



Back Country Horsemen of Alaska

Annual Report 2024

PO Box 314 Kasilof Alaska 99610

bcha.alaska@gmail.com

President: Carol Marsh

Vice-President: Colleen Fisk

Treasurer: Francine Long

Secretary: Lori Benner

Directors: Sarah Gotschall, Jaiden Bosick, Peter Praetorius, Sarah Rodriguez,

Carolann Barum, Megan Stoll, Marina Bosick, Kerry Nelson, Mary Green

National Directors: Marina Bosick, Colleen Fisk

2024 was again a busy year with constructive steps taken to ensure the continued access and use of stock on trails in Alaska.

In cooperation with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), Chugach National Forest, Alaska State Parks, Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Mat-Su) the Kenai Peninsula and Mat-Su BCH chapters have been busy promoting and protecting the uninterrupted access to public trails. By attending meetings and advocating for continued equestrian access to established trails we were active participants in public planning meetings for two major road projects on the Kenai Peninsula. This resulted in the redesign of trailhead parking lots to accommodate horse trailer parking. The Mat-Su chapter has been actively involved with trail access issues in their community and hopefully some traditional trails will be saved from becoming gravel pits. The Kenia Peninsula Chapter has been working with the KPB and is in the process of upgrading their revocable land use permit for the 800-acre Kasilof Equestrian Trails to a 20-year Trail Management Plan to preserve the 15 miles of trails that we have developed. Working with the KNWR we have established an access road and parking area for the historic Pollard Horse Trail which is adjacent to our trails and provides a safe place to park trailers while we ride. The Kasilof Equestrian Trails and the KNWR wilderness areas provide

unlimited riding opportunities and have been enthusiastically embraced by our riding and hiking communities.

Both Chapters sponsored a 2024 Summer mileage Trail Challenge with over 4200 miles logged, even though we had a cool and wet summer. Mat-Su hosted a series of trail challenges consisting of morning educational workshops and afternoon competitive rides. Kenai Peninsula hosted a well-attended Spring Fun Ride and a Fall Frolic with an obstacle course component. All had good turnouts and new members were welcomed.

Our 688 volunteer hours, combined with stock and equipment use, had a total value of \$27,771. We THANK our volunteers who cleared trails and championed our cause at meetings. By continuing these activities, we strive to maintain and protect access to the trails we love to ride on.

Carol Marsh, President

