

# BY-LAWS OF THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO

## PREAMBLE

Back Country Horsemen was formed in January of 1973 with a three-fold PURPOSE, service to the back country, the education of horsemen, and representation in land use planning and management. These basic precepts have been the reason for our growth, strength, and effectiveness and this growth has forced the formation of a State Organization. The State Organization is charged with the responsibility of furthering these same basic precepts on a State level to the benefit of all affiliated chapters, horsemen, and the resource we love so well.

## ARTICLE I

### *Names*

- Section 1.** -The name of this organization shall be Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, hereinafter referred to as BCHI, and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Idaho as a non-profit, educational corporation.
- The executive body of BCHI shall be named the State Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as SBD.
- The permanent address of the BCHI shall be PO Box 513, Salmon, Idaho 83467.

## ARTICLE II

### *Objects and Purposes*

#### **Amended November 2010**

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness,

To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use,

To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource,

To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage,

To foster and encourage the formation of new Backcountry Horsemen organizations.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership in BCHI**

- Section 1.** Hereinafter any chapter seeking affiliation must recognize the commitment and adopt the PURPOSE of BCHI as stated in Article II.
- Section 2.** All chapters must include BCH as part of their name.
- Section 3.** All chapters must be approved by the voting delegates at the annual meeting or by the SBD.
- Section 4.** Revocation and membership – The Directors of BCHI may revoke an affiliated chapters membership in BCHI for violation of the BCHI constitution or by-laws or a duly adopted resolution of the BCHI by two-thirds (2/3) vote of Directors in attendance.
- Section 5.** **Amended March 2001 – Section 5 was created**  
Non-affiliated individual, family, and sponsor/benefactor memberships shall be established by the SBD. These memberships shall be excluded from any voting rights or leadership positions in BCHI, but shall be provided with all other benefits of membership.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Powers**

- Section 1.** The supreme authority of BCHI shall be in its assembled voting delegates. The SBD shall execute this authority when the voting delegates are not assembled, but shall follow the direction given them by the delegates and shall be responsible to them.
- Section 2.** Powers of the annual convention – The annual convention provided for in Article V hereof shall have inclusive power to enact, repeal or amend the constitution or by-laws of BCHI. The annual convention may by resolution take any action not inconsistent with law or BCHI constitution and by-laws.
- Section 3.** Powers of the State Board of Directors – The State Board of Directors shall have power to take any action not inconsistent with law or BCHI constitution and by-laws, or any duly enacted resolution of the annual convention.
- Section 4.** The SBD shall be charged with duties of distributing pertinent information, provide a clearinghouse for actions and ideas, both local and state, and to represent the member chapters on a state level. It shall assist and coordinate the member chapters in their efforts and provide help and direction in organizing efforts. The duties of the State Directors shall be to represent their individual liaison between their states and the National Board of Directors and shall include both on actions taken or requested.
- Section 5.** **Amended March 2001**  
The SBD shall elect two (2) members to the National Board of Directors of the Back Country Horsemen of America. National Board members shall be elected for a two (2) year term with each board position elected in alternate years. The SBD shall elect one (1) Alternate National Director annually.
- Section 6.** The voting delegates shall have equal representation from each member chapter and shall decide chapter policy and give direction to the SBD at the annual meeting. They shall also have the powers and duties contained elsewhere in this constitution.

**ARTICLE V**

***Annual Convention***

- Section 1.** The annual convention or meeting of BCHI shall be held at such a time and place as is established by the voting delegates presiding at the annual convention.
- Section 2.** Attendance - Any member in good standing with any affiliated chapter may attend any annual convention and have floor privileges, but they shall not solely by reason of such membership be entitled to vote.
- Section 3.** At the annual meeting the host chapter may assess and collect registration fees of attending members. The purpose of this assessment will be to cover expenses incurred by the host chapter for local arrangements, etc.
- Section 4.** All annual meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert Rules of Order.
- Section 5.** It shall be the responsibility of SBD to develop the agenda for the annual meeting. For inclusion in the agenda, local chapters must submit their agenda items before the regular SBD meeting, prior to the annual convention. Copies of local agenda items shall be sent to local chapters by the SBD one (1) month prior to meeting date.
- Section 6.** Each voting delegate must be a member in good standing of an affiliated chapter and show evidence that the delegate is authorized as a voting delegate by said chapter.
- Section 7.** A voting delegate may represent only one affiliated chapter.
- Section 8.** Delegates to the annual convention shall consist of eight (8) delegates from each affiliated chapter. Each chapter shall provide the chair with a list of these delegates prior to the meeting. All delegates shall be entitled to vote on all questions properly brought before the convention.
- Section 9.** Fifty percent of all duly accredited delegates shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. A simple majority of delegates in attendance can conduct business.
- Section 10.** Special measures, namely a vote to enact, repeal or amend the constitution or by-laws, must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all delegates in attendance.
- Section 11.** The Chairman of the SBD of BCHI shall preside over business affairs of the annual meeting or convention.
- Amended March 1989**
- Section 12.** Membership assessment – Member chapters may be assessed BCHI membership dues for the following year as determined and approved at the Annual Meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the attending delegates will be required. Dues will be due on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> and delinquent by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Delinquent Chapters will lose their right to vote.

**ARTICLE VI**

***State Board Membership***

**Amended April 2007**

- Section 1.** The SBD of BCHI shall consist of two (2) Directors from each member chapter, the immediate past SBD Chairman (when not an elected State Director), and the National Directors. Each member chapter shall also have one (1) Alternate Director to serve in the absence of their regular Director.

**Section 2.** In the event that a regular Director's absence becomes permanent, the Alternate Director shall advance to the permanent position to serve the balance of the replaced Director's term. The affected chapter shall then elect a new Alternate Director.

**Amended April 2008**

**Section 3.** Members of the SBD of BCHI shall be elected by each chapter at their annual elections to serve staggered two (2) year terms - the Alternate and the immediate past SBD Chairman to serve one (1) year. A duly elected member of the Board of Directors shall assume office at the first Board of Directors meeting at the beginning of the new calendar year, and shall serve until replaced.

**ARTICLE VII**

***Officers and Operation of SBD***

**Amended April 2008**

**Section 1.** The Officers of the SBD shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other Officers as the assembled SBD shall create from time to time. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by and from the SBD for a term of one (1) year. The Secretary and/or Treasurer may be an appointed Officer by the SBD for a term of one (1) year. The member Chapter to which the Chairman belongs shall advance their Alternate Director to regular Director and shall choose a new Alternate. Officers shall be elected and assume office at the first Board of Director's meeting at the beginning of the new calendar year, and shall serve until replaced.

**Section 2.** +Duties of the Chairman of the SBD shall be to chair meetings of the SBD when present. The Chairman shall also chair all business at all voting delegates meetings and shall assist the President of the host chapter when asked to do so. The Chairman shall perform the other duties normal to the office and shall be responsible to the SBD. The Chairman shall be charged with the responsibility of performing the duties for the benefit of all member chapters.

+The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman and shall assume these duties when the Chairman is absent. The Vice-Chairman shall ascend to the chairmanship if the SBD decrees that the Chairman's absence is permanent and the State Board will elect a new Vice-Chairman.

+The Secretary shall take and file minutes of all SBD and annual meetings and furnish a copy of these minutes to all member chapters and State Directors. The Secretary shall keep a copy of all correspondence of the SBD. The Secretary shall also perform the other duties normal to the office of Secretary.

+The Treasurer shall keep and safeguard all monies relative to the SBD and shall include a treasurer's report as part of all SBD meetings, and perform the other duties normal to the office of Treasurer. Nothing in this constitution shall prohibit the combination of office of Secretary and Treasurer. The Treasurer's signature must appear on all checks along with that of either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

+The duties of the State Directors shall be to represent their individual chapters and be responsible to them. They shall serve as a liaison between their chapters and the SBD and shall inform both on actions taken or requested.

**Section 3.** Fifty percent attendance of all duly accredited Directors shall constitute a quorum for conducting business. A simple majority of Directors in attendance can conduct business.

- Section 4.** **Amended March 1991**  
Each Director of the SBD shall have one (1) vote, with the exception that the Chairman of the Board will vote only in cases of a tie. The Secretary and/or Treasurer will not have a vote except when he/she is an elected State Director. Each National Director shall have one (1) vote if that person does not also hold the position of State Director.
- Section 5.** **Amended April 2007**  
The Alternate Directors and the immediate past SBD Chairman shall have voice, but will have no vote unless replacing a regular Director.
- Section 6.** A simple majority vote of Directors present is necessary to conduct business except when removal of an Officer or a member chapter is the issue.
- Section 7.** The State Board of Directors may take action by mail provided that each Director is notified by mail at their last known address.
- Section 8.** **Amended April 2012**  
The SBD shall meet at least twice a year, but may meet as often as they deem necessary to properly conduct the business of the State Board. Written notice of these meetings shall be sent to the State Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date, except in case of emergency. The notices shall contain the known business agenda so that the State Directors can confer with their member chapter.
- Special meetings of the SBD may be called by or at the request of the Chairman or at least one state director of at least five chapters of the BCHI. Upon request the Chairman shall immediately schedule a special meeting and set the time and place for holding any special meeting of the SBD. Notice of any special meeting shall be given forthwith by the secretary at least seventy-two hours prior thereto by notice in writing delivered personally or by facsimile or by email to each Director and the notice shall state the business to be addressed. Members of the SBD may attend and vote by conference call.
- Section 9.** The time and place of SBD meetings shall be held at the convenience of the State Directors.
- Section 10.** All meetings of the SBD shall be open to any member in good standing of an affiliated BCHI Chapter. Only duly constituted Officers and Directors of the SBD shall have the right to voice and vote. Alternate Directors have the right of voice. Others present shall have the right of voice only at the invitation of the State Chairman.
- Section 11.** **Amended March 1991**  
No elected Officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Finances**

- Section 1.** All expenses of the Directors shall be borne by their member chapter at rates set by their member chapter.
- Section 2.** **Amended April 2007**  
The expenses of the office of SBD Chairman, Secretary and/or Treasurer, and the immediate past SBD Chairman (when not an elected State Director) shall be borne by the treasury of SBD.
- Section 3.** Office expenses of the other Officers of the SBD shall be borne by the treasury of the SBD.
- Section 4.** All expenditures from the treasury of the SBD shall be approved by the SBD.

**Section 5.** The treasury of the SBD shall be borne by all member chapters in a manner established at the Annual Convention.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Removal of Officers or Directors**

**Section 1.** Officers of the SBD may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of either the SBD or the voting delegates when a quorum is present and when notice of this proposed action has been sent to all member chapters.

**Section 2.** State Directors may be removed by their respective chapters at any time and their Alternate shall finish their term. Notification of removal and the name of the new Alternate shall be furnished to the SBD immediately following such action.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Constitution Changes**

**Section 1.** The Annual Convention shall have the power to change any section of this constitution or add to it by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the Annual Convention.

**Section 2.** The SBD Secretary shall have the responsibility of keeping the constitution current. The Secretary shall furnish a copy of this constitution, and any changes, to all members of the SBD and each member Chapter.

**REPLACEMENT OF 'CLUBS' WITH 'CHAPTERS'**  
*Entire Document*  
**Amended March 2000**

**HISTORICAL REFERENCE ONLY  
REPLACED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

**Article II  
Objects and Purposes**

**Original – Amended November 2010**

- 1) To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's roadless back country.
- 2) To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- 3) To educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses and people commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource.
- 4) To foster and encourage the formation of new member organizations and BCHI.

**Article IV  
Powers**

**Original – Amended March 2001**

- Section 5. The SBD shall elect two (2) Directors to the National Board of the Back Country Horsemen of America annually at a place to be determined. The SBD shall also elect one (1) Alternate Director to serve in the absence of a regular Director.

**Article V  
Annual Convention**

**Original – Amended March 1989**

- Section 12. Membership assessment – Member chapters may be assessed BCHI membership dues for the following year as determined and approved at the annual meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the attending delegates will be required.

**Article VI  
State Board Membership**

**Original – Amended April 2007**

- Section 1. The SBD of BCHI shall consist of two (2) Directors from each member chapter and the National Directors. Each member chapter shall also have one (1) Alternate Director to serve in the absence of their regular Director.

**Original – Amended April 2007**

- Section 3. Members of the SBD of BCHI shall be elected by each chapter at their annual elections to serve staggered two (2) year terms – the Alternate to serve one (1) year. A duly elected member of the Board of Directors shall assume office at the first Board of Directors meeting following the first convention after his election, and shall serve until replaced.

**April 2007 version – Amended April 2008**

Section 3. Members of the SBD of BCHI shall be elected by each chapter at their annual elections to serve staggered two (2) year terms- the Alternate and the immediate past SBD Chairman to serve one (1) year. A duly elected member of the Board of Directors shall assume office at the first Board of Directors meeting following the first convention after his election, and shall serve until replaced.

**Article VII  
Officers and Operation of SBD**

**Original – Amended March 1991**

Section 1. The Officers of the SBD shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such other officers as the assembled SBD shall create from time to time. The Officers shall be elected by and from the SBD for a term of one (1) year. The member chapter to which the Chairman belongs shall advance their Alternate Director to regular Director and shall choose a new Alternate. Officers shall be elected and assume office at the first Board of Directors' meeting following the Annual Convention and shall serve until replaced.

**March 1991 version – Amended April 2008**

Section 1. The Officers of the SBD shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other Officers as the assembled SBD shall create from time to time. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by and from the SBD for a term of one (1) year. The Secretary and/or Treasurer may be an appointed Officer by the SBD for a term of one (1) year. The member Chapter to which the Chairman belongs shall advance their Alternate Director to regular Director and shall choose a new Alternate. Officers shall be elected and assume office at the first Board of Director's meeting following the Annual Convention and shall serve until replaced.

**Original – Amended March 1991**

Section 4. Each Director of the SBD shall have one (1) vote with the exception that the Chairman of the Board will vote only in case of a tie. Each National Director shall have one (1) vote if that person does not also hold the position of State Director.

**Original – Amended April 2007**

Section 5. The Alternate Directors shall have voice but will have no vote unless replacing a regular Director.

**Original – Amended April 2012**

Section 8. The SBD shall meet at least twice a year, but may meet as often as they deem necessary to properly conduct the business of the State Board. Written notice of these meetings shall be sent to the State Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date, except in case of emergency. The notices shall contain the known business agenda so that the State Directors can confer with their member chapter.

**Original – Amended March 1991**

Section 11. No Officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position.

**Article VIII  
Finances**

**Original – Amended March 1991**

Section 2. The expense of the office of Chairman shall be borne by the treasury of the SBD.

**March 1991 version – Amended April 2007**

Section 2. The expenses of the office of Chairman and Secretary and/or Treasurer (when not an elected State Director) shall be borne by the treasury of SBD.