cool when passing people you know
In a mobile vet unit with toilets in tow.

You’re recognized less than shirt-tail relation
When you’re seen pulling the comfort station.
It was my grandson Jordan’s first ride, and he was so proud
“But why’s Grandpa’s trailer different?” he wondered out loud.

The riders saddled their horses and climbed up and on
As I sat still hitched to the portable John!
Everyone loved the applesauce and the gingerbread.
No affection was voiced for the mobile head.

There were rants and raves about the bar-b-que meats
No cheers were heard for the oval seats.
Cards were counted in the poker deals
Only full flushes were made - in the potty on wheels.

To the cooks all expressed their thanks
And lonely I drove out pulling full tanks.

Outfitters SUPPLY

A photograph of a man in a blue shirt and cowboy hat riding a brown horse. The horse is carrying a large brown pack saddle. They are on a dirt trail in a hilly, wooded area.

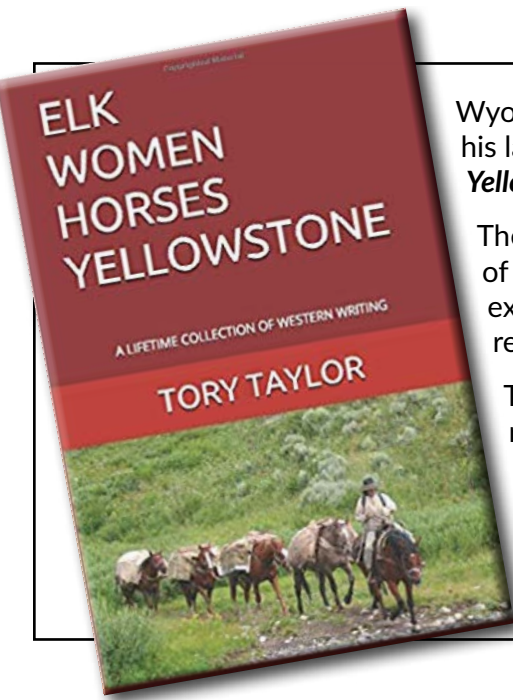
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Russ Barnett, a lifelong horse lover and packer, started Outfitters Supply in 1986 as a small company in Columbia Falls, Montana, looking to provide practical solutions for everyday challenges encountered by trail riders and horse packers.



Wyoming writer Tory Taylor announces his latest book, *Elk, Women, Horses, Yellowstone*.

The book is his lifetime collection of stories, essays, articles, poetry, excerpts from letters, and recollections.

Taylor and his wife, Meredith, recently retired from thirty years owning and operating a Yellowstone back country outfitting business.

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