



Camps and Trails to Put On Your "To-Do-List"

Submitted by: Sara Lagasse, Written by: Kim McCarrol

I know that we all have all been stuck inside to some degree but that should not stop us from planning our next adventure with friends. Who better to help us with that but Kim McCarrol and her informative Riding Oregon Horse Trails Books. Kim has graciously let me use some of her work and pictures to highlight a few places for us to explore and learn about. All 6 trails or camps listed below have been reprinted with permission from www.NWHorseTrails.com.

All of Kim's books can be purchased on www.NWHorseTrails.com that has much more trails and trail details than what I have provided below I encourage you to go check it out.

Happy planning!

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Please feel free to contact our officers or staff if you need any assistance or have a question pertaining to BCHO.

PURPOSES of BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of OREGON

To PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.

To WORK to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To ASSIST the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the back country resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

Come to a meeting and make a difference...

Columbia Gorge Chapter

Meets: The 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr. Hood River OR at 7:00 p.m.

Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Joy Senger at columbiagorge@bcho.org

East Cascades Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Monday of each month at the Black Bear Diner, 1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend Oregon

Social hour 5:30-6:00 p.m., Meeting 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Contact: Duane Miller 541-619-0693, Dr-Miller@msn.com

Emerald Empire Chapter

Meets: the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Utility District building, 33733 Seavey Lp Road, Eugene, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Jean Clancy, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at Waffle Hut, 106 Main St., Klamath Falls at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Betty Applebaker, hdttr@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

Meets: 3rd Thursday of the month at Community Bible Church, Room 202, 500 N. 10th Street, Central Point, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Cate Bendock, sourdough@bcho.org

Steens Chapter

Meets: As needed! Please confirm meeting schedule and work party dates through SteensBCH@gmail.com or call John O'Connor 541-678-3502

West Cascades Chapter

Meets: The 1st Wednesday of each month at Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market Street NE, Salem, OR. Dinner time is at 6:00 p.m. meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Jennifer Paulson, westcascades-pres@bcho.org

Territorial Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Beaver Creek Fire Department, 22310 S Beaver Creek Rd. Beaver Creek, Or. 97004 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Tim Lagasse, territorialriders@bcho.org

High Country Wilderness Packers

Meets: Held by conference call every other month

Contact: Mat Wooley, hcwp@bcho.org

Continuation of cover story

JOE GRAHAM AND CLACKAMAS LAKE HORSE CAMPS – NORTHWEST OREGON AREA



Are you starting to dream about fabulous summer riding?

If so, and you want to go to Joe Graham or Clackamas Lake Horse Camps this summer, *you need to make your reservations now.*

These popular camps on the south side of Mt. Hood have fabulous riding and they are relatively close to Portland, so the campsite reservations get snapped up early.

Both of the horse camps are near the shore of Timothy Lake, a sapphire jewel sitting at the foot of snow-capped Mt. Hood.

They feature all the amenities you want at a horse camp, including log corrals, potable water, vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, and easy access to the trails.



The trails in the surrounding area offer forest solitude along with beautiful vistas. You can ride all the way around Timothy Lake and take in its picture-postcard view of Mt. Hood.



You can make a loop using the Pacific Crest Trail and the Old 1916 Trail to reach the fascinating Little Crater Lake, which has a constant temperature of 34 degrees year round.

You can ride south on the PCT to the Warm Springs River.

Or, if you're into distance riding, you can go as far as you please either north or south on the PCT.

The terrain is gently rolling, with moderate elevation changes and no steep hillsides to traverse. And the forest you ride through is both pretty and varied.

You'll find plenty of riding at Joe Graham and Clackamas Lake Horse Camps for a long weekend summer of fun.

Getting There: From Sandy, OR, take Hwy. 26 west past

Government Camp to the junction with Hwy. 35. Follow the signs toward Bend to stay on Hwy. 26. In 8.7 miles after the Hwy. 35 junction, turn right on Skyline Road (Road 42), drive 8.3 miles, then turn left into Joe Graham Horse Camp.

Or continue past the Joe Graham entrance for a short distance and veer left to stay on Road 42. In another mile, turn left into Clackamas Lake Horse Camp.

Camping Facilities: At Joe Graham, there are 14 sites with 2-, 3-, or 4-horse corrals. Clackamas Lake has 19 sites that allow horses, and 11 of these have 2-, 3-, or 4-horse corrals. All sites have picnic tables, fire pits, and parking for 1 trailer. You'll find potable water and toilets at both camps.

There is a Camping fee.

Reservations: Advance reservations are strongly recommended. Go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

GIBSON PRAIRIE HORSE CAMP – NORTHWEST OREGON AREA



Breathtaking views and delightful trails await you at Gibson Prairie Horse Camp, located at the base of Surveyors Ridge on the east flank of Mt. Hood. And this lightly-used horse camp is free of charge!

The Surveyors Ridge Trail runs the length of the summit of its namesake ridge, and you can ride it either northbound or southbound from the horse camp. The trail offers eye-popping views of Mt. Hood from several vantage points along the way.

Continued on page 5

From the President

Submitted by: Duane Miller, President BCHO

We are in most interesting times. I hope everyone is well and staying healthy.

We are experiencing a summer where we have been limited with the activities we are allowed to participate in. Hopefully over the coming months this will change.



I had a conversation with the Deschutes Trail Coordinator on Friday, June 19th. In this conversation we talked about how this will open up in the near future. Our organization will probably have to sign new OF301a forms. We will also have to present to the Forest Supervisor and get an approved mitigation plan to assure we are following guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I will be working on this and hopefully by the time this article is out you have received a draft copy for review and input.

The Forest Service is still working from home only and only in the office under special circumstances.

At this time and hopefully by the time you read this things will have started to open up and allowing us back in the field.

At this time no group activities or events are allowed, no individual field work is allowed.

I know everyone is getting impatient and wants to get activities going. Be patient we will get there.

The Forest Service is still not sure when staff will be allowed back to normal work schedules in the office.

I'm still concerned we may have another shut down with stay at home orders, I hope not and things keep opening up.

EVERYONE STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE.

- Duane

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Continuation of cover story from page 3

The trail is popular with mountain bike riders, so keep an eye out and be prepared to step off the trail if you need to. (OK, I know that bikes are supposed to yield to horses, but on this kind of terrain it's often easier for the horses to get off the trail than for the bike riders.) And remember that cyclists who live in the city may not know much about horses, so be friendly and accommodating to our fellow trail users.



The Horsemen's Trails are a series of pleasant loop trails that explore the open forest and meadows around the horse camp. The trails use a combination of forest roads and single-track trails, and the terrain is gentle and horse-friendly. Most of the trails are unsigned, so you may want to carry a map and a GPS or compass. Plus, these trails are for horses only, so you won't see any bikes.

The Watershed Boundary Trail is a relaxing ride that takes you through pretty mixed-conifer forest and open meadows to the boundary of The Dalles' watershed, then along its perimeter for several miles. The trail runs along the top of a ridge, providing good views in both directions as you ride.



Fall is a great time to ride at Gibson Prairie, as the brilliant fall foliage of the vine maples contrasts beautifully with the golden grasses of the meadows and the deep greens of the forest.

Getting There: From Portland, head east on Hwy. 26. About 2.5 miles past Government Camp, turn north on Hwy. 35 toward Hood River. Continue 13.2 miles and turn right on Road 44. Drive 5.4 miles and veer left on Road 17. Continue 0.4 mile and make a 90-degree left turn to stay on Road 17. (Road 1720 goes straight ahead and is gravel.) The horse camp is 5.6 miles ahead.

From Hood River, drive south on Hwy. 35 for 14 miles and turn left on Pine Mont Drive, which becomes Road 17. Continue 9.7 miles to the horse camp.

Fees: None. The camp is maintained by volunteers from Back Country Horsemen

Season: Summer through fall

Camping Facilities: Five sites, three of which have 4-horse log corrals. Most of the sites are level and all are graveled. All sites have picnic tables and fire pits. The camp has a vault toilet, stock water from a trough, and a manure bin.

More Information: The trails out of Gibson Prairie Horse Camp are covered in more detail in *Riding Northwest Oregon Horse Trails* by Kim McCarrel, (Ponderosa Press, 2013).

BADLANDS ROCK TRAIL - CENTRAL OREGON AREA



It's the dead of winter, but today the sun is out and you'd like to go riding. Where can you go to find trails that aren't icy or muddy? In Central Oregon, a great answer is the Badlands Rock Trail in the Oregon Badlands Wilderness.

Located only 15 miles southeast of Bend, the Oregon Badlands Wilderness is 45 square miles of junipers, sagebrush, and bunchgrass accented by fascinating rock formations. The terrain is relatively flat, the tread is sandy, and the trails are open year round. All the trails are well signed.

Created in 2009, the Oregon Badlands is a relatively new wilderness area. Its trails are mostly old roads created by the ranchers who once grazed their cattle on these BLM lands. The trails are all open to hikers, horseback riders, and off-leash dog walkers, but are off limits to mountain bikes and motorized vehicles.

The Badlands Rock Trail starts at the Badlands Rock Trailhead and runs 2.7 miles to its namesake formation. Badlands Rock is large basalt outcropping (technically a pressure ridge) that was created when molten lava flowed out of a lava tube and cooled, then was pushed up and fractured by more lava flowing out beneath it.

If you want to ride an 8-mile loop, when you reach Badlands Rock turn left and follow the Castle Trail. It will take you to Castle Rock, then on to Flatiron Rock. Like Badlands Rock, Castle and Flatiron are basalt pressure ridges, but both have deep fissures that resemble moats in the tops of the outcroppings. You can tie your horse and scramble up the rocks and into the moats, which run all the way around the inside of the rock formations and offer nice views out over the treetops.

From Flatiron Rock, just follow the Flatiron and Homestead Trails back to your trailer.

For a fun winter ride, check out the Badlands Rock Trail in the Oregon Badlands Wilderness. It's memorable!

More details can be found in *Riding Central Oregon Horse Trails* by Kim McCarrel, and at www.NWHorseTrails.com.

PETERSON RIDGE HORSE TRAIL - CENTRAL OREGON AREA



One of my favorite places to ride is the Peterson Ridge Horse Trail, near Sisters. This trail has it all – panoramic mountain views, beautiful ponderosa pine forest, horse-friendly terrain, directional signs at every trail junction, and separate trails for horses and bikes.

The Peterson Ridge Horse Trail is an out-and-back trail that runs the length of its namesake ridge. You'll find three scenic overlooks that offer views of Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, Black Butte, Three-Fingered Jack, the Three Sisters, and Broken Top. Plus, you'll have mountain views from several additional vantage points along the trail.

The route is well signed, with white trailblazer diamonds on the trees and trail junction signs that indicate the distances and directions to various destinations along the route. The elevation changes are minimal and the trail is easy – the only minor challenges are a couple of irrigation canals that flow for about a month each summer.

The Peterson Ridge Horse Trail is open year round, though it may be too snowy to ride there at times in the winter. The trail can be dusty in summer (this is Central Oregon, after all), but you can minimize the dust by riding in pairs or trios instead of in larger groups.

You'll park at the Rodeo Grounds Trailhead, then follow the white diamonds on the trees. They'll take you to the Peterson Ridge Overlook, the Eagle Rock Two Viewpoint, or the Peak View Viewpoint. Pick a destination and ride!



More details can be found in *Riding Central Oregon Horse Trails* by Kim McCarrel, and at www.NWHorseTrails.com.

BULLARDS BEACH HORSE CAMP- SOUTHERN OREGON AREA



Bullards Beach Horse Camp is located at Bullards Beach State Park, 2.5 miles north of the town of Bandon. The park has a beautiful beach that offers splendid riding beside the surf, plus plenty of dune trails to add variety to your rides.

Bullards Beach Horse Camp is open year round. It features eight campsites with corrals tucked among the shore pines, potable water, garbage cans, and manure pits. You'll find hot showers and flush toilets in the family campground just down the road, so Bullards Beach State Park has just about everything you need for a great horse-camping vacation any time of year. Reservations are required: 800-551-6949.



The Cut Creek Trail runs out through the dunes to Cut Creek, through vegetation that varies from dune grasses to dense stands of shore pines. You can create loops of varying lengths by turning off onto one of several trails that lead to the beach, and then riding back beside the surf.

You can ride either down the beach or along a nice dune trail to reach the tiny but picturesque lighthouse located where the Coquille River empties into the Pacific. Tie your horse and take a guided tour of the restored lighthouse.

Then ride back along the beach to complete a loop.

The park opened a brand new trail through the dunes in 2012. It runs roughly parallel to the Cut Creek Trail, but farther inland. At the trail's northern end it veers west and connects to the Cut Creek Trail, providing a delightful inland loop for days when the beach is windy or the tide is high.

Getting to Bullards Beach Horse Camp: From Coos Bay, drive south on Hwy. 101 for 22 miles. From Bandon, drive

north on Hwy. 101 for 2.5 miles. All, turn west on Park Road. Continue 1 mile to the horse camp on the right.

More Information: Bullards Beach Horse Camp is covered in *Riding Southern Oregon Horse Trails*, by Kim McCarrel, (Ponderosa Press, 2014).

RIDING THE STERLING MINE DITCH TRAIL – SOUTHERN OREGON AREA



It isn't often that you find a year-round riding area with miles of trail, But that's exactly what you get at the Sterling Mine Ditch, a 20+ mile trail on BLM land just south of Medford.

In the 1850s gold was discovered in Sterling Creek. For years miners panned the precious mineral, but eventually the gold in the creek played out. There was still plenty of gold in the nearby hills, but getting at it under layers of rock and dirt was a challenge. Miners found they could extract the gold by using hydraulic jets of water to sluice away the hillsides so the gold flakes could be separated from the surrounding dirt. But hydraulic mining requires plenty of water, and there wasn't an adequate water source nearby.

The solution was to construct a ditch to bring water to the mines from the Little Applegate River. In 1877, the Sterling Mining Company began construction. The nearly 400 mostly-Chinese laborers they hired dug a ditch 3 feet deep and 26.5 miles long, completing it in less than a year. The ditch remained in use until the 1930s, with mounted ditch riders patrolling it by riding along the berm. Their historic route is today the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, which runs along the ditch (with a few detours around private property) for some 20 miles.

You can ride the entire 20-mile trail from end to end, or explore the trail in segments by riding out from one of five trailer-friendly trailheads. You can also create loops by parking at one trailhead, following its access trail to the Ditch Trail, riding along the Ditch, then taking an access trail to a different trailhead and returning to your trailer by riding on the lightly traveled gravel road you drove in on.

Horse Trail Guidebooks!



www.nwhorsetrails.com

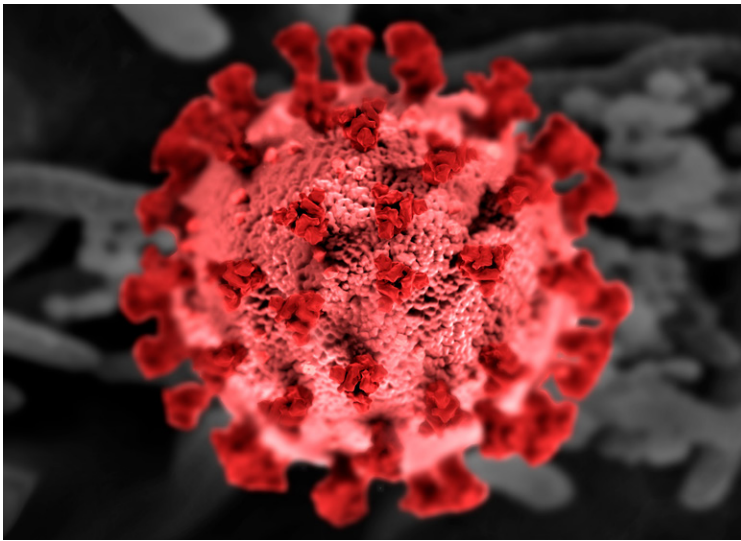
The Ditch Trail has little elevation change as it runs through shady stands of Douglas-firs and ponderosa pines, past groves of madrones and oaks, and across arid south-facing slopes covered with chaparral. In a number of places the trail offers expansive views of the Siskiyou and the Little Applegate Valley. You'll also see remnants of the ditch's past, from old log flumes to a hand-dug tunnel that carried the water under a hillside instead of around a ridge. What a delightful way to experience this area's colorful history!

The Sterling Mine Ditch Trail is open year round, though it's advisable to stay off the trail when it's muddy to avoid damaging the trail tread. The trail is open to horses, hikers, and mountain bike riders.

More Information: *Bullards Beach Horse Camp* is covered in *Riding Southern Oregon Horse Trails*, by Kim McCarrel, (Ponderosa Press, 2014).

All of Kim's books can be purchased at www.NWHorseTrails.com.

A big THANK YOU to Kim McCarrel for all the hard work and dedication that you have provided the riding community.



COVID-19 What an Experience!

Submitted by: Duane Miller, President BCHO

Well its been an interesting 2020 so far. One I'm sure everyone will remember for quite some time and definitely will go down in the history books. It is hard to say when we will be able to get back together in groups, and when we do it might be a while before some people are comfortable being close among other people. We have to remember we don't know the medical issues others may have and understand their caution. I would like to remind everyone that you have to use your own judgement, based upon your medical conditions, whether you should be around other people, wear a mask at this time. Ultimately it is an individual decision.

The Forest Service has asked at this time to not do trail projects of any kind for fear of not being able to help if someone is injured. Remember if you are injured during this time you might put workers compensation coverage at risk. We can go out in groups of two and do recon of trail projects. Maybe by the time you read this we will be allowed to go out and do the projects we are always in the forest to do. Hopefully we will be able to meet as groups for meetings in the near future also.

I hope everyone is well and dealing with the long period of being closed in. It will only be a matter of time and we should see businesses, parks and camp grounds opening up.

STAY WELL AND BE SAFE!

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One Step Forward, One Covid19 Step Back

Submitted by: Cate Bendock, President, BCHO Sourdough Chapter



One never knows what the day will bring, or the last four months! Many BCHO Chapters have had to put their projects on hold, Sourdough Chapter included. Best laid plans had us heading up to Sam Brown Horse Camp the first weekend in June to complete the rebuilding of this one-and-only horse camp in the Wild Rivers Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Sourdough Chapter has been the caretaker of the horse camp for about 20 years.

With the advent of Covid19 Phase II in Josephine County, the Forest Service has been opening its campgrounds in this expansive Forest. Sam Brown Horse Camp is slated to open on June 18, 2020. This caused a bit of panic on our part as caretakers. With some great communication with Rangers in charge of this area, Sourdough Chapter was able to get our volunteer agreement up and running for the Horse Camp completion.

Our small, six-person crew will go up on June 26-27 to complete the one four-horse and two two-horse corrals we built last fall. They require only the top rails and chain gates. We will also remove the remaining four campsites

corrals. Due to their condition they are not safe for stock. The crew will also assess placement of the new corrals. Our Covid19 protocol directives will be followed by this smaller crew. It seems like a very involved document, but in practice it is all doable and easy to follow.

On July 10-12 our larger crew of 20 will stage all materials up at the Horse Camp on the 10th and rebuild on the 11-12. This job requires tractors with posthole diggers, front forks for carrying posts and poles, and generators to run the saws and power equipment that are not battery operated. We have some very talented crew leaders to direct and work with their teams of 4 on each the corral. There are 3-4 teams depending on availability. Other persons will be the camp support team doing all those necessary jobs of keeping the paperwork straight, feeding, making sure crews have water and snacks, and keeping the camp clean and orderly. Most importantly, during our Covid19 Phase II protocol requirements we have a person just in charge of our health and well being making sure we follow those protocols.

Our Sourdough Chapter Sam Brown Horse Camp/Briggs





Valley committee deserves the credit for making this happen. Boots on the ground and in the saddle are necessary to keep stock users active and safe to camp up at Sam Brown Horse Camp. Good news for this area is the Wild Rivers Ranger District has hired Campground Hosts that are stationed across the FS 25 Rd. for the summer camping season. This will be a great help to stock users, as some motorized and mountain bike recreationist have been using the Horse Camp for several years. The Forest Service is dedicated to better signage and oversight to make sure that stock campers get their Horse Camp back. We're also thankful that the Forest Service purchased all the remaining supplies for completion of the rebuild, are paying for signage to help re-educate other users, and the presence of the camp host to help with enforcement. We're talkin' and they're listening – and acting.

More to come on the completion of this project and its ongoing saga in the future. Several of our members are on the Multi Use Team Group/USFS and BLM Teams that are developing a short, mid, and long-range trail plan for the Briggs Valley area. It is a huge area, with many opportunities for recreational users. We're glad to be a part of this process. We're looking forward to the completion of this rebuild and development of safe trails for stock users. Look for our update come mid July.



Pictures are from October 2019 Sam Brown Horse Camp start of rebuild. The 2020 work parties will do this same work on four more campsites.

Sourdough Chapter Public Lands
Member Highlight –

Joy Trevey-Lowell

Submitted by: Cate Bendock, President, BCHO Sourdough Chapter

BCHO Sourdough Chapter Public Lands Chair Joy Trevey-Lowell has been advocating for her Chapter on equine issues in our community and within the State of Oregon.

Joy has written six letters of support to various agencies and individuals this past month.

The subject matter included: Recreational Trail Program (RTP) funding to Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Greg Walden; Guide Outfitters (mountain bikes) use of Forest Service Trails of the Middle Fork Ranger District; support of the Allen Creek Horse Camp (Ochoco Nat'l. Forest) new trail system for horse/hiker only; comment opposing E-bikes on non-motorized trails to the BLM; and letter of support for Siskiyou Upland Trails Association for funds on 5 miles of new trail.

Hopefully all of you had a chance to comment on the issue of E-bikes on our trails.

We're all in this together and a few simple sentences in response to the issues involving our use of trails will keep us all out there.

If you missed this opportunity, stay tuned for others through your email. It's never ending!

Joy also continues to advocate for us with the Ashland Watershed trail system.

Always contentious and difficult.

Be sure to thank her when you see her or talk to her. She's a fine example of the dedication our members bring to us all.

How do I get there??

Submitted by: Becky and Matt Hope

Let's say you are new to the area and you would like to go to Cherry Creek. The conversation would go something like this:

"You can head West on 140 or you can go North on 97. When you get to the Crater Lake sign turn right unless you are going the other way then you turn left. After that go quite a few miles and you will come to a sign but I can't remember the name of the road. Just turn left again unless you are going the other way where you go about twice as far. There used to be a sign there where you turn. Sometimes it falls down but it might be in the weeds. Just turn up that road. If you turned too soon you can keep going and you will come to another road that will take you to the right road. Have fun!"

So you set out on your misguided journey and end up on a dead end narrow logging road with a long wheelbase pick-up dragging a 4 horse trailer and no way to turn around. Are we having fun yet?

Or-

You could just tell them: "42.5891 -122.1163"

Now the new resident simply puts those numbers in the STREET FINDER app on his smart phone, just like he would put in any address, and he could see how to get there, how long it will take and if there are alternative routes.

More and more of us have smart phones or we travel with others that have smart phones. Simply putting in the address of a house in New York City, a place you have never been, and your smart phone will give you turn by turn instructions to that house and tell you if there will be problems along the way. The address that you put in is the same as coordinates on a map for the STREET FINDER. We can go anywhere in the world by simply knowing the coordinates. With GOOGLE EARTH, coordinates to anywhere are easy to find. There is no more getting lost and wasting gas looking for a place you will probably not find if the directions are not accurate. The urge to go on another, similar adventure when you wasted a lot of gas and never did arrive at your goal, dwindles.

There are billions of dollars of technology floating around in the heavens that are free for us to use any time, day or night. And we have the power to use them with a relatively simple device that has invaded nearly all of our lives or, at least, a friend's life. Many of us so called "elderly" have mastered many of the new technologies just like we "mastered" learning how to stick our little 5 year old fingers in the phone dial back in '55. Having a list of coordinates to our favorite trail heads would really help newcomers and assure they have a memorable adventure. Beyond



that, the entire trail ride can be recorded with your smart phone so the entire adventure can be replicated by your great-great-grand-kids.

Many trails are disappearing simply because obstructions on the trail are not cleared. When people stop going to trails, the trail itself will go unused even if it does, eventually, get cleared. Recording the trails with a GPS or a smart phone with a GPS app (free) is becoming more and more important as the more remote trails lose support as funding dwindles and becomes more focused in areas that are closer to dense population centers. It is important to, while the skill set, physical ability and knowledge of where the trails are, record and save these trails digitally so the next generations can keep the trails alive and enjoyable. Recording exact tracks for some great trails is easy to do and is free to those that have a smart phone. The tracks can be kept in a library that is accessible to club members at any time. Plus, notes can be added (pictures, conditions, etc.) for added enjoyment. After all, the goal of taking a trail ride in some of the most beautiful country in the world shouldn't be hampered by fear of getting lost. 20th century technology is there for us that have been shoved into the 21st century, ready or not!



Wilderness Issues Data Survey

Submitted by: Duane Miller, President BCHO

The Wilderness Issues Data Survey has been put on the website. The purpose of the survey is to provide BCHO with objective, documented information to have future conversations with the Forest Service and other government agencies.

The survey is found on the website under the Resources and Forms column, or use the following link, (LINK NOT WORKING -- NEED NEW ONE) The form can be filled out on line or you can print it out and fill it at camp or on the trail.

I hope this form will go into the same data base that the Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers use. I found in past meetings with the Forest Service personnel we lacked the documented information and data we needed to make our points stand out. Along with the information from the Survey Rhonda Marquis put out and got excellent feedback, this will help make it harder to argue against our position.

Please take the time to fill out these forms for any issues you have on the trail and not just for wilderness areas. If possible provide photos to go with the report. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

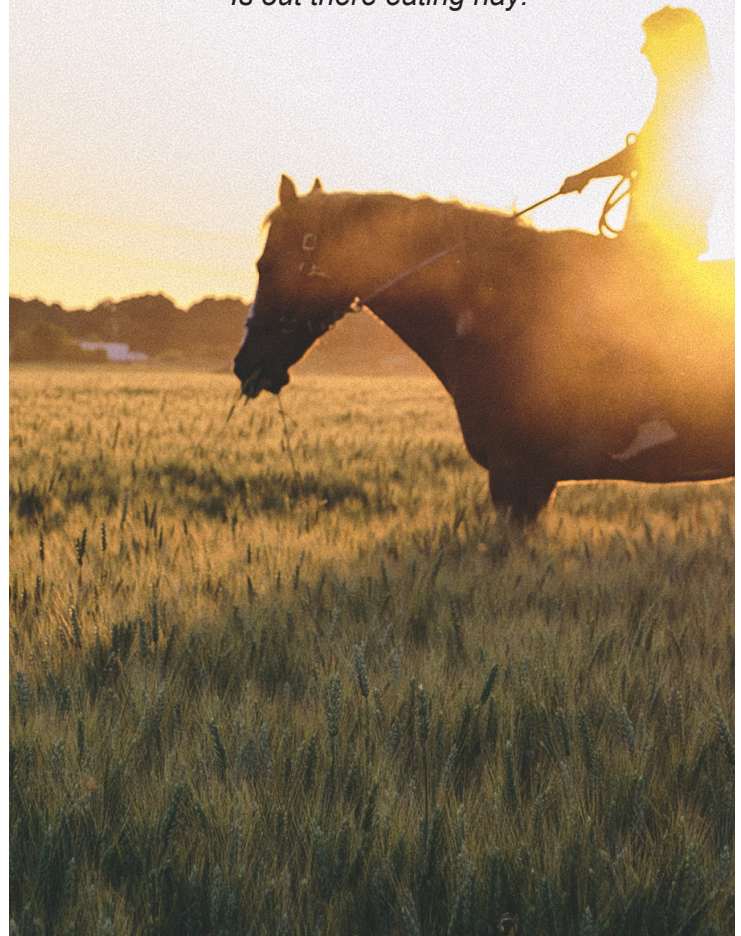
Thank you ahead of time for your participation in this project, I can't overstate the importance it can have for BCHO in the future.

The Warmth Of A Horse

*When your day seems out of balance
And so many things go wrong ...
When people fight around you
And the clock drags on so long ...
When some folks act like children
And fill you with remorse ...
Go out into your pasture and wrap
Your arms around your horse.*

*His gentle breath enfolds you as he
Watches with those eyes ...
He may not have a PhD but he
is, oh so wise!
His head rests on your shoulder
You hug him good and tight ...
He puts your world in balance
And makes it seem all right.*

*Your tears will soon stop flowing,
The tension will be eased ...
The nonsense has been lifted.
You are quiet and at peace.
So when you need some balance
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The History of the BCHO

Submitted by: Becky and Matt Hope

The first efforts to create a state organization in Oregon were made by Flathead BCH members Roland Cheek and Jack Watts, in 1977, in Enterprise. However, nothing permanent occurred until 1989 when Idaho's Don McPherson was successful in helping to organize the High Desert Trail Riders chapter in Klamath Falls and again in 1991 when he helped start the Blue Mountain chapter in La Grande. Then, in 1994 the Tiller BCH was formed in Tiller, Oregon.

On May 4, 1996, the High Desert Trail Riders were successful in pulling together 9 horsemen from the Oregon Coast Horse Association, High Desert Trail Riders BCH, Blue Mountain BCH and 10 interested folks from the Hood River area. With an assist from Randy Darling, BCHA president and BCH of Washington's Al Pitts, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon had its first organizational meeting in Hood River. Howard Bailey of La Grande, Fred Jette of Hood River, Dan Applebaker of Klamath Falls, and Becky Clark of Florence agreed to serve as interim officers to get the organization off the ground. By the time of the second meeting, in Bend on November 23rd, 1996, Oregon had added the Coos BCH and Columbia Gorge BCH. The Tiller group and the Oregon Coast Horse Ass'n chose not to pursue membership. A donation of \$1,000 from the HDTRBCH kept the BCHO afloat that first year.



The BCHO was accepted into the BCHA at the NBM in Plain, Washington, on April 25, 1997. Since then, seven chapters have been added: Elkhorn, East Cascades, North Umpqua, Sourdough, West Cascade, Emerald Empire, and Pendleton, with a new one currently being organized in the Burns area. State membership has grown from 129 memberships in 1997 to 350 family/single memberships in 2002.

That first year, the fledgling organization racked up 3,620 man-hours, 168 days of stock use and 11,296 miles of stock hauling on volunteer projects on public land. Keeping the backcountry trails open for stock users, improving trailheads and stock-oriented campgrounds continues to be the emphasis in addition to education of recreational stock users through LNT training sessions and the annual three-day packing clinic sponsored by the HDTRBCH in Klamath Falls. Evidence of this is the fact that volunteer time has grown to 9,080 man-hours with 56,472 miles driven and 828 stock-days donated in 2001.

The continued commitment of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon to its parent organization is shown by the Coos chapter sponsoring the 2003 BCHA National Board Meeting in Coos Bay, Oregon.

History of the BCHA

The formation of Back Country Horsemen took place in Montana's Flathead Valley in January of 1973. Since then BCH progress is a matter of record.



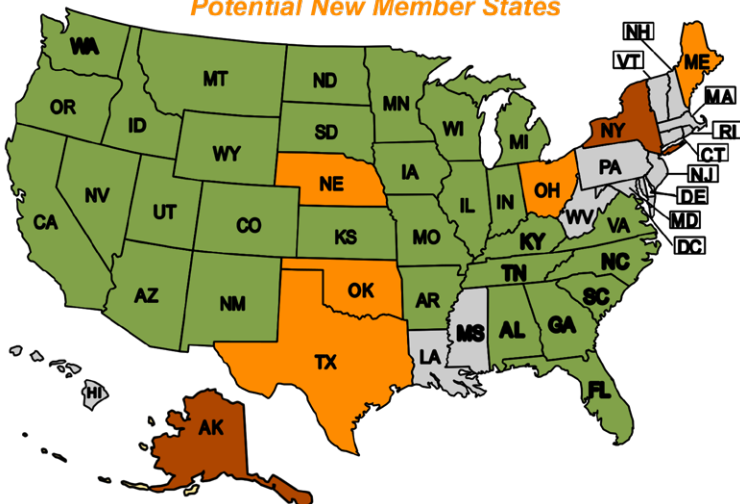
BCH members have used their specialized knowledge of stock and the backcountry to bring about changes and modifications of restrictive management. BCH has participated in many agency meetings on land use planning and regulations and has become a strong voice for continued, responsible, horse use. This responsible approach has assured a valid consideration regarding regulations and

planning and has given BCH the support of other conservation groups.

Growth of the Back Country Horsemen organization continued with formation of additional clubs in Montana. In 1979 these clubs and one from Salmon, Idaho formed the Back Country Horsemen of America. Three more Montana clubs 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, the High Sierra Stock Users, was formed. 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 a steady growth within the four founding states organizations. By 1996 there were additional state organizations in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Utah and Wyoming. Additionally there were affiliate chapters in Colorado, Oregon, British Columbia and Alberta, Canada.

BCHA Current and Affiliate Members
Potential New Member States



In May of 1996 a group of affiliate members of BCHA and other interested horsemen met in Hood River, Oregon with the purpose of forming an Oregon State Organization of Back Country Horsemen. Application was made to BCHA and in April 1997 Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, with four member chapters, was accepted by Back Country Horsemen of America. Since that date BCHO has grown to eleven chapters and BCHA has grown to 14,000 members nation wide.

Philosophy and Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.
4. 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.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

It was the original assumption that Back Country Horsemen would be a different type of organization, not the usual special interest one, normally operating as a protest group. It was felt that a service club, doing work in the backcountry, would lend credibility to the group when it became involved in criticisms of agency management.

It was also recognized that some of the complaints against backcountry horse use were justified. Therefore, it was determined that an educational program should be a fundamental principal of the group.

So, Service and education joined a determination to protect our heritage of backcountry stock use as composites of the "Purpose" printed above. Our name was chosen because it signified an interest in perpetuating recreational stock use on virtually all public lands.

We try to limit our interests to the stated purpose. Enough worthwhile organizations already exist to provide action programs in other fields, so anyone interested in those has adequate options to become active.

Invitation

There are those who would limit or severely restrict the recreational use of horses and mules in the backcountry. The voice of one person standing alone is not often heard. As a State, National and International organization, 14,000 members strong, working with land managers, law makers and other user groups we can help preserve the horsemen's rights to the recreational use of stock on public lands.

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon invites you to become actively involved in preserving your backcountry stock use by joining one of the existing BCHO Chapters. If no Chapter exists in your area you may join independently. Or, if you know other interested horse users in your area you may form a new chapter. Please refer to the BCHO Website.

COMANCHE AND HIS CAPTAIN

THE WARHORSE AND THE SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

By Janet Barrett

Set against the Civil War and the fight to secure the western frontier, the story of the soldier of fortune, Captain Myles Keogh, and the tough Mustang, Comanche, is a tale of bravery, partnership, survival, and healing.

Keogh was one of many Irishmen who were professional soldiers, but who refused to fight under the English flag. They took their talents to other countries, Keogh coming to America to fight for the Union through more than 80 battles in the Civil War. By war's end he had decided that the U.S. would be his home, and he signed on with the newly formed Seventh Cavalry.

Given command of Company I, he took his men across Kansas to Fort Wallace, on the edge of the frontier. It was called the Fightin'est Fort in the West, and it plunged Keogh into the challenges of Indian fighting. Soon, the shrewd choice of Comanche gave him the horse he wanted and an extraordinary partnership that would last for eight years, eventually taking them to the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

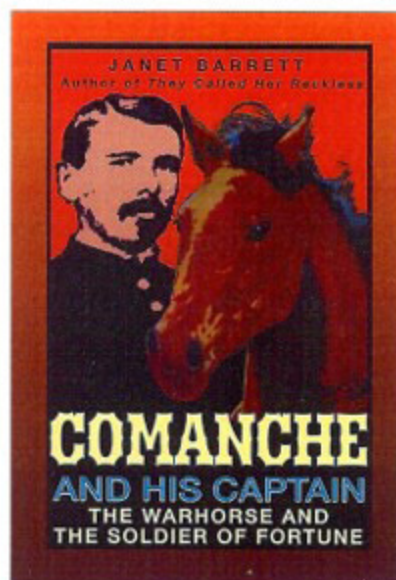
The outcome of that clash was disastrous for the cavalry. But, when rescuers arrived on the battlefield, they found Comanche, standing alone among the fallen. He was wounded and exhausted but still very much alive, and he whinnied when he heard familiar voices.

On our country's 100th anniversary, as grand July 4th celebrations began, the Little Bighorn debacle sent shock waves across the country. Yet, from the first news, people were comforted in knowing that the brave Comanche had survived. He became the most famous horse in America, honorary Second Commanding Officer of the Seventh Cavalry, always a beloved and revered member of the regiment. Preserved at the end of his long life, he has stood since then at the Natural History Museum of the University of Kansas. There, visited by millions over more than a century and a quarter, Comanche continues to be a bold, resilient symbol of America.

Janet Barrett remembers her father first telling her about Comanche when she was about eight years old, a simple story then about a horse that survived a battle. With the success of *They Called Her Reckless*, about the warhorse, Reckless, and her fellow Marines in the Korean War, Barrett knew it was time to go back to that earlier era and tell the whole story of the horse that brought fame to himself and his rider, and a renewed sense of pride to the U.S. Seventh Cavalry.



COMANCHE AND HIS CAPTAIN is available from Amazon.com and other dealers; in paperback, \$18.95 retail. For signed copies contact Janet Barrett at jbarr711@comcast.net or (860)526-5431.



Events Calendar

Event Start	Event End	Event Hours PST	Event Title	Event Description	Event Location	BCHO Calendar Name
6/19/2020	6/22/2020		**CANCELED** BCHO State Ride and Work Project	Becky Wolfe wolfden@molalla.net 503-970-2894 	Allen Creek Horse Camp, Oregon, USA	BCHO State Calendar
6/20/2020	6/21/2020	09:00AM - 09:30AM	Deming Creek - Ron Stewart 541-892-0547	Bridge work and trail brushing. Be there by 9:00am, please.		Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/22/2020	6/26/2020	09:00AM - 05:00PM	Pack Support In-Out Deming Creek Ron Stewart 541-892-0547			Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/26/2020	6/29/2020		EEBCH Diamond Peak/PCT trail work		Pengra Pass, Oregon, USA	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
6/26/2020	6/29/2020		Columbia Gorge/Senger campout	Contact Joy Senger 541-544-2023	Wamic, OR 97063, USA	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter
6/27/2020	6/29/2020		CANCELLED - SDBCH Pacific Crest 35, 50 & 75 miles AERC Endurance Ride & 10 Miles Fun Ride	Pacific Crest 35, 50 & 75 miles AERC Endurance Ride & 10 miles Fun Ride hosted by Rogue Riders	Lilly Glen County Campground, Ashland, OR 97520, USA	Sourdough BCH Chapter
7/1/2020	7/1/2020	08:00AM - 04:00PM	Upper Rye Spur trail clearing - Ron Stewart 541-892-0547			Hight Desert Trail Riders
7/2/2020	7/2/2020	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
7/11/2020	7/12/2020		Sourdough Trail Work & Campout		TBA	Sourdough BCH Chapter
7/13/2020	7/17/2020	08:00AM - 05:00PM	Pack Support In-Out Mt. Lakes Ron Stewart 541-892-0547			Hight Desert Trail Riders
7/16/2020	7/20/2020		Columbia Gorge campout		Gibson Prairie Horse Camp, Oregon 97055, USA	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter
7/17/2020	7/20/2020		EEBCH Scott Mtn area trail work	Trail Head Camping with Days rides to trail work. No water in Camp, no Bathroom	Robinson Lake Trailhead, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413, USA	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
7/23/2020	7/27/2020		BCHO LNT Training Camping and Packing	Contact George Johnson	TBD	BCHO State Calendar
7/31/2020	8/3/2020		Hyatt Lake PCTA skills college - Kelly Behr 541-892-4844			Hight Desert Trail Riders
8/6/2020	8/6/2020	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
8/12/2020	8/14/2020	07:30AM - 08:30AM	Six Lakes Pack In			Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
8/13/2020	8/14/2020		EEBCH Camp Walani			Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
8/19/2020	8/19/2020	08:00AM - 04:00PM	Pack Support 7 mile Trailhead Ron Stewart 541-892-0547			Hight Desert Trail Riders
8/28/2020	8/31/2020		Rye Spur Horse Camp out/ride Jim Collins - 541-591-9428			Hight Desert Trail Riders
9/1/2020	9/9/2020	08:00AM - 04:00PM	PCTA resupply 7 Mile Trihd Ron Stewart 541-892-0547			Hight Desert Trail Riders
9/3/2020	9/3/2020	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
9/12/2020	9/13/2020		Sourdough Trail Work		TBA	Sourdough BCH Chapter
9/12/2020	9/13/2020		Trail Challenge Billie Patrick 209-617-4664			Hight Desert Trail Riders
9/14/2020	9/19/2020		Pack In/Out Support Lost Creek Ron Stewart 541-892-0547			Hight Desert Trail Riders
9/18/2020	9/21/2020		Columbia Gorge campout		Cyrus Horse Camp, Prineville, OR 97754, USA	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter
10/1/2020	10/1/2020	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
10/17/2020	10/17/2020	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	The Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. It is held twice each year at the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center in Canby, on the third Saturday of March and October. The sale includes new and used tack as well as other horse-related items. Parking 5\$, admission is \$1 per person.	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013, USA	Public Equestrian Events
11/5/2020	11/5/2020	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
12/3/2020	12/3/2020	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
12/19/2020	12/19/2020	02:00PM - 05:00PM	Columbia Gorge Christmas party		Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr, Hood River, OR 97031, USA	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter
1/7/2021	1/7/2021	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
2/4/2021	2/4/2021	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
3/4/2021	3/4/2021	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
3/20/2021	3/20/2021	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	The Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. It is held twice each year at the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center in Canby, on the third Saturday of March and October. The sale includes new and used tack as well as other horse-related items. Parking \$5, admission is \$1 per person.	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013, USA	Public Equestrian Events
4/1/2021	4/1/2021	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
5/6/2021	5/6/2021	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
6/3/2021	6/3/2021	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc. Membership Application

Yes! I would like to help preserve Horsemen's rights
to use stock on public lands.

(Print Name)

(Address)

(City) (State) (ZIP)

(Telephone) (E-Mail)

New ___ Renewal ___ (Please check)

BCHO Membership Dues

Single \$30 ___
Family \$40 ___
Patron \$100 ___
Benefactor \$250 ___
Sustaining \$500 ___

Select Chapter and add additional Chapter dues, as determined
by individual Chapters, see below.

See Map of Chapters, www.bcho.org/chapters/.

___ Columbia Gorge, Hood River \$10 ___ Steens, South East Oregon \$10
___ East Cascades, Bend ___ Sourdough, South West Oregon \$5
___ Emerald Empire, Eugene \$5 ___ Territorial Riders, Oregon City \$5
___ High Country Wilderness Packers ___ West Cascade BCH, Salem \$5
Chapter ___ Member At Large
___ High Desert Trail Riders,
Klamath Falls area

Total Enclosed: _____

Our newsletter the Highline, will be emailed to you at the address you entered above.

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter by US mail.

MAIL your application to:

Becky Hope, 37245 Wheeler Rd. Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

For questions email membership@bcho.org

Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident where ever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders and spectators, and also recognizing that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., including its chapters, officers, directors and /or members cannot know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other Back Country Horsemen of Oregon functions, I do hereby release Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., its officers, directors and members from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

*Must be signed by all chapter members 18 years and older.

Some Dues maybe deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.
Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

BCHO website: bcho.org/membership/

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

c/o Becky Hope

37245 Wheeler Rd

Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

(541) 337-3138