



2017 BCHI State Board of Directors Meeting
March 10, 2017 Minutes
Hosted by Boise BCH in Boise, Idaho

The March 10, 2017 BCHI State Board of Directors (SBD) meeting was called to order at 8:08 by State Chairperson Bob Savage in Boise, ID, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Secretary, Debbie Samovar conducted the Roll Call of State Directors present. All chapters were represented. Minutes from the last Directors Meeting of September 2016 were read. Ken Nungesser, Treasure Valley, made a motion to accept the minutes, Bill Conger, Squaw Butte, seconded, Motion PASSED.

State Treasurer, Kay Ryan reported on the finances for the period September 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. Bill Conger, Squaw Butte, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Gay Hood, High Desert, 2nd, Motion PASSED.

Annual Financial Review - Gretel Kleint, Heartland and Karen Parks, Twin Rivers, volunteered.

Directors Training - Raenette Didier, North Central, had everyone turn to the Director's Training tab in their Director's Policy Manual. She read the Preamble, discussed Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. She also noted that the Policy Manual does not yet speak to motions previously made that are still on the books that are used for everyday business, such as mileage reimbursement. Directors need to look in the media to be aware of actions that would affect access to trails. She covered the State Board Membership, Officers and Operations of the SBD, the Vice-Chair who collects the Volunteer Hours and Annual Reports, compiles them and sends to BCHA. She stressed the duties of the State Directors as explained on page 10 and how important they are and if you don't take away anything else from this training, remember the list in the box on page 10. In covering the Officers and Operation of SBD, from the By-Laws, on page 17, it was emphasized how important it is for the chapters to have 2 Directors and an alternate so as to have 2 representatives at the Board meeting. If only one of those three people can make the meeting, only the chapter president can contact the Chairman, prior to the meeting, naming their second (proxy) representative. Only the Directors can make a motion and vote. The Chairman only votes in a tie. We generally follow Roberts Rules which are covered on page 16.

Volunteer Hours and Annual Reports - Brandon Breaux, Boise, passed out copies of the report that he compiled from all the hours the chapters sent in. The numbers are not accurate as he just got the last chapters' reports today, so the numbers will go up. As a State organization we put in 13,229 hours, saving the Federal government \$602,271.66. Annual Reports are still coming in. (*See Attachment #1*)

WEB Changes – Rod Parks, Twin Rivers, will not be doing the website anymore. He took the job initially because he felt it needed to be done and has been asking for someone to take it over. The secretary asked for a list of what Rod felt the duties were for the position, which was then e-mailed to all the Directors and chapter presidents. He's been asking chapters to send him updates to keep the site fresh. If people go to our site on a regular basis and don't see something new, they're never going to go to it again. We don't have a Facebook page, so we need to keep BCHI.org fresh to keep our exposure up. It is up to the chapters to send info to the website. It is not necessary for the website coordinator to be a board member, but at least an active chapter member to do this position. The website coordinator does not do the site design, they just collect the information and makes sure it is in a format that the website designer can use and then that person makes the changes to the site. We're just looking for someone to call a chapter and say "Hey, you haven't sent anything in 2 years". Rod just shoots the update to the site designer and tells him what page to put it on. There has been talk about getting a donation button on the site and until we get our 501(c) figured out, that will be handled at a later date with the Foundation. Jill Nebeker, Treasure Valley, volunteered to do the website.

Federal Land Exchange – Bob Savage, Chairman, going to pass to the Public Lands reports.

BCHI Insurance – Bill Conger reported that he received the renewed quote from our new carrier, its \$3,084. On the handout that was passed around he referred to a document from our Policy Manual labeled Statewide Policy for Public Events, dated July 11, 2009. It limited each chapter to 2 public events per year, between then and now it has gone to unlimited. On the sheet was a proposal to update and change the BCHI policy for coverage of Public Events that he suggested that the Board pass a motion stating: Each chapter is responsible for getting instructions and forms from the website; Each chapter was limited to 5 Public Event Days per year; Chapters would be responsible for the actual cost of any days above and beyond their 5 Event Days that were submitted and Chapters would pay any invoice for insurance coverage within 30 days.

All events include a day for set up and a day for tear down. Bill went over the basic info on our insurance and due dates for the new Directors. The State pays the bill for your coverage as long as you submit that form from the website by Feb 15th of each year. He received requests for 44 public event days for this next policy period. The cost of an event that is added after Feb 15th will be known when the insurance company sends us the bill and the Treasurer will send the bill to the chapter. If you have to fill out a permit to have an event on public lands, they will probably want to be listed as an “Additional Insured” which is usually \$20 and they usually have special language they want listed on that coverage that you will need to put on your request for that event. Even though it is someone else’s parade, if you participate in that parade as Back Country Horsemen and you want liability coverage for your participation, you need to list that public event. If not, and someone comes back and sues you as Back Country Horsemen, there will not be coverage.

It was discussed that with all these public event days the State is covering, it’s no wonder that we’re over budget. It was mentioned that chapters who put on a public event where they are making money should pay the coverage for that event and that the State cover the costs for events that are free to the public. In planning your events, if you know you want to put on an event in May, pick a day and submit it. If at the time you are actually ready to have the event, and the original date is not going to work, submit a date change a week in advance if possible. There is no charge to change a date. This will give you an opportunity to submit it before the Feb deadline.

Does the current premium include the \$235 credit we got for cancelled events from last year? No, but that credit will automatically reduce what we have to pay this year. Maybe we need to put a check box on the form for chapters to mark that they can pay the cost of the insurance for their money making event or the chapter could make a donation to BCHI. If your event is rained out, send Bill an e-mail as soon as possible with a new date within a week or two so he can notify the insurance company. If you end up canceling an event, let him know and the State will be credited for that cancellation. Please read the information form on the website. All this information is on it. Are there any exclusions that we need to provide the new company? We have adopted an alcohol and dog policy, and that has not been changed and a copy has been sent to the new company.

Bill asked for a motion to adopt this for our guidelines for insurance, Ken Nungesser, Treasure Valley, so moved, Sam Duncan, Palouse, 2nd. Discussion, we just discussed the need to balance the budget and we just talked about going from unlimited events to 5 days for 16 chapters. The motion was to adopt the paper that was handed out and that does have 5 event days on it and if we want to change the number, he has no problem with that. This would take effect in 2018. Roll call vote: 12 Yea’s 18 No’s. Motion FAILED.

Rod Parks, Twin Rivers, made a motion to accept Bill’s proposal with the second item switched to 2 public event days rather than 5, Gay Hood, High Desert, 2nd. It was discussed to limit the number based on the budget. In the past when we only had 2 events per chapter and the State paid for 2 per chapter, when we got to the cutoff date, the insurance coordinator would send out a memo saying we have this many events left and other chapters could submit more projects. This would certainly apply now. Roll call vote: 26 Yea’s 4 No’s. Motion PASSED. This is for next year (2018), what has been submitted for this year is already in the quote and included. (*See Attachment #2*)

Broomtales Report – Debbie Samovar, Sawtooth, reported articles for the next issue are due May 17th. There was applause for the new stock and color of the Broomtales. The point was made that there is value in the hardcopy of Broomtales, don’t forget to submit your articles to Just Horses and other magazines. Maybe we could come up with a Media/Marketing list and just cc the articles when sending it to Broomtales. There was a question as who owns the copyright when we send an article to a magazine. Sometimes when you submit an article the publisher may want to have exclusive rights to the article. Rod Parks, Twin Rivers, made a motion not to put the BCHI minutes in Broomtales, Brandon Breaux, Boise 2nd, Motion PASSED. Please make sure all your agency contacts are up to date and to Debbie.

Education Chair Report – Marybeth Conger, Squaw Butte, presented the BCHI video that will soon be on the website for chapters to download to use at public outreach events. The goal is to introduce our organization to the

public and to grow our members. Robbin Schindele is the creative person who put this together and it was our members who submitted the photos.

LNT – Marybeth had some fabulous door prizes she gave away to people who could answer questions about LNT. Karen Kimball, Panhandle, reported that Back Country Horsemen of Washington and the Ponderosa Chapter are having a Basic Training Seminar at the Riverside State Park in Spokane, WA on April 7th – 9th. Debbie Samovar, Secretary, has the registration and information forms and will e-mail it to everyone. Marybeth reported that that very course outline has been on our BCHI website since 2003. It is called the BCHI LNT Basic Class Outline. All of our training syllabuses are out there for all 5 different tiers. We need to revitalize our Master Educators and get them out there training Trainers, so that the Trainers can put on a course like this, you can download it and you're ready to rock and roll.

LNT Master Education Training – When Marybeth went to sign up at Nine Mile Remount Station, they no longer offer the LNT. BCH of California was nationally recognized in the Leave No Trace Education of Stock and in 2015 and was awarded the contract by the LNT organization to provide the only Leave No Trace Stock Master Educator course in the country. They offer the course twice a year and it rotates between north and southern CA and the course currently costs \$400. They also do Sawyer certification. Because of schedule conflicts, Marybeth can't take the course until 2018 and she's put the word out that if anyone wants to be a Master Educator Trainer, contact her.

Education Funds to Foundation – To help with the budget, she would like to propose that all of the State Education go through the Foundation. Rather than have a line item on the BCHI Budget, that we write a check to the Foundation and Marybeth and Chris Reed will go through an approval process. It was suggested that we apply for a grant from the Idaho Horse Council for funds for the Master Course Training and that it be filled out by the Foundation for 2018.

BCHI Membership Training – There has been discussions on the Leadership training that WA does. Karen Kimball, Panhandle, has agreed to work with Marybeth on a Training Module for ID. The people who currently have the positions will be doing the training. We need to get more people involved. This will give them a chance to learn what that job is. Chapter level officers will have a chance to receive training from the people who are doing the jobs at the State level. (See Attachment #3)

Calendars – Rod Parks, Twin Rivers, shared that after the discussion at the Sept SBD meeting, he and Kay came up with what the dues would need to be if we no longer had the calendar program. If there is no other source of income, Singles dues would need to be \$35 and family dues would need to be \$60. For 2018 the single dues will be \$20 and family dues will be \$30. The amount of increase is based on current membership levels.

Raenette Didier, North Central, talked about the history behind the Proposal that their chapter put forward on the Calendars. Based on comments from chapters who don't want to sell the calendars, they did not want a proposal to come up to do away with the calendars and the SBD be stuck with trying to come up with a new way to raise money. The chapters need to know, just like the dues increases, that when the board decides to do something, all the chapters have to participate. The By-Laws talk about supporting the State organization and what is more applicable is we follow Robert's Rules of Order; it's whoever gets the most votes, that's the way the vote goes. The vote on the Proposal goes before the delegates.

The printing is coming up and we need to make a decision now if we are going to have calendars for 2018. If the Proposal passes we would still need to go with the 2018 calendars. Debbie Samovar, Sawtooth, reported on the costs for printing 1,800, 1,700 and 1,600, with 5% overs. It was decided to take a count on how many calendars each chapter wants to decide how many to print. For 2016, with overs we received 2,100 and Brandon Breaux, Boise, reported that after the drawing he threw 110 calendars into the trash.

Chapter roll call was taken for the number of 2018 calendars each chapter is going to take:

Boise – 30	Cache Peak – 55	Eagle Rock – 25	Heartland – 80	High Desert – 75
North Central – 200	Palouse – 50	Panhandle – 150	Portneuf River – 35	Priest River – 80
Salmon River – 55	Sawtooth – 30	Selkirk Valley – 30	Squaw Butte – 250	Treasure Valley – 175
Twin Rivers – 350				

GRAND TOTAL COMMITMENT – 1,670. 1,600 + 80 overs = 10 unspoken for calendars

Total count from 2016 was 1,684.

Gay Hood, High Desert, made a motion that we print 1,600 plus the overage, Carl Gates, Boise, 2nd, Motion PASSED

501(c) - Karen Kimball, Panhandle and Chris Reed, BCHI Foundation President, were appointed by the Chairman as a temporary committee to look into 501(c) options. In the minutes from the March 2016 SBD meeting the SDB discussed applying for a (c)4, but it was never voted on and questions were raised at the September 2016 SBD meeting on how to continue.

Karen & Chris met with an attorney, plus Karen spoke with an accountant and both recommended a (c)7. Karen asked members of the SBD to review the (c)7 and they determined that designation is for a Social Club that gets the majority of its monies from dues. Kay Ryan, Treasurer, reported she had the application for a 501(c)4 ready to be submitted to the IRS.

Karen Kimball, Panhandle, made a motion that BCHI proceed with the 501(c)4 designation, Joe Brinkman, Eagle Rock, seconded. Discussion: As a (c)4 we can lobby & submit legislation. This exemption only covers our State organization, to include coverage for the individual chapters would cost \$3000. It was noted that the 501(c) is a Federal designation to keep from paying Federal taxes on income in excess of \$10,000 per year which would not apply to most chapters. Non-profit is a State designation. Roll Call vote of 30 Yea's 0 No's. Motion PASSED. After the 501(c)4 vote passed by the SBD, the Boise Chapter withdrew their proposal regarding the 501(c) designation.

Public Lands Report – North – Rod Parks, Twin Rivers

FS Saw Policy – Jerry Lane, Twin Rivers and Joe Robinson, North Central are going to be going out and training members. Whether they are willing to go out to train other chapters, you'll have to ask them. It was asked if Rod knew anything about the battery operated chainsaws, they've been out for years but are still illegal to use in the wilderness. There is a proposal to have three trainers, one in the north, one in the middle and one in the south. Bob Savage, Chairman, had a conversation with the Coeur d'Alene FS and they had a meeting in Missoula and he said keep doing what we're doing for the past few years and come about 2018 they'll get their stuff together. Raenette Didier, North Central reported that Region 1 has signed on, but they don't know about Region 4, so those chapters will have to check into it.

Federal Register – have your Public Lands person check the Federal Register for FS, BLM and NPS a couple of times a month. Links for each can be found on the BCHI website's Issue page. Most have a 30 day comment period. If you don't comment, then no appeals can be done. Link to FS, BLM, & NPS

<http://www.bchi.org/issues.htm>

Wallace L. Forest Conservation Area – this is BLM land located on Blue Creek Bay on Coeur d'Alene Lake. He and Karen Kimball, Panhandle, attended a meeting and voiced concerns over Mountain Bikes using the same trails as stock or running bike trails next to stock trails. One of his concerns with their proposal was that they are going to use IMBA (International Mt Bike Assoc) trail standards for the construction of all the trails. Why is a government agency using a private organization's standards and gave the organizer a copy of the FS standards.

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail – if there are Mt Bike or motorized trails on it now they will look for ways to put trails around those for stock and hikers. He doesn't know if Jim Michaud, Selkirk Valley, is still on the committee, but they now have a member from Montana BCH. You can request their 8 page report from him and he'll e-mail it to you.

Hemingway Boulder, White Clouds, and Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness's – A letter regarding the HBWC has been sent. And the comment period for the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak deadline is March 17th. He sent out an e-mail asking for input. The Wilderness Management Plans are still going through their processes. Rod was concerned with the 2 hour limit for tying stock to a tree. How are they going to enforce that? There is a CFR, Code of Federal Regulations, tying stock to a tree is not a ticketable offence, but digging a hole around a tree is. Some of us from Northern Idaho have been assisting Phil Ryan, Public Lands-South.

Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness – Rod and Phil will write up the letter for the Chairman to sign and send. Bob Savage thanked Raenette & Steve Didier, North Central, Phil Ryan, Squaw Butte and Ken Wells, High Desert, for the time they put into the letter and going down to the Twin Falls FS and presenting our concerns on the HBWC.

Wildlife Corridor – this started 10 years ago. It is a connected land bridge, 200 miles wide from Canada to Colorado and the Wilderness Society is trying to keep people out.

Public Lands Report – South - Phil Ryan, Squaw Butte

Owyhee Initiative, still working with BLM and walked the area of Mud Flat Rd south of Grand View and they are going to build a non-motorized trailhead at Shoo-fly Ck and Perjue Canyon. There will be car areas, pull-troughs with highlines and a toilet. They'll break dirt in 2018.

Idaho Sportsman's Alliance – there are no access issues affecting recreational stock use from any Fish & Game or legislative bills this year.

HR 845 The National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act – passed Nov 2016. All 4 of the ID Forests are in there, the use of fire crews, the credits for Outfitters and Guides, standardized training across all regions for chainsaws and crosscuts and the liability for volunteers will be spread out all over the entire forest system as opposed to the districts only. The FS gave us 60 days after the enactment of this law to specify what area in Region 4 that we would like to see as a proposed area for increased trail maintenance. The Selway Bitterroots, The Frank Church and Gospel Hump Wildernesses were submitted and the FS now has six months to give their response. (See Attachment #4)

The Boulder White Clouds Wilderness Management Plan - Bob Savage (BCHI Chairman), along with Steve and Raenette Didier, Ken Wells (President of the High Desert Chapter) and I attended a meeting with the Forest Supervisor in Twin Falls on February 21st to discuss our concerns in the management plan. (See Attachment #5)

Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness – comments needs to be in by March 17th. They are going to add a trail and close three trails because they can't find them on the ground. That's a lack of maintenance on their part. So after the meeting, Rod, Bob and Phil are going to write out their response and send it out. If you are commenting on a federal document it can't be emotional, it has to be substantive, and it has to be based on an issue that is improvable if possible. On form letters and when the FS sees more than one of them that is the same they count all of them as one comment. Change it around and put your own twist on it.

Public Lands – we have local, state and national politicians who want to get rid of the public lands and bring them back to the state. We can't afford that. It's \$100 million a year to run the BLM and National Forests. Phil has been to several meetings and recently in Fruitland, a state legislator said she was against taking over the public lands and a guy stood up and said she just lied to the whole group and that he had her voting record right here. Congress has said that the public lands are worth no money now and they are trying to set aside \$50 million of tax payer's money so they can use that while they're transferring the public lands. There was bill by a UT Senator that he had to cancel, to sell 3.3 million acres in the west, 110,000 acres here in ID. 960,000 acres in WY because it's BLM land and kind of worthless, the largest coal deposit in the US are there. Just ask "Who's going to pay for the fires?"

Idaho Horse Council – is going to put out a coloring book.

Idaho Sportsman's Show – BCHI had a booth there and the attendance was over 15,000. It's a great way to get information out about us and our mission of supporting the national agencies in the maintenance of trails. The number one question asked of them was if we gave horse rides.

National Directors' Reports – Sam Duncan. Palouse, on a side note, the Palouse president heard through a neighbor about a Palouse Land Trust. This was supposed to grant public access in perpetuity. But it was only for bicycles. With their involvement they got pull-through trailer spaces and trails that have access for horses and trails that have access for bikes. You need to be aware of what is going on around you, not everything is in the papers.

House Bill 845, Strategy for Sustainable Trail System, the FS says they can't meet their obligation of being ready for it as mandated which was originally Feb 28th. The Bob Marshall and Frank Church are going to get a lot of input. This is a good opportunity for us to work with other user groups to work with the FS to get trails cleaned up, as they are expecting severe cutbacks in their budgets. One of the mandates of this bill is that the FS is to take a more active role in working with volunteers groups.

In Oregon they are using this bill to not do trails as they are not going to loan firefighting equipment or use firefighting funds. That would have to come out of recreation and groups provide their own equipment. Trails that appeared on the 1958 map, when digitalized were dropped without public input.

South Dakota BCH is fighting a public lands transfer effort. School lands commission wants to trade some high value Black Hills area for prairie grassland of lesser use and value and the normal land exchange laws are not being adhered to.

Missouri is also having land transfer issues with Fish & Game and FS. The agencies are buying the land and they hold it in perpetuity as a land trust. The Weeks Act may not allow these exchanges and that the state agencies can restrict horses, firearms, hunting, etc with no public input required.

The bicyclists are still trying to get into the wilderness and have some intense lobbying going on behind the scenes and this issue will come up again.

The Western Pine Beetle is wreaking havoc and millions of trees have been killed and California's drought is responsible for another 102 million tree deaths. The Southern Pine Beetle is now appearing in the north east forests. Arkansas added two new BCH Groups.

BCHA is working on a strategic business plan and are also asking everyone to join the \$5 a month club.

Idaho Horse Council – Raenette Didier, North Central, reported that the BCHI comment letter to the Sawtooth NF on the Hemingway-Boulders & White Clouds Wilderness Management Plan was presented to the IHC Directors at their meeting on 1/28/17. During the discussion each major point that BCHI raised, was discussed. The IHC Board made a motion to support the BCHI stand on the proposal & send a letter of support to the Sawtooth NF under the IHC letterhead & the IHC Chairman's signature. Motion Passed.

The Idaho Horse Council represents all the equine groups in Idaho and they are very appreciative of BCHI watching out for what goes on, on the trails and on access.

Steve Didier, North Central, noted that the word “Standing” was mentioned when talking about the letter, on the individual level, the chapter level, state level and national level, in order for you to disagree with an agencies decision on a plan, you have to have “Standing”. The only way to get that is to have input on the front end in the scoping process. Without it you have no legal basis to disagree.

New IHC coloring book is titled, Lilly Rose Idaho Horse. This is an educational tool for IHC. The coloring books will be distributed free of charge to area restaurants to be given out to children.

Brochures for the Idaho Horse Expo, April 21-22-23 at the Horse Park in Nampa were passed out.

IH Board Grants, had \$18,000 last year to give out and that the priority for grants is for youth organizations and horsemen groups up north.

Equine in Idaho handouts. This is a 2015 Equine study to determine the size of the equine industry in Idaho. It was conducted by the Social Science Research Unit at the University of Idaho and was funded by the IHC and the Idaho Horse Board. People down south would lead you to believe that its racing that drives the horse organizations, it is not, it is the recreational horse. (See Attachment #6

Bob Savage, Chairman asked if we have any Grant Writers in our group. The Idaho Horse Board's grant is online and its only one page. Is there anyone who does this on a regular basis? They can be quite lengthy and time consuming.

Elections/Sept SBD Meeting – Karen Kimball, Panhandle, and Brandon Breaux, Boise, were on the nominating committee and announced the following candidates for officers for 2017-2018:

Bill Conger, Squaw Butte, to run for Chairperson, no nominations from the floor, Gretel Kleint, Heartland, made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Bill Conger as Chairperson, Joe Brinkman, Eagle Rock, seconded, all Yea's, Bill Conger is confirmed as Chairperson.

Phil Ryan, Squaw Butte and Rod Parks, Twin Rivers, to run for Vice Chairperson, no nominations from the floor. A vote by secret ballot was taken and Rod Parks is confirmed as Vice Chairperson.

Both Kay Ryan, Squaw Butte as Treasurer and Debbie Samovar, Sawtooth as Secretary, have agreed to run another year, Bill Conger, Squaw Butte, made a motion to renew their appointments for another year, Joe Brinkman, Eagle Rock, seconded, all Yea's, Kay Ryan is confirmed as Treasurer and Debbie Samovar is confirmed as Secretary.

BCHA National Director – there were no volunteers for the position. According to our By-Laws, we must have two national directors and an alternate director. Amy Lyman, Portneuf River, agreed to serve a two year term, 2017 & 2018

Marybeth Conger, Squaw Butte, agreed to serve a one year term as Alt BCHA National Director.

Bill Conger, Squaw Butte, made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for both these ladies for these two positions, Sam Duncan, Palouse, seconded.

After discussion, Bill Conger amended his motion to ask for a unanimous ballot to elect Amy Lyman for a 2 year term to go to the National meetings in 2017 and 2018, Brandon Breaux seconded, all Yea's. Amy Lyman is confirmed as National Director for 2 years.

It was noted that Sam Duncan would be up for election in 2018.

Bill Conger amended his motion to ask for a unanimous ballot to elect Marybeth Conger as Alternate National Director of a one year term, Phil Ryan seconded, all Yea's. Marybeth Conger is confirmed as Alternate National Director for 1 year.

Chainsaw Certification – Bob Savage, Chairman, contacted the Coeur d’Alene Forest and they said for 2017 to continue on with what we’ve been doing. Marybeth Conger, reported that we have a trainer from Twin Rivers and Joe Robinson from North Central. Karen Slack, Cache Peak has had training and she may be interested in being a trainer. When they get back we will need to develop a BCHI Sawyer Policy and Procedure Document. Training is in April. It was noted that the trainer will also need to have a CPR card. It is up to the chapter’s to get the CPR training. If you have anyone in your chapter who is interested, contact Marybeth and she will research what training is available.

Comments from the Chairman – Bob Savage reported that he has had a lot of comments from members on what is going on at the Board meetings. He suggested that Debbie Samovar, secretary, have the e-mails for all the members so that when issues come up she can e-mail blast everyone with the information. Is this something that we want to consider?

Scott Nichols, Boise, mentioned that perhaps we need some form to recognize long term members and that we need a procedure for doing this. Perhaps the new Chairman is taking note of this and will handle it.

Sept SBD Meeting – Eagle Rock, Idaho Falls will host the SBD Meeting on Saturday, Sept 16th.

Adjourn – Motion made, seconded, adjourned at 5:58 .

Respectfully Submitted, Debbie Samovar, Secretary, 208-245-3041, secretarybchi@gmail.com

Backcountry Horsemen of America				
Volunteer Hours Report				
Idaho				
2016				
		Totals	Rate per hour/mile/day	Total Value
Total Basic Hours		4190	\$23.56	\$98,704.62
Total Skilled Hours		2798	\$35.34	\$98,863.65
Total Trail Recon Hours		670	\$23.56	\$15,773.42
Total LNT - Education		1028	\$23.56	\$24,219.68
Total Public Meetings		223	\$23.56	\$5,253.88
Total Administrative Service		1061	\$23.56	\$24,997.16
Total Travel Time		3260	\$23.56	\$76,797.35
Total Hours		13229		
		0		
Wilderness Trail Miles		919		
Other Trail Miles		2934		
Total Trail Miles		3853		
		0		
Personal Vehicle		34237	\$0.90	\$30,813.30
Stock Hauling		43466	\$1.10	\$47,812.60
Total Travel Miles		77703		
		0		
Power Equipment		1250	\$26.00	\$32,487.00
Heavy Equipment		324	\$81.00	\$26,244.00
Total Equipment Hours		870		
		192		
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)		464		
Total Stock Days		1116	\$100.00	\$111,600.00
		260		
		0		
Total Donations		8705		\$8,705.00
		0	Total	\$602,271.66

3/4/17

To: BCHI State Officers and Directors
From: Bill Conger, Insurance Coordinator

Re: BCHI Insurance Policy and Coverage for Chapter Public Events

Background please refer to the document labeled Statewide Policy for Public Events, dated July 11, 2009 in your director's manual.

This document outlines that each chapter shall be limited to two (2) public events per policy year, which has at some time been modified to an unlimited number of public events. This document also outlines when event schedules are to be submitted and to whom, which has all changed.

To update and change the BCHI policy for coverage of Public Events I would suggest that the Board pass a motion stating:

- 1) That each Chapter is responsible for obtaining the "Instructions for Filling out the Annual Schedule of Events Open to the Public form" (Instructions Form) and the "Annual Schedule of Events Open to the Public form" (Events Form) from the BCHI web site; completing the Events Form and submitting that form per the Instructions Form by the date listed on that form.
- 2) That each Chapter be limited to 2 Public Event Days per policy year to be paid for by the State Treasury provided that Chapter's Event Form has been submitted on time. To clarify: there is a charge for each day of an event, i.e. if a Chapter is conducting a 2 day pack clinic that counts as 2 Event Days.
- 3) That a Chapter may request coverage for as many Event Days as they see fit for their Chapter operations however the Chapter shall be responsible for the actual cost of all coverage requests and/or changes beyond the first 2 Event Days that have been submitted per the Instructions Form.
- 4) That a Chapter shall pay any invoice for insurance coverage that was requested within 30 days of postmark of that invoice. And that additional requests for coverage from a Chapter with an overdue invoice will be not be submitted to the company until such invoice is paid.

Backcountry Horseman membership training

Time	Room A	Room B	Room C
8:30 – 9:00	Sign in , coffee, donuts, welcome		
9:00- 10:00	Running a meeting & Roberts Rules	Newsletter Editor	Foundation
10:15 – 11:15	Secretaries & Legal documentation	Project Coordinator & Trail boss	Education/LNT
11:30- 12:30	State Director & Alternate State Director	Ways and Means	Treasurers
12:30 – 1:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:20 – 2:20	President & Vice President	Volunteer Hours	Membership Growth roundtable
2:30 – 3:30	Chairman & Vice Chairman	Website/Social Media	Membership Growth

Reference BCHW Regional Leadership Training outline

Leame Martin-Regional Forester, Region 1
Nora Rasure-Regional Forester, Region 4
Kent Wellner-Region 1 Trails
Chris Hartman Region 4 Trails

February 13, 2017

Subject: House Bill *HR-845* Priority Landscape Proposal Dear Regional

Foresters Leanne Martin and Nora Rasure,

The Frank Church Partners is a coalition of organizations that represent wilderness and wildlands users including volunteers and provides trails stewardship in USFS Regions 1 and 4. The Frank Church Partners is a regional partnership made up of professional outfitters, established trails stewardship NPOs , recreational and equestrian interests, including motorized and non-motorized interests.

We represent organizations that already are partners with the Forest Service and bring volunteers and professionals to wilderness and wildlands areas to open trails and maintain access. We support the intent of the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, H.R. 845 and wish to provide further support to the USFS in strategy development and implementation.

To that end, we wish to submit a proposal that identifies priority landscapes for increased trail maintenance that is inclusive of wilderness, wildlands and represents a variety of mixed use trails.

This project PROPOSAL uses a boundary that is easily identified and encompasses both motorized and non-motorized areas that have been impacted by fire and other natural events. These boundaries incorporate state highways that provide access to trailheads and to volunteer recruiting in the surrounding communities:

- Highway 55, from the junction of Highway 17 at Banks Idaho.
- North on Highway 55 to Highway 95, at New Meadows, Idaho.
- North on Highway 95 to Highway 13, at Grangeville, Idaho,
- Northeast on 13 to the junction of Highway 12 at Kooskia, Idaho.
- Northeast on Highway 12 to Lob, Montana to Highway 93.
- South on Highway 93 past Salmon, Idaho to the junction with Highway 75, south of Challis, Idaho.
- South on Highway 75 to Stanley, Idaho and the junction of Highway 21.
- West on Highway 21 to Lowman, Idaho and the junction of Highway 17.
- Southwest on Highway 17 to the junction of Highway 55 at Banks, Idaho.

Within the boundaries are a balance of motorized and non-motorized trails, the Frank Church, River of No Return Wilderness, Selway/Bitterroot Wilderness and the Gospel Hump Wilderness areas. These are large expanses of land covering ecosystems and river drainages

that have been impacted by nature through fire, drought and floods. The trail infrastructure has suffered from these events and continues to degrade to the point access and safe travel are being compromised. As these trails degrade resources are being impacted, erosion is degrading water quality, which impacts anadromous fish and other species. Many of the trails have degraded to the point that large relocations or abandonment altogether might be the best options in the future.

This proposal recognizes all designated trails within the boundaries and all three Wilderness areas. We feel this project area is critical as it has been recognized by the Idaho Legislature in 2013 in a non-binding resolution. Here is a quote from the Associated Press dated February 21, 2013: *On Thursday, the Idaho House Resources and Conservation Committee unanimously endorsed a non-binding resolution that urges the head of the U.S. Forest Service to declare the wilderness area and surrounding national forest a natural resources disaster area. The measure also asks the federal agency to take steps now to improve conditions of the 2,500- mile trail system or make things easier for a legion of Idaho volunteers to do the job.* This was the lead in to house bill HR-845, sponsored by Representative Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming to help address this concern.

We recognize that this is a Forest Service lead project, and will work with the local land managers to select and prioritize their areas of concern, to match skills, talent and energy to the individual area projects.

Partners in support of this proposal are the Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho, Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association, Selway/Bitterroot, Frank Church Foundation and the Idaho Trails Association. These partners have had great working relationships with the local Forest Service land managers for years and are dedicated to continuing this partnership.

Please see the following letters of support. Sincerely,



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO

PO Box 513

SALMON, ID 83467-0513

February 23, 2017

To:

Leanne Martin, USFS Regional Forester, Region 1

Nora Rasure, USFS Regional Forester, Region 4

Chris Hartman, USFS Director Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness Resources, Region 4

Kent Wellner, USFS Trails & Dispersed Recreation Program Manager, Region 1

Subject: Support for Frank Church Partners House Bill HR-845 Priority Areas Proposal

Dear Regional Foresters Martin and Rasure, Director Hartman and Program Manager Wellner,

The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho with its 16 chapters and 900 members in the state of Idaho are writing this letter of support for the Frank Church Partners Priority Area Proposal for House Bill HR-845.

The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho recognizes the need for maintaining the non-motorized trail system here in Idaho, particularly the three major wilderness areas, The Frank Church River of No Return, The Selway Bitterroot and the Gospel Hump and as well, the surrounding motorized trails within those forests.

Our mission is to ensure the continued use of recreational stock use on public lands and to provide assistance to the Forest Service in maintaining the trails. Our members have given thousands of hours of volunteer work on the trail systems; both in and out of the wilderness areas each year. We have the ability to provide pack stock and with the support of other user groups we have the expertise to maintain the trail system with the assistance of Forest Service trail crews; Any Priority area chosen here in Idaho will have the complete support of our members in the maintenance of the trails.

Thank You,

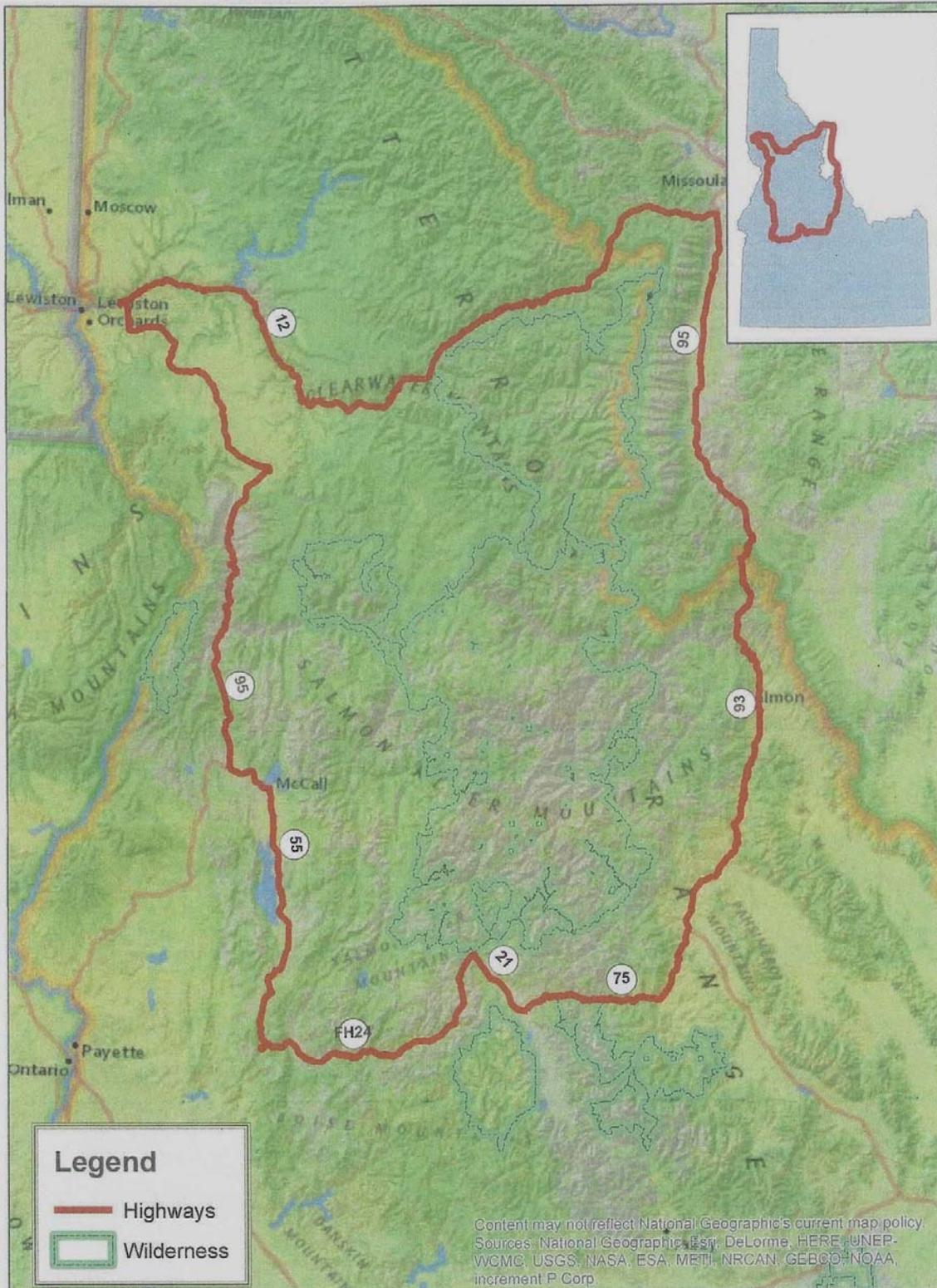
Bob Savage Chairman, BCHI

1649 Peninsula Loop Rd.

Priest River, ID 83856

208-448-2457

Stewardship Priority Area



0 15 30 60 Miles

1:1,953,607



**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF IDAHO**
P.O. BOX 513
SALMON, IDAHO 83467

(please reply to Bob Savage-BCHI State Chairman, not to the Salmon, ID address)

January 23, 2017

Re: Comments – Hemingway-Boulders and White Cloud Wilderness Management Plan

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho is a volunteer non-profit organization consisting of approximately 1,000 members who spend hours each year coordinating with Federal agencies and volunteering on Federal lands to improve the condition of trails and trailhead facilities and promote LNT ethics with other horsemen. Following are our comments.

Standard #2172, Page 39 The following are prohibited:

Item a. Having greater than 12 persons in a group.

Response: Current management direction is 20 persons. What was the rationale used to arrive at this new restriction on party size? What data did the agency collect and analyze to justify the restriction on more than 12 persons per group? We are not aware that any such data has been collected and an analysis completed. If any of the unsupplied data show a valid scientific reason, we would be willing to discuss a lower number with the understanding that the special use permit process provides for exceptions. As it stands now, this new proposal may be unduly restrictive for some of our members and work parties.

Item b. Being in the area with a combined number of pack and saddle stock in excess of 14 animals. **Response:** Current management direction is 25 head of stock. Is this area getting so heavily used that this has recently become an issue that justifies reducing stock numbers? What was the rationale used to arrive at this new restriction on party size? What data did the agency collect and analyze to justify the reduction from 25 combined number to 14 pack and saddle stock? We are not aware that any such data has been collected and an analysis completed. If any of the unsupplied data show a valid scientific reason, we would be willing to discuss a lower number with the understanding that the special use permit process provides for exceptions.

Item c. Shortcutting trail switchbacks on foot or with pack and saddle stock.

Response: This is an existing CFR. Including this in the management plan appears to be a need- less duplication.

Item d. Building, maintaining, attending, or using campfires above 9000' elevation, with the exception of Walker, Island, Upper and Lower Chamberlain (9,477' and 9,197') and Boorn Lakes.

Response: According to our members that use the area, this is reasonable.

Item e. Building, maintaining, attending, or using campfires within 200 yards of Swimm Lake.

Response: CFR quoted is one listed under a Special Order for the Deschutes National Forest, that Special Order CFR states 100 feet. How is a CFR written under a Special Order for a specific Forest applicable to this Wilderness? What is the reason for such a large increase? Where is the empirical data that supports such a conclusion?

Item f. Tethering pack and saddle stock within 100 feet of springs, lakes, or streams.

Response: CFR 261.58aa simply refers to tethering pack or saddle stock in violation of posted orders. This proposed Special Order is too onerous, however we would be willing to discuss a more reasonable distance with qualifiers attached.

Item g. Tying pack and saddle stock to live trees for periods longer than one hour.

Response: This proposed Special Order is not only unenforceable but much too onerous. The existing CFR 261.6a and 261.9a both refer to the prohibition against damaging “forest products” “damaging property or natural feature...” Clearly tying of animals to a live tree long enough to result in damage to the tree bole or root well is a violation of those CFR's. They are more than sufficient and actually enforceable.

Item h. Recreational grazing within 200 yards of lakes.

Response: Surely this is a typo, how else can a draconian restrictive change of 3X greater be explained. If it is not a typo item h. appears to be designed to eliminate stock use near lakes by eliminating grazing for almost all stock and require additional stock to pack feed and a potential increased impact. Selway-Bitterroot, Frank Church, and Bob Marshall Wilderness all restrict grazing within 200 feet of lakes. What is the rationale and data used to arrive at this proposal? Or is this in response to an isolated instance of stock damage? Existing direction calls for a distance of 200 feet. In the absence of empirical data showing a downward trend, this rule of no Grazing within 200 feet should remain with annual monitoring.

Item i. Depositing human waste within 100 feet of water, trails and campsites, and/or not burying waste before vacating the area.

Response: We have no objection and every reason to support this proposal.

Item j. Recreational stock use above Lodgepole Lake, above Quiet Lake, within Gunsight Creek, and within the Big Boulder drainage excluding Walker and Island Lakes.

Response: This is new direction. There has to be a reason. What is the supportive data that would suggest this is a valid direction? Is there an overuse issue i.e.: grazing with a downward trend towards overuse, recent rather than old tree bole and root damage due to stock tying etc. Additionally, under item j. as stated, it appears Gunsight Creek and Big Boulder Creek are closed to stock. Tr # 680 and Tr # 601 access Walker & Island Lakes. Wording needs to be clarified that these trails are open to stock to access these two lakes by Big Boulder drainage and Gunsight Creek.

Moreover the Wilderness Act of '64 speaks to “a primitive or unconfined type of recreation experience” and Aldo Leopold spoke of Wilderness as “being first of all a means or perpetuating, in sport form the more virile and primitive skills in pioneering travel and subsistence...two are as American as the hickory tree...one of which is travel by pack train”. Many skilled wilderness riders are just as desiring and needful of the opportunity to travel off trail over rocky high country if only to see with their equine partner what is on top of that rock ridge above the timber line. Therefore any blanket prohibition against the use of pack and/or saddle stock is not only discriminatory but appears counter to the very heart of one of the core precepts of the Wilderness Act.

Trails Proposed to Remove From System Map. Trail 7674, Trail 7684, Trail 7113

Response: Under Back Country Horsemen of America v. Johanns, 424 F.Supp.2d 89 (D.D.C., 2006) 424 F.Supp.2d 89: Any changes to the USFS Trail System are required to be subjected to the scoping process for each trail that is proposed for removal from the system. Therefore a separate scoping effort must be conducted outside of this management plan if any trails are proposed for removal.

21151-Z1

Response: Would this remove any sign of past mining, cabins, structures, etc? We contend these are all historical facilities and artifacts, a source of enjoyment and education. You are proposing removing evidence of history. This applies to all proposed Zones. LNT practices are taught to leave things lay that you find when exploring. FS is proposing going against LNT practices by removing past sign of activity. Leave all evidence of past mining, homesteading etc.

Zones Z2, Z3, Z4:

Response: Zones Z2, Z3, Z4 are very similar to Trail Class 2,3,4 in the Forest Service Trail Class Matrix FSH 2353.142 Exhibit 01. From the Infra Data Base on trail classes managed and designed for Pack & Saddle and/or Hiker/Pedestrian all the trails in the Hemingway Boulder Wilderness and the White Clouds Wilderness were Trail Class 3 other than Trail # 115 and Trail # 674 before Wilderness Designation. The highest Trail Standard for these three zones should all be Class 3. The trail standards should not be lowered just because the areas have become wilderness.

21163-Z2 The highest trail standard in this zone is Class 2.

Response: All current trail standards are Trail Class 3 other than Tr # 674 & # 115, which are Class 2. Trail classes should be kept the same as they were before Wilderness designation. 21163-Z2 needs to be changed to Class 3, consistent with USFS National Forest System Trails (Standard/Terra): Trail Class, Managed Use, and Designed Use).

Trail Class Matrix (FSH 2353.142, Exhibit 01)

	Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed	Trail Class 3 Developed
Signs ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Route identification signing limited to junctions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Route markers present when trail location is not evident. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory and resource protection signing infrequent. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Destination signing typically infrequent outside wilderness areas; generally not present in wilderness areas. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and interpretive signing uncommon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Route markers as needed for user reassurance. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory and resource protection signing may be common. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Destination signing likely outside wilderness areas; generally not present in wilderness areas. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and interpretive signs may be present outside wilderness areas

²For standards and guidelines on the use of signs and posters on trails, refer to the Sign and Poster Guidelines for the Forest Service (EM-7100-15).

21177-Z3 Signs may be present at trail junctions and, in rare cases, may be found elsewhere for resource protection.

Response: (All trail junctions should be signed according to Forest Service Trail Class Matrix. This also applies to 21163-Z2)

Stock Closure Area Map (remove stock closure areas)

Response: Are these existing stock closure areas or is this a closure the USFS is proposing?

Back Country Horsemen of America has been called on many times to comment on and help work out, solutions to stock related activities for Federal government agencies. In some states this has included an educational effort for a particular area, with the USFS enlisting BCH members to be their on-the-ground ambassadors. i.e.; stock people talking to stock people.

In closing, we believe that the USFS must show there is a substantiated reason and scientific rationale for these new restrictions. Horsemen often are flexible in our backcountry practices, particularly when it can be demonstrated that our use is, or could lead to, unacceptable impacts on forest resources. In the absence of compelling data or use of best available science, we will often respectfully disagree with the agency while at the same time seek opportunities to improve dialogue and help the agency in problem-solving oriented toward improving the wilderness experience for everybody.

We look forward to the opportunity to sit down with you and discuss these issues in the near future.

Sincerely,

Bob Savage, State Chairman
Back Country Horsemen of Idaho
208-448-2457
bchibsavage@gmail.com

cc: Don Saner, National Chairman
Back Country Horsemen of America

cc: Randy Rasmussen, Director of Public
Lands and Recreation, BCHA



photographer Pamela Beattie and Jockey is Nikeela Black

IDAHO EQUINE FACTS

- Expenditures associated with equine totaled \$122 million, including \$49 million in hay, straw, and grain, \$23 million in veterinary and farrier expenses, and \$10 million in horse trailers.
- Equine owners had a total of \$1.4 billion in assets related to their equine, including the value of the equine, barns, and equipment.
- 14% of Idaho households own equine.
- Of those households that own equine, 43% belonged to a horse or equine related organization in 2015.

- Idaho has an estimated 221,000 equine, including riding horses, draft horses, ponies, miniature horses, donkeys, mules, and other equine.
- The Idaho Horse Expo is held each April at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, ID. The Horse Expo promotes the horse industry and western lifestyle, and is a great attraction for horse enthusiasts and the general public alike.
- The Idaho Horse Council offers college scholarships to students interested in pursuing equine-related careers.

