BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGES STEVE DIDIER WHO CREATED THIS BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA VIDEO
BCHA

- Who are we?
- Where are our roots?
- Does it really matter?
- Where do we go from here?
WE ARE HORSEMEN AND WOMEN

Some of the more enlightened are mule lovers!
Back Country Horsemen’s cornerstone was laid on a firm foundation of research and planning. A small nucleus of back country horse users developed and modified the original concept. The actual formation of BCH took place in Montana’s Flathead Valley in January of 1973. Since then, our progress is a matter of record, a record of which we are very proud.

We have used our specialized knowledge of stock and the back country to bring about changes and modifications of restrictive management. We have participated in many agency meetings and land use planning and regulations and have become a strong voice for continued, responsible horse use. We have arrived at our position through extensive research and discussion. This responsible approach has assured us of valid consideration regarding regulations and planning and has given us the support of other conservation groups.

2. Original Members

Growth of the Back Country Horsemen organization continued with formation of additional chapters in Montana. In 1979, these chapters and one from Salmon, Idaho, formed the Back Country Horsemen of America. Three more Montana chapters and one from Idaho were added in the next few years.

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington was incorporated in 1977 and developed an informal liaison with the Montana and Idaho Back Country Horsemen. In 1981, a California organization was formed known as the High Sierra Stock Users. After several years of discussion, the four groups decided to merge, using the Back Country Horsemen of America name. A constitution was drafted in 1985 and adopted in 1986. It provided that the governing body of this new organization would be a board of directors elected from each state. Montana, Idaho, California and Washington Back Country Horsemen units became the BCHA. Since that time, there has been steady growth within the four founding state organizations and in other states. The founders: Ken Ausk, Roland Cheek, Dennis Swift and Dulane Fulton

Final straw and first project: West Fork Blackfoot Bridge
WE ARE NOT

- Endurance riders
- playday riders
- gymkhana
- hunters
- rodeo competitors
- day riders
WE DO NOT

- Advocate for wild horses
- NAIS
- Promote the use of llamas or goats
- Stump for Congressman Whomever who made a campaign promise to open all Forest lands to unfettered recreation
WE ARE NOT
WE ARE

- All of these things and more!
- We are horse, mule and donkey owners and lovers
- We are concerned with animal husbandry, sustainable farming practices
- We are concerned with local, state and federal regulations and how them may affect our avocation, even our livelihood
HOWEVER
AS BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN AND WOMEN

- We are more focused.
- Our mission is narrowly defined.
- May be at odds with our desire to advocate a special interest
The organization of Back Country Horsemen was formed in January 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 national organization. The national organization is charged with the responsibility of furthering these same basic precepts on a national scale to the benefit of all member clubs, horsemen, and the back country resource we love.
BCHA MISSION AND PURPOSE

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 use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.
Welcome to Silver Falls

Silver Falls offers more than 9,000 acres of spectacular scenery. The park’s most famous feature, The Trail of Ten Falls, thrills hikers and photographers. The eight-mile hiking trail passes by and under some of the stunning waterfalls of the north and south forks of Silver Creek.

Take a stroll on the paved four-mile bike path, or ride your horse, hike or mountain bike on more than 25 miles of multi-use trails. Park trails wind through Douglas-fir and Western hemlock flanked by Oregon grape, salal and sword fern. Pacific blacktail deer thrive in the lush, temperate rainforest. Black bear, coyotes and mountain lions (cougars) live in remote park areas.

The spacious lawns and picnic shelters at the South Falls day-use area are perfect for relaxing. Or, enjoy a swim in Silver Creek along a developed (but unsupervised) swimming area.
How we accomplish the mission of BCH varies somewhat with the level of the organization
But in order to be effective every BCH member at every level has to be familiar with and committed to the mission and purpose of BCH!
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WHAT DOES BCHA DO?

- Greater Voice= greater impact
- HR 1349. Hike the Hill results+. Grass roots effort
- Trails Classification and Standards lawsuit
- Appeal of Chatahoochee-Ocanee NF
- News letter, wealth of resources available on web site BCHA
- Wilderness Planning expert BCHA does what
- BCHA Does what://www.bcha.org/about/membership-information/what/://www.bcha.org/about/membership-information/what/
LAND USE PLANNING
Works best on the ground with our partners
EDUCATION CAN COMPRISE MANY VENUES
RESOURCE MGMNT
ON THE GROUND
STEWARDSHIP

Sometimes the means justifies the end!
Sometimes we disagree with our agency partners.

we have a process to prevent that disagreement from becoming the bear in the room
BCH members share their knowledge
EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES
National Parks
Wherever there is enough public lands to support a public trail system and provide a “backcountry” experience, BCHA can expand.

What does the term experience mean?