BCHA National Director Call Notes

September 23, 2026

Call began at 5:02PM Pacific

Financial

Treasurer provided the financial report.
Balance Sheet
Bank Account Balances provided
Investment accounts values and fees provided
CD's value provided.

Budget vs. Actual
Highlights provided.

Discussion on if the investment fees should come out of the amount invested in the balance sheet.
Questioned why we carry a high balance in the checking account and suggested it should be put in a CD or something. Chairman will look to see if there is a way to do something that gets BCHA a return.

Investment Company

After research of the investment accounts an RFP was sent out to alternative investment companies, two companies responded, Edward Jones and Baird Investment. During the EC call the proposals were presented and Baird is slightly lower than Edward Jones' and Baird stated they don't have any hidden fees and rates will not go up. The EC voted to move from Stifel and go with Baird. Next step is setting up a meeting with Baird to see what the needs are for transition and then meet with Stifel to move everything to Baird.

Any questions:
Q: Did we ask Stifel about lowering their rates? **A:** No, Stifel was not asked.
Comment: As National Directors, provide the opportunity to do some research into Baird and come back in October for further discussion. If there are concerns about this transition the process will be slowed down to address the concerns.
Q: What would it hurt to ask Stifel and not assume they won't lower fees. **A**: The fees are too high and not competitive, so we are moving on to another company. If Stifel comes back and says they will lower their fees in the transition discussion we may consider Stifel.

Public Lands

USFS 2005 Travel Management Rule Campaign: Lead national trails coalition in the development of a detailed public comment letter regarding proposed revisions to the Travel Management Rule. The letter, authored primarily by BCHA, is currently being circulated for sign-on among other allies and trails organizations with a sign-on deadline of September 22nd. BCHA's approach included more than just crafting policy and NEPA related comments in response to the Forest Service proposal, and incorporated detailed discussions and strategy sessions with several allies, BCHA officers, and by reviewing and incorporating applicable Forest Service policy and regulations. Key topics raised include:

- **Preserve the Minimization Criteria:** Any new "access-oriented framework" must retain the core intent of the original designation criteria to actively minimize user conflicts and environmental degradation.
- **Protect the Public Review Process (including NEPA):** Clearly define "minor," "iterative," and "clerical" changes so substantive route decisions don't bypass public review, local communities, Tribes, and recreation partners.
- **Safeguard Volunteer Investments:** The agency relies on volunteers to maintain 60% of its trail system. Prioritizing motorized access risks alienating this workforce.
- **Clarify Class 1 E-Bike Designation:** Class 1 e-bikes aren't motorcycles, but they do have a motor. The Draft EIS must detail stakeholder engagement and NEPA analysis for Class 1 e-bike designation, and should not extend motorized exemptions to other e-bike classes.

Objections to Tahoe NF Class 1 E-Bike Authorization: Participated in two virtual objections resolution meetings regarding the forest's third Environmental Assessment to approve yet more—119 miles of—non-motorized trails for use by Class 1 e-bikes (*see August 2026 Public Lands Report for additional background*). Despite offering pointed yet professionally-delivered arguments, BCHA's concerns were completely blown off in the forest's final decision. Plus, given recent changes to agency NEPA regulations, the Tahoe NF continues to justify its avoidance of analyzing the cumulative impacts of a half dozen recent and proposed e-bike authorizations on the forest and adjacent USFS-administered Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. To date, these decisions have covered over 415 miles of non-motorized trails.

Coalition Meetings: Randy represented BCHA in the following key and virtual coalition meetings:

- **Northwest Trails Roundtable**—Topics included US Forest Service Travel Mgt Rule revision, Roadless Rule repeal and how we can help each other out.

- **Partnership for the National Trails System**—Participant in Advocacy & Policy Committee meeting, with topics of interest to BCHA including:
    - Prospect of Congress enacting a Continuing Resolution for FY'27 funding;
    - Forest Service evolving changes in terms & conditions for partnership agreements;
    - Rule changes, including FS Travel Mgt Rule revision, Roadless Rule repeal; and
    - National Scenic & Historic Trail designation proposals and feasibility studies expected from Congress.
- **Coalition for Recreational Trails**—Discussion included outreach to House and Senate bill sponsor prospects after mid-term elections, with low prospect of moving a bill this session to reauthorize and fully fund the Recreational Trails Program.

Letter submitted online, with AHS and American Trails, Three logos are on the header of this letter.

There are some areas that have been having trouble getting share agreements approved. If you are aware if you are using a cost share, let us know. We are looking for an idea of how many across the country are using these.

Darrell discussed a proposed rule from the office of budget

AQHA

BCHA received an updated contract and BCHA is ready to sign on with them. A meeting earlier this week that included the BCHA Officers and BCHA Youth Committee Chair, and several AQHA employees. Would like Youth Committee Chair to set up etiquette and safety training.

Q: Will this open the door to other programs such as Tennessee Walking Horse and other organizations or this exclusive with AQHA?
A: This is not exclusive, BCHA can partner with other organizations.

Committees

Marketing & Media still working on the website.
Fundraising is continuing working and working on marketing videos.

Any Discussion
Status on blanket liability insurance? Has not been successful in finding this insurance. Because all of the states are different it is difficult to find one company to handle all states.

Do we still have an active MOU with he parks service? Yes, Michelle will track it down and get it to Don.

Meeting ended at 6:00PM Pacific