



Meeting began at 5:04PM Pacific

Chairman introduction

Latifia Rodriguez in for Craig Ferdig

There were no minutes for the April Executive Committee call in April, there was not a quorum.

Financials

Treasurer provided the financial report.

- Balance Sheet – All account balances presented including investment accounts. The Legacy and Legal invested income accounts provided.

Budget vs. Actual

- Donations provided.
- National Board Meeting income and expenses provided. Including the silent and live auction totals.
- Chapter Support Grant recipients have been paid.

Discussion on the auction income.

Public Lands

Bill to Elevate OHV Use (HR 7979): Coordinated with BCH Colorado on a recently introduced bill, [HR 7979](#) introduced by Colorado Springs congressman Jeff Crank, that would make increased OHV access a priority for the BLM and US Forest Service. Compelled AHC to contact House Natural Resource committee staff (majority and minority) to voice our joint opposition to the bill. Secured chairman approval for BCHA to be added to national sign-on letter opposing the bill. Prepared draft letter of opposition for BCH Colorado to submit to the congressman (draft letter reproduced on the following page in this report).

USFS Travel Management Rule Campaign: Negotiated and secured \$5,000 mini grant for BCHA's continuing effort to prevent the repeal of the Rule. In joint effort with American Trails and AHS, reached out to national motorized/OHV groups with request to advocate jointly against Rule repeal and to identify needed updates to the Rule that both motorized and non-motorized trail users might agree upon. Reviewed and commented, via AHC, on proposed updates/revisions to the Rule advocated by the [Outdoor Recreation Roundtable](#).

USFS Roadless Rule Campaign: Crafted talking points for use with a Wyoming-based philanthropic foundation that might be interested in providing BCHA a grant to fight the proposed repeal of the Rule.



S.1547, America the Beautiful Act: Coordinated with BCH California their sign-on to a state-specific request to US senators to cosponsor [S.1547](#). The bill would extend for 7 years the Legacy Restoration Fund (**LRF**), which was authorized by Congress in 2020 via the Great American Outdoors Act. For the past 5 years, the USFS for example, has successfully used this funding source to address the deferred maintenance of trails, road and other facilities. The BLM and National Park Service also receive funding via the LRF. Made personal request to Oregon senator Jeff Merkley to please cosponsor S.1547.

BCHA Member Monthly Updates: Prepared updates for membership regarding the availability of trail grants via [ExtremeTerrain](#) and a call for [nominations](#) by the Coalition for Recreational Trails for their annual awards program.

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

- American Horse Council, Recreation, Trails & Land Use Committee—chaired quarterly committee discussion that included a Hike the Hill® recap and associated FY'27 trails community appropriations request, and discussions of USFS reorganization, public hunting near trails in the Midwest and East and how AI data centers and transmission lines are adversely affecting horseback riding on private lands.
- Northwest Trails Roundtable—coordinated regional responses regarding USFS reorganization, HR 7979, Rep. Simpson (pending) e-bike bill, and USFS last-minute switch to Mutual Interest Agreements and appeal to Under Secretary's office for rapid approvals for trail groups.
- Partnership for the National Trails System—monthly zoom meeting of PNTS' Advocacy & Policy Committee that included discussion of USFS reorganization, LRF reauthorization (S.1547), rumored USFS proposal to forego Volunteers in the Forest agreements. Chaired quarterly meeting of PNTS Membership Committee.
- Travel Management Core Group— ongoing discussion of joint outreach to avert full repeal of the US Forest Service Travel Management Rule.

Letter drafted for BCH Colorado:

The Honorable Jeff Crank
US House of Representatives
455 E. Pikes Peak Ave.
Suite 103
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



RE: Opposition to HR 7979, Request for Meeting

Dear Congressman Crank:

I represent the members of the Rocky Mountain chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Colorado who work and/or reside in your congressional district. We are writing to express our profound concern over your introduction of HR 7979, the so-called Public Lands Access Restoration Act. If passed as introduced, the bill could serve to improve access to our US public lands for only a single user group—motorized recreation enthusiasts. While many of our members enjoy motorized recreation on our public lands, our concern is based on the fact that HR 7979 is one-sided, as it serves to promote motorized-related recreation, possibly to the detriment of other public land visitors including equestrians, hikers and anyone else who seeks a relatively quiet and peaceful recreational experience.

The bill also would preclude the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), nationwide, from restricting motorized recreational use, even in cases where it can be demonstrated that the use is resulting in adverse impact to public land resources or other public land visitors. In fact, HR 7979 would force the agencies to act upon and approve nearly any and all proposals from the public to expand the footprint of motorized recreational use on our public lands. This would represent an unprecedented usurpation of agency discretion by a single user group and would preclude other public land stakeholders from weighing in on proposals that could affect their recreational experience. Moreover, the bill would ask far too much and represents an unfunded mandate for consistently under-resourced field staff throughout the BLM and US Forest Service.

Lastly, based on our reading, HR 7979 could leave open the possibility that local clubs and motorized riding advocates might attempt to push motorized use onto currently non-motorized trails shared by equestrians, hikers, trail runners and others. That's because the language in section 3(b)(2) of the bill is nebulous with respect to the "repurposing or conversion of roads or trails." As currently written, that section could imply that current non-motorized trails may be nominated for motorized use as section 3(c) does not preclude such a possibility.

In closing, we strongly oppose concepts associated with the introduction of HR 7979. We respectfully request a meeting with staff in your Colorado Springs district office in order to discuss these concerns in greater detail. Thank you.



Committee Updates

Public Lands: The areas are having meetings.

Volunteer Hours: Updated form is on the website.

Marketing & Media: Having meetings

Education: A lot going on and reminded to fill out the survey

Survey Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEvVKFBGyTtywLSF4aZmLU-lquD49IPsbRozC1aw7g3xG1Vg/viewform>

Saw: Huge training took place last week.

2028 National Board Meeting

We are in the process of obtaining RFPs in Missoula to hold the 2028 & 2029 National Board Meeting.