

# Back Country Horsemen of America

Volume 33, Issue 2

[www.bcha.org](http://www.bcha.org)

Spring 2022

## Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead puts on packing clinic

*Submitted by Greg Schatz, photos by Dawn Brennan, Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead, Montana*



Our packing clinic was a great start to our 2022 season. Many new faces in the crowd received hands on opportunities to learn and practice their packing skills.

Folks are definitely ready to get back out in the world and enjoy their fellow horsemen. Guy Zoellner, Wilderness Trails Manager for the Spotted Bear Ranger District, led the instruction with his string of mules. Robin Connell of the Northern Region Pack Train and Abbey Hutton assisted with the training.

Combining the packing clinic with our annual tack sale was a big hit and drew in a large crowd. Our

chapter gained eight new and very enthusiastic members.

Our thanks to Spotted Bear Ranger District for sharing their time, knowledge and stock, and to Bad Rock Arena for their hospitality.

Guy Zoellner teaches packing while Keni Hopkins signs up new members.



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## View from the Chairman's Saddle

By Sherry Copeland, BCHA National Chairman

### ATTENTION: Back Country Horsemen Members

#### Kansas City, Here WE Come!

BCHA National Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Kansas City, MO April 10-13 and I am so excited to welcome the National Directors and BCH Members to my home state of Missouri!

Since this will be the first in-person meeting of the Directors in 3 years, I think it is important to emphasize the importance of this event and highlight the responsibilities involved for YOU, the Members, the BCH State Organizations and the National Directors.

The "CONSTITUTION OF THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA" defines the responsibilities, content, process, and function of the National Board Directors and the Annual National Board of Directors Meeting. However, YOU may have some questions regarding those and to help with the answers, I would like to share excerpts from the Constitution with YOU – so, here WE go:

#### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

##### ARTICLE IV Powers

*Section 1. The authority of BCHA shall be in its assembled National Directors. The NBD shall execute this authority, and shall follow the direction given them by the member states and*

*shall be responsible to them.*

*Section 2. The NBD shall have the power to take any action consistent with the law or the BCHA constitution or duly enacted resolution of the NBD.*

*Section 3. The NBD shall be charged with the duties of distributing pertinent information, providing a clearing house for actions and ideas, and representing the state organizations on a national scale.*

*Section 4. Each state organization shall have equal representation. The National Directors shall decide policy at the NBD meeting.*

#### What is the annual National Board of Directors meeting?

##### ARTICLE V Annual NBD Meeting

*Section 1. The annual NBD meeting of BCHA shall be held at such time and place as it established by the National Directors.*

*Section 2. Any member in good standing of any member state or affiliate organization may attend any NBD meeting.*

*Section 3. The NBD shall have the authority to establish the agenda for the NBD meeting. Any state-approved agenda item shall be included.*

*Section 4. Each National Director must be a member in good standing of a member state organization and show evidence of authorization as a voting Director by said organization.*

*Section 5. Each National Director may represent only one member state organization.*

*Section 6. Directors to the NBD meeting shall consist of two Directors from each member state organization. Each state organization shall provide the chair with a list of those Directors prior to the meeting. All Directors shall be entitled to vote on all questions properly brought before the annual NBD meeting.*

*Section 7. Fifty percent of all National Directors shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of Directors in*

*attendance can conduct business.*

*Section 8. The Chairman of the NBD shall preside over business affairs of all NBD meetings.*

*Section 9. Member state and affiliate organizations may be assessed BCHA membership dues for the following year as determined and approved at the NBD meeting.*

#### What are the responsibilities of the National Board of Directors?

##### ARTICLE VII Officers and Operation of NBD

##### Section 2. Duties:

*e. The National Directors shall represent their state organizations and be responsible to them. They shall serve as a liaison between their state organization and the NBD and shall inform both on actions taken or requests made. They shall provide state input to the NBD and provide information from the NBD to their state organization.*

*Section 3. Each National Director shall have one (1) vote with the exception that the Chairman will vote only in case of a tie.*

*Section 5. The NBD shall meet at least once a year*

*Section 6. Only members of the NBD shall have the right to voice and vote.*

So, there YOU have it - the "CONSTITUTION OF THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA" provides the responsibilities and guidelines for National Board of Directors and the Annual NBD Meeting, but what about YOUR responsibility as Members? First, support YOUR State Organization sending YOUR National Directors to the National Board Meeting to represent YOU. And, second, engage YOUR National Directors - ask questions, make suggestions, provide input and prepare YOUR National Directors to take on the challenges to "Keep Trails Open For All!"

Hope to see y'all in Kansas City,

Sherry



# Public Lands Update

## The Takeover of Horse Camps by Non-Equestrians

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

With increasing frequency BCHA has heard from its members about how plans for a multi-day outing were scuttled once they arrived at a horse camp on public lands, only to find that some or all of the campsites were taken by parties without pack or saddle stock. In other words, parties without stock taking over equestrian campgrounds. It's become a familiar scene in recent years, as families escaping to the great outdoors fill regular campsites to capacity and spill over into sites intended for equestrian use.

BCHA began to address this issue with the U.S. Forest Service two years ago. Read on to hear about our progress to date. Yet, we need help from BCHA members to document the extent of the problem and perhaps to make the case for more permanent, lasting solutions. We need your eyes and ears this season as you visit your favorite equestrian campgrounds (see links provided below to access BCHA's Horse Campsite Incident Reporting Form).

### Consequences of Horse Camps Occupied by Others

BCHA continues to hear from members about the problem of horse camps filled with campers that don't come with stock. Upon arrival at such a scene, our options are few and include:

- Moving on to another, more distant, developed equestrian campsite;
- Moving on in search of an informal pullout or dispersed campsite lacking electric and water hook-ups; or
- Returning home, hopes dashed for a weekend of riding while camping under the stars.

Even with an equestrian campsite reserved and secured, some equestri-

ans nonetheless find themselves surrounded by parties without stock in adjacent campsites who pose all sorts of safety conflicts for themselves, their children, us and our animals. Think bicycle or ATV races around the camp loop, the temptation for unsupervised "petting zoos," or an account by one BCHA member that is vividly etched into my mind—adjacent campers playing volleyball over a highline strewn next to your wide-eyed animals.

Such scenarios are hard to swallow, given that designated horse campsites are few and far between. Plus, we can't legally camp in regular developed campsites. For example, Forest Service policy for developed campgrounds prohibits parties from "Bringing in or possessing a saddle, pack or draft animal except as authorized by posted instructions" (Code of Federal Regulations, Section 36, subsection 261.16(l)). Yet, there is no corresponding regulation that prevents parties without stock from occupying developed equestrian campsites.

### Initial Focus: National Forests

Based on a nationwide on-line survey conducted by BCH Oregon volunteer Rhonda Marquis, it was clear that a large percentage of reports about the horse camping problem occurred on U.S. national forests and grasslands. Granted, many reports about the horse camping problem occurred on county, state and other federal public lands. But we decided to launch an exploration for solutions with BCHA's most significant national partner, the U.S. Forest Service.

We realize that potential solutions to the horse camp vacancy problem could take different forms with other agencies. By focusing our current effort on the Forest Service, we expect

to create a model that might be replicated—by BCHA or others—to compel similar action that might be taken at the state or local level.

### BCHA Outreach to Partners

Early on, BCHA's previous Chairman, Darrell Wallace, brought this issue to the attention of long-time Forest Service ally, Brenda Yankoviak, the agency's national trails program manager. Brenda was quick to understand the problem and pulled into the conversation her colleague Surina Singh, whose duties include oversight of U.S. Forest Service developed recreational facilities, including campgrounds.

Brenda and Surina pulled in an assistant and, together, began to research a suite of potential solutions that would be rolled into a memo that would be shared to educate an audience that includes agency field staff, campground hosts and concessionaires about potential solutions to address the occupancy of horse camps by non-equestrians.

BCHA then called upon the



Blackwell Horse Camp, Hoosier BCH.

## Public Lands Update continued

American Horse Council (AHC) to convene a working group of national equine organizations in order to explore and promote solutions to the horse camping problem. We learned that concern about the issue was shared by our partners Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, the American Endurance Ride Conference and others. AHC assembled a Horse Camp Working Group that provided analysis and comment on a draft of the Forest Service memo.

The draft memo addressed a number of potential solutions, including those that apply to how and when campsites might be reserved on-line and solutions that support the on-site management of horse campgrounds, including the need for better signage. Yet none of the potential solutions currently are in the form of directives (i.e., formal agency policy). It is thought, and BCHA agrees, that the memo represents an important first step in raising awareness of the importance and ramifications of this issue among the memo's intended audience.

## Forest Service "Best Practices" Memo Issued

The Forest Service included many of our Working Group's comments into the memo and, in February 2022, the memo was circulated to all national forests and national grasslands. It is titled "[Recommended Best Practices for Managing Stock Use Sites at Developed Campgrounds](#)."

BCHA encourages its chapters and volunteers to review this memo and, importantly, to use it as a reason to schedule a meeting with personnel at your local national forest to assist you in achieving the following objectives:

- Ensure the memo was received by the local Forest Service office;
- Discuss with forest staff the magnitude of the problem locally and the memo's relevancy and implications for horse camps important to you; and
- Come to agreement on what adjustments in the management of equestrian campsites within Forest Service jurisdiction might be implemented in order to com-

municate to the public the need to prioritize equestrian campsites for use by parties with stock.

## Horse Camp Incident Report Form

BCHA's website includes an [update](#) about the Forest Service memo and [links](#) to BCHA's new Horse Camp Incident Report Form. We hope that BCHA members will use the form to capture and record incidents where parties without stock are occupying Forest Service equestrian campsites. By collecting your accounts of incidents in the field, BCHA might better document the magnitude and geographic extent of the problem should we need to promote solutions to the horse camping issue beyond those currently addressed in the agency's memo.

In other words, we need to hear your stories. We are relying on BCHA's members—our eyes and ears in the field—to help collect data that would be necessary if we were to make a case for additional and more permanent solutions. We hope our membership will embrace this task.


## 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.



Photo by Becki Kruger, BCH Missouri.

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We knocked it out of the park. We had over 160 members donate to this campaign. Our goal of \$35,000 in donations and pledges has been reached, and the challenge funds of \$15,000 have been triggered. Total invested with our investment firm for the Legacy Fund as of February 2022 is \$150,000; we’ve raised \$175,000 total to date!

Our goal of \$500,000 is reachable! BCHA will then have an additional avenue of reliable financial support for the work it does locally, regionally and nationally. This type of financial support has the ability to be sustainable for 10, 20, 30 years and beyond — in perpetuity.

BCHA is taking charge of its future — forward thinking and planning to ensure we continue our most important work into the future: “Keeping Trails Open for Future Generations,” maintaining access to public trails, and keeping public lands in public hands.

Did you know BCHA has a Platinum rating by GuideStar? — its highest rating. GuideStar is the most widely adopted symbol of transparency in the U.S. non-profit sector.

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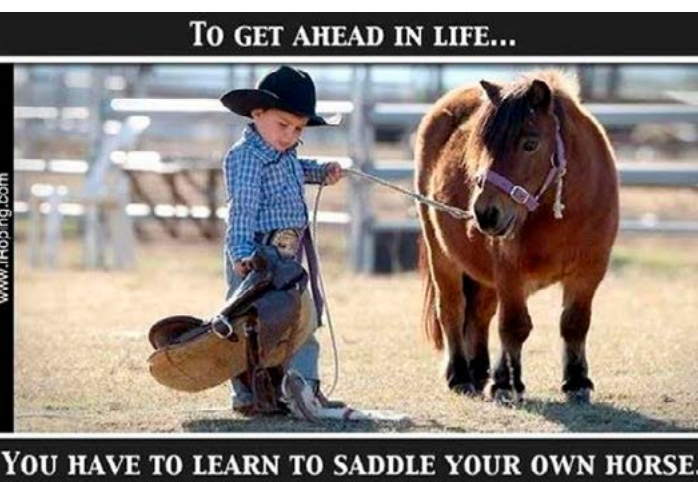
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- Equine Trail Sports
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- North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)
- North Carolina Horse Council
- Old Dominion Endurance Rides Inc.
- Pennsylvania Equine Council
- Walkers & Talkers Saddle Club

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).

# Shasta Trinity Unit of BCHC Fish Planting

By Larry Shuman, Work Project Coordinator, Shasta Trinity Unit of BCH California

The Shasta Trinity Unit for years planted fingerling trout in the lakes located in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. We lost those lakes about seven years ago to endangered frogs; and until more studies are completed by the California Fish and Wildlife (F&W) planting will not be resumed. The studies, when completed, will hopefully bring back some of the lakes we historically planted with trout.



In 2019 we were approached by F&W to see if we would like to plant trout in the Caribou Wilderness Lakes, seven lakes total. Of course, we said yes. Well, it did not go as planned. We approached the plant the same way we planted trout in the Trinity Alps. We lost a good percentage of fish because the lakes are warmer and not high alpine as in the Alps. That did not deter us or F&W. We discussed changes and in 2020 we planted the same seven lakes and lost less than .5% of the fish distributed in the lakes. Our changes worked.

With this success F&W asked

if we could handle 18 lakes in the Caribou Wilderness. Again, we said yes. This upped the amount of planning and logistics significantly. We planned for three days of planting over two weeks. We successfully planted 37,900+ fingerling trout in 18 lakes with very little loss. In some lakes we lost only one or two out of a 1,000 or more planted. To accomplish this required 37 pack stock days with seven packers and 10 to 12 others helping with the logistics. But let me tell you we had a lot of fun. It was successful, no incidents, and great food and fellowship.

In 2022 F&W at our request has added three more Lakes in Thousand Lakes Wilderness to the list. This and the fact that the wildfires went through most of the Caribou Wilderness will add more work to accomplish a successful plant in 2022. We will need to assess the lakes and trails asap when the snow melts to see what it will take to plant in 2022. Right now, we are allotted 45,000 trout and plan on needing 47 pack stock days with four days of planting over three weeks. Of course, this may change as we get closer and look at conditions of trails and lakes.

We are really looking forward to this year's plant. We would like to invite any BCHA member to contact Larry Shuman at 530-526-0590 if you would like to help with this major project.



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# Will Horses Eat Mush?

By John Simmons, Beartooth Back Country Horsemen, Montana

Many years ago, in my younger days, besides sawing a tree or two out of the trail way, I had the vision that I could do some type of experiment that would further benefit utilizing our Rocky Mountain wilderness landscape. After deep thought, I decided I should find the answer to the intriguing question, would horses eat mush?

If horses were really, really hungry, would they eat mush? You know good old cooked Quaker Oatmeal mush. Here in our Montana wilderness country, some fall or winter a man might want to take his favorite saddle horse and travel into the wilds on some type of important exploratory mission. I wonder if the government, via the Seventh Calvary, might still send out a call for some secret mission. So could a man or woman fill their saddle bags with dry mush and beef jerky and survive for a time in the high country? Even if a man ran into one of those ugly windblown, zero-degree, 15-inch deep snow-filled, low pressure depressions that Canada is so proud of that they brag about it on the 10:00 p.m. news, could man and horse hunker down on the leeward side of a grove of scrubby Spruce trees and boil up a pan full of mush and jerky and the two of them survive to return to civilization a week or so later no worse for wear? No one at any college that I am aware of has done their master's dissertation on this intriguing question, so I figured the first opportunity that presented itself I would personally take on the challenge of this important scientific study.

The opportune time presented itself in the fall of 1989. The chance arose in the manner of one of those government grants awards. For 19 years in a row, I had filled out a form type letter and sent it

with a bunch of money to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Helena. On these forms there are words like SHEEP, MOOSE, and GOAT. I put X's in all the squares. Rumor has it that the FWP employees, on receipt of these forms, pile my and many other hunters' most significant papers in a back room and the employee that draws the longest straw gets to put on a pair of logger's hobnail boots and then he/she runs through the paper pile and if one of the nails hits a square on your personal form, officially called a hunting application, you are a WINNER. So, as I remember back it was the year 1989, I received a letter from FWP, Helena, Mt. It started out as DEAR JOHN.....But there was good news; it stated, "enclosed in this here envelope is a piece of paper, called a hunting permit, to harvest a Rocky Mountain Goat in the wilds of the Beartooth Wilderness." The hobnails finally worked!

To harvest a goat is one of those permits that your friends ask, what were you thinking when you marked

that box? The answer is any way to get out into the wilds with my horse! There was no reference from FWP to my hand written note, "please send grant money with any permit, I would like to do a scientific study." The un-worded implication of reading between the lines of the [FWP Rules and Regulations] hunters manual correctly indicates, "John, you are welcome to do any kind of momentous study you would like as long as you don't break any law, and you can squeeze the money out of Mom's grocery account." Of course, I started getting ready immediately. Not being sure if the Quaker Oats would be accepted as adequate fare, I purchased a backup stock of food for all who might participate in the experiment. Items such as 100 pounds of horse cake, 20 pounds of potatoes, 20 pounds beans and a slab of bacon would be the backup to the items dedicated to the scientific study, which were the 10 pounds dry Quaker Oats mush and a pound or two of dried road kill. The low-cost basics were to help out Mom's grocery expense ac-



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## Will Horses Eat Mush? continued

count. It wouldn't look good to lose my kitchen pass. I knew she would add a few home cooked items for me and a hunting partner.

After much preparation I was ready to tackle the mountaintops surrounding the East Rosebud drainage of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. It is an area 30 miles from our home in South Central Montana. After a couple of unsuccessful early hunts, by mid-November I still had my coveted unused Rocky Mountain Goat tag.

At home, sitting at 4,400 feet elevation, there was only an inch or two of snow. But that mid-November, the only person willing to ride up for an overnight camp out in the high country was my wife Marilyn. She wasn't sure this goat hunt thing was worth my time, but she was willing to be part of the event, even though this is some high, rugged, snowy country in the winter. We had enjoyed this plateau called 'Froze-to-Death' in summers past. This day, after departing the trail head and now nearly to the plateau top at an elevation close to 10,545 feet, we have been in the saddle for two and a half hours. We got within 200 yards of our goal, the plateau flat.

My trusted old Poco horse misjudged the snow-covered trail on the next to the last switchback. His one step too far was off the edge and into a 30-inch-deep drift of the wind packed white stuff. The ever-faithful old pack horse "Cap" did his duty to blindly follow the leader. He jumped right into the same snowdrift with myself and Poco. Marilyn was quick enough to keep her horse "Shotgun" on the trail, even though he tried the Pied Piper's mission to jump into the action also.

There was no slowing down. I was off and moving quickly. As Poco broke through the snow crust, my feet in the stirrups stayed on top. I was able to jostle along where the snow

was not broken. We three slid and lunged down the frozen snowy slope. I was able to calm Cap and slide him on his side to the bottom pulling his lead rope. First I had to dodge Poco as he tried to lunge up on my back for a safe ride.

We ended up one hundred yards below on a small windblown, clean flat area surrounded by a few dead trees; it seemed obvious that the Great Spirit had chosen this spot for us to camp overnight. Marilyn and Shotgun quickly backtracked and joined us in a more sophisticated fashion. The edge of the flat was even blessed with a few blades of grass below the snow for the horses.

Our outside cooking fire was a welcome addition to the camp, but the little summer tent I had brought along had no place for a stove inside. We relied on our winter sleeping bags and all our clothes to keep us and our surroundings warm and dry for the night.

We had a restless, windy night. By daylight the next morning, due to the breather screen at the top of the tent, we and everything inside was covered with winter's fine white and wet stuff. We could see the clouds indicating there was more storm coming. I took time to warm up on a climb up the ridge behind us to hunt the flat for a couple of hours while Marilyn

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## Will Horses Eat Mush? continued

warmed up as she broke down our camp and readied the horses for the trip out. When I got back, to camp I asked her if she had cooked any mush for our experiment. Her stern glare was the only answer I needed to remind me that this whole deal was my project and mine alone. I was sure the next trip was not to include her presence, and it didn't.

I was determined to make at least one more trip up the hill. I had turned down a couple chances to take a goat earlier in the season as I wanted the really old, big one with long winter hair; also, I had procrastinated on my Quaker Oats experiment. My old friend Jack Robbins decided he could go on this last weekend of the season.

It was November 30th when we started up to the plateau and my secluded little camp spot. Hunting this late at 10,500 feet elevation was a gamble for good weather. As is the case of most gamblers, I lost! This weekend was one of the most miserable I had ever spent in my beloved back country. I remembered last time the horses could not climb the last little way to carry us over the top, so I had brought along snowshoes to at least get Jack and I up and over.

As it turned out, the snow was too steep and hard for the shoes. We slipped with them on and we sank in to our crotch without them. The only way up was to wear the one shoe on the low side and use the other shoe as a crutch. It was a 30-minute climb to make the 200 yards up to the flat for a 30 minute hunt before the wind blew us back off to our Froze-to-Death KOA.

The wind didn't slow down all that night until near daylight. Then a fog rolled in so heavy that I felt I had to brush it out of my way. It was so thick we even wondered if we might drown. There would be no hunting today accept to hunt for the trail out of this Froze-to-Death land.

I had built a fire between a pair of

large tree stumps; it burned all night. We had a nice bed of coals to cook on the next morning. I melted a pot of snow for my Quaker Oats experiment. Jack and I and the three horses were going to have a hot meal.

A couple of hunks of bacon and a sweet role and a big plate of the good old Quaker Oats was going to brighten up our last day on the mountain. I had fed the last of the horse cake. So I cooked up our two gallon water pan full of Quaker's best.

Well, the experiment went further than I expected. Jack said, 'I don't eat mush.' No worry, that left more for the horses. I knew from past experience that my old Shotgun horse would eat almost anything, including a saddle on the horse beside him or the tail of the one in front of him. He even once cleaned up the dog food pan just so the wild turkeys wouldn't get it.

My real test was going to be with the other two ponies. I knew they were all going to be really hungry because of the below zero degree weather and the wet night. So three piles on paper plates were going to create the energy to transport us all off the mountain.

Well, I never would have believed that all three horses could have turned up their noses so high without breaking their tie ropes. I didn't get kicked but it seems my old friends considered it. Here I hoped I could sell a report to the cereal companies stating that at least one or more out of three horses would be mush eaters, but as it turns out horses won't eat mush, or bacon either, and even in extreme winter conditions only 50% of mountain men may eat the Quakers breakfast stuff. There was to be no Nobel Prize to go with my personal resume.

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# Little Projects Count

By Ken Carmichael, Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Ponderosa Chapter

We often hear about the big projects that BCH members accomplish, and that we should be darn proud of. These projects do amazing things to keep trails open through education, advocacy and moving dirt.

But what about the little projects? Sometimes I think we lose sight of the fact that many chapters do little things that add up to keeping trails open and promoting BCH in a positive light.

The Ponderosa chapter is proud of these three little projects in 2021.

At Riverside State Park BCH partners with the Riverside State Park Foundation (RSPF) on projects. The RSPF puts on a “Wednesday in the Woods” seminar each week during the summer at the campground. We have taken horses to the event for non-equestrians to see. This year we partnered with the rangers for a program. They presented a Leave No Trace Class and BCH talked about Trail Etiquette. We had stick horses, bike helmets and walking sticks for the audience to participate. Lots of fun.

Also, at Riverside State Park the chapter put on six weekly evening classes titled “My Horse and Me,” learning to care for and enjoy my new best friend. These classes were geared toward the families that were thinking about getting their FIRST horse or may have just got him. We sat around picnic tables and talked about the selection process, what the horse would be used for, equipment, vet, stabling, transporting and nutrition. The



Bible School.

last night we met at our place to see our barn, fences, trailer, etc. One couple joined the chapter.

Another fun event was when we were asked to participate in a bible school. I was asked if we could provide ten horses for first through fifth grade kids to pet and learn about. Later I was asked if we could provide a person dressed as an old-time cowpuncher reflecting the equipment of the 1800s. Craig Volosing did not even have to change clothes. We had thirteen horses lined up on the paved



Trail Etiquette at Wed in Woods.

parking lot in their best behavior. I think the kid's eyes were bigger than the horses as they moved from horse to horse telling us their horse stories. I think we got the younger vote that day.

Sure, we enjoy doing the trail work and installing trailheads that we will use. But these little things, like stopping on the trail to talk to people, add up. Besides, we all had a great time. Please remember to include these little projects into your accomplishments.



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# Mike Reedy (1952 - 2021)

*Submitted by Doc and Deb Wesselius, Back Country Horsemen Washington*



Mike Reedy was the big guy that sat at the back of the room with his wife, Renda, during Lewis County Chapter meetings. Very seldom did he inject a comment during the chapter's business discussions and only socialized sparsely, even at chapter events. He did attend some of the chapter's trail rides but preferred to camp and ride with his wife. For fifty-three years he was involved as a salesman, owner, and manager for independent to large corporate chain stores and became a sales manager of pet supply distribution companies. His quiet demeanor and commitment to his profession belied his involvement in public service. His volunteerism in the equestrian community spans thirty years of contribution; especially in our national organization – BCH of America.

Mike's ascent to the highest position in our organization was a gradual but steady three decade contribution with volunteer participation. He started out in a small local saddle club and volunteered at the USFS Deschutes Ranger District to help keep trails open. Before becoming involved in our organization he founded and became President of West Valley Chapter of Oregon Equestrian Trails and became the parent organization's Vice-President.

In 1998, Mike founded and became State Director for the West Cascade Chapter of BCH of Oregon. He was a member of the Citizens Advisory Council for Oregon State Forests and worked with Region 6 of the USFS to keep equestrian trails open. For six years he was a member of the Oregon Recreational Trail Advi-

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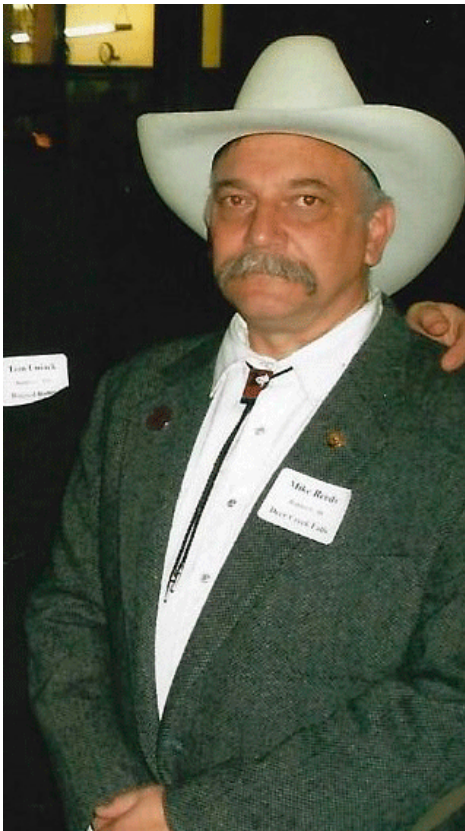


Mike Reedy continued

sory Committee and the Recreational Trails Grant Program Committee appointed by Oregon State Parks and the Oregon Governor. In addition to working to keep equestrian trails open he became a Leave No Trace Master Trainer and the Education Chairman of BCHO to help spread the message of our commitment to clean campgrounds, trailheads and trails.

In 2004 the Reedy family moved to Washington State and Mike was elected BCHA National Director for BCH of Washington. During his six year involvement with BCHA he was National Treasurer, National Vice Chairman, National Chairman, National Past Chair and Expansion Chair. He considered his best achievement on the national level the solution to stop the USFS plan to reassign trails that could be used for equestrians.

Next time you are out on a trail ride, especially on public lands, tip your hat to the big guy that got a lot done for the equestrian community.



Mike Reedy served as BCHA national chairman, trail boss, packing instructor, and LNT Master Trainer.



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