



### Meeting began at 5:04PM Pacific

New Director Orientation will take place via Zoom on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Chairman presented an overview of the National Board Meeting.

Executive Committee meeting overview provided. We invited Stifel to the meeting last night to check in during this volatile time. BCHA has lost a little recently but because we are in a conservative fund we have been protected and things are looking good.

### Financial Report

Treasurer provided the February 2026 financial report.

- Balance Sheet
  - Bank account balances provided.
  - Liabilities provided
  - CDs have been renewed for another 5 months.
  - Stifel values provided.
- Budget vs. Actual
  - Dues income provided.
  - National Board Meeting income presented
  - Donations provided
  - Net Revenue compared to budget provided.
  - Total Expenditures provided compared to budget.
  - Other revenue provided.

### Public Lands

Commented on the Public Lands agenda during the National Board Meeting.

**Draft Bill to Prohibit Agencies from Restricting Class 1 E-bike Use** (*for background on the bill, see February 2026 Public Lands Report*): In separate conversations, spoke with colleagues at Idaho Trails Association (ITA), International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) and, in a zoom meeting arranged by AHC, spoke with [PeopleForBikes](#) (PFB) regarding Sen. Simpson's (R-ID) draft bill. None indicated they supported the bill as currently written, as it would bypass local decision making with stakeholder engagement. ITA supports BCHA's rationale for opposing the bill,



while IMBA and PFB see opportunities to reshape the bill to lessen the administrative burden in the authorization Class 1 e-bike use on non-motorized trails; they offered to share their proposed changes once their organizations reached agreement. Yet I remain doubtful that a legislative solution is something that BCHA could support.

In coordination with BCH Idaho National Directors, held a zoom meeting with Rep. Simpson staff from Boise and Washington DC to discuss our concerns about the bill. Staff confirmed they had asked IMBA and PFB for their proposed language changes and offered to continue the discussion after that point.

**Hike the Hill:** Active participant in the following 2026 Hike the Hill® activities in Washington DC:

1. Sunday group planning session to review key upcoming meetings and joint [talking points](#);
2. Group meeting with the Chief of the US Forest Service where I expressed BCHA concern over the proposed [repeal](#) the 2005 Travel Management Rule;
3. Small group meeting with Department of Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks centered on staffing needs and improvements needed in [Legacy Restoration Fund](#) implementation;
4. Group meeting with BLM leadership where I expressed BCHA's support for retaining the agency's Trails and Travel Management policy (i.e., Rule, similar to US Forest Service's);
5. Separate group meetings with key congressional staff who inform the agenda of the:
  - a. House Committee on Appropriations (Interior, Environment & Related Agencies);
  - b. Senate Committee on Appropriations (Interior, Environment & Related Agencies);
  - c. House Committee on Natural Resources (both majority, R, and minority, D, staff meetings);
  - d. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources (minority staff).



6. Attended congressional briefing by partners Washington Trails Association and the Pacific Crest Trail Association that featured two congressional trail champions; and
7. Joined Rails-to-Trails Conservancy promotion and screening of a PBS [documentary](#);
8. Coordinated and/or participated in six meetings with congressional offices in small group discussions to discuss legislative priorities of the trails community, including:
  - a. Annual funding for trails (see [fact sheet](#) for trails community's FY'27 asks),
  - b. Reauthorization of the Legacy Restoration Fund (S.1547), and
  - c. Support for the Recreational Trails Program Full Funding Act ([S.811](#)).

**Coalition Zoom Meetings:** Randy represented BCHA in the following coalition zoom meetings:

- Coalition for Recreational Trails— discussion regarding advancement of RTP Full Funding Act and preparation for spring recognition ceremony for members of Congress in DC.
- Northwest Trails Roundtable—coordinating our responses to Legacy Restoration Fund, Transportation bill (i.e., RTP), FY'26 appropriations, Rep. Simpson draft e-bike bill, etc.
- Travel Management Core Group— ongoing discussion of joint outreach to avert full repeal of the US Forest Service Travel Management Rule. Worked with Communications subgroup to refine BCHA 1-page fact sheet on the topic (see following page).

## Retain and Modernize the Forest Service 2005 Travel Management Rule

The US Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, [announced](#) its intent to repeal the agency's 2005 Travel Management Rule (**TMR**). The TMR established



regulations by which the agency manages motorized vehicle use on national forests and grasslands. It was proposed and adopted by the Bush Administration to address one of the top threats to the integrity of the national forest system at the time: “unmanaged recreation,” specifically motorized recreation by users of motorcycles, ATVs, side-by-sides, snowmobiles, etc.

Prior to adoption of the TMR, enforcement of restrictions on motorized use primarily relied upon the posting of signage that stated a given trail or area was closed to motorized travel. The TMR directed national forests to prepare a Travel Management Plans (**TMPs**) that identify which routes and areas on public lands are open to motorized travel; these are shown on the forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (**MVUM**). Areas that have not been identified as open are generally closed to motorized use. This represented a reversal of the former open-unless-posted-closed regulations for motorized travel. Since the TMR, the rule has been closed-unless-posted-open.

Here are reasons how the TMR benefits all visitors to the National Forest System:

- The TMR provides a proven framework for minimizing user conflict, protecting wildlife, and preventing long-term damage to soils, vegetation, and watersheds.
- Existing Travel Management Plans reflect years of collaboration between local land managers and the public, informed by site-specific conditions and extensive community input.
- The TMR gives law enforcement clear authority to address unsafe or illegal uses, helping keep national forests safe for all visitors.
- Maintaining the TMR avoids costly and duplicative reevaluation of hundreds of existing forest travel plans, saving agency resources and honoring the extensive public engagement already invested in locally driven solutions.

## CONCLUSION:

Repeal of the TMR could lead to a chaotic situation in which the safety of public lands users and forest resources could be adversely affected. Countless visitors could lose opportunities for a safe and enjoyable visitor experience. Effort instead should be made to modernize the TMR to fit current needs expressed by motorized and non-motorized forest visitors alike.

**P.O. Box 1182 | Columbia Falls, MT | 59912-1182**

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

February 27, 2026



### Committee Updates

The Chair Committee meeting was held last Thursday, and all Chairs will be providing reports during the National Board Meeting.

A survey was sent out previously regarding the National Board Meeting, 60% of the National Directors replied. This is a great number.

A couple recommendations were presented at the EC meeting last night such as, Anti-Discrimination policy and the contract review was presented during the Executive Committee Meeting.

### Comments

Chaps have to be new for chainsaw/electric saws.

New National Director Orientation reminder will be going out this week.

Meeting ended at 5:35PM Pacific