

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington State do hereby request that the Back Country Horsemen of America adopt the following:

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and further stating the need to restore access to saddle and pack stock use through the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest in the State of Washington

WHEREAS Congress established the National Trails System through the National Trails System Act of 1969, and authorized the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails as the first two components of the system;

WHEREAS the 2,650 mile Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail provides recreational opportunities and access for stock users and hikers in Washington, Oregon, and California including within 7 national parks, 25 national forests, and 33 congressionally designated wildernesses;

WHEREAS the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail has been constructed and maintained by volunteer groups including many chapters, affiliates, and members associated with the Back Country Horsemen of America;

WHEREAS the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail traverses the Cascade Range in the State of Washington and passes through the Glacier Peak Wilderness in the Mt Baker Snoqualmie National Forest;

WHEREAS multiple seasons of winter storms have caused unusual and severe damage to the trail route through the North Cascades including a devastating storm in October 2003 that washed out several bridges, one of which was the 260 foot Skyline Bridge over the Suiattle River in the Glacier Peak Wilderness;

WHEREAS currently, more than 5 years after the Suiattle River bridge was lost, stock access remains blocked and the purpose of the congressionally designated Pacific Crest Trail is not being met;

WHEREAS the Mt Baker Snoqualmie National Forest has released an Environmental Assessment proposing to install a bridge at a stable and sustainable site a few miles downstream from the old bridge site;

WHEREAS there is no non-mechanized method to construct or move a new bridge to the site as described in said Environmental Assessment through the two action Alternatives identified - #2 and #3 and as determined by a Minimum Tool Analysis;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Back Country Horsemen of America do hereby affirm approval and support for the use of mechanized equipment including helicopter transport for moving the new bridge to the site as well as powered rock drills for anchoring the bridge with the understanding that no planned landing of air transport within the wilderness will be necessary;

FURTHER that the Back Country Horsemen of America do hereby support the use of chainsaws and other approved equipment to quickly build trail sections to the new bridge site that will be an integral part of the restored Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and minimize extended impacts to the wilderness character of the area from extensive rock blasting and long term concentration of workers.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Back Country Horsemen of America this

_____ day of _____, 2009.