

Hello BCHA (In 2012),

Some of you have asked for a list of things BCHA does or has done for horse and mule use and for our mission. The items below are random and come from notes, minutes and an increasingly faulty memory. The list is not complete and will probably never be. Everyday there is something by phone or email that is part of keeping BCHA moving, "Keeping America's Trails Open".

1. New policy and governance plan adopted.
2. Executive Committee Ok'd to vote on matters during the working year by the Board of Directors.
3. The Board authorized the finding and hiring of an Executive Director.
4. Executive Director hired and on staff at the April 2012 National Board Meeting.
5. The Trail Classification system with the USFS becomes more stock friendly, BCHA working with the states to document.
6. Dennis Dailey retires. New Wilderness Advisor located and hired; now up and working. Randy Rasmussen.
7. The BCHA Newsletter continues to be an excellent publication. Several new features tried out during the last two years.
8. An email "Eblast" newsletter inaugurated, Vice Chair Yvette Rollins got it moving.
9. Eblast alerts to members for faster notification of important news or events started.
10. Attended Wyoming state Rendezvous, discussed many issues with many members.
11. Attended BCH Washington Rendezvous and Public Lands meetings.

12. BCHA relationship with the American Horse Council cemented and advanced for help in Washington DC and other parts of the country.
13. BCHA relationship with TWS (The Wilderness Society) advanced on a number of projects with more to follow. Meetings, joint letters, advice both ways on things Wilderness.
14. Enhanced BCHA relationship with Western Horsemen magazine.
15. Discussions and a better understanding with Western Mule magazine.
16. Introduced Social Media, QR code and Face Book as part of communications effort to BCHA.
17. BCHA assisted California with the Sierra Kings Canyon packer permit lawsuit and [successful](#) legislation. Helped coordinate the [nation - wide](#) effort to [reverse a hold placed on packer permit renewals by securing a unanimous consent bill in an otherwise highly partisan Congress.](#)
18. BCHW had a volunteer on the Western Governors Conference Study Group on outdoor recreation.
19. BCHA with the help of Alan Hill enhanced our relationship with American Trails. BCHA is a member of American Trails.
20. Guest writers of various types in our newsletter.
21. BCHA participates at the Washington DC "Hike the Hill event. Meetings face to face with legislative staff, NGO partners such as AHC, TWS as well as the USFS, NPS, BLM.
22. BCHA on its own as well as in joint ventures with partners sends letters of support, comments and letters on non-support to both House and Senate on a range of issues affecting our mission.

23. BCHA and our Wilderness advisor worked with BCH California on avoiding a trail use lawsuit there.
24. BCHA, TWS joint letter requesting a new GAO study of the massive USFS trail maintenance backlog. Due out in June or July at last report.
25. Letters to USFS regions stressing BCHA concerns about the extensive Beetle Kill of timber and the devastating effect on trail riding and safety.
26. BCHA supported and attended and spoke at SETC, The Southeastern Equine Trail Conference. A major stock use trail conference.
27. BCHA, BCH of California, Oregon and Washington negotiations on the Pacific Crest Trail work issues.
28. TWS articles in our newsletter
29. BCHA Chairman interviews in several National and Regional magazines, such as Equus, Trail Blazer, Paint Horse and others.
30. Attended USFS seminar put on by Region 6 for NEPA and Collaboration.
31. Phone conference calls with TWS, USFS, NPS and others on Green Mountain Lookout, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and The Frank Church in Idaho.
32. BCHA traveled to Montana to meet with Montana State Board on issues of mutual interest.
33. BCHA Executive Director is meeting with many BCH states and chapters, visited Washington DC, meets with our NGO partners, meets with various Agency heads and with potential commercial sponsors.
34. BCHA Executive Director is working the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) documents with agencies and NGOs. We have one in place with USFS, one in progress with NPS, some others in progress.

35. BCHA Wilderness Advisor Randy has had meetings with BLM (Bureau of Land Management), IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association), Association of State Horse Councils, USFS.
36. BCHA education has helped some go to Leave No Trace classes.
37. BCHA puts together the Public Lands Day event at the National Board Meeting. All can attend a day of learning about dealing with Public Land issues that impact our horse and mule use.
38. BCHA email and phone calls with students working on papers relating to trail and leave no trace issues.
39. BCH states and chapters doing joint work parties with hikers and bikers all collaborating to keep the trails open.
40. BCHA meetings, letters, emails and calls encouraging the USFS and other agencies to make the Volunteer work experience more streamlined and worker friendly from the ranger in the field to Washington DC.
41. BCHA and member states meetings, research papers on a National USFS saw certification system to help make trail clearing more efficient.
42. BCHA has trained knowledgeable officers and staff available to assist on most any issue that is brought up. If BCHA can't directly assist, usually we know where to go to get the information.
43. BCHA issues press releases several times per year.
44. BCHA has an active Web Page with many items to assist our members.
45. BCHA article in the Wilderness Stewardship Alliance newsletter
46. BCHA National Board Meeting yearly. Board business, guest speakers on many topics of interest, auction, good fellowship with the other state Directors, a once a year opportunity. The only time many of the board and staff get to meet face to face.

47. BCHA is a 501c3 organization so donations are tax deductible.
48. BCHA has an Education Foundation that is a 501c3 so donations there are tax deductible.
49. BCHA brings a nationally respected voice to issues that directly affect your privilege to ride on public lands throughout the country.
50. BCHA has a paid staff of Executive Director, Executive Secretary and Wilderness Advisor. An elected staff of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer. An elected Executive Committee that meets monthly by phone conference call.
51. Communications has been helped with more email, Face Book, copies of expanded minutes sent to the Directors from the Executive Committee conference calls monthly, a larger email list of members for use in rapid alert sending,
52. BCHA library on line thru the website. Position papers, Wilderness information and others.
53. Professional fund raising study done. Shows BCHA is really a dues and sponsorship type of organization. Most grants don't work with the BCHA profile.
54. BCHA yearly special membership program. Donation letter to members, special notice and awards at several levels.
55. BCHA color brochure. Hand out for meetings and events. Contact Executive Secretary.
56. BCHA banners. For meetings and events. Contact Executive Secretary.
57. BCHA Education Foundation brochure. Contact Executive Secretary.

58. BCHA provided a copy of “American Horse Power” a book published by the American Horse Council outlining the economic impact of the horse industry in the United States. Great for getting the attention of agency and public government folks. More copies available. Contact Executive Secretary.

59. BCHA Wilderness advisor working on the new USFS Planning Rule, the how’s, where’s and what’s.

60. BCHA involved with USFS and Minimum Tool Analysis for Wilderness work.

61. BCHA work in progress position paper on Mountain Bikes.

62. Ongoing discussions with the National TV show “Best of America by Horseback” on items of mutual interest and benefit.

63. Several states and BCHA manning a booth at this year’s Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation [show](#) at Las Vegas. A major event and major exposure.

64. BCHA virtual store with clothes, bumper and trailer stickers, DVDs. See the [website](#).

65. BCHA Guide Book. Pocket sized very useful guide done in partnership with the USFS. A good handout. Contact the Executive Secretary.

66. BCHA collects, compiles and publishes the yearly volunteer hours, miles, and dollars that our great group of volunteers accomplishes every year.

67. BCHA Vice Chair and Executive Director attended the American Horse Council National Issues Forum, Washington DC meeting with the USFS and the Wilderness Society. Presented USFS with issues pertaining to the preservation of trails for stock use and certification for chainsaw and crosscut saws. Presented legislators with issues and documentation pertaining to the preservation of trails for stock use and access issues to US Fish & Wildlife.

68. BCHA builds relations with Certified Horsemanship Association. ED exploring and MOU with CHA.

69. BCHA is a key partner in planning activities related to celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act (September 2014).

70. Don Saner, BCHA Treasurer from Wyoming, Traveled to Colorado to assist them in their Officers Training Day program.

71. BCHA Don Saner worked with the USFS on Bridger/Teton National Forest Plan and with the USFS and other user groups on the motorized travel plan.

72. BCHA in conjunction with BCH of Oregon prevented the Eugene (Oregon) BLM from approving a trails plan that excluded horse use in an area used for Decades by local equestrians. BCHA currently is negotiating with BLM and a local mountain bike group to include horse use on some of these trails.

The items mentioned above all are the result of the many hours that our members, staff and elected officers put in to help keep the trails open. Each thing on the list takes hours or days of planning and synchronizing to get accomplished. We have a great organization. We are doing wonderful things in keeping the trails open. You should all feel good about yourselves and your organization.

Best regards,

Mike

25 January 2013

Michael K. McGlenn

Chairman BCHA