

Back Country Horsemen of Kansas  
Celebrates Bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail

Submitted by Diana Skinner and Cheryl Thomas, Back Country Horsemen of Kansas



On a September morning in 1821, riders left Missouri heading west to trade with Indians. They found no Indians, but arriving in Santa Fe, New Mexico, found townspeople hungry for supplies. They realized wagons could make this trip bringing more goods. The last trading post before heading west to Santa Fe was in Council Grove, Kansas; thus, the birth of the Santa Fe Trail.

On September 18, 2021, 200 years later, Back Country Horsemen of Kansas welcomed over 50 riders to celebrate this bicentennial. When we first learned of the upcoming anniversary, BCHKS

officers decided a trail ride following the route of the Santa Fe Trail would observe this historic celebration. An 11-mile section of the 117-mile Flint Hills Trail closely follows the Santa Fe Trail and allows the same panoramic vistas that travelers witnessed 200 years ago. Obtaining permission for this special event, we began regular meetings and recon trips. The small community of Bushong was the starting point, and the mayor granted use of the city park and shelter house. Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park (photo insert), the site of the last Kaw Indian Village in Kansas, had plenty of room for parking trailers

and was perfect for trail’s end.

We charged no fee for the ride, and pre-registration filled quickly. Regular posts to pertinent Facebook sites notified hikers and bicyclists of the large number of equestrians expected assuring them that a BCHKS Poop Patrol was on board! We were overwhelmed with volunteers offering assistance with traffic, breakfast and registration, holding horses, shuttling drivers, and cleanup. State park officials provided traffic control, and one joined in as outrider. Outriders were highly visible in bright orange BCHKS vests.

Over 75 people were involved, and state park officials were pleased to see so many equestrians enjoying this new trail. Extensive planning resulted in a beautiful day and a successful event. Many riders expressed appreciation to BCHKS and requested that we sponsor rides on other sections of the Flint Hills Trail in the future!



Back Country Horsemen of America  
PO Box 1182  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912-1182

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PO Box 1182  
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## Interested in Joining?

Contact BCHA or the organization nearest you.

<b>National:</b> BCH of America PO Box 1182 Columbia Falls, MT 59912-1182 www.bcha.org	BCH of Missouri 519 Good Hope Road Marshfield, MO 65706 (417) 425-9969 www.bchmo.org
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# Public Lands Update New MOU with Forest Service

By Randy Rasmussen, M.S., Director, Public Lands & Recreation

BCHA recently entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Forest Service. The final agency signature was affixed on December 1st, 2021, making this five-year MOU active through that date in 2026.

BCHA’s new agreement with the Forest Service (FS) can be found on our website [here](#) or you can use the search function on the website to find “MOU”.

A five-year MOU with the agency is not a new thing; BCHA had maintained similar agreements with the FS for a few decades. Yet there are some new additions worth mentioning. Among the opening clauses in the MOU is the following pulled from its Statement of Mutual Benefit and Interests:

*“The FS manages the largest trail system in the nation and is interested in working collaboratively with partners to provide high quality equestrian opportunities that are economically, ecologically and socially sustainable and support local and regional economies.”*

A primary purpose of the MOU is to formally document the cooperation between BCHA and the FS in order to:

*“implement the (2016) Trails Stewardship Act, National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System and the 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge through planning and implementing mutually beneficial programs, projects, training and other equestrian opportunities at the national, regional and local levels.”*

Yet there are other purposes of the MOU, including this portion of the Statement of Mutual Benefit and Interests that underscores the role that BCHA plays within the broader trails community:

*“Both parties share an interest in encouraging responsible use of National Forest System (NFS) lands, providing high quality equestrian recreational opportunities, leveraging skills and resources to accomplish trail maintenance work, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within the trail program, and fostering the next generation of trail stewards.”*

## What’s New in the Forest Service MOU?

Provisions not included in previous MOUs encourage BCHA and its chapters to:

- Identify cooperative opportunities, such as trail projects, saw training, administrative studies, and educational programs, and to pursue these projects jointly (Section 3(C));
- Identify opportunities to provide training and instruction on Leave No Trace and other outdoor ethic programs related to equestrian and recreation stock use (Sect. 3(E)); and
- Provide input on trail system analysis and planning (Sect. 3(G)).

Provisions that FS officials at the national level (i.e., the Washington, D.C. office) are expected to undertake in support of the MOU include:

- Encouraging local FS officials to collaborate with BCHA staff, representatives, affiliates, and members in the development of mutually beneficial projects and educational activities (Sect. 4(C));
- Facilitating the continued access and use of NFS lands for equestrian and recreational stock use and related activities (Sect. 4(E)); and
- Assisting BCHA in the development of regional volunteer agreements, where such agreements are deemed to be feasible and beneficial by both parties (Sect. 4(I)).

In turn, the MOU lists actions that individual national forests and ranger districts might undertake, including to:

- Consider BCHA’s goals and concerns in trail system analysis and planning and, in particular, in developing and managing FS programs relating to equestrian and recreational stock use (Sect. 4(F));
- Provide information on completing job hazard analyses and conducting safety training for BCHA projects and activities conducted on NFS lands (Sect. 4(G));
- Use the Agency Volunteer Agreement (OF301 A Volunteer Service Agreement—Natural and Cultural Resources) to allow BCHA volunteer participation on projects occurring on National Forest System lands (Sect. 4(H)); and

- Upon request and based on availability of Agency funding and personnel, assist with developing and conducting training, evaluation, and certification of BCHA employees and any volunteers and participants engaged in trail work who will use chain saws or crosscut saws on NFS lands (Sect. 4(J)).



Guy Zoellner,  
Wilderness Trails Manager,  
Flathead National Forest,  
Spotted Bear Ranger District,  
Montana

## How Does the MOU Benefit Your Chapter?

BCHA believes that the MOU will serve to benefit many chapters throughout its five-year lifetime. For example, the clause in Sect. 4(H) regarding the use of the Volunteer Service Agreement means that BCHA chapter members are to be covered under federal government liability and workers’ compensation insurance programs when working on FS-approved projects on national forest lands. This is a significant improvement from the past, when some BCHA chapters were asked by FS personnel to secure and pay for their own, private liability insurance. This should no longer be the case, as was made clear when Congress passed the 2016 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. In it, Section 4(d)(2) states that the agency shall:

*“...ensure that the financial risk from claims or liability associated with volunteers undertaking trail maintenance is shared by all (FS) administrative units.”*

The MOU reflects this requirement. In addition to the clauses cited above that can be leveraged at the local level to benefit BCHA chapters and FS staff alike, the MOU could serve as a starting point for exploring a great number of possibilities. Thus, the MOU should be viewed as an opportunity to contact local forest or ranger district personnel to arrange a meeting in order to discuss the MOU, its provisions and the range of joint efforts and work projects your chapter might undertake. Even for BCHA chapters that meet regularly with FS officials, the MOU represents an opportunity to refresh these conversations and explore new options.

To be clear, the FS does not require that an MOU like this to remain in force in order for your chapter to conduct or continue volunteer service projects on national forests. Yet some BCHA chapters do not currently enjoy close working relations with the agency and could benefit by discussing the possibilities provided in the MOU. In such cases, BCHA recommends that your chapter find ways to make this MOU work for you, in order to advance your interests alongside those of FS personnel in national forests important to you. You can share the MOU with local forest staff as proof positive that BCHA, and its ethic of volunteer service, continues to carry the “stamp of approval” of the Forest Service Chief’s office.

Cautionary note: Unlike a challenge cost-share agreement, an MOU of this nature does not commit the Forest Service to expend any amount of funding we think necessary to implement its provisions or to support our volunteer crews on the ground. It serves primarily as a guide in your discussions with local agency officials, many of which might have either real or perceived budgetary constraints. Yet, the MOU could help to change perceptions or to open doors within the agency that have previously been closed. Importantly, the MOU cannot be viewed as a tool to force agency staff to the table when they otherwise are reluctant to partner with BCHA. It’s always been the passion, diplomacy and commitment of BCHA volunteers that have served as the foundation for our strong partnership with the agency over time.

Final note: BCHA also maintains similar national agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (expires March 2029) and National Park Service (at press time was on the cusp of being renewed). Both agreements encourage cooperation between the agencies and local chapters. BCHA encourages your chapter to take advantage of the opportunities and possibilities these agreements might offer. They represent another example of how BCHA collectively works to keep trails open for all.





# View from the Chairman’s Saddle

By Sherry Copeland, BCHA National Chairman

## What is BCHA doing for You?

There is a lot going on and being accomplished within BCHA, but one thing is so big it is the sole focus of my report to you this time. So, here goes...

I am so excited to share BCHA has made a huge step forward in the challenge to “Harness Our Grass Roots!”

With the implementation of new Communication and Advocacy Software, we are on the way to leveraging the entire BCHA membership to impact the issues to “Keep Trails Open for All.”

## How did we do it?

The process started in April 2019 when the National Board of Directors adopted the Strategic Business Plan that included the “*Strategic Goal: BCHA’s member organizations will have access to needed information and tailored services to increase capacity to serve local and regional trails.*”

And, the “*Objectives: Accurate and timely information and tools for members’ organizations and Build capacity with states and local chapters.*”

In 2020, my predecessor, Chairman Darrell Wallace, highlighted this goal as a priority, recognized the challenges of providing member communication quickly and efficiently, and initiated the beginning of a search for how best to facilitate direct member communication and the advocacy platform.

The next steps involved Executive Committee members, Committee Chairs, Contractors, Staff and others exploring many, many, many options: Attending numerous demonstrations of software packages, researching platforms used by other organizations, comparing prices, and even applying for and receiving grant funds.

All the research and information allowed a preliminary software budget be included in the Annual BCHA Budget this past April. The National Board of Directors unanimously passed the Budget, and it was time to proceed to details.

In June, as the new BCHA Chairman, I appointed a Software Evaluation Task Force: Mark Himmel (Vice Chairman), Tif Rodriguez (Treasurer), Craig Ferdig (Arizona), Victor Mathis (Tennessee), Nancy Pollman (Montana) and Craig Allen (Education Chair), that was specifically challenged to:

*Evaluate software platforms/packages to facilitate processes including, but not limited to:*

- Accurate and effective maintenance of membership data*
- Efficient and timely membership communication and engagement*
- Ease and quick outreach for advocacy issues*
- User friendly website usage and information accessibility*

With the Goal to:

*Provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee for efficient and economical processes and software implementations to facilitate sustainable communication, engagement, data management, and information access platform and processes.*

The Task Force worked diligently to identify the best options to satisfy the unique processes and platforms needed and required by BCHA, and after some unexpected twists and turns, discussions and debates, made the recommendation that **Constant Contact** software be used for Communication and Member Data, and **Ujoin** software be utilized for the Advocacy platform.

And, even more good news...the costs came in at less than half of the budget!

A huge Thank You to the members of the task force for tackling this process and producing excellent results.

## Where are we now?

- The implementation processes are underway:
- The member data information needed has been reduced.
- A Webinar for the State Member Data Coordinators (and National Directors) was held to introduce the simplified format.
- Rosters are being submitted and uploaded to the member data base.
- Preliminary templates are being developed for advocacy issues.

## What will this look like to the membership?

When an advocacy issue needs action, members will receive an email with text developed to support communication directed to legislators, etc. Individually, you can add personalization if you want, and then simply hit SEND to automatically reach your legislator, with an unified, branded message.

Imagine the impact of +/- 12,000 comments on an issue – now that’s BCHA Grassroots!

## What do You need to do?

Make sure you have a valid email address on record with your State Member Data Coordinator.

- Open and read BCHA emails.
- And, finally, hit SEND when appropriate.

That’s it - Quick, Easy and Simple!

While it has been a lengthy process, involving many within BCHA, it highlights the strength and determination of our organization and how we continue to “**Harness our Grassroots**” to “**Keep Trails Open for All!**”

See y’all on the trail,  
*Sherry*

# 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 ensure 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](mailto:Partners@bcha.org).

## CLIP AND SAVE!



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Updated 06/09/2021

Please contact the appropriate state representative first, thank you.

### Membership:

1. Contact State Membership Coordinator
2. Not receiving your BCHA newsletter? Contact *Dana Chambers*, BCHA Membership Data Coordinator
  - [memberdata@bcha.org](mailto:memberdata@bcha.org) or call 206-498-6952
3. Have an address change or going south for the winter?
  - Go to [BCHA.org](http://BCHA.org) and click on the ‘Membership’ tab.
  - At the bottom of the page are the forms you can fill out to take care of that.

### Public Lands/Advocacy:

1. Contact your State Public Lands Officer
2. *Randy Rasmussen*, BCHA Director, Public Lands & Recreation
  - [WildernessAdvisor@bcha.org](mailto:WildernessAdvisor@bcha.org)

### Financial:

1. Contact State Treasurer
2. *Latifa Rodriguez*, BCHA Treasurer
  - [treasurer@bcha.org](mailto:treasurer@bcha.org)

### Administrative: (or if you are not sure who to contact)

1. *Michelle Wade*, Executive Administrator
  - [michellewade@bcha.org](mailto:michellewade@bcha.org) or call 360-443-6996

### New Mailing Address:

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Steve McClintock, Legacy Fund - Latifia Rodriguez, Fundraising Chair  
“THE TRUE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO PLANT TREES,  
UNDER WHOSE SHADE, YOU NEVER EXPECT TO SIT”  
Nelson Henderson

The BCHA Legacy Fund is all about the future and  
“Keeping Trails Open For Future Generations”

WHY CONSIDER BECOMING A DONOR TO OUR NEW LEGACY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

We’ve invested \$125,000 in our first three years. The goal of our new Campaign is to raise \$35,000. When we reach that goal in donations and pledges, \$15,000 in Challenge Funds will be triggered. All donations are welcome. You do not have to be a member to support our Legacy Fund.

Why? As the principal grows through donations, bequests and our investments -- EARNED INCOME from interest and dividends -- will grow. Earned income will provide reliable financial support for BCHA’s projects and programs way into the future — financial support for 10, 20, 30 years and beyond. That’s a forward thinking plan to ensure our financial security. HELP US PLANT SOME TREES.



REASONS FOLKS HAVE GIVEN, AND CONTINUE TO GIVE, TO THE LEGACY FUND

- ★ I want to have a personal legacy and making a donation “in memory of” and/or “in honor of” my spouse or an important person in my life is a very special thing to do.
- ★ Riding horses and trails has been a big part of my life, I want my kids and grandkids to enjoy the same.
- ★ BCHA represents a lot of my personal and deeply held values.
- ★ Over time, I am concerned public lands will not remain in public hands.
- ★ I foresee a huge need — now and in the future — to increase our Advocacy efforts and our strong, dedicated national voice.
- ★ We need to remain an active, respected, positive leader for our interests with land managers, lawmakers and public officials — “tip of the spear.”
- ★ If BCHA doesn’t keep vigilant for horse access and open trails, who will?
- ★ I can’t leave it to my horse!

GOAL: \$35,000



BCHA believes we must plan for our financial future and our Legacy Campaign is off to a great start. We’ve already surpassed \$10,000 of our \$35,000 goal. Please help us reach our goal. We appreciate your consideration of a donation. You might also consider leaving a bequest in your will. BCHA is a 501(c)(3), donations are tax deductible; consult your tax advisor. Contact us with inquiries -- all are confidential -- at fundraising@bcha.org or call 206-622-8425. Mail donations to: BCHA, Attn: Legacy Fund, P.O.Box 1182, Columbia Falls, MT 59912-1182.

GUARDIANS OF THE TRAILS

The guardians are those who have named the Legacy Fund in their will and shared with us.

Please consider a bequest to support the future financial security of BCHA.



Contact us at fundraising@bcha.org  
All inquiries are private and confidential

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# A New Trail Tool

By Greg Schatz, Youth Chair, Back Country Horsemen of the FLahtead, Montana

All too often I hear old people saying that young people never get off of their phones. Having grown up during the era of party lines and phones being attached to the wall, sometimes it's hard to understand the fascination with cell phones. One day I asked my young friends what all they have on their phones and it was a real eyeopener for me.

Of course, there is the standard picture taking. I asked a young friend to take some pictures at a packing clinic with my phone. I was expecting six or eight pictures. I guess I should have said something because by the time she was done she had taken nearly a hundred pictures and they were really good.

It is just a difference of perspective really. I remember the days when you had to buy film and pay for each print; now it costs nothing.

I have had young people take pictures of me while I'm mantying or

loading stock. They want to make sure they can recall how to do it when they get home.

The next time you have your phone out, check out "AllTrails." It is an app with over 200,000 trails mapped. There is everything from trails in city parks to trails in the most rugged backcountry. Now your comment is going to be, "Where I ride there isn't any cell service." You're right, that's why my young friends will download the maps onto their phone and they're set. Another thing they'll do is use AllTrails for research and put notes on their paper maps.

I am a map and compass user and probably always will be. Funny thing, when we get to a trail intersection and need to figure out which way to go, my young friends have their phones out and have decided which direction to go, while I'm still trying to get my map unfolded.



Single line telephone at Danaher Meadow, Bob Marshall Wilderness, Montana. Did you know that the longest operating single line phone system in the U.S. is along a forty-mile section of the South Fork of the Flathead River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness? The phone system was started in about 1920 and at one time there were 200 stations tied together throughout the backcountry of Northwest Montana.

# Thank you BCHA Grants

By John Cerrecart, Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen, Montana

Just a note to say thank you, BCHA, for your generous support of our annual youth packing class. As planned, Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen (WHPBCH) held a free packing clinic for the Plains-Thompson Falls Ranger District (Plains/TFalls RD) Youth Conservation Corp (YCC), the Plains/TFalls RD seasonal trail crew, and the Superior Ranger District Youth Conservation Corp.

The thirteen participants learned about the different types of saddles, how to halter and groom stock, sad-

dling with a decker, building a manty load, loading a manty on stock and putting away the decker. Weeks later, WHPBCH delivered decking for a pedestrian bridge that the YCCs were constructing. With the knowledge and confidence gained from the packing class the kiddos jumped right in to help with unloading the stock.

Again, thank you so much for your support of our youth packing clinic. We really appreciate your support and all you do nationally to carry on our heritage of stock use on public lands.



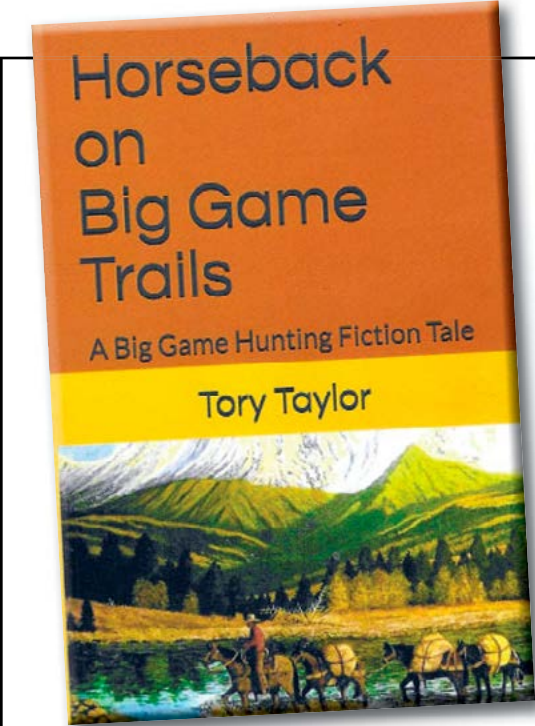


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## Retired Wyoming outfitter Tory Taylor announces his latest book *Horseback on Big Game Trails*

The main content is fiction based upon actual hunts and events with characters who were real persons. The story follows the autumn adventures of a wilderness outfitter, his staff, hunters, horses, and big game.

Born and raised at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, Taylor has always lived in view of the high peaks he calls home. People often comment that reading Taylor's books is like sharing a campfire with him - you can almost smell the smoke, hear the horses' bells, and feel the cool mountain air.

Available on Amazon.com, ISBN 9798536867556. Illustrated. 123 pages.  
Book cover painting by Ken Moreland, Merriman, NB.





Spring Sponsorship Deadline:  
March 5th, 2022

## 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 12,500 members nationwide who belong to 212 active chapters/units and affiliates in 32 states. Our mailing list includes members, public land agency personnel (Forest Service, BLM, National Parks, state land agencies), elected officials, advertisers, and other trail and horse organizations. Visit [www.bcha.org](http://www.bcha.org) for more information on BCHA.

### Display Sponsorship Rates

Newsletter Ad Size . Price per Single Issue

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## MLU Shares Grant Writing Tips

By Lucy Badenhoop, Mother Lode Unit, Back Country Horsemen of California

For the first time ever, the 2021 Rendezvous presented a grant writing class sponsored by the Mother Lode Unit. MLU started applying for grants in 2015 and has been awarded nine grants through 2020 totaling \$92,660. The grants supported seven projects with a total value of \$409,858. See table below.

These funds paid for the purchase of equipment and supplies or mileage reimbursement for the volunteers (especially sawyers and packers who haul

stock). Equipment purchases include banners, special gravel panniers, chain saws, grip hoist, a display booth for Leave No Trace and hand tools for a boy scout troop to perform trail maintenance. Supplies ranged from gravel/asphalt, steel for highline posts, signage and Leave No Trace card handouts.

MLU wants all units to know that writing grant applications is not difficult and can be a one-person effort or a group effort. It does require meticulous adherence to grantor directions,

detailed record keeping (costs, hours and in-kind donations), realistic scheduling, and persistence in identifying lessons learned when you fail.

MLU is willing to share their lessons learned with other BCHC units. For a copy of the class handout “GRANT WRITING – Basics for Beginners” contact Lucy Badenhoop at [badenhoop@comcast.net](mailto:badenhoop@comcast.net). Sample documents are included.

YEAR	GRANTOR	AMOUNT	PAID FOR	PROJ. VALUE
2015	none			
2016	NWSA*	9,738	Packer Equip & Miles	24,344
	RAC*	31,000	Gravel - Caples	105,402
	STEP*	8,225	Gravel - Caples	same
2017	none			
2018	Bass Pro Shop	14,736	Asphalt & Gravel - XP	64,057
	NWSA	7,783	Gravel - XP	same
	NWSA	6,199	Sawyer Equip & Miles	55,832
	NWSA	7,829	Packer Equip & Miles	46,916
2019	none			
2020	NWSA	4,595	Packer Miles	24,591
	NWSA	10,384	Packer Miles	88,716
	TOTALS	\$92,660		\$409,858

\* NWSA = National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

\* RAC = Resource Advisory Council (federal agency)

\* STEP = Stewards for Trails, Education & Partnership grants, funded jointly by the Tractor Supply Company and the American Quarter Horse Assn.

## Desolation Wilderness Gets Help from MLU

Text by Lucy Badenhoop, Mother Lode Unit, Back Country Horsemen of California

Pictures by Tahoe Rim Trail Association

Every year, MLU gets a request for pack support from the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) to support trail crews working in Desolation Wilderness near Lake Tahoe on two major trails. Usually, MLU receives four or five trip requests annually, but the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 and the fires in 2021 reduced that to two each year.

The Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) share trail tread near the top of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range as the trails pass through multiple forests near Lake Tahoe. The Tahoe Basin Management Unit integrates the management efforts of the various forest managers. The TRT and PCT associations coordinate their volunteer maintenance crews and request special assistance from other trail support groups in the area, like BCHC Mother Lode Unit (MLU).

The 2021 request focused on a 1.5 mile section of trail between Echo Lake and Phipps Creek. This portion of the two trails is about 6,400 to 8,100 feet in elevation and is popular, so it gets heavy usage. The trail crew reconstructed trail tread using native stone for a long-lasting and effective solution to the deleterious effects of high use and erosion on the trail. They improved or replaced water bars and drainages, plus built several more check steps.

The MLU packer contribution was to haul the crew’s heavy gear and supplies to their campsite, one trip in July and one in August. This allowed the trail crews more time and energy to actually work on the trail tread. When the planned work was done, the trail crews hiked out with their much lighter backpack loads of just personal gear.

Packer travel expenses were partially mitigated by a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.





2020 Volunteer Hours Totals

By John Chepulis, Volunteer Hours Chair, Beartooth Back Country Horsemen, Montana

Our Mission Statement states: “To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.”

One of the ways we do this is volunteering. Since 1995 BCHA members have completed 64,481,238 hours of volunteer time for a total donated dollar value of \$170,809,129. Last year alone we had 196,480 hours with a value of \$8,458,153. These totals give Randy Rasmussen and other BCHA representatives leverage when engaging with the various agencies and other user groups in policy discussions about trail access and maintenance.

Now as the year is ending these numbers need to be compiled and sent to your State Volunteer Hours Coordinator. He or she will compile these numbers and send them to the Volunteer Hours Committee by January 15. The BCHA Volunteer Hours Committee will report the total hours at the BCHA National Board meeting.

Also at the BCHA National Board meeting, a BCHA chapter will be



awarded the prestigious “Double Diamond Award” for an exceptional volunteer project and or educational program completed during the previous year.

The applications for this award need to be submitted to the Volunteer Hours Committee by March 20.

If you have any questions on either

the new “Volunteer Hours Form” or the “Double Diamond Award” please contact me at [volunteer@bcha.org](mailto:volunteer@bcha.org).

Happy Holidays!

John

Donated hours 2020:

196,480

Donated dollar value 2020:

\$8,458,153

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## Reminder...get your BCHA Double Diamond Award applications sent in

By John Chepulis, Volunteer Hours Chair; Beartooth Back Country Horsemen, Montana

Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) will accept applications from any chapter/unit for a volunteer project or educational program that has been accomplished during the calendar year (Jan.1-Dec.31) immediately preceding the April National Board of Directors Meeting.

Find all the details [here](#).

Applications must be received by March 20, 2022, either by email to: [volunteer@bcha.org](mailto:volunteer@bcha.org) or USPS to: John Chepulis, 2 Dovetail Lane, Columbus MT, 59019.



# Kenai Peninsula Back Country Horsemen of Alaska

Submitted by Mary Green, Kenai Peninsula Back Country Horsemen of Alaska

Horse support became the theme of our ongoing trail project on Hansen Horse Trail in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. With volunteers from Kenai Peninsula Back Country Horsemen of Alaska (KPBCHA) led by Marina Bosick, the KPBCHA packed in the Student Conservation Association Fox-

trot trail crew to the Funny River Camp (10 miles) three times throughout the season, with a minimum of three horses each time they headed out on the trail. THE KPBCH group played a major part in the progress gained on Hansen Horse Trail.



Left to right:  
Kerry Nelson and Carolann Barum pose for a shot will packing in food and supplies on Hansen Horse Trail.  
Marina Bosick heads up the Hansen Horse Trail.  
Marina Bosick, Kerry Nelson and Carolann Barum start their first pack in for SCA Foxtrot in late June. The ladies packed in 10 miles to Funny River Camp and spent the night and headed back out to town the next morning. Their horse support and efforts were very critical with the progress of the trail work throughout the season.

# Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen and Ozark Society

By Nancy Deisch, Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen, Arkansas  
Photos by Guy Giaimo-McClung

When the call goes out for work to be done on a horse trail, the Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen are on it! This call was for the trail leaving from the 65 bridge trailhead/parking lot going down river past Gilbert. While there was the perpetual job of clipping, lopping, sawing and dragging to be done, there was a rather large obstacle near the old railroad trestles, and that became the object of the day.

Another priority for the day was a film to be made by Guy Giaimo-McClung, our guest rider and videographer from the Ozark Society. The Society has been working on a documentary for the 50th anniversary of Buffalo National River Park in 2022. And while they have already filmed the hikers, kayakers, and canoeists, everyone knows a story of the Buffalo would not be complete without horses! So we put Guy on a trusty steed (who happens to really love water), and he filmed and worked—turns out, Guy’s pretty handy with a saw AND a camera.

The sizable downed-tree mess was dispatched, lunch on the gravel bar

enjoyed, (with extra entertainment of Guy’s horse rolling in the river while he was on him—he had been warned it could happen!), and pictures and videos taken, all on the hottest day of the year, so far. The horses did get to cool off in the river, but it was too fast and deep to cross safely, so wading was in order and appreciated. Did I say it was hot?

The documentary will be aired on local PBS stations. For more information on possible viewing go to [ozark-society.net](http://ozark-society.net) . It will be out for viewing sometime in 2022 to coincide with the Park’s anniversary.

Buffalo River BCHA members participating were Jeff and Donna Blake, Jacci and Max Ryan, Ted Spears (trail boss), Elaine Appel, Evelyn Mills, Pam Floyd, Jacque Alexander, and Nancy Deisch. Ron Rauch represented the Lower Buffalo BCHA chapter.

If you’d like to help KEEP OUR TRAILS OPEN, find us at Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen of America on Facebook or visit [arkansasbch.org](http://arkansasbch.org).



Top: Buffalo River BCH’ers doing what they do best  
Bottom: Lunch in the shade with Pam Floyd, Ted Spears, Nancy Deisch, Jacci Perry-Ryan, Jacque Alexander, Evelyn Mills, and Ron Rough