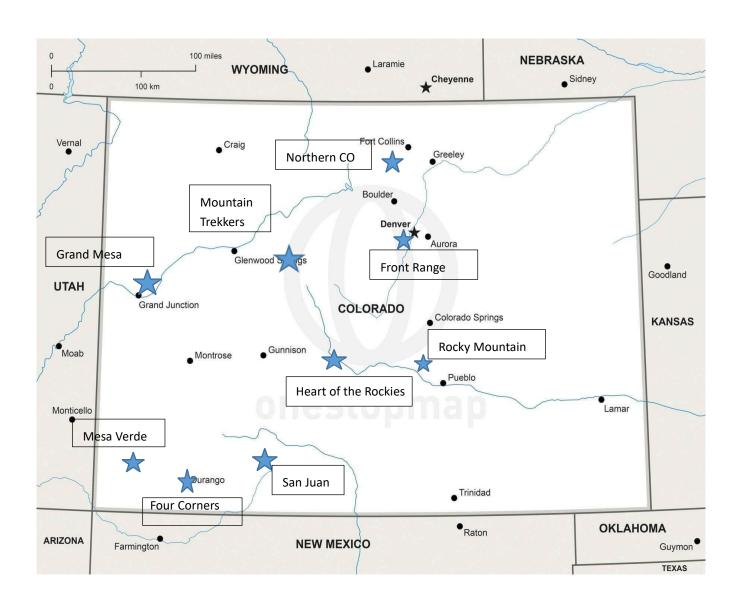
BCH of Colorado Report

Back Country Horsemen of America National Board Meeting Prescott, AZ April 14-16, 2025



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**No report: Four Corners, Grand Mesa, Mountain Trekkers, Rocky Mountain

STATE REPORT

Back Country Horsemen of Colorado (BCHCO)

Purpose and Mission Statement

- ★ Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and Wilderness areas.
 - ★ Work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
 - ★ Assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.
 - ★ Educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
 - ★ Foster and encourage the formation of new Back Country Horsemen Chapters within Colorado

Organization & Outreach

- ★ We lost one chapter and gained one chapter, so we still have nine, membership seems to be holding steady statewide.
- ★ Our annual meetings were held in March, June, October 2024. State directors have been engaged. We did meet in person for one of the meetings which was fantastic.
- ★ Four of our nine chapters are a c(3); state is a c(4).

2011	Butte, MT NBM was attended by Julie Chaney and Larry Zauberis
2012	Eugene, OR NBM was attended by Julie Chaney and Larry Zauberis
2013	Rapid City, ND NBM was attended by Julie Chaney and Larry Zauberis
2014	Chattanooga, TN NBM was attended by Julie Chaney and Larry Zauberis
2015	Sacramento, CA NBM was attended by Jan Potterveld and Larry Zauberis
2016	Las Vegas, NV NBM was attended by Jan Potterveld and Larry Zauberis
2017	Great Falls, MT NBM was attended by Jan Potterveld and Larry Zauberis
2018	Spokane, WA NBM was attended by Larry Zauberis and Tif Rodriguez
2019	Asheville, NC NBM was attended by Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH) and Monica Falk (TWBCH)
2020	Virtual Via Zoom was attended by Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH), Barbara Tigyer (RMBCH)
2021	Virtual Via Zoom was attended by Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH), Barbara Tigyer (RMBCH)
2022	Kansas City, MO NBM was attended by Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH), Barbara Tigyer (RMBCH)
2023	Kalispell, MT NBM was attended by Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH), Nancy McDonald (NCBCH)
2024	Casper, WY NBM was attended by Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH), Nancy McDonald (NCBCH), Jay McDonald,
	Alternate (NCBCH)

Issues & Problems

- ★ Participation and recruiting younger members is a recurring theme within chapters.
- ★ Educating folks on the value of state and national, why we are here and what we do; national should be taking a larger role in helping states.
- ★ Unity of chapters within state; we are all a part of the same organization but factions seem to be an issue.
- ★ Communication making sure important information coming from state and national reaches our chapter members and boots on the ground.
- ★ Engagement of members statewide throughout the year.
- ★ Ensuring that leaders in chapters understand BCH is a bipartisan organization and when representing BCH personal agendas shouldn't lead.

STATE REPORT: BCHCO (Continued)

Projects & Plans

- ★ Membership challenge and drive Chair
- ★ Revising and updating bylaws.
- ★ Get Colorado saw program off the ground.
- ★ Engaging all state directors so that work doesn't fall on a few.
- ★ Revitalizing education and incorporating BCHA's webinars into our statewide Leadership Symposium.
- ★ Hopeful for another statewide rendezvous.
- ★ Hoping to set up overnights prior to state BOD meetings.
- ★ Continuing to set up best practices to pass down to newly placed officers; focus on mentoring and successor training, so new folks coming on are ready.

Organization Details

2025 Executive Committee:

Chair - L Jay McDonald (NCBCH)

Vice Chair – Leslie Miller (RCBCH, HRBCH)

Secretary – Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH)

Treasurer – Larry Zauberis (4CBCH)

Volunteer Hours – Larry Zauberis (4CBCH)

National Directors – Tif Rodriguez (MVBCH) and Nancy McDonald (NCBCH); Jay McDonald (NCBCH, alt.)

Chapter Directors (Current):

4CBCH - Larry Zauberis; (no second); (no alternate)

FRBCH – Kim Berg; Julie Chaney; John Case (alternate)

NCBCH - Nancy McDonald; L Jay McDonald; Vicki Buchanan (alternate)

SJBCH – Ron Toland; (no second); John Nelson (alternate)

HRBCH – Leslie Miller; Beth Morgan; (no alternate)

RMBCH - Leslie Miller; no second; no alternate

GMBCH – Laurie Kollasch; Andrea Byrne (alternate)

MVBCH - Tif Rodriguez; Alice Pierson; (no alternate)

MTBCH – Rika Moore; Sarah Crawford; Debra Dupree Batten (alternate)

Committees: Education, Expansion/Networking, Public Lands

2024 Volunteer Hours

Backcountry Horsemen of America Volunteer Hours Report

Janurary/1/2024-December/31/2024

Back Country Horsemen of Colorado

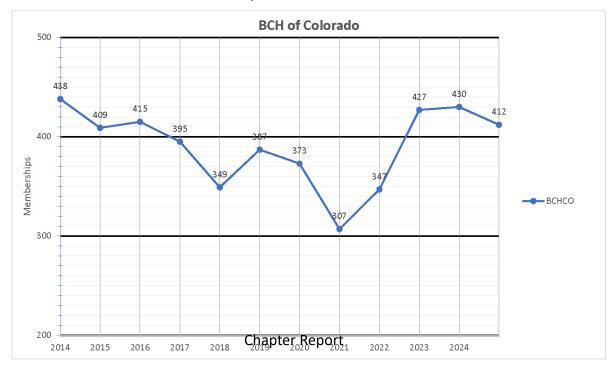
	Back Counti	y Horsemen of	Colorado	
		Rate per		
	P1 Totals	hour/mile/day	Total Value	
Total Basic Hours	1550	\$33.49	\$51,901.13	Calculated per hour
Total Skilled Hours	991	\$50.23	\$49,790.49	Calculated per hour
Total Trail Recon Hours	104	\$33.49	\$3,477.94	Calculated per hour
Total LNT - Education	285	\$33.49	\$9,544.65	Calculated per hour
Total Public Meetings	229	\$33.49	\$7,669.21	Calculated per hour
Total Administative Service	944	\$33.49	\$31,597.82	Calculated per hour
Total Travel Time	2830	\$33.49	\$94,781.72	Calculated per hour
Total Hours	6933			
Wilderness Trail Miles	297			
Other Trail Miles	341			
Total Trail Miles	638			
Personal Vehicle	26257	\$0.67	\$17,592.19	Calculated per mile
Stock Hauling	12518	\$1.35	\$16,899.30	Calculated per mile
Total Travel Miles	38775			
Power Equipment	125	\$35.00	\$4,366.25	Calculated per hour
Heavy Equipment	31	\$140.00	\$4,270.00	Calculated per hour
Total Equipment Hours	155			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	321			
Total Stock Days	327	\$125.00	\$40,875.00	Calculated per day
Total Donations	\$11,846.00		\$11,846.00	
		Total	\$344,611.69	

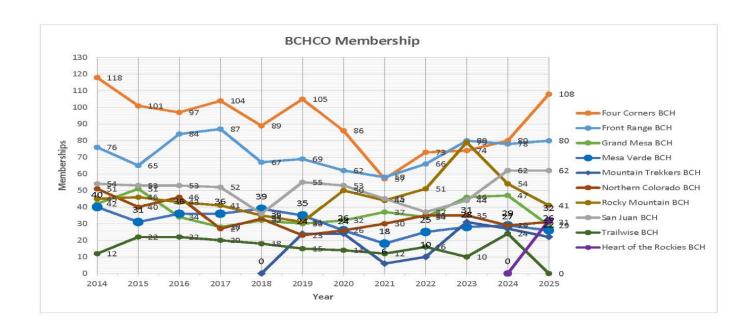
Value of Volunteer Labor for 2024: \$ 344,612

STATE REPORT: BCHCO (Continued)



Membership Statistics Statewide





Front Range Back Country Horsemen (FRBCH)

Accomplishments

Education & Outreach

- * We have just finished a major overhaul of our website. Updated photos show our purpose and efforts in trail clearing/maintenance to benefit all trail users. Easier to find information, calendar and sign up process for projects and clinics.
- * Freshly revamped monthly newsletter informational and inviting
- * Monthly meetings with informative speakers are accessible either in-person, remote access or via recorded video. With these options, our goal is to reach all chapter members and achieve 100% attendance.
- * Increased presence on social media. Frequent sharing of informative articles has increased viewers. The option to link to our website and events calendar has increased traffic to website.
- * Increased presence on social media. Frequent sharing of informative articles has increased viewers. The option to link to our website and events calendar has increased traffic to website.
- * We are planning at least one or more short Introductory Rides open to other riders to see firsthand what a day on the trail with FRBCH is like. Giving them an opportunity to meet our members and their trusty steads.

Current and Future Projects

February - 1st Aide, CPR & AED training

<u>April</u> or early May – Sawyer Training – first class already full, planning a second.

<u>May –</u> Weekend camping/clearing trip, heavily traveled multi-use area. Heavily overgrown and impassable huge, downed tree. Joint with a trail riding club to demonstrate our work and importance of keeping trails accessible and safe for all users to share. Educate and gain new members.

June – BCHCO state meeting; Wyoming state rendezvous

July – Mule day camping event to clear wire at Huerfano State Wildlife Area

<u>September</u> - Wire clearing project in Park County, most is barbed wire laying on top of and half buried in the ground. This is in a heavily hiked area.

<u>October</u> - Mike Brashear 3-day trail riding clinic at Fort Robinson, NE. Preparation, safety, and increasingly difficult trails to traverse.

<u>December –</u> Christmas Tree Cutting Ambassador rides, assist Forest Rangers during seven scheduled days for families to cut down their own tree.

Wish List - Horse Camping 101, Packing Clinic, Packing trips, involve youth.

Issues and Problems

- Long standing, experienced members are aging out (horses too). Difficult to get young people interested in doing "the work."
- Not well known increase our visibility and make our efforts known.
- Too few participants- recent staff cuts will make more volunteers needed.

CHAPTER REPORT (FRBCH) (Cont.)

Organization Details

Board of Directors (for 2025)

President: Shawna Jarvis Vice President: Kim Berg Secretary: Karen Chaney

Treasurer: Donna Fleischer

Board Member: Valorie Walters Mule

Karen Schick Julie Chaney

State Representatives: Julie Chaney Kim Berg: Alternate: John Case ★ We were founded in 1996.

★ At the end of 2023 we had 78 memberships.

★ In 2023 we volunteered 411 hours, traveled over 1700 personal vehicle miles and 1140 stock haul miles, and

put in 18 stock days.

2024 TOTALS:

Membership 86 (28 new) Volunteered 2,681 hours Traveled 9,348 miles Cleared 198 trail miles

BCHCO State Report

Dues Structure

Individual \$ 60 Family \$70

Corporate Sponsor \$ 90

Chapter Affiliate Membership

(Individual) \$33.00 (Family) \$37.00



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Heart of the Rockies Back Country Horsemen (HRBCH)

Organization Details

President –Linny Embry
Secretary - JoAnn Allen
Treasurer - Linda Bebell
State director - Beth Morgan
State Director - Leslie Miller

Trails & Facilities

HRBCH is a new chapter: November 2024. We are encouraging our members to become trail wise in that they are able to be proactive in scouting and reporting trail needs early in the year. We will be assisting the USFS/BLM in maintaining public trails, parking areas, and campgrounds soon.

Education/Outreach

Our State & Nat. directors are organizing a Sawyer certification clinic for our chapter, to take place early this spring.

As we establish ourselves in the community, we try to be as transparent and open as possible with any questions or curiosity as to what our purpose is. Our backcountry has become one of the "hot spots" for public recreation in Colo.

Our Welcome letter is: WELCOME!

We are excited to have you as part of the HRBCH chapter! We need people like you, folks who want to be advocates for the use of horses and mules on Public Lands for riding, packing, and camping.

Your membership will allow you to be part of a driving force that works to keep our trails open, educate the public of our mission, and keep the community aware of our presence.

As a member you should be involved in committees and engaged with projects that assist various government and private agencies in their management of the lands we use for the activities you love - horseback riding, hiking, hunting and camping.

We must all embrace the responsibility to participate in order to keep the organization strong and versatile. We look forward to helping you

CHAPTER REPORT: HRBCH (Cont.)

become involved in committees and projects that are of interest to you, to help us succeed.

You have been added to the HRBCH email thread and will receive information and updates periodically. Please add

heartoftherockiesBCH@gmail.com to your contacts so our messages don't get filtered as spam, and stay diligent in checking your email. We also have a public group on facebook named Heart of the Rockies Back Country Horsemen. We encourage you, as an HRBCH member, to use this group space to share your trail adventures or new knowledge that would be interesting or beneficial to other chapter members.

Again, we're thrilled to have you as a new member:

WELCOME ABOARD!

Happy trails, Linny Embry President HRBCH

Dues Structure

Individual \$45 Family \$50 Bus./Assoc. \$70

History

2024 Incorporated in October: official chapter of BCHA

And so our story begins.....



CHAPTER REPORT Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen (MVBCH)

Accomplishments

Trails & Facilities – The Mavreeso and Goble Trails require our annual use of chainsaws to clear. We had to do some reroutes and heavy brushing as both are high elevation trails and require quite a bit of maintenance. Snow always delays us a bit in the high country. MVBCH continues to maintain the Equestrian Facility at Transfer Campground.

Education/Outreach

On National Trails Day members provided public education about user interface on trails, handouts, and the opportunity to interact with horses and mules at a very popular spot, Sand Canyon.

A booth at 4 Corners Ag Expo provided information about our Chapter mission and a Crosscut Saw demonstration. Participants cut and branded wood rounds to be taken home with them.

Continuing education for our members included learning about Equine Dentistry and trail maintenance.

We are pursuing evolving partnerships with other outdoor stewardship organizations.

Many of our members have utilized their Wilderness Study Area Monitor training for the BLM.

Our newsletter is published monthly online. In addition to our website, a Facebook page is maintained with 332 members.

Current and Future Projects

- Pack out the old bridge from Bear Creek.
- Work with the BLM to maintain the trailhead parking area of the Summit Ridge Recreational Area.
- Provide pack stock support for USFS Projects on the SJNF and BLM Canyon of the Ancients National Monument.
- Provide educational outreach at a trailhead on National Trails Day.
- Award a \$1500 scholarship for higher education to a local graduate with an interest in outdoor resource management.
- Plan group campouts in support of trail workdays.
- Do monthly WSA Monitoring for the BLM.
- Put on a packing clinic to facilitate support of agency projects.
- Hold our annual Poker Ride fundraiser.
- Explore partnership with local trail user groups.
- Make sure our public lands remain in public hands.

Issues and Problems

- Our membership is aging. We need younger members over time.
- We want to monitor problems caused by non-equestrian use of equestrian campgrounds. This is quite a problem in the Transfer Horse Camp that we maintain.
- User Interface between bikers, e-bikers, and equestrians continue to be a challenge.

CHAPTER REPORT MVBCH (Cont.)

Organization

President Rex Alford
Vice President Cheryl Dyer
Secretary Jan Gilbert
Treasurer Lyn Rowley
Board Member Alice Pierson
National Director Tif Rodriguez

State Board Representatives Tif Rodriguez, Alice Pierson, No Alternate

Dues Structure

Individual \$38 Family \$43 Corporate \$43 Youth \$14

History

HISLOT	
1998	Incorporated in February; official chapter of BCHA
2009	2,826.25 Volunteer Hours; 32 Family and 29 Individual Memberships
2010	2,067.1 Volunteer Hours; 30 Family and 27 Individual Memberships
2011	1,135.35 Volunteer Hours; 28 Family and 25 Individual Memberships
2012	1,159.25 Volunteer Hours; 27 Family and 30 Individual Memberships
2013	695 Volunteer Hours; 25 Family and 23 Individual Memberships
2014	350 Volunteer Hours; 15 Family and 15 Individual Memberships
2015	1,086 Volunteer Hours; 18 Family and 18 Individual Memberships
2016	2,003.15 Volunteer Hours; 15 Family and 21 Individual Memberships
2017	2,115.05 Volunteer Hours; 21 Family and 21 Individual Memberships
2018	2,449 Volunteer Hours; 17 Family and 17 Individual Memberships
2019	2,552 Volunteer Hours; 14 Family and 11 Individual Memberships
2020	498 Volunteer Hours; 9 Family and 9 Individual Memberships
2021	365 Volunteer Hours; 12 Family and 12 Individual Memberships
2022	507 Volunteer Hours; 12 Family and 13 Individual Memberships
2023	684 Volunteer Hours; 16 Family and 13 Individual Memberships
2024	788 Volunteer Hours; 14 Family and 12 Individual Memberships



Northern Colorado Back Country Horsemen (NCBCH)

Accomplishments

Continued input - USFS regarding Jack's Gulch Campground Rebuild - Adopt a Trail reinstituted. Input regarding 3 additional Equestrian Campsites and improvements in campsites.

Continued involvement with Southeast Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Collaborative (SWORC).

Rebuilt Gate system into Pawnee Buttes for easier access for all user groups.

Access to new riding area ARPG - off the beaten path. Dispersed camping for the same.

Installed 8 Corrals on PNG. Established Equestrian Campground on PNG.

Education and Outreach

Ongoing attempt to reclaim a decommissioned campground (Pole Creek) on MBR. New Ranger/Recreation staff not receptive due to required reroute of existing trail and PMG.

New younger members were involved in NWSS Booth and have reached out to many local stables to promote NCBCH and BCHA.

Several events/rides/clinics planned for outreach/involvement.

Facebook page is being better utilized and updated regularly. Events published.

Current and Future Projects

- Spring 2025 Set to begin the cleanup process of campsite picnic tables, bear boxes. Sandblast, paint and relocate some existing corrals to new sites.
- Replanting trees in and around JG Camping areas and surrounding burn scars.
- Rebuild 3 interior walkthrough gates on Granite Ridge Trail RFL
- Rebuild 2 12' two track gates along Granite Ridge.
- Wire Removal Lady Moon and Elkhorn Trails (small sections along each trail.)
- Assist as needed on the new ADA Trai being built from Lady Moon TH, RFL.
- Fence around newly updated Buckhorn Ranger Station facility. Asked for corrals.
- Maintain bridge over bog area HQ TH Corrals
- Maintain corrals: Pelton Creek, WY...MBRTB Ranger District Laramie, WY
- Maintain corrals: Headquarters TH...Pole Mountain Laramie WY
- Maintain corrals: State Forest State Park-Gould, CO
- Clearing/reestablishing connector trail between ElkHorn and Disappointment Falls (delayed again due to USFS burning - Red Feather Lakes)
- Continued efforts to get signage placed on Pole Mountain Trail System
- (delayed again due to focus on the PMG Project.)

CHAPTER REPORT: NCBCH (Continued)

Issues and Problems

- Saw Certification particularly chainsaw certifications. FS priority: Firemen.
- Ongoing The President and VP are expected to contact agencies. (Late in 2024 new, younger members have stepped up.)
- Retention of older members. Once their riding days are done, Chapter support stops.
- Some members only want social events: Rides local and out of state, BUT nobody wants to plan or schedule them. (The President and VP are expected to do this.)
- Mountain Bikers are taking over many multi use trails, being more dangerous and disrespectful to other users. E-Bikes have compounded the problem.
- Reluctance of Members to utilize E-Bike Report or Campsite Report Forms.

Organization

Board of Directors 2025

President: Vickie Buchanan Vice President: Jay McDonald

Secretary: Kelley Richey (late in 2024)

Treasurer: Rick Farasyn

Board Members: Jenifer Nordstrom, Jenna Vanderhoff, Nancy McDonald. (late 2024)

National Director: Nancy McDonald

State Representatives: Jay and Nancy McDonald

Dues Structure: Individual: \$40.00 Family: \$45.00

Youth: State and National Dues with Sponsor

Business/Assoc: Honorary: **History:**

Incorporated September 23, 2003 Non-Profit 501c3

VH records are missing/misplaced until year 2018-multiple persons were responsible for submitting these reports with no 'chain of command' as to where they were sent or retained.

Members 2015 Family - 14 Individual - 27

Members 2016 Family - 15 Individual - 27

Members 2017 Family - 16 Individual - 30

Members 2018 No records to access

Members 2019 Family - 17 Individual - 15 VH: 1322

Members 2020 Family - 18 Individual - 16 VH: 1232

Members 2021 Family - 26 Individual - 22 VH: 975

Members 2022 Family - 26 Individual - 17 VH: 713

Members 2023 Family - 18 Individual - 14 VH: 331

Members 2024 Family - 16 Individual - 20 VH: 1050

San Juan Back Country Horsemen (SJBCH)

Accomplishments

Trails & Facilities -

- In 2024 we actively sought donations and grants to meet our ambitious, long-range projects. These efforts yielded \$16,000 to add to our treasury with which we leveraged state and federal grants and paid directly for on-the-ground trail work by private crews.
- In partnership with the Pagosa Area Trails Council, we pledged \$18,000 in matching funds for a three-year CPW non-motorized trail grant for 2025 and totaling \$300,00 to clear trails and get much-needed trail tread work done using American Conservation Experience (ACE) and other crews. This is our most aggressive community-funded effort yet.
- We signed up an Amish trail crew from Alamosa as members of SJBCH and then paid their expenses and gifted them two Silky saws in lieu of wages. The hard working crew made two trips up to the Fish Lake Trail and cleared 173 trees off the trail.
- Following the Amish clearing of the Fish Lake Trail that is the gateway to the South San Juan
 Wilderness, for the third year in a row a crew of six SJBCH members packed 20 miles into the
 Wilderness area to finish clearing the Canon Rincon/Conejos River loop of trails the first time these
 trails have been opened in decades. Over the three years we cut over 750 trees from those trails and
 the Fish Lake Trail and removed over 200 pounds of trash and abandoned equipment.
- With Trail Wise BCH folding in 2024, we reached out and asked those members to join SJBCH, because
 we are so close geographically and because we have worked closely with them on projects on the East
 side of the Divide. Since that time a number of TWBCH members have joined SJBCH, we are planning a
 Spring 2025 chapter meeting in South Fork or Del Norte to discuss 2025 trail and other work, and
 together we will also attend our annual Spring meeting with the three ranger districts of the Rio Grande
 National Forest to plan our work together.
- On National Trails Day (June 2024) we worked with several other local trail groups to clean up Treasure
 Falls east of Pagosa Springs on Hwy 160, the highest use developed site on the San Juan National
 Forest. Besides litter cleanup, painting, and brushing, we constructed several rolling dips on the Falls
 Trail that was badly eroding.
- Working with two other trail groups, we removed and rehabilitated 15 forest signs.
- We packed out a trail crew on Archuleta Trail, saving the San Juan Mountain Association \$2,500 in outfitter fees.
- We managed ticket sales for the Pagosa Springs Thursday Night Summer Rodeos in exchange or \$1200 in donations to the chapter for trail work.
- We actively sought more partnerships with local outfitters and guides so we can work together for the betterment of stock access in the back country, and in the face of increasing ATV, mountain bike, and eBike use in our area that threatens loss of stock access.

CHAPTER REPORT SJBCH (Cont.)

Education and Outreach

- We participated in the annual Pagosa Springs 4th of July Parade with ten riders.
- Our monthly *Pony Tracks* newsletter, which we share with members, agency personnel on two national forests and others, includes articles about BCHA mission, trail use, Light on the Land, stock use, etc., and is meant to inform and educate readers.
- We actively participate with the Pagosa Area Trail Council where we work proactively with other trail user groups to gain trust and find common solutions to sometimes difficult issues.
- We produced a new chapter brochure.

Current and Future Projects

- We hope to find a person to do fundraising for us so we can use our 501(c)3 status to go for more and larger grants to
- We are currently working with the *Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition* on a large-scale public planning effort with the Town of Pagosa, Archuleta County and U.S. Forest Service that is developing a long-term vision for recreation management in our area, including all the national forest lands of the Pagosa RD. Ideas and recommendations carried forward for this plan that will be completed in 2026 will be approved by the Archuleta County Commissioners, upon which a tax levy will be approved to get work done out on the ground. Following a similar project last year in Chaffee County, this plan is expected to get at trail work, trailhead parking for stock trailers, toilets, Wilderness work, and other work at town and county facilities. Because stock-using outfitters have been left out of the process, and in the general interest of stock use in the back country, we have been working with the outfitters to ensure their voices are heard in this process.
- We are working hard to support the USFS at all levels with the latest problems they're having with severe personnel and budget cuts. We plan to be there, will help as much as we can. We've written chapter letters to state and federal representatives and senators and are trying hard to get the word out to our members and others that this year is critical for us all to step up to support public lands.
- We have developed a 2025 Trails and Projects Plan that addresses much needed trail work on several trails and where we will hire private crews to do the work. We are planning to do trail work on the Saguache RD for the first time this year. We have purchased fiberglass posts and trail direction decals to remark two trails, including the Chama River Trail on the Conejos Peak RD of the RGNF. We plan to do as many additional FS sign rehabs as we can. We plan to do our annual National Trail Day event at Treasure Falls. We are planning as many chapter day work trips as we can. We have B and C crosscut and chainsaw recertification days set for May.

Issues and Problems

- Still dealing with the general perception of some members that we are a saddle club, but **We Are Gaining Ground**, and more members are seeming to understand the mission of BCHA, with trail riding as a neat other thing we do. A group of four people will offer weekly social rides this year, which will be good.
- Getting younger people on board is still tough.
- Getting people out to do the hard trail tread work is tough.
- Life is Good!

CHAPTER REPORT SJBCH (Cont.)

Organization Details

Organization - 2024/2025

President: Ron Toland Vice President: Larry Smith

Secretary: Katie Betts

Treasurer: Allan Netzer

Board members: Lisa Nelson, Gabe Candelaria, Chris Boyd, Justin Frie, John Nelson







