

# Proposal

The Squaw Butte Chapter of Backcountry Horseman of Idaho presents the following proposal to the state board of directors.

WHEREAS: One of the prime mandates of Backcountry Horseman is providing educational opportunities for our members.

WHEREAS: Opportunities for attending comprehensive multiday packing skills clinics are limited and can be expensive.

WHEREAS: Backcountry Horseman of Idaho has a number of members with extensive packing experience and a developed curriculum for such a clinic.

BE IT PROPOSED: that Backcountry Horseman of Idaho sponsor and hold a five day Wilderness Packing Clinic open to members of Backcountry Horseman of America. The first Wilderness Packing clinic will be held adjacent to the Sawtooth Wilderness at the Grandjean trail head and campground in August 2011.

Submitted to BCHI, Board of Directors  
By the Squaw Butte Chapter, BCHI  
(Rob Adams & Mary Beth Conger delegates)

Details of the Proposal:

## **Backcountry Horseman of Idaho Wilderness Packing Clinic**

BCHI host a five day wilderness packing clinic open to members of Backcountry Horseman of America. Attendees will at the end of the clinic be able to safely and confidently pack and transport a variety of loads from a trail head to a destination. They will be able to travel and camp in the backcountry with minimum impact using LNT techniques, produce hearty meals and maintain healthy stock.

The BCHI mentors will guide the attendees through a curriculum that is both fun and comprehensive. Some of the items covered will be:

- The function and fitting of the pack saddle and it's uses
- How to make up loads that will ride
- How and why to tie different hitches
- How to safely lead a string of mules or horses
- How to deal with hard to handle pack stock
- "Leave no trace" methods of livestock camping
- Basic back country first aid for livestock and humans
- Backcountry meal planning and preparation
- Traditions and history of packing in the in backcountry

**Location:** This inaugural clinic will be held at the western gateway to the Sawtooth Wilderness at the Grandjean trail head and camp ground. This facility located in Boise National forest next to the head waters of the South Fork of the Payette River provides outstanding stock camping facilities, and is a perfect venue to lean the skills needed to pack into the Sawtooth Wilderness.

**Time:** The clinic is planned for August of 2011

**Costs:** There will be no fee for active members of Backcountry Horseman of America to attend this clinic. There will be a \$75 dollar per person fee for food required at registration, and certified weed free hay will be available for purchase.

**What will be provided by BCHI:** Training material, mentors, a variety of loads to train with and a rich history of packing experience to draw from: Community Meals will be provided. A very limited number of training pack stock will be available.

**What Attendees need to provide:** Camping gear for both Trailhead and a backcountry overnight. Riding stock, pack stock if they have it and all required tack and stock containment for use at the trail head, and a highline for the over night.

**Sponsors:** Backcountry Horseman of Idaho, US Forest Service Boise National Forest

**Logistics:**

1. Special Permits to hold the event at the Grandjean Trail head from the Boise National Forest
2. Certified Weed free Hay for stock
3. Base camp wall tent to serve as clinic office
4. Potable water
5. Preparation of training materials (assist mentors)
6. Clinic kitchen for preparing meals
7. Porta-Potties for the duration of the clinic
8. Food for attendees' and staff at the Trail head Camp
9. Food for attendees' to pack in and cook during their overnight
10. Packing Mentors
11. LNT mentors, Forest Service presenters, cross cut training
12. Advertising in the State and National news letters, maybe national magazines
13. Support and Logistics staff
14. On site EMT

**Costs:**

1. Travel, food and forage expenses for staff and mentors
2. Food (\$15 dollars per day for each attendee, collected at early registration)
3. Certified Weed free hay will be provided for sale at cost to attendees. Number of bails attendees need will be indicated at early registration.
4. Backcountry meal kits for the attendees overnight meals.

**Chapter Support:**

Squaw Butte will take the lead on providing the logistics for this first five day clinic

Other Chapters: Mentors and other staff positions

**Misc:**

As envisioned this clinic could support 20 Attendees slots. A slot could be a single person or a couple assuming that couples will work as a team. If successful in 2011, it is envisioned this clinic could become an annual or biannual BCHI event and move to other locations around Idaho.