



BCH New Mexico State Report

For

BCHA 2025 National Conference Meeting

2025 is already a very dry season because we came in dry from 2024 and it was a bad fire season. Now and it's only April, we are already in High Fire restrictions in certain areas of our state. If we don't get some moisture soon, The Forest Service will shut down camping, picnicking and all other outdoor activities. I am not sure if our chapters will even be able to get in to maintain trails.

On September 19-22, 2024, our Gila Chapter hosted our State Rendezvous in Silver City, New Mexico. It was held at Fort Bayard, which was founded in 1866. Fort Bayard at first provided security (mainly by African Americans ("Buffalo Soldiers") against Native American attacks on settlers during the settlement of the region in the 19th century. It was then converted into the army's first tuberculosis sanitarium and later became a VA hospital. We had appetizers at the Theater with a meet and greet which included a speaker from Santa Clara Pueblo, which oversees Ft. Bayard. We also had Group Rides, a tour of Ft. Bayard, a Forest Service Speaker at the Dinner and Silent Auction which included our State meeting and the Raffle. Also, during the event there were other fundraisers. Sunday morning, we had donuts and coffee before everyone headed home. Gila donated \$3042.54 to BCHNM from the event and the State appreciated it.

We lost two of our long-time members. One was Dick Rahal who was a member of Pecos Chapter and was a BCHA National Director for a very long time, he worked with the Legacy fund. The other was Mickey Lemon, she was from Gila Chapter and was our State Secretary for forever. Joan Bacon, a member from Gila Chapter donated a \$1000 to BCHNM in honor of Mickey. That donation was also much appreciated.

Our Chapter's are doing well. One is struggling but hanging in there. Hermit Peak chapter is growing, we have had member recruitment meetings, and it snowed on both days we've held them. Not enough to do any good, just enough to make driving hazardous, but we still gained some members. Northwest chapter is having an Outdoor Family Fun Day on April 26th. Jemez Chapter is doing Sawyer Classes through the Forest Service, CPR training and a Trailer Clinic. Our other chapters also have work rides planned and of course chapter meetings.

Our Volunteer hours looked good. The total value turned into BCHA for everything was \$526,274.66.

Thank you,

Michele Urrea Odom

BCH New Mexico

National Director

