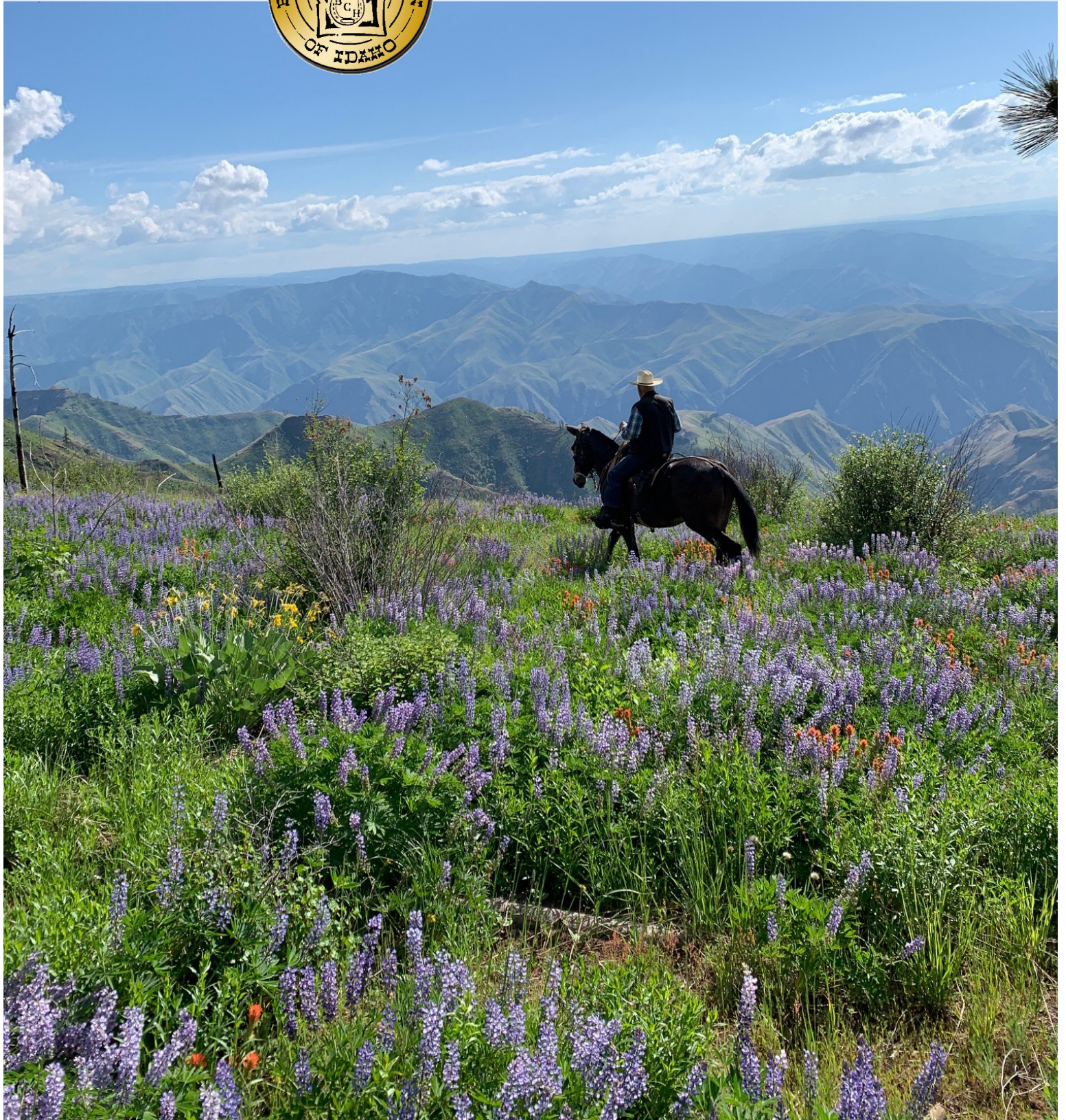




BROOMTALES



Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc. Newsletter
Summer, 2025



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View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE

Hello my fellow members of Back Country Horsemen, I sit here pondering, what do I want to express to all of you? What is a topic I would like for us to focus on in the next couple years? What is the biggest concern I am seeing with our chapters and at the state level? Here is the quandary that has formulated in my head as a concern. MEMBERSHIP it is declining. So, what is the solution to that? I feel as a team we all need to try and figure out a resolution. I would like to ask everyone to try and come up with ideas and thoughts for increasing membership in the chapters and in the state. I would also like for you to share these ideas as articles in the next edition of Broomtales, so we can use any that may help increase our membership. I would like each of us to try and find a friend, family member, coworker, or acquaintance that would be a good team member for Back Country Horsemen, let's do our best to recruit them.

At the state level I would like to find a way to fund an ad campaign to help drive membership for each chapter. Do we find a donor to help cover those expenses? Do we write a line item in the budget? I can pretend to have all the answers but I will be the first to admit I don't know everything and I need thoughts and ideas from all of you!!!

Thank you all for being such awesome volunteers and doing everything we can to keep the trails open and meeting our mission statement!!!

Happy Trails

*Chris Reed
BCHI Chairman*



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO



MISSION STATEMENT

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country & wilderness.
To work to ensure that public land remains open to recreational stock use.
To assist the government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.
To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of these resources by horsemen and the general public.
To foster and encourage the formation of new Back Country Horsemen state organizations.

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc.
P.O. Box 513
Salmon, Idaho 83467

For more information about Back Country Horsemen of Idaho state chapters, visit us on the web at:

www.bchi.org

Broomtales is the membership newsletter of the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc., a non-profit service organization, and is published three times a year.

Front Cover: Dave Coleman on his mule Photo Credit: Chris Reed

Keep Public Lands in Public Hands



Thank you to all our members who called their US senators asking them to oppose the amendment in the budget reconciliation bill to transfer federal public lands to the states and other entities. This portion of the amendment was removed before it came to a vote.

Such action is consistent with the resolution approved by BCHA's National Board of Directors in 2016 that we oppose:

"...any plan, action or legislation for the conveyance, sale or transfer of management authority of public lands managed by the United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture" (except those proposed under existing legal authorities).

Approval of the 2016 resolution was unanimous among all BCH states. It recognized that:

- ◆ "The conveyance, sale or transfer of management authority of these lands will remove large acreages from the nation's federal public lands system, fragment existing land areas, compromise public access, and set a precedent for the privatization of all public land, and"
- ◆ "Specifically, (that) the disposal of these federal public lands will decrease the opportunity for all recreational use of these lands."

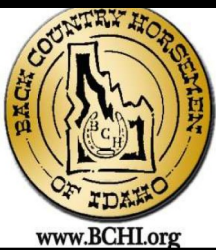
Please call your US senators to voice opposition to any **future** amendment to transfer federal public lands in the budget reconciliation bill. Please consider including these talking points in your message:

1. My name is (name) and I live in (town or county).
2. I'm a member of Back Country Horsemen of (state) and I love and use public lands. In fact, I volunteer to keep trails and horse camps open on public lands.
3. Public lands are a part of our legacy and heritage as Americans.
4. We must do everything we can to keep public lands in public hands. Above all, we must not sell them or transfer them as a way to pay for tax cuts or reduce the deficit.
5. Please do not support any amendment to the budget bill that directs large-scale transfer of federal public lands to states or other government entities.
6. Thank you for considering my request.
7. I can be reached at (phone number).

BCHA again thanks you for taking action. Let's hope that our passion and collective voice can convince the US Senate to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands.

Chris Reed, BCHI Chairman

Gary Kalmbach, Ann Potcher, Tim Palmer, BCHI Public Lands Chairs



Back Country Horsemen of Idaho

State Board of Directors Meeting
September 20, 2025

Sponsored by:



P1FCU Administration Building
1025 Warner Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501

Look for the Welcome sign at the NW corner
door of the building.

Hotel information:

The Inn at Hells Canyon (Best Western Plus)
1395 Bridge Street
Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 295-8215

6.5 miles, 15 min drive to meeting location
Double Queens \$179.00 per night
Reserve by August 19, 2025

Lunch: \$15 Brisket and BBQ ribs and sides

Contacts: Pamela Winalski 509-330-0227
Betty Barnes 208-305-3714

Portneuf River BCH to host 2026 BCHI State Convention

March 13—14th

The Portneuf River Chapter is excited (and a little nervous) about hosting next year's statewide convention in Pocatello. We have reserved the Idaho State University Pond Student Union Building for March 13 and 14th, 2026.



Pond Student Union

This will be a great venue. The Union building is located on the University quad, with adjacent parking, historical buildings and beautifully landscaped grounds. All event meetings and activities will take place here. We will provide options for discounted lodging in the area. Pocatello, or Poky as we call it, has a great historic downtown, vintage/antique stores, museums, and a variety of restaurants, coffee shops and brew pubs.

The Shoshone Bannock Casino is just north of the city. Stay tuned for more information. Future updates, registration forms, etc. will be posted on our website (www.portneufriverbch.com) and shared on the BCHI website.

HEAT INDEX vs HORSES

"COOL" FACTS:

- Horses heat up 3-10 times faster than humans.
- Exercise is a major source of body heat; even 17 minutes of gentle exercise in hot weather can raise a horse's internal temperature to dangerous levels.
- Horses, like people, need to sweat for thermoregulation (cooling); **sweat is more efficient at removing heat when it evaporates.**

How HOT is TOO HOT to work your horse?



HOT TIPS

Heat exhaustion should not be underestimated as it can advance to heat stroke quickly.

If you suspect your horse is developing heat stroke, or if your horse's body temperature does not drop to 101°F or lower despite your best efforts to cool him off, call your veterinarian immediately!



During the month of May, Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho R4 conducted four sawyer workshops. BCHI volunteer instructors, Dan Waugh, Dana Bailey, Jeff Halligan, Rob Adams, Todd Brown and Mark Ottman, lead or participated in several training opportunities.

On May 1 & 2, a workshop was held for the City of Eagle Parks & Trails department. The fourteen Eagle employees completed the Developing Thinking Sawyer Chainsaw classroom and field day work.

On May 3 & 4, a SW volunteer Trails group workshop was held covering both crosscut and chainsaws. Several BCHI participants now have both certifications on their cards. Jeff Halligan led the crosscut modules while Rob Adams & Dana Bailey led the chainsaw portions.

On May 12 & 13, Rob Adams & Dan Waugh held a recertification workshop for the Boise National Forest recreation rangers. This workshop included both bucking and felling certificates. Brian Burbridge and Allison Lund attended the workshop and evaluated the felling portion of the field days.



Earl Laughter, SBBCH, making a boor cut. Photo Credit: Rob Adams

On May 16, 17 & 18, BCHI both led and provided several of the VSI's at the 5th Stanley workshop. Todd Brown, Mark Ottman, Dana Bailey and Rob Adams taught modules and coached and evaluated sawyers in chainsaw and crosscut at both the Advanced and DTS field days. The Stanley workshop had 9 advanced day students and 26 students for the DTS workshop.



How To Find Sawyer Certification Training

To find out when sawyer safety workshops are being held, contact one of the following Sawyer Trainers (in your region) or a Ranger District.

Region 1 — Todd Brown email sawyer-coordinator1@bchi.org or call **208-451-3161**

Region 4 — Rob Adams email sawyer-coordinator4@bchi.org or call **208-781-0548**

Second Annual Easter Egg Ride — by Bobbi Eby, Salmon River BCHI

On April, 19th, Salmon River Back Country Horsemen partnered with the Silver Spurs 4-H club to host the second annual Trail Easter Egg Hunt for the community.

The SRBCH members spent an evening stuffing



all the eggs with candy, stickers and peanuts. The day of the Easter egg hunt, the SRBCH members met up with the 4-H families to hide the eggs, using a couple of side by sides, horses and on foot.

Over 45 participants of all ages, on horseback and on foot, followed a two-mile loop in the sage brush and over hills, to search for over 1,000 Easter eggs. After the event concluded, the Silver Spurs 4-H club picked up trash in the area for community service.

Community Events in Salmon — by Bobbi Eby, Salmon River BCHI

Members of Salmon River Backcountry Horsemen, White-water Therapeutic Riding Center, Silver Spurs 4-H Club, Calvary Chapel Salmon, and Salmon Valley Baptist Church joined forces to volunteer time and resources to bring the Bridles and Bibles clinic to Salmon. The clinic was held at the Whitewater Arena on May 3rd, 2025, with approximately 60 people attending between the clinicians, volunteers, adult and child participants, and spectators. Bridles and Bibles is a free riding clinic that helps bring understanding of Jesus through relationship with horses, using the jaquima a freno, hackamore to bridle concept. The clinic offered instruction to adults with a focus on communication and relationship. During the clinic, they also put on a day camp for children ages 6 to 12, where they learned about horsemanship and participated in fun activities and crafts. The clinic was successful, and brought many members of the horse community together.



Idaho Director's BCHA Prescott Convention Update — by Pat Bogar, National Director

I will not get too lengthy because you should have gotten a large portion of this information on the monthly E-blast! This convention was in mid-April in Prescott, AZ. Sue, my sister-in-law, and I decided to do some traveling after the convention and this was the first BCHA meeting she had attended. She thought it was quite interesting and definitely a learning experience. Almost overwhelming...

Due to the high cost of putting on these events, BCHA Conventions, it was decided to go back to Kansas City, MO next year and the convention will not be sponsored by an individual state per usual.

There was a discussion in regards to Light on the Land (LOL) of which BCHA has been working on for some time. The Light on the Land is now copyrighted to BCHA. A further deep discussion was about LNT, Leave No Trace, and it was noted that LNT took the saddle animal off the yellow triangular trail signs. BCHA plans to have a conversation concerning this issue with the LNT folks. In the mean time it was voted to discontinue paying dues to LNT. But after some further discussions it was voted on to join/pay dues to the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) as they have a very similar mission to BCHA in regards to trails and back country use.

There was a long visit about the hurricanes, tornadoes and disasters that occurred this past year, which did affect some of our East Coast chapters. It was felt that an actual disaster relief fund might prove to be very beneficial. Some of the criteria that was mentioned was our ability to haul hay and animals, have pack critters to benefit folks and trails, and we would stay within our mission statement in dispersing funds. Our opinions were that there are specialized organizations for much of the other disaster issues, therefore, not in our wheelhouse. So the fund will be set up in a separate account that anyone can donate to and perhaps find some grant funds as well. One of the comments that made sense is the fact that when these events happen, it isn't always prudent to wait for the funds to come in. Oftentimes funds and assistance are needed immediately.

I would like to reiterate that our Public Lands (PL) within our chapters should be in contact with their state PL liaison who will be involved with the regional PL group. The regional groups are under Brad Pollon from Montana, he works closely with Randy Rasmussen, BCHA PL. Randy is paid staff for BCH and does know his stuff. He is always available if you need assistance. I believe Brad has quarterly zoom meetings with regional PL groups within BCH. If you would like to be involved, contact him. I hope this awareness can benefit our many issues and concerns with PL.



Dues Increase — by Pat Bogar and Joe Brinkman, National Directors

Dues will be increased by \$5 and this increase will take effect with our January 2026 membership dues payment.

At the 2024 BCHA National Board Meeting in Casper, the ratification of a \$5 increase across all categories was approved by an 87% vote. Idaho actually voted No.

However, the following after-meeting recap explains the situation, which Joe and I obviously misunderstood. We did not bring it back in a timely and correct manner to the state board of director's meeting. I feel this dues increase did come across with considerable confusion, at this year's BCHA convention I asked for and received minutes, after meeting notes, and feel we have to follow suit and pay the increase. However, this may be difficult for chapters that do not have funds available. This issue will need to be on our September BOD meeting and discussed fully.

The following is the after-meeting notes I received at this year's convention:

DUES INCREASE at BCHA 2023 NBM – After much discussion these past several days, ignited by one of the Wyoming resolutions, dues need to be increased! They haven't been since 2013. It is felt that dues should cover the hard costs of our expenses. A motion was made to increase the dues by \$5. That motion was amended to increase it by \$10, which was voted down. The motion for \$5 was approved. Now this goes back to our 32 states and it needs to be ratified by three-fourths of them. If you're in favor, why not send in the increased amount when you receive that 2023 dues invoice? Otherwise, this will be passed/rejected at our April 2024 Nation Board Meeting and will go into effect in January 2025. A really long time from now??

As you can see above in this article the dues increase was ratified by an 87% approval. There have actually been a few states that have already added the increase to their membership monies they send in since the ratification date. If you have questions concerning this issue, please feel free to call us.

BCHI Newsletters

If any member would prefer to receive the BCHI newsletter via email, please let the person who manages your chapter's membership roster know so that they can pass this information on to the BCHI Broomtail's team.

Targhee National Forest Becoming Even More Horse Friendly – by Melissa Pangraze, Teton Valley BCHI

Teton Valley Backcountry Horsemen chapter (TTBCH) out of Driggs, ID had our grant writer Danielia Lemaich chase a \$5,000 grant through the Teton Springs Foundation to pay for purchase and installation of hitching rails at two trailheads in the Targhee National Forest as well as overnight horse corrals at a popular trailhead.

In April, several volunteers spent time researching the best steel pipe source, trailering the material and meeting with USFS management rangers to ensure proper placement was determined. In early June, they hauled equipment to pound the posts for the 21' rails and the next weekend the on-site welding by skilled labor members happened for the hitching rails. Voila! Safe and hardy rails for all horse users on the Teton Basin Ranger District are in place at Moose Creek and North Leigh Trailheads. Such an accomplishment! The grant also provides funds for overnight containment of horses in two 24' x 12' pipe corrals at the North Leigh trailhead, but with the nation's increased tariffs and pipe coming from Canada, the price has increased and delivery date is still unknown, so the building date is still to be determined. "It feels good to be part of installing these rails and corrals for our outdoor community" says Kevin Little with his wife Deb who are longtime members of the chapter. "We hope generations to come will enjoy this durable infrastructure, it sure will help with convenience and horse safety in the backcountry". Danielia already has her eyes on the next grant opportunity to continue the infrastructure efforts at Targhee's multiple horse trailheads. She says "It's a satisfying mission for sure!"

TTBCH would like to recognize the following members who made this project possible: Danielia Lemaich, Kevin & Deb Little, Paul Forester, Patrick Tracy, Mark Shoemaker, Phil Byman, and Dustin Hulme.



National Trails Day in the Tetons

— by Melissa Pangraze, Teton Valley BCHI

National Trails Day is just what it implies, a national effort by everyone to get out on our public trails and commit to leaving them and the outdoor community better than we found them. Sharing information with ALL users should be part of that effort. Several folks, both members and the general public, came out to Teton Canyon in the Targhee National Forest to meet up with the Teton Valley Back Country Horsemen.

The setting: Teton Canyon transfer station is in the woods off of the main road, it was a sunny morning about 70°, a BCH chapter booth, horse trailers with whinnying horses arriving and two llamas with curious eyes quietly grazing while staked out next to their trailer. No one quite knew how the day would go. What everyone did know was that they were putting a 'deposit in the bank' for the future. Our outdoor community is a varied one with horse riders, bike riders, hikers, runners, llamas, dogs and goats all packing in and out of our public trails every day. It's a busy place and can sometimes feel scary depending on how prepared you are.

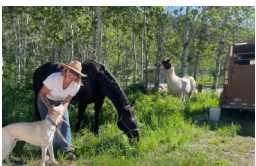
Horse owners parked their horse trailers and unloaded a safe distance away from the long-necked, furry boogie men and allowed their equines to experience the strange smell and odd

shape of the fellow trail users. Slowly, the horse and owner would walk up to the llama trailer and 'read the room'. The llama is a stoic animal. It appears to not ever really get upset. The most it seems to do is look around a bit or walk calmly to or away from a thing it might be curious or

worried about; in other words not super reactive. Now consider the horse, also a prey animal, but with seemingly much more of a reactive brain. We expected the worst. It didn't happen. At most, a few horses danced around the closer they got to the grazing llamas,

some grazed alongside the llamas trying to get closer and some even tried to touch noses (this was discouraged in case the next thing was spitting from the llama or kicking from the horse). Safety first was still at the forefront of our human brains despite how well each interaction was going. Luck was even pushed to see if simulating a more realistic scenario would illicit a bigger reaction. We put packs on the llamas and led the horses and llamas past each other in the parking lot the way they might encounter each other on a trail. That was a little more dramatic, but in the end, it seemed most horses were content and more curious about the llamas than anything. Taking the time in a "controlled" environment certainly was worthwhile to

prepare for that greeting and the inevitable passing by on the trail later this summer when on top of your horse's back! The event was offered for free and will be planned again for next year since demand was high and it was such a unique opportunity to benefit so many user types.



National Trail Day Joint Project — by

Celeste Bingham, Salmon River BCHI

June 7, National Trail Day, found the Salmon River Back Country Horsemen doing their annual trail clearing at the Wagonhammer trail complex. The group has been clearing the many trails for over thirty years, but this year they were joined by hikers and bikers who were finishing a signage project throughout the trail system. Salmon Valley Stewardship and North Zone Trails treated all participants to lunch from Odd Fellows' Bakery (always a hit). All entities made it back to the trailhead by 3:30, beating the projected 85 degree day.



Terry Hershey
Photo Credit: Chris French

The scenic Wagonhammer trail complex offers open areas with beautiful vistas and heavily timbered forests to ride, hike or bike through.



Carl Ulmer & Chris French
Photo Credit: Celeste Bingham

Lewis and Clark came through the area on their search for a way to the Pacific Ocean.

National Director Replacement for Idaho

— by Pat Bogar, State National Director

At the upcoming March 2026 State Convention and Board meeting, we will need to vote on another Idaho State National Director to take my place. The cool part is that person will have a year to plan and be prepared to take over after being voted in as my last duty will be the 2026 BCHA National Board Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

It is a great learning experience and does not require a huge bunch of time; one zoom meeting a month and the yearly convention.

Additionally there are issues that come up that we are able to support through letters, calls, etc. Webinars are available to assist in our education.

The networking with folks from across the entire USA is worth the work and experience for sure.

Contact Robin Pilkington or Pat Bogar if you are interested.

Robin — bchi.secretary@gmail.com

Pat — national-director-2@bchi.org

Community Equine Clinic: A Day of Service offered to our community — by Lisa Baer, Squaw Butte BCHI

The Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen chapter recently had the privilege of hosting a comprehensive equine clinic that served as an invaluable resource for local horse and mule owners. This event provided crucial services, including veterinary exams, vaccinations, Coggins tests, health certifications and brand inspections, benefiting 39 equines in total.

With the expertise of veterinarian Dr. Anne Roach, owners ensured their animals were up to date on vaccinations and met health standards, while the brand inspector helped clarify ownership which will help to deter theft. The day was further enhanced by an exciting obstacle course created by the Chick family and delicious hot dogs prepared by our enthusiastic cook, Bart Baer, fostering a warm and engaging atmosphere.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who played a role in making the clinic a success. From the dedicated volunteers who helped set up and manage the event to the veterinarian and brand inspector who offered their expert services, it was truly a team effort. The commitment and hard work of all involved allowed us to provide such a valuable resource to our equine community, exemplifying the spirit of collaboration that defines our SBBCH Chapter and makes events like this possible.



Panhandle End of Year Party and Awards — by Karen Kimball, Panhandle BCHI



We had our Year End Party on January 18th at the Athol Community Center. The chapter provided ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, mac and cheese, salads and veggies. The members brought desserts. Jamie Smith organized a silent auction which the members provided baskets, tack and other items. We had 35 in attendance.

We had a short business meeting. Incoming and outgoing Officers and Directors were introduced and thanked. Robert Wuest received the Horsemen of the Year Award and Linda Wuest received the Horsewoman of the Year Award. They were both presented a Buck Knife with their name and award on it.

It was a fun time and everyone enjoyed visiting with each other since the riding ended in November.

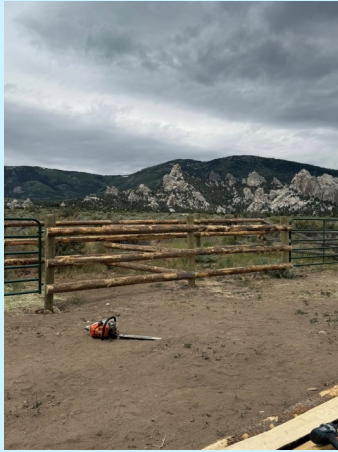


Facebook Chapter Highlights

Cache Peak BCHI

Eleven Cache Peak members got together to help Castle Rocks State Park rebuild corrals at the park. The members who worked were Cari Chandler, Gail Pierson, Karen Ambrose, Rod Kack, Lisa Buerkle, Pam Darrington, Mark Ottman, Tashina Bennett, Mouria Dunn, Nancy Ady and Mary Ann Shaff. Thanks to the crew from Castle Rocks State Park for providing equipment and help, Bryce, Trenton, Moose, Ella and Mucchi.

Our chapter also bought the three gates for the inside corrals and put in 8 hours of work tearing down and then rebuilding with new post and half rails. We plan to finish the cattle chute area in the fall.



Panhandle BCHI

Chipmunk Rapids is clear. Scott and Rene Sullens spent 5 hours and cut 28 trees, fifteen on the upper loop alone.



That tree just above the switchbacks at Marie Creek is no longer there. Members Scott and Rene Sullens cut it out today along with seven additional annoying trees.



Priest River Valley BCHI



Great ride at Pee Wee trail where the ladies fixed a hole in one of the bridges.

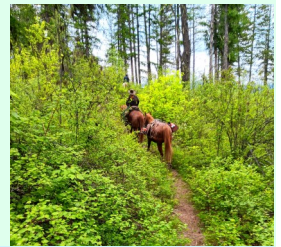


Our chapter partnered with the Priest Lake Museum to promote the Bismark Barn Restoration project by providing pack mules in the Coolin Spring Festival Parade. The old Bismark Barn was the Forest Service Pack station in Nordman. The Museum is restoring it to operational status as a historical interest.



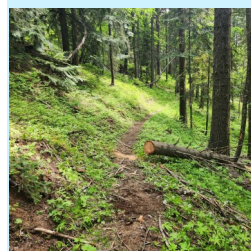
We participated in the Forestry Expo for two days at the Experimental forest in Priest River for the local 6th graders. We had a pack mule and saddle horse and explained our role in clearing trails and how we work with both the Forest Service and other trail clearing organizations.

We had 3 members saw certified with the Forest Service at our Trail Clearing Extravaganza and cleared Woodrat trail 235. The all-ladies crew rocked it!



Palouse BCHI

The long loop of Feather Creek is clear. Five people, six animals, thirteen miles rode, forty trees cleared, hundreds of branches trimmed and 7.5 hours.



Had to reroute the trail around this mess.

Twin Rivers BCHI

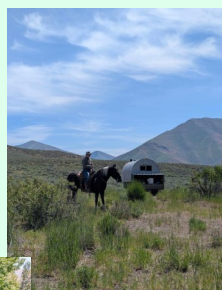
Paul Bogar, Rich Vigue, Rod Parks, Tom Barnes and Matt Bake installed a new hitchrail at the parking area by the top of Stagecoach Road in WaHa.



Sawtooth BCHI

Thank you to all the organizers, volunteers and riders that helped support our first-ever Ride & Draw fundraiser ride in June. A special thanks to Laurie Williams who spearheaded the whole thing.

Everyone had a great time.



The more you and your Horse know, the more you can help each other. The less you and your horse know, the more you can hurt each other. Start learning .

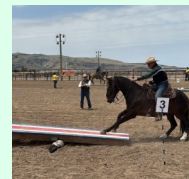


Gaye DeRusse—majesticrider.com

Portneuf River BCHI



Caitlin McNabb



Mike Hare on Bugsy



Jodi Fisher

2025 Trail Obstacle Challenge



Mom's Best Chocolate, Coconut Almond Cookies – submitted by Teresa Hudson, Salmon River BCHI

- 1 cup butter
- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 3 tsp vanilla
- 4 ½ cups flour
- 2 tsp baking sodas
- 1 tsp salt
- 5 cups chocolate chips
- 2 cups sweetened coconut
- 2 cups chopped almonds

Creamed butter, sugars and vanilla together. Add eggs one at a time. Mix dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture. Stir in almonds, coconut and chocolate chips.

Drop by tablespoon on greased cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on rack.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE BROOMTALES' FALL EDITION IS:

September 26, 2025

Send submissions to:
newsletter-editor1@bchi.org



BCH of Idaho, Inc.
Robin Pilkington, Secretary
P.O. Box 264
Priest River, ID 83856
bchi.secretary@gmail.com

North Lake Canyon headed up to Green Lakes

