





Public Lands Workshop

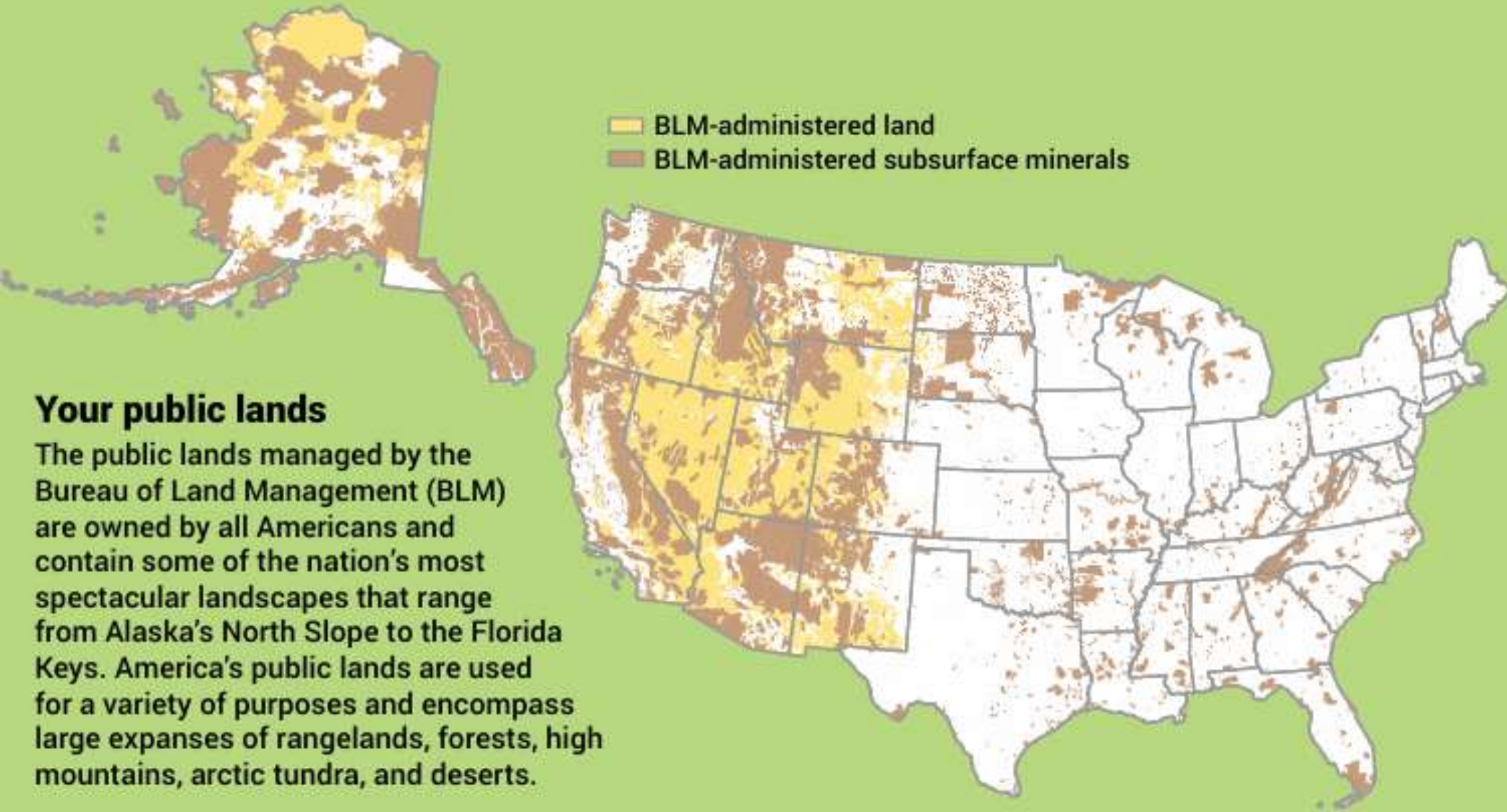
National Board Meeting

Kansas City, MO, April 14, 2026

Department of Interior

- ◆ Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- ◆ National Park Service (NPS):
- ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):
- ◆ U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- ◆ Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- ◆ Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)
- ◆ Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- ◆ Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- ◆ Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) (offshore)

Bureau of Land Management Lands



Your public lands

The public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are owned by all Americans and contain some of the nation's most spectacular landscapes that range from Alaska's North Slope to the Florida Keys. America's public lands are used for a variety of purposes and encompass large expanses of rangelands, forests, high mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts.

BCHA and BLM MOU Key Points



MOU was signed in November 2024.



Expands equestrian recreation and trail opportunities on BLM lands.



Strengthens collaboration between BLM offices and BCHA at all levels.



Shares mapping data and supports joint trail planning and action plans.



Provides training, technical assistance, and a designated BLM stock-use contact.



BCHA supports planning, education, data collection, and volunteer trail work.

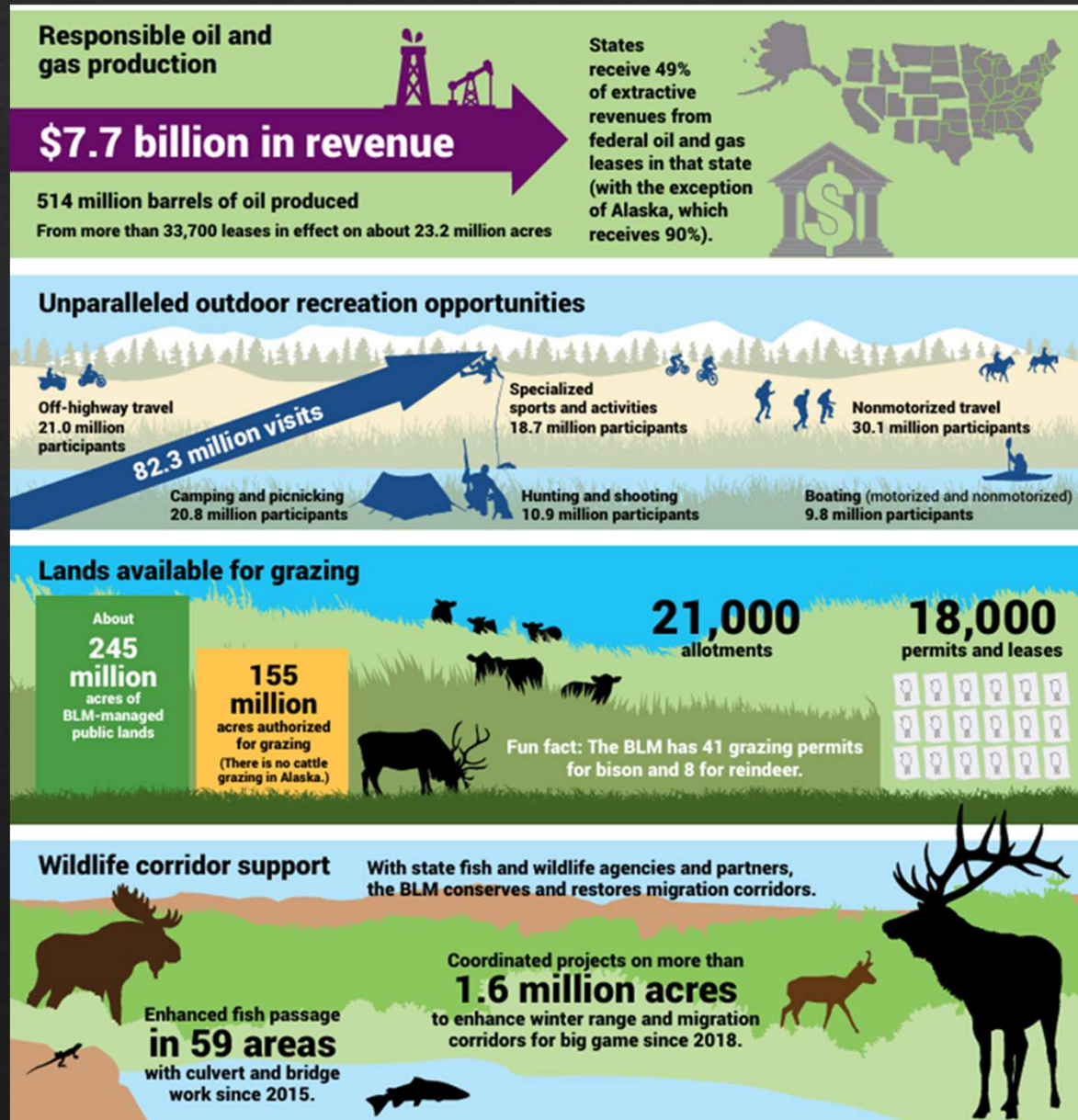


Joint effort to improve safe, sustainable, and equitable equestrian access.

Bureau of Land Management

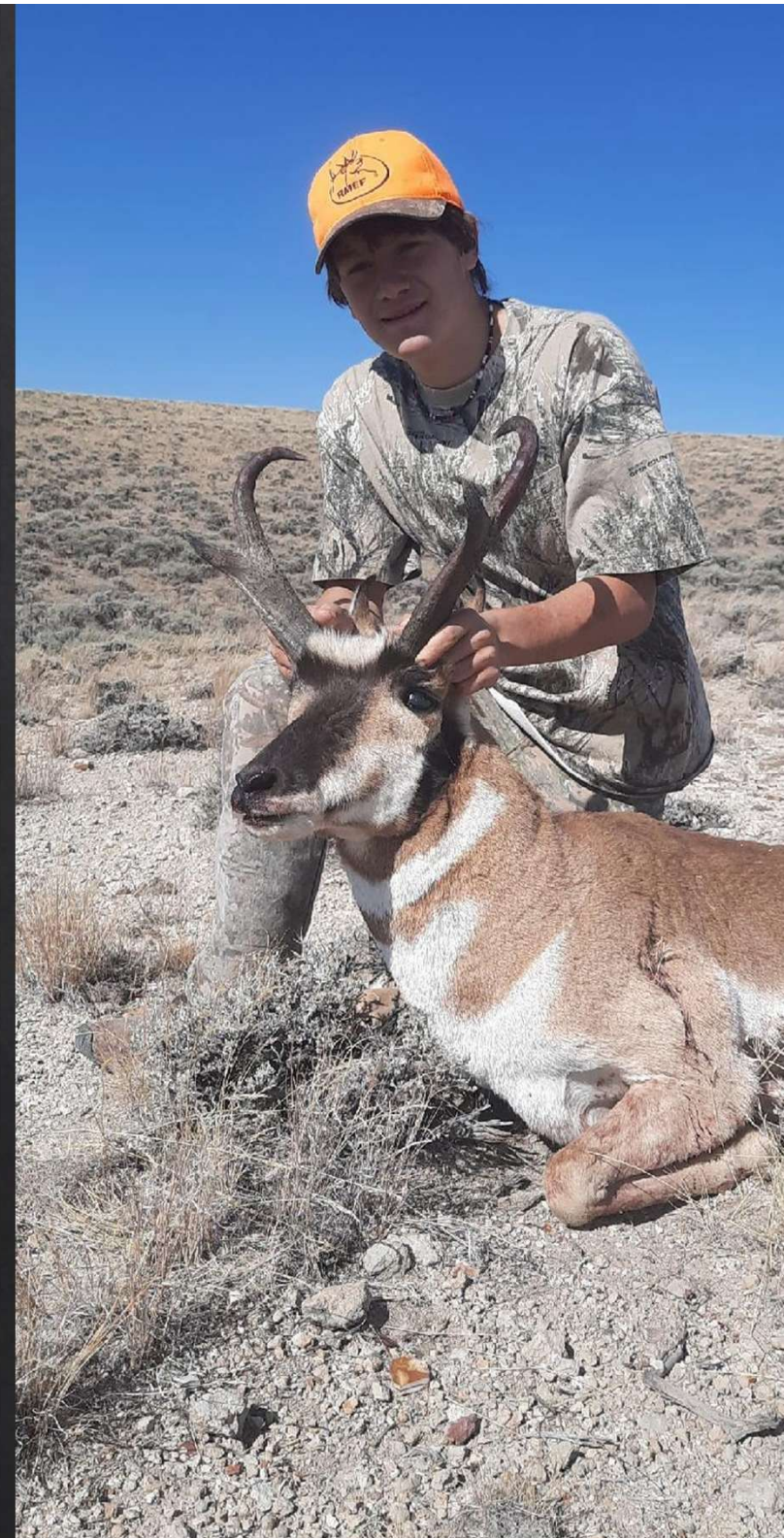
Administers public lands for multiple uses on more than 245 million acres.

- Energy Development
- Subsurface Minerals
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Wild Horses
- Livestock grazing



Resource Management Plans (RMP)

- ◆ RMPs provide the management parameters for BLM lands
- ◆ BLM post all Projects NEPA on ePlanning



BLM Organization

Washington
Office or Head
Quarters

State Offices

District Offices

Field Offices

Recreation
Lead

Field Manager

Assistant Field
Manager

Recreation
Specialist

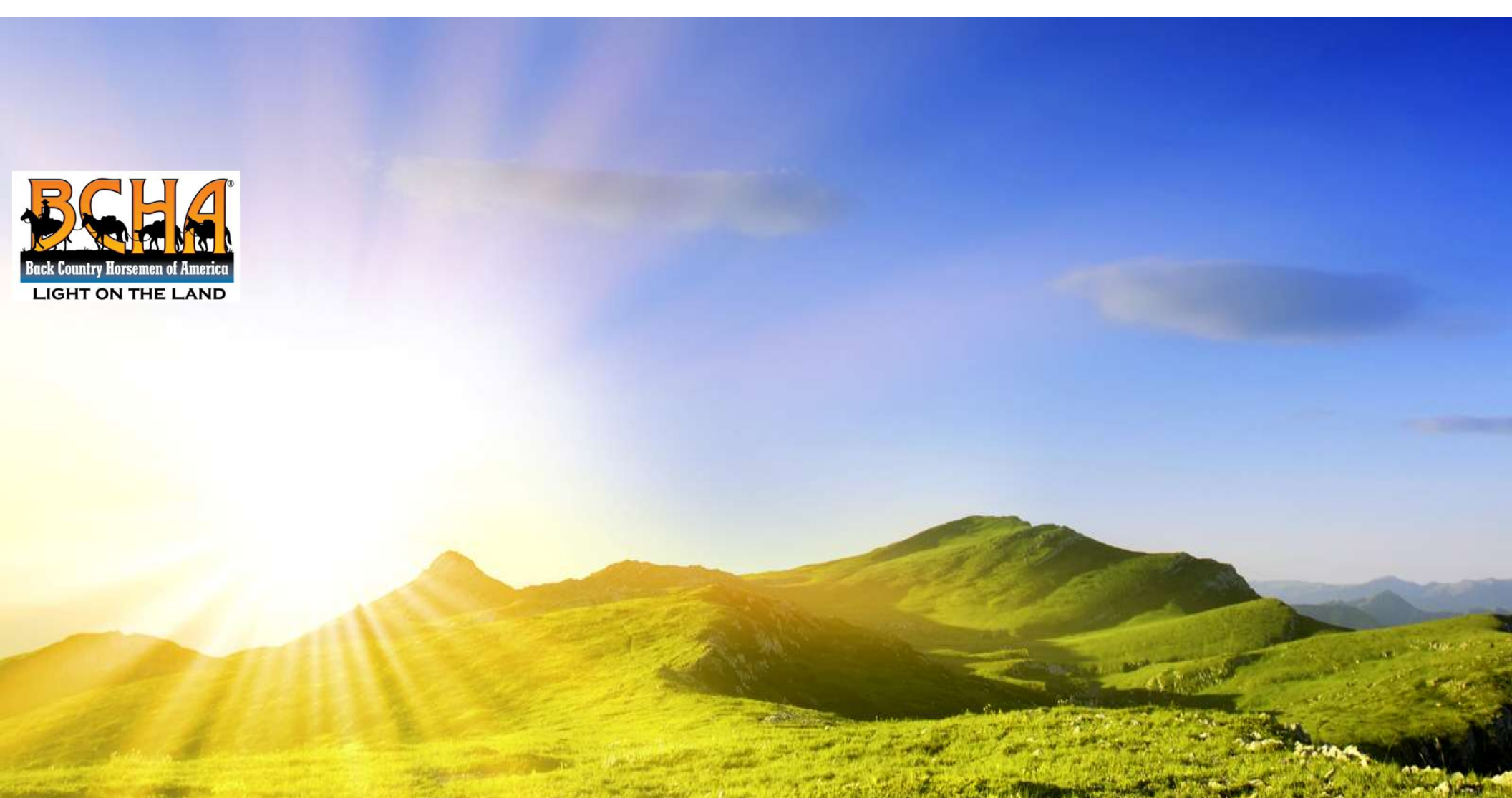




Question?

Thank You!

Heather Schultz



National Trails Day®

June 6, 2026

Importance of National Trails Day

- Since XXXX, American Hiking Society has promoted National Trails Day®
- The only nationally coordinated event designed to unite all trail users with the goal of connecting more people to trails.
- Represents an important opportunity for BCHA chapters to continue raising the public visibility of BCHA nationwide by hosting their own National Trails Day event



What is the reach of National Trails Day?

In 2025, National Trails Day® reached over **31 million people** online and across social media and more than **66,000 individuals** participated in events across the country

Steps Toward a Successful National Trails Day Event



What is an Ideal Event Location?

Close to town, yet one where you can demonstrate to others, outside your chapter, of your stewardship ethic and accomplishments in keeping trails "open for all."

Public lands represent a great place to do that.

Share stories about why public lands are critical to the horseback riding and packing experience. Why?

Trails-related advocacy is a guiding intention of National Trails Day. We want others to recognize the importance of trails in terms of:

- Health and wellbeing
- Enjoyment of being out in nature
- Benefits to local economy

To ensure those benefits we need public lands

Large unbroken landscapes “big enough to absorb a two-week pack trip” (Bob Marshall, founder, The Wilderness Society)

Trail Advocacy

- Trail advocacy ensures the continued preservation of existing trail networks and supports new trails for future generations.
- At the core level, advocacy means creating community support for trails and elevating trail users' collective voice.
- Trail advocacy can mean requesting adequate trail funding and improved access to public lands, or on a more basic level, ushering in a new generation of trail users who will love their local trails and serve as advocates for trail use in their communities.

- Help build community support for potential/proposed new trails and improvements.
- Provide information to trail users on how to get involved with maintenance and preservation of local trails and public lands.
- Educate folks regarding threats facing current or future trails and public lands.
- Provide educational seminars on local trail networks, Light on the Land[®], and other outdoor skills.
- Equip trail users with resources on how to engage local, state, and national leaders to support trails and green spaces (BCHA can send event hosts information regarding advocacy actions at the federal level prior to National Trails Day).

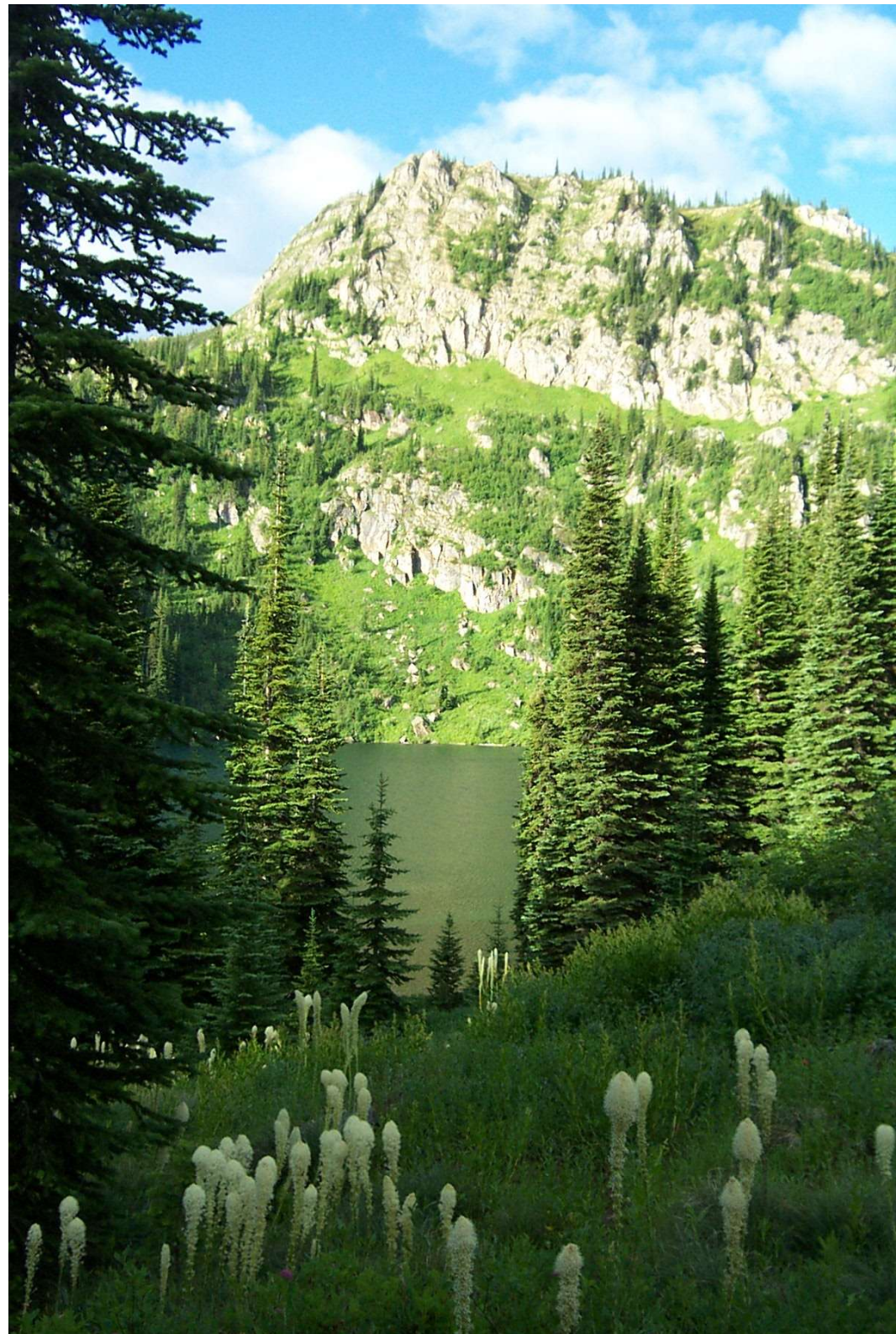
Advocacy Ideas

Showcase the great work that you so. And, importantly, demonstrate your love for trails and public lands.



PUBLIC LANDS

Roadless areas are not leftovers on a map. They ARE the last places where Americans can still experience quiet forests, clean water, abundant wildlife, and true backcountry travel.



What is the Roadless Rule?

The U.S. Forest Service is on the verge of making a devastating decision to remove the [Roadless Area Conservation Rule \(Roadless Rule\)](#), a bedrock policy safeguarding some of our last remaining natural, wild and intact landscapes in the United States. Enacted 25 years ago, the Roadless Rule protects roughly one-quarter of all national forests from road construction and large-scale industrial development. Exceptions can be made for fire protection or emergency situations. These protections have been instrumental in ensuring portions of the national forest system remain intact and continue to support natural ecosystems ensuring clean water, biodiversity and recreation.

- **What the Roadless Rule Actually Does**

- Adopted in 2001 after extensive public input.
- Protects 58.5 million acres of National Forest land.
- Limits new road construction and large-scale industrial development.
- Important Clarification
 - ✓ Does NOT create wilderness
 - ✓ Does NOT close access
 - ✓ Allows:
 - Hunting & fishing
 - Horse and stock use
 - Hiking & backpacking
 - Trail maintenance
 - Fire management
 - Recreation
 - Grazing
- **The rule protects land character — not restricts responsible use.**

Consequences of Repealing the Rule

IF REPEALED, EXPECT:

More road construction will result in:

- Habitat fragmentation.**
- Spread of invasive species.**
- Increased erosion.**
- Statistically, roads increase fire risk**
- Permanent loss of backcountry character.**
- Higher long-term management costs.**

Without roadless conservation protections



With roadless conservation protections

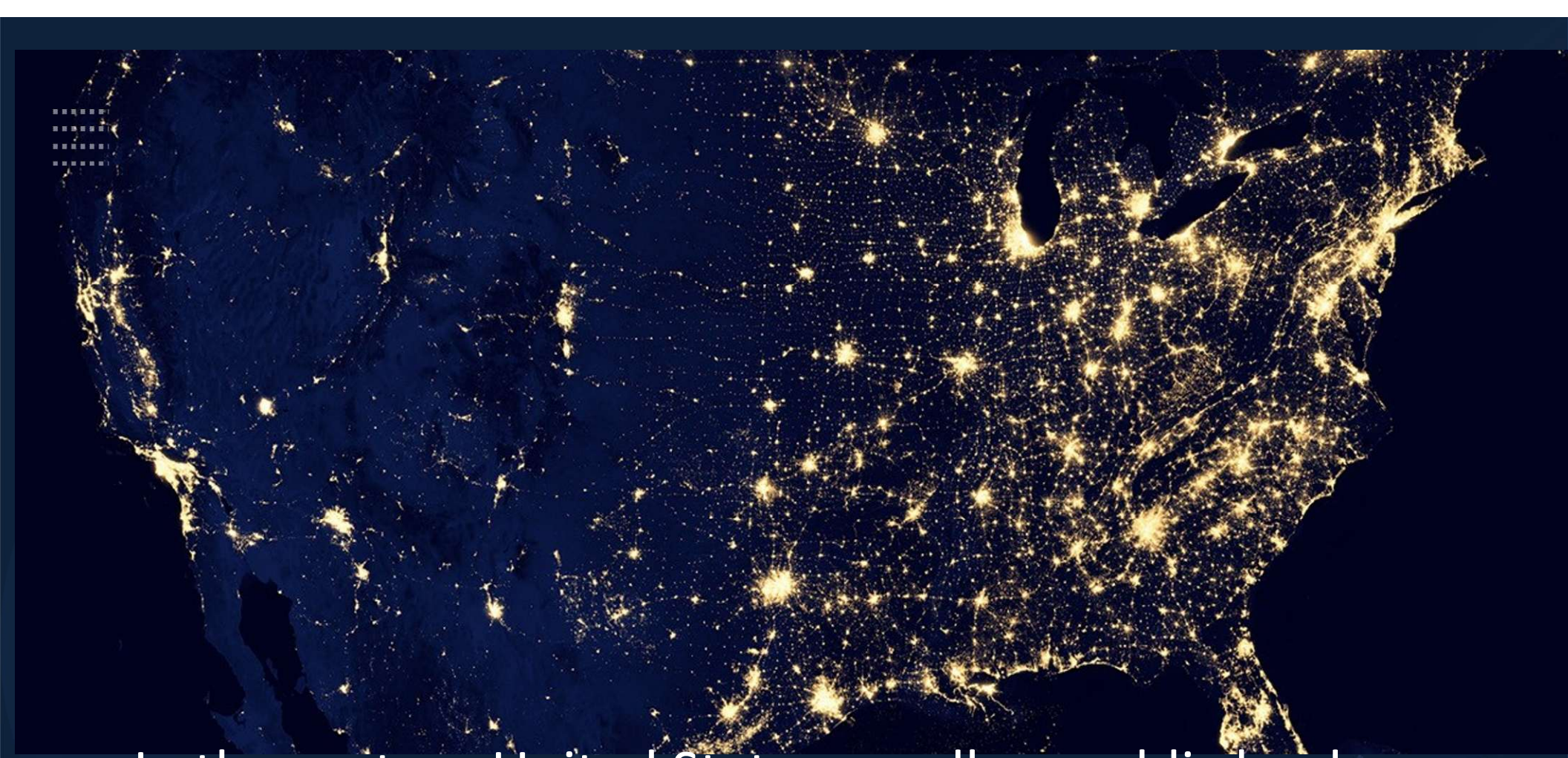


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- **IN THE EASTERN STATES, ROADLESS AREAS ARE SMALLER, RANGING IN SIZE FROM 5000 TO 100,000+ ACRES.**



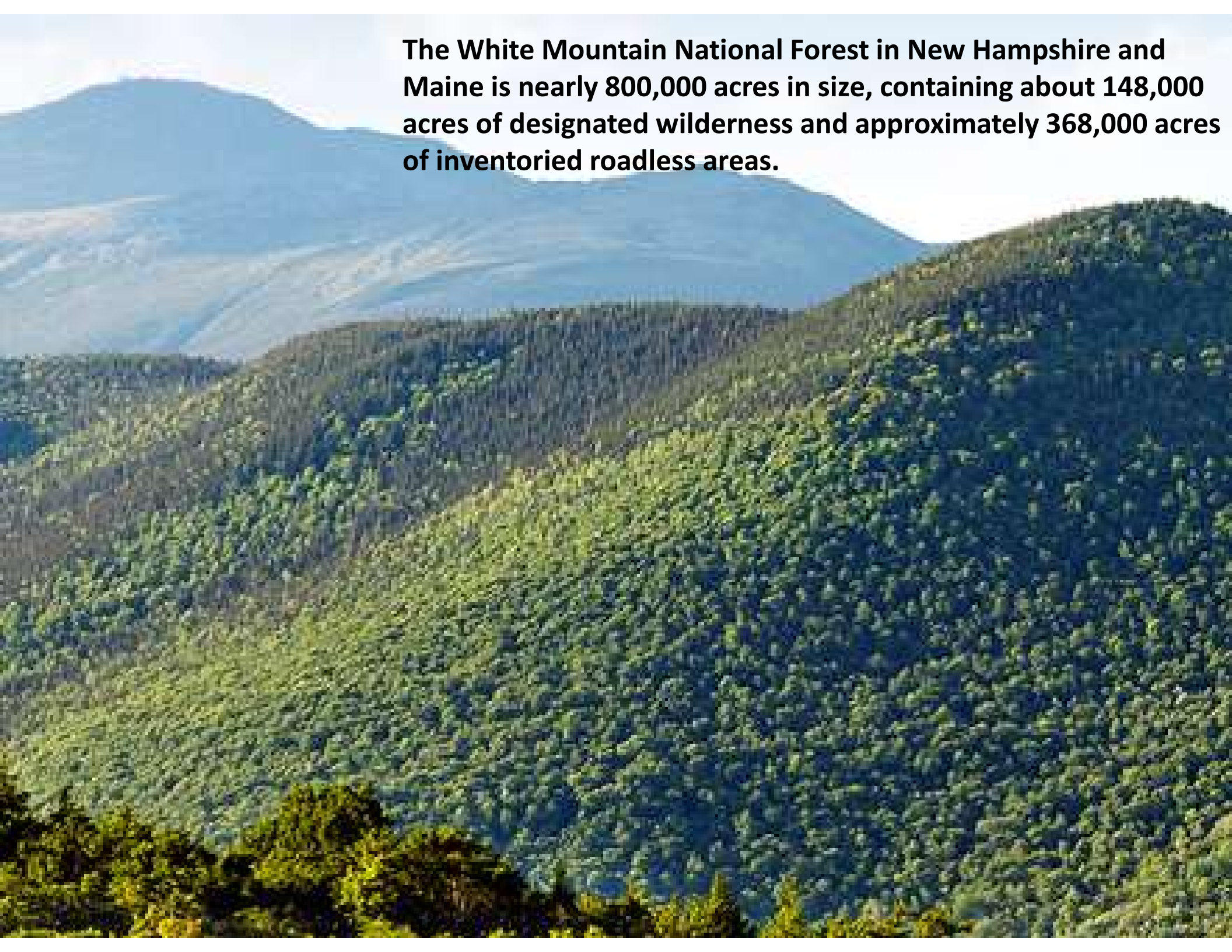


- **BECAUSE THEY ARE RARE AND FRAGMENTED IT MAKES THEM EVEN MORE CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT!**



- In the eastern United States, roadless public lands are not vast—they are rare, hard-won, and irreplaceable. These landscapes survived waves of clearing, logging, mining, and development that followed the era of Manifest Destiny. What remains today are the last quiet backcountry strongholds in a region where nearly every acre has felt the mark of human use.

The White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine is nearly 800,000 acres in size, containing about 148,000 acres of designated wilderness and approximately 368,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas.



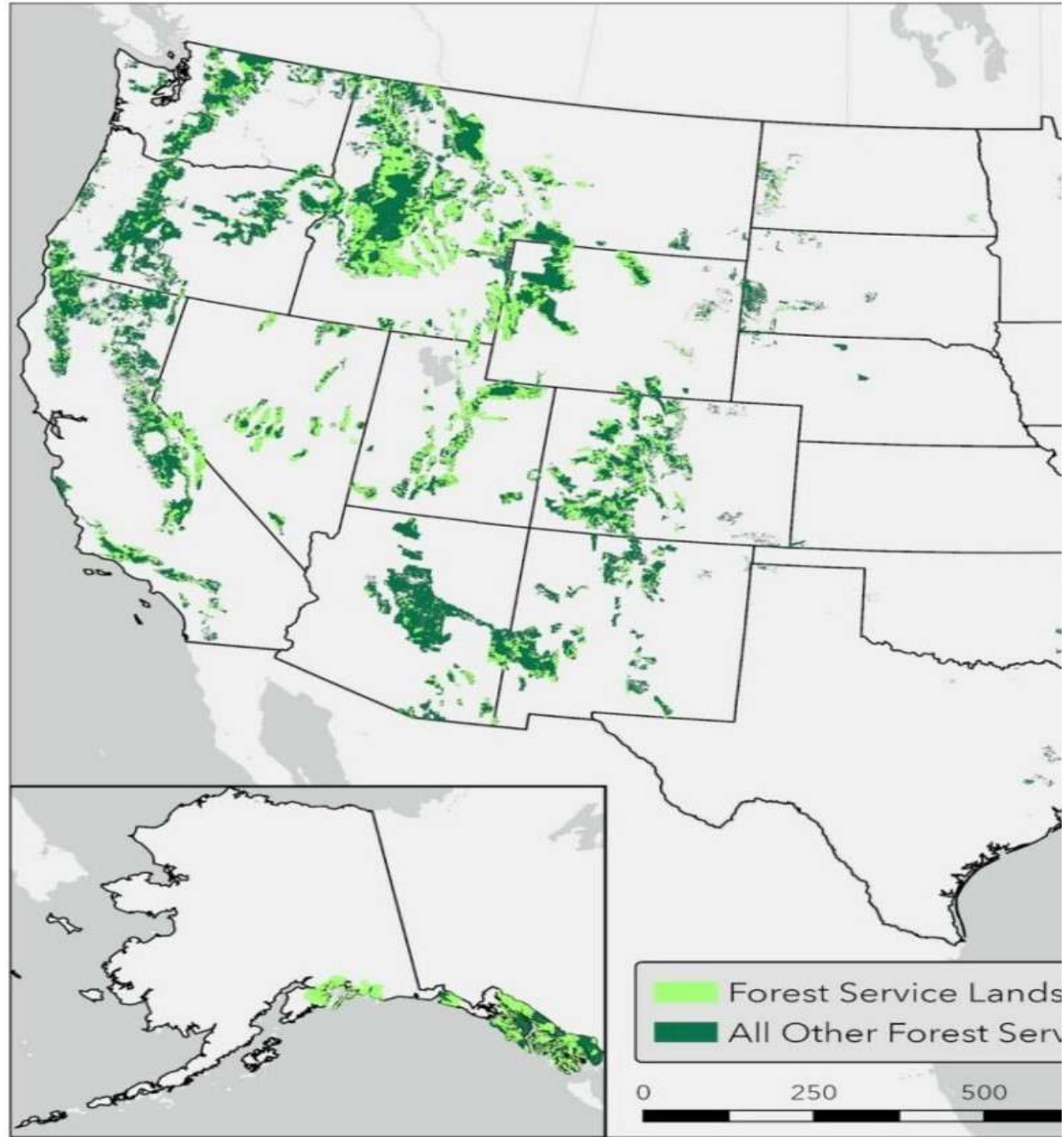


[ENVIRONMENT](#)

Federal rollback of Roadless Rule could imperil some of North Carolina's last wild lands, experts say



95% OF
INVENTORIED
ROADLESS LANDS
ARE IN THE
WESTERN UNITED
STATES



Idaho: A State-Specific Roadless Rule

Idaho, which ranks second only to Alaska in acres designated as inventoried roadless areas, was the first state to develop its own alternative to the 2001 federal Roadless Rule. Then-Governor (now Senator) Jim Risch initiated the process in 2006, and the Idaho Roadless Rule was finalized in 2008. It now safeguards approximately 9.3 million acres of roadless lands under a state-specific management framework.

COLORADO: A

IN 2012, AFTER YEARS OF BIPARTISAN COLLABORATION AND PUBLIC INPUT, COLORADO ADOPTED ITS OWN ROADLESS RULE TO PROTECT ITS ROUGHLY 4.2 MILLION ACRES OF INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS. LIKE IDAHO'S, COLORADO'S RULE REMAINS IN EFFECT AND INSULATED FROM RESCISSION OF THE FEDERAL ROADLESS RULE. FOLLOWING SECRETARY ROLLINS' ANNOUNCEMENT, GOVERNOR JARED POLIS REAFFIRMED THAT THE STATE'S PROTECTIONS WOULD STAY INTACT—SETTING A STRONG EXAMPLE OF HOW STATE-LEVEL POLICYMAKING CAN SERVE AS A BUFFER IN TIMES OF FEDERAL POLICY SHIFTS.

State	IRA Acres	State	IRA Acres
Alaska	14,779,000	West Virginia	182,000
California	4,416,000	South Carolina	8,000
Colorado	4,433,000	Tennessee	85,000
Idaho	9,322,000	Kentucky	3,000
Montana	6,397,000	Georgia	63,000
Nevada	3,186,000	Minnesota	62,000
Wyoming	3,257,000	Indiana	8,000
Washington	2,015,000		
New Mexico	1,597,000		
Arizona	1,174,000		
Virginia	394,000		
New Hampshire	235,000		
North Carolina	172,000		
Vermont	25,000		
Michigan	16,000		
Minnesota	62,000		
Arkansas	95,000		
Alabama	13,000		
Louisiana	7,000		
Maine	6,000		
Mississippi	3,000		

MONTANA

NBC
MONTANA

**DEBATE GROWS OVER
ROADLESS RULE REPEAL**

CURRENT CHALLENGE'S WORKING WITH FEDERAL LAND AGENCIES ON PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES

- In the NBC News segment, they reached out to FS, but was referred to USDA in D.C. USDA PROVIDED THE RESPONSE
- They say local control but then don't allow local FS to comment.
- **IDAHO & MONTANA CONVENTION EXAMPLES**
- Don't be offended (currently) if your local USFS or BLM seems, distant or detached. They are basically under a gag order, and their working environment is changing by the minute. They are not being told what is going on within their agency. Just trying to do their jobs.
- Continue to reach out to your local FS or BLM District and Forest. Build a relationship with your local Forest Supervisor, Area Manager, District Ranger and Recreation Manager.
- It's a difficult time, but as partners, we need to stay engaged and supportive.



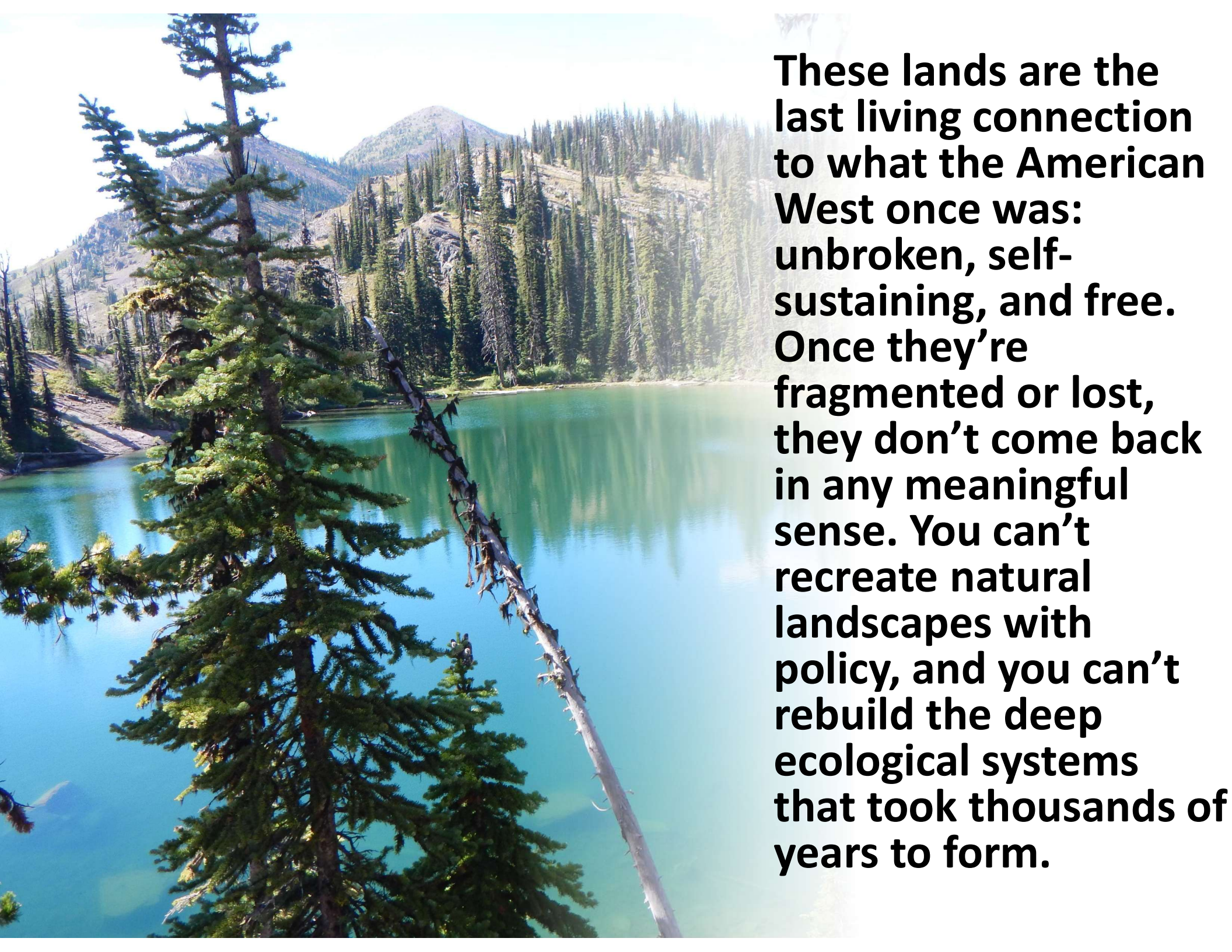
Public lands are not disposable assets—they are irreplaceable. Sell them, fragment them, or open them to unchecked development, and they are lost forever. We must stand now to keep them public, wild, and accessible.

It's easy to forget how short our memory really is. The great surge of westward expansion—driven by ideas like Manifest Destiny—reached its height only about 174 years ago. That's barely more than a human lifetime or two.



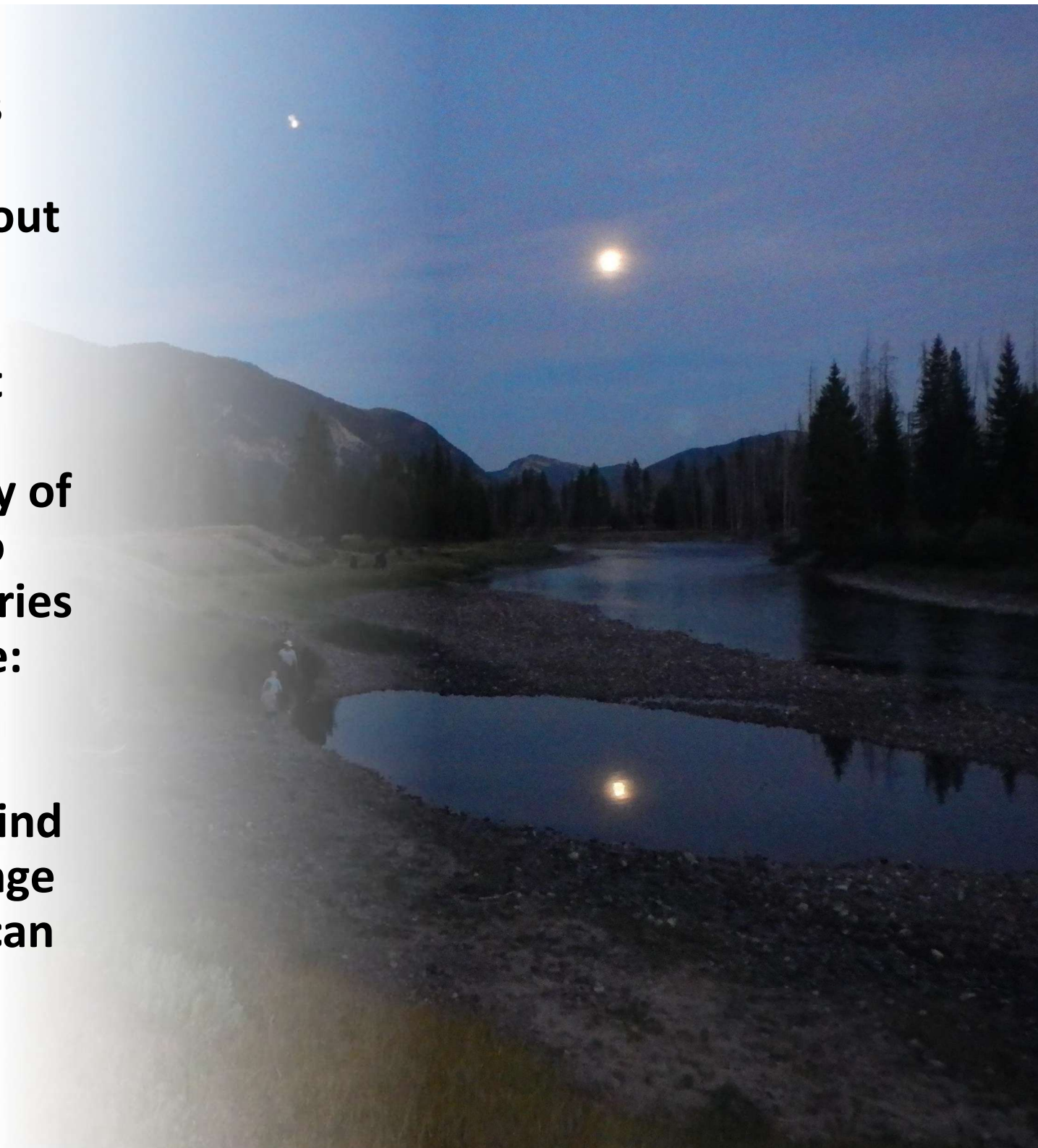
**In that brief span,
we've transformed
vast, wild
landscapes into
farms, cities,
roads, and
industry. What
remains of our
public lands is not
the excess—it's
the remnant.**





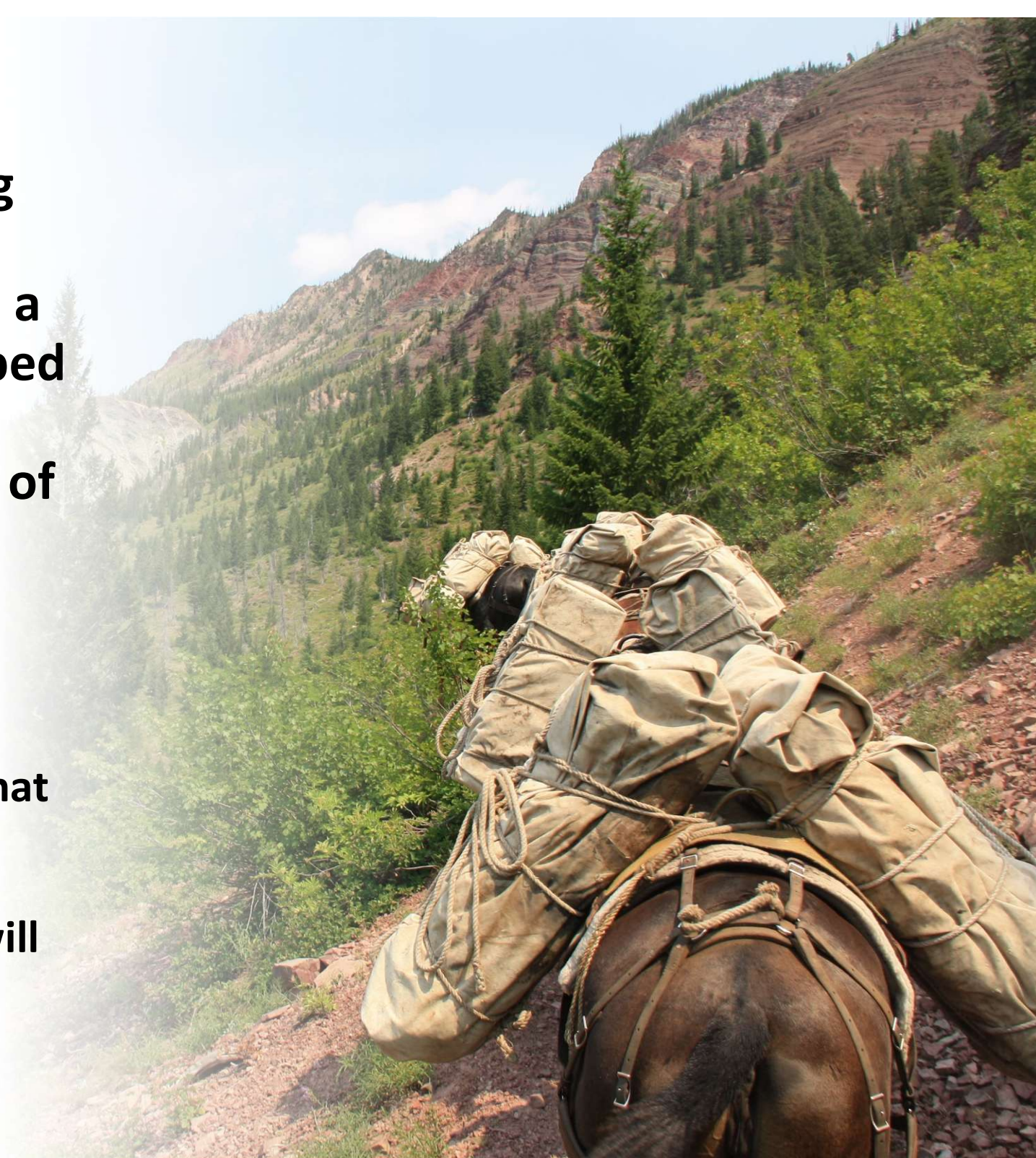
These lands are the last living connection to what the American West once was: unbroken, self-sustaining, and free. Once they're fragmented or lost, they don't come back in any meaningful sense. You can't recreate natural landscapes with policy, and you can't rebuild the deep ecological systems that took thousands of years to form.

Protecting these remaining public lands isn't about locking something up—it's about recognizing that we've already taken almost everything else. In just 174 years, we've consumed the majority of what took millennia to evolve. What's left carries disproportionate value: for wildlife, for clean water, for cultural heritage, and for the kind of solitude and challenge that define the American experience.



If we fail to protect these last places, we're not just losing land—we're closing the final chapter on a landscape that shaped a nation, and we're doing it in the blink of a historical eye.

- **In short:
We are not deciding what to do with abundant land—we are deciding whether the last of it will endure.**





THANK YOU





FUTURE NATIONAL BOARD MEETINGS

SURVEY RESULTS

Should the annual budget include some level of funding for the annual meeting that is NOT expected to come from participants? Examples: National Chairmans's travel expense (required by Bylaws), committee chairs travel when chair is not a Director.	181	5.3
Should the Annual Meeting be held in a pavilion (very large tent) rented for that purpose?	94	2.7
Should the Annual Meeting seek a citing at a college with dorm rooms available for directors?	140	4.0
If the host facility allows, should the Annual Meeting provide sandwich materials, chips, cookies etc. for directors to make their own lunches?	231	6.6
Should directors purchase their own breakfasts?	216	6.2

Should the Meeting be shortened as much as possible?	203	5.8
Should the officers and committee chairs provide orientation reports via Zoom week before the Annual Meeting, cutting the length of the Annual Meeting?	218	6.2
Should the Annual Meeting attempt to provide some sort of fun event (optional, with separate charge) to attract non-director members?	233	6.7
Should the Executive Committee seek hosting of the Annual Meeting by BCHA states, prioritizing bids by the lowest cost to participants and BCHA?	225	6.6
Should the Executive Committee seek opportunities to site the Board Meeting as a convention with vendors and a larger event (e.g., a Horse Expo, the National Western Stock Show in CO, EquiFest, or Equineaffaire) in order to attract more participants?	268	7.7
Should the Annual Meeting be held at the same location each year, centrally located for all states, reducing costs, with same setup as has been done for the past many years, fly in, hotel stay, some meals, banquet, etc.?	249	7.1
Should the Annual Meeting negotiate for better rates by meeting at the same location for two or three years, but rotate between western, central, and eastern states?	272	7.8



YOUTH COMMITTEE

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

Social Media 101

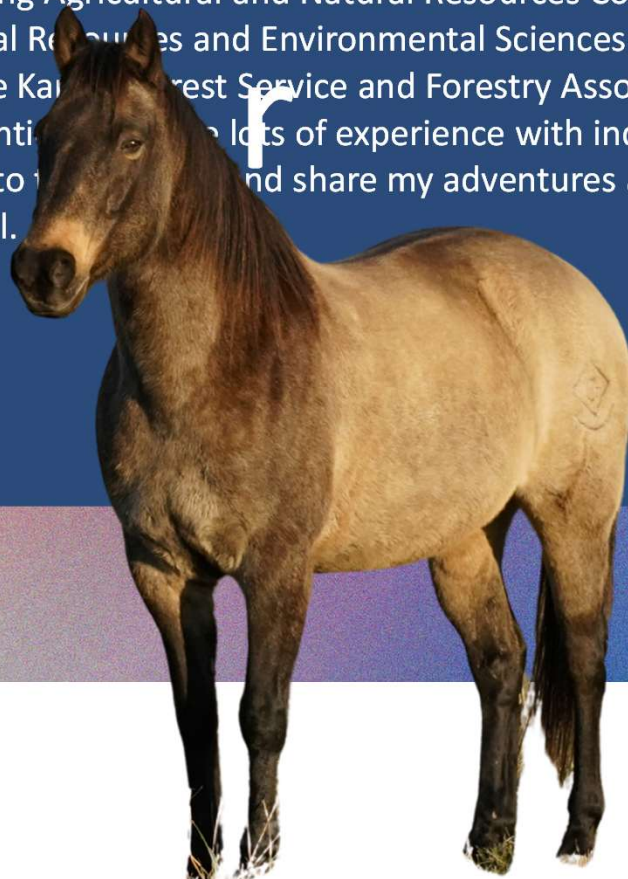
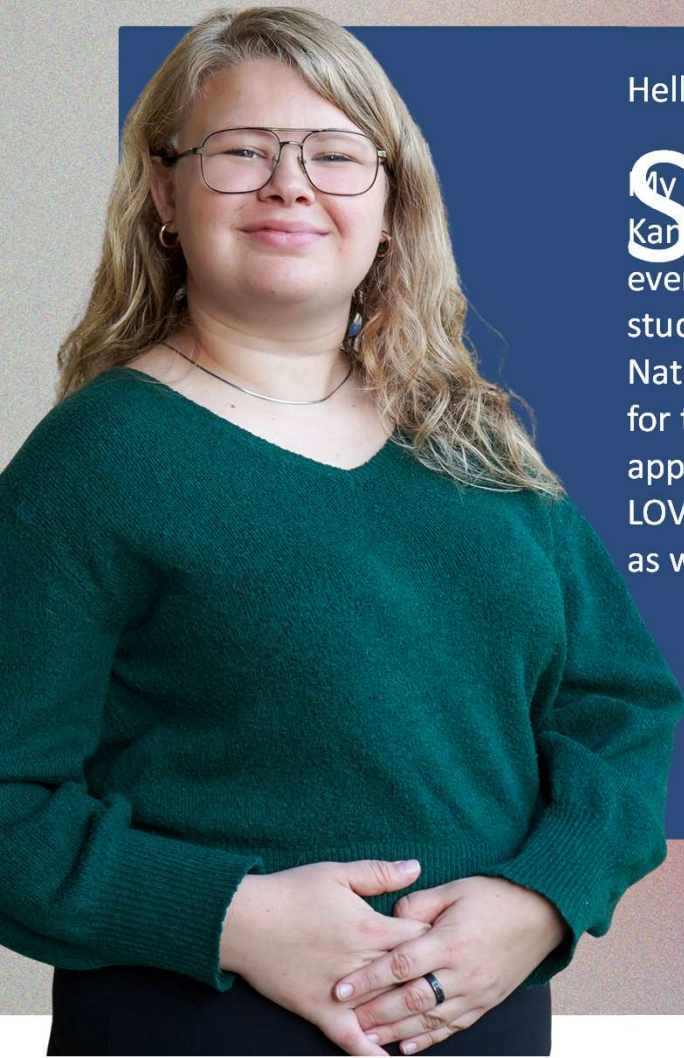
Lexi



Hello everyone!

Studebaker

My name is Lexi Studebaker and I am the PCHA Youth Committee Chair! I am from NE Kansas, and have been a horseman my entire life. I am an active ambassador for everything outdoors and have spoken at several events on the topic. I am currently studying Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications with a secondary major in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at Kansas State University. I also work for the Kansas Forest Service and Forestry Association as their communications apprentice. I have lots of experience with industry-centered media. Lastly, I LOVE to travel and share my adventures and hope to teach you how to do so as well.



Who has...

3 BILLION

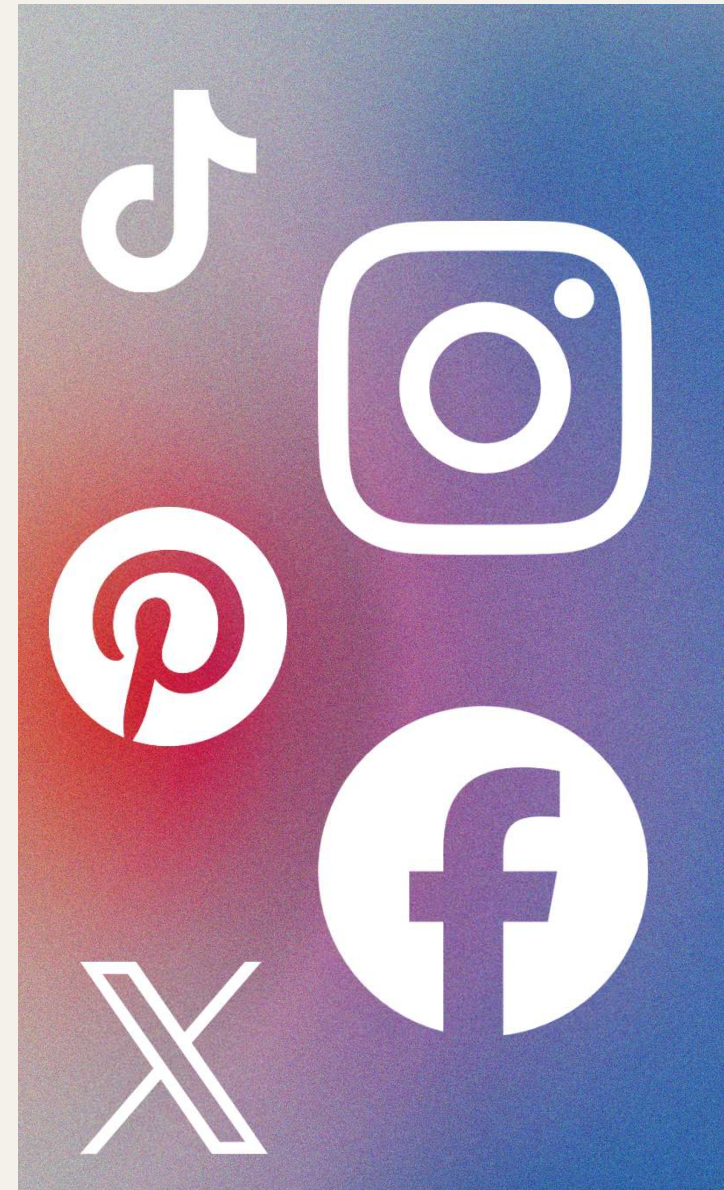
3.07 BILLION

2 MILLION

What is Social Media?

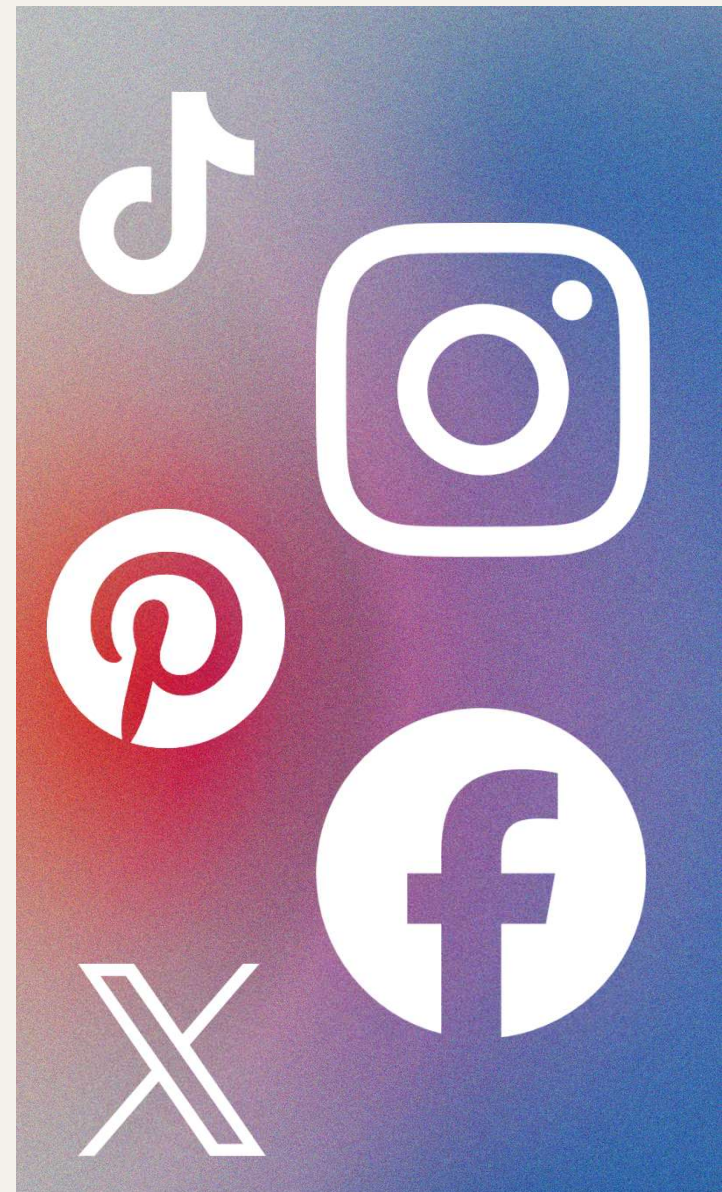
- Social media is a way to share information, photos, and videos online with friends, members, and the public. It lets your chapter:
- Show rides, events, and trail work
- Connect with members and other chapters
- Share news and updates quickly
- Reach new people who might want to join

Think of it as a digital notice board and photo album that everyone can see and interact with.



Why Social Media?

- Over 4 billion people worldwide use social media.
- About 250 million people use Facebook and Instagram in the U.S. every day.
- Lets your chapter share rides, events, and trail projects with thousands of people at once.
- Connect with members and volunteers quickly, without sending emails or letters.
- Attracts new members who want to join your chapter.
- Fast, free way to show the chapter's work and impact on trails and public lands.



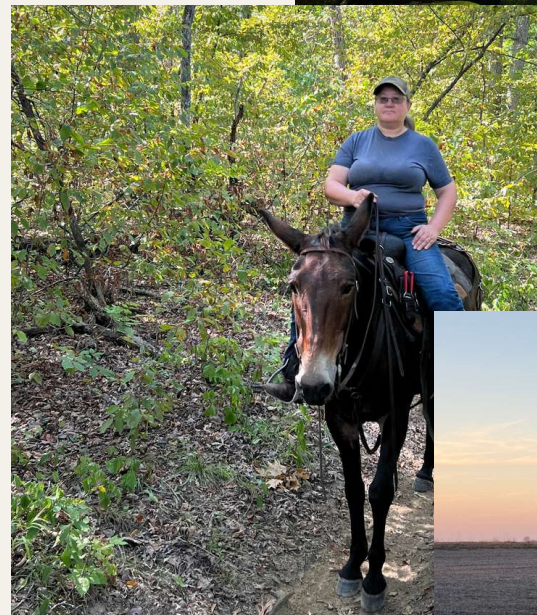
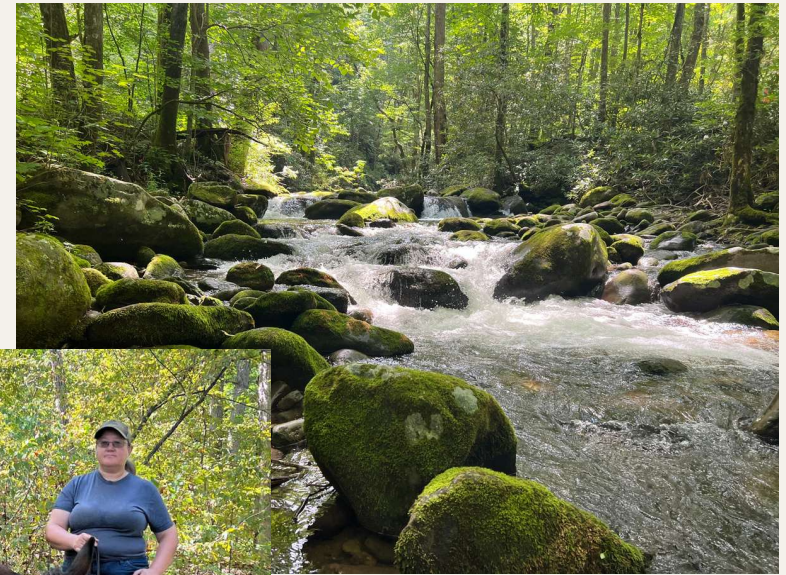
Content Creation

What Do You Need?

All you need is a smart phone to get started!

For those who dont have a smart device, a computer (or your local libraries) and a camera can also be used!

All of these photos were taken with an Iphone!



Phone Photography Tips

- Clean the lens
 - I carry a glasses lens kit in my trail bag!
- Use natural light
 - Be careful with shadows, make sure your subject is in one or the other (preferably in the light)
- Hold the phone steady
 - Take a deep breath and hold it until you are done taking photos
- Tap to focus
 - For Iphone users, turn on guide lines!
- Move closer, don't zoom
 - Zooming can make the subject less clear
- Take a few shots
 - Use multishot mode - gives you a few options to pick from for the best photo!

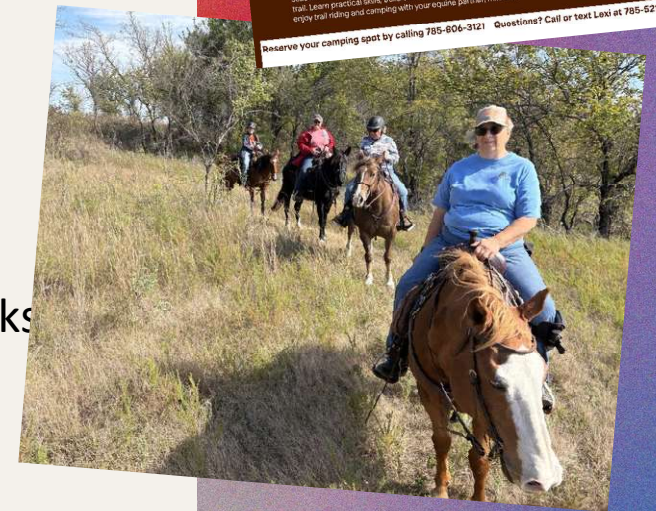


What Can be Content?

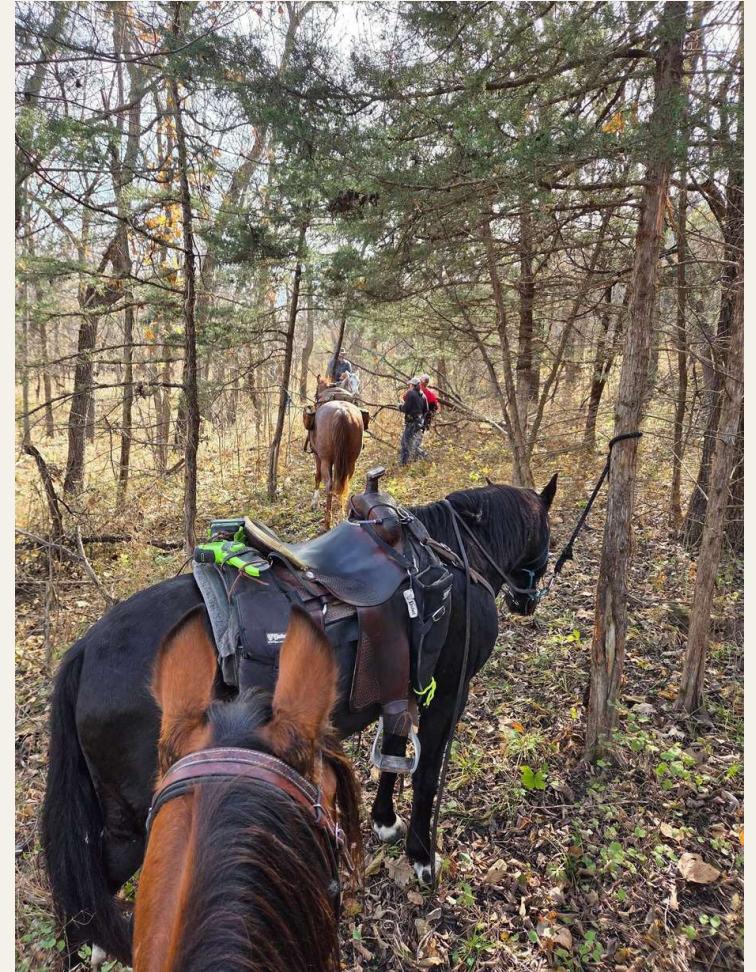
- Share trail updates and riding conditions
- Post photos from group rides and volunteer trail work
- Highlight safety tips for horses and riders
- Keep posts friendly, clear, and community-focused

Example Posts:

- “Join us Saturday for trail cleanup at Pomona Lake.”
- “Spring riding season is here — remember water and hoof checks”
- “Thank you to our volunteers for maintaining local riding trails.”



Caption That!



Facebook

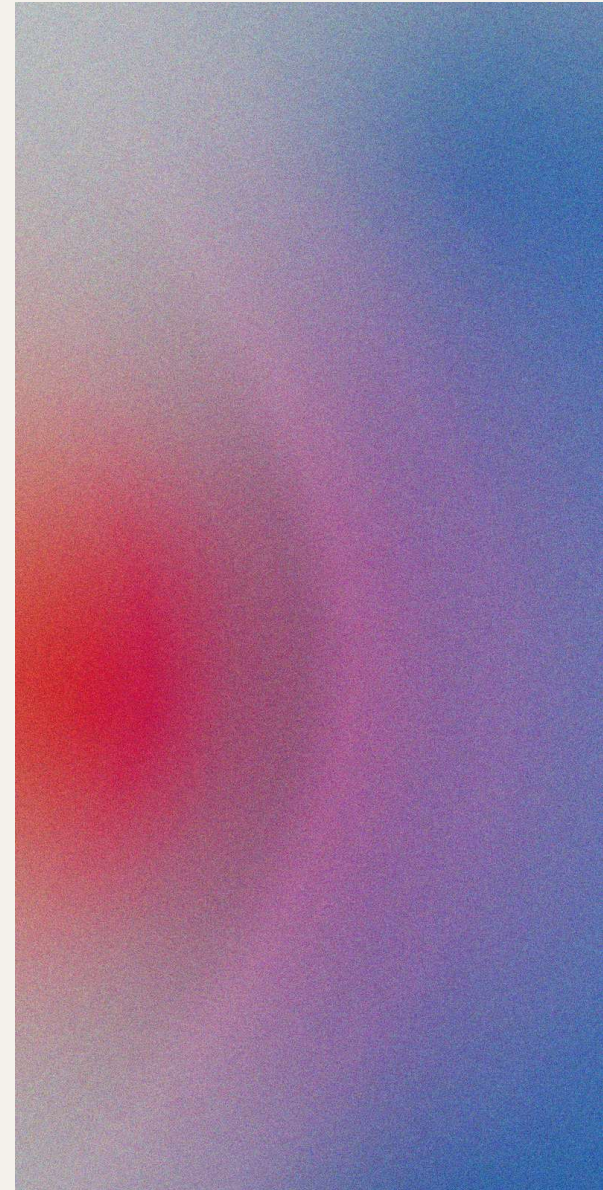
Groups VS Pages

- Designed for community and member interaction
- Members can post, comment, and share freely
- Privacy settings: Public, Closed, or Secret
- Great for chapters, volunteer coordination, and discussions
- Notifications alert members of new posts and comments
- Best for building tight-knit, engaged communities

- Designed for organizations, businesses, or public figures
- Admins post updates, followers can like, comment, or share
- Always public; anyone can follow or like the page
- Good for announcements, events, and showcasing content
- Offers analytics on reach, engagement, and audience demographics
- Best for broadcasting information to a wide audience

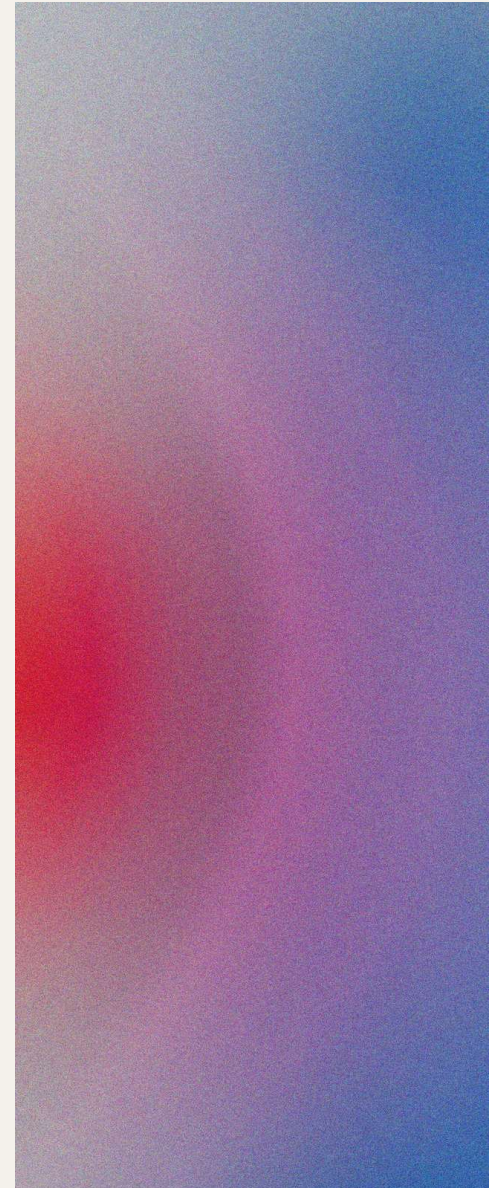
How To: Facebook Groups

- Open Facebook on your computer or phone.
- Click Groups in the left menu.
- Select Create New Group.
- Type the group name, such as BCHA Kansas Trail Riders.
- Choose the privacy setting: Public or Private.
- Invite members, volunteers, and chapter leaders.
- Add a cover photo with horses, trails, or your chapter logo.
- Click Create.



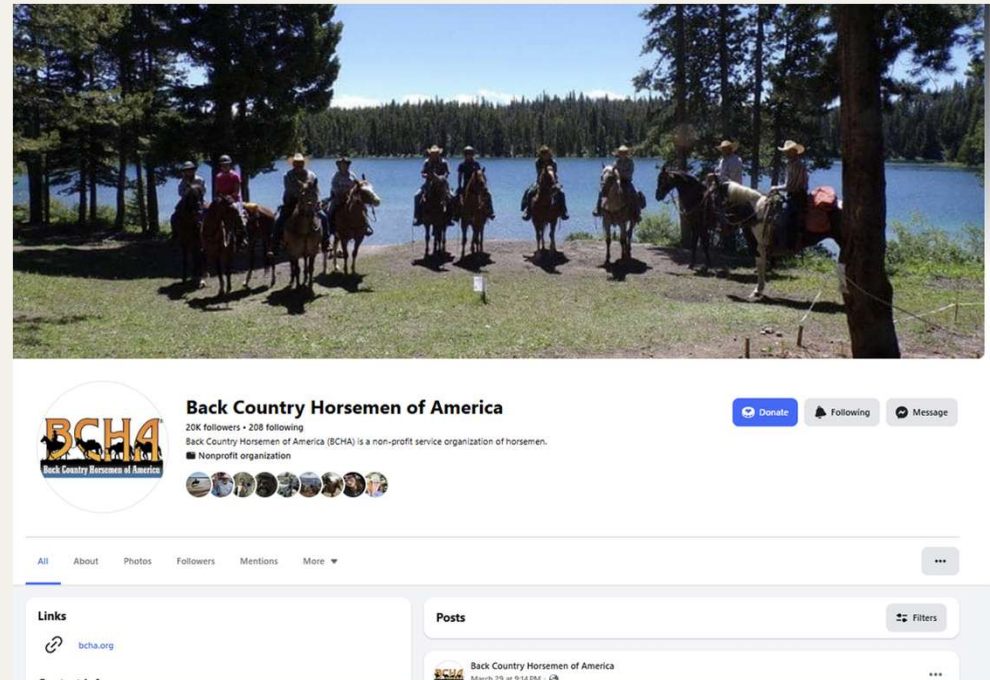
How To: Facebook Pages

- Click Pages in the left menu.
- Select Create New Page.
- Enter the page name, such as BCHA Kansas Chapter.
- Add a category, like Nonprofit Organization or Outdoor & Recreation.
- Write a short description of your chapter.
- Upload a profile photo (logo or horse image) and a cover photo (trail or riding photo).
- Click Create Page.
- Invite people to like your page and share it with chapter members.



EXAMPLES

Facebook Group



Facebook Page (non-profit)

What comes with
Gmail?

What's in the Google Family?

- **Gmail** – Email for sending messages, photos, documents, and updates.
- **Google Drive** – Online storage where you can safely save files, photos, meeting notes, and documents.
- **Google Docs** – Like a digital word processor for writing letters, agendas, newsletters, or trail notes.
- **Google Sheets** – A simple spreadsheet tool for budgets, member lists, ride schedules, or volunteer sign-ups.
- **Google Calendar** – Keeps track of meetings, horse rides, chapter events, and reminders.
- **Google Meet** – Video calls for virtual meetings when members cannot attend in person.
- **Google Photos** – Stores and organizes photos from rides, events, and trail work days.
- **Google Maps** – Helpful for directions, locating trailheads, campsites, and planning routes, can also be used to pin work locations



Questions?

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