



Welcome introduction from the Chairman.

Chairman presented the EC meeting updates held on Tuesday May 28th, 2024.

Financials

The fiscal year ended April 30th, 2024.

- Balance Sheet
 - The treasurer provided the bank account balances including the CD's.
 - Investment accounts:
 - Invested amount provided.
 - Value provided as of April 30th, 2024.
 - Liability and Equity provided.
- Budget Vs Actual reported.
 - Budget came in very close to the approved budget if not right on target.
 - Total Expenditures and Income provided.
 - Restricted Funds amounts provided.
- Stifel Report
 - Curtis Finnicum attended the EC meeting last night.
 - He provided a presentation.
 - Accounts have had an increase the beginning of 2024.

Public Lands

Letter to Congress on Enhanced Funding for Recreation

BCHA joined partners, led by the Outdoor Alliance, in appropriations request to Congress to fully fund both BLM and US Forest Service recreation programs in Fiscal Year 2025. The coalition request seeks \$100 million for BLM Recreation Resources Management and \$70 million for USFS Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness, with a commensurate increase to National Forest System salaries and expenses.

The letter provides ample justification for the need for these budget increases. It also points out that funding currently available via the Great American Outdoors Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act represent long-needed investments to maintain agency recreational facilities, yet



the letter points out that these short-term funding streams must not be considered a substitute for fully funding these agencies year-in, year-out.

The letter sent to House appropriators can be found [here](#).

The letter to Senate appropriators can be found [here](#).

NWSA Forest Service Trail Grants

BCHA was represented among a six-organization grant review team that scored 48 grant applications submitted for the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance's (NWSA's) annual [Trail Stewardship Partner Program](#). This year, the grant program [awarded](#) 16 non-profit organizations a total of \$215,000 intended primarily to address the Forest Service trail maintenance backlog. Two BCH chapters were awarded grants this cycle (CA San Joaquin-Sierra Unit, CA Sierra Freepackers Unit).

Two 2024 grant recipients, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, included innovative funding mechanisms to reimburse pack support provided by BCHA volunteers.

The grant program began in 2017 and is a direct result of BCHA's five-year effort to shape and see enacted into law the 2016 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act ([Trails Act](#)). During the last eight years, the grant program has awarded a total of \$2.3 million to trail steward organizations.

Committee Updates

Volunteer Hours: We have great data but there is something missing, according to the feedback received in Washington DC. We need to track more trail information.

Saw Training: Last week there were over 150 attendees.

OSHA: You must wear a hard hat during ALL sawing needs (including crosscut) a hard hat. Any tree over 5 inches in diameter requires saw training.

Do not use a riding helmet for a hard hat, must be an actual hard hat.

There are two of these offered throughout the country, Montana, and North Carolina.



Smoke Elser (Around the Campfire)

- He is the outfitter who attended the Kalispell convention.
- He wrote a book with some great stories.
- Smoke would like to do book reading via Zoom calls for members across the country.
- Logistics of the book reading by Smoke Elser.
 - Each reading will be limited to 25 people because Smoke wants to keep it personal and be able to talk with people.
 - It will probably be a few weeks before we have detailed information.

Mark talked with Brenda Yankovich regarding grant applications; he will be following up with this and it may be for stock use or mileage.

National Directors Discussion

Anyone have anything they would like to discuss?

- Chairman asked about saw training in Georgia, Georgia may be waiting until fall to do training. Alabama needs saw training as well.
- California just finished up mule days and had 8 teams come in and do the collegiate competition. Really excited about the turnout and it was a great time.
- Volunteer Hours Chairman: Basic work hours are \$33.49 and the skilled is \$55.24. Will be coming up with a new form in the next couple weeks.
- Colorado: Interested in hearing more about the saw training required for trees 5 inches or bigger.
 - It is in the new curriculum, but Ax is not discussed in the curriculum.
 - Will there need to be recertification with the silky saw? No.
 - Under curriculum at this time, there is cross cutting and double bucking, one man saw needs training.
 - Follow up re: 5 in rule. Power saw requires training regardless of the size of the tree and hand saws require training for trees 5 inch or bigger.
- Any idea when there might be some relief with staffing, it is difficult to get assistance with the lack of law enforcement. Not a lot of information at this time but will pass it along. LEO's have been left to perform this task.



National Directors Meeting Notes

May 29, 2024, at 5:00PM. PST

Zoom Video/Call

Youth Grant Program

The youth grants are available again. Please send in your application. If you need assistance, please reach out to us.

The meeting ended at 5:50PM Pacific Time.

Next meeting is June 26th, 2024