

BCHA Monthly news & updates

July 2021 | Issue 1

Chairman	Sherry Copeland
Vice Chairman	Mark Himmel
Treasurer	Latifia Rodriguez
Past Chairman	Darrell Wallace
Director	Craig Allen
Director	Tom Thomas
Director	Jim Allen
Non-Director	Brad Pollman
Non-Director	Dennis Serpa



Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) is a nation-wide organization that is committed to protecting the access of equestrians to public lands. We are devoted equestrians who love to ride and explore new trails. We assist with trail maintenance and improvement projects, keeping trails clear for all user groups. We welcome riders of all types, ages and interests into our chapters.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

FUNDRAISING



Supporting BCHA is easy!

AMAZON donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to BCHA.

It doesn't cost you anything!

- Choose BCHA as your favorite charity ([HINT HERE](#))
- Shop at smile.amazon.com
- Same products, same prices, same services as the Amazon you know.



**OUR HORSES AND
PUBLIC LAND
THANK YOU!!!**

[BCHA Guidestar profile](#)

PUBLIC LANDS

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) includes many national trail organizations, including BCHA, that campaign in support of the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The RTP is derived from a portion of federal gas taxes collected from non-highway uses and made available to all states for motorized and non-motorized trails-related grants. It appears that the RTP could be eligible for additional funding each year, under a new bill in Congress called the RTP Full Funding Act (HR 1864).

BCHA asks that you please call your representative in Congress TODAY to ask that they: "Please co-sponsor HR 1864, the RTP Full Funding Act."

Phone numbers for your representative in Washington DC can be found here: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map>.

View this link to see which 21 members of the House of Representatives already have co-sponsored HR 1864: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1864/cosponsors>. If your representative has already signed on, leave a phone message with a big "Thank you for supporting HR 1864!"

Please visit: <https://www.bcha.org/public-lands/>

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Every year, tens of millions of Americans pay federal gas taxes to fuel non-highway recreation equipment like motorcycles, snowmobiles and ATVs. Created by Congress in 1991, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) puts these tax dollars towards trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, environmental education materials, and more. RTP unites and benefits various trail users, including equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, joggers – even water trail enthusiasts in kayaks and canoes.

The Recreational Trails Program

Improving America's Trails Since 1991



\$270+M

Paid in federal taxes by non-highway recreational users per year.

Off-highway recreational activities are taxed at 18.4 cents per gallon.



\$84M

Shared with other users.

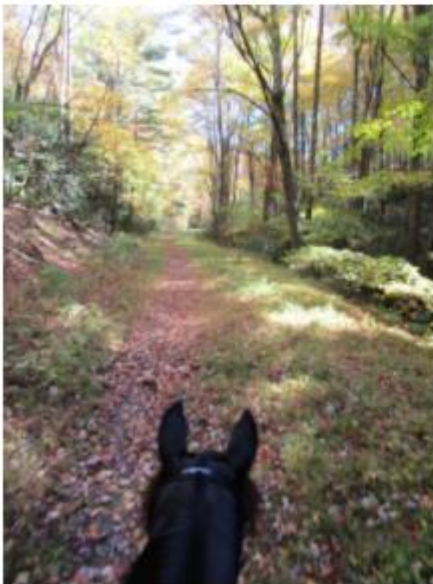
Recreational Trails Program

- ◆ Over 25,000 projects funded.
- ◆ Benefitting tens of millions of diverse trail users.
- ◆ Administered by states (20% match required from states).
- ◆ Funded at less than 1/3 of the revenues generated.
- ◆ Applies user pay-user benefit principle of Highway Trust Fund to recreational trails.

HIGHWAY
TRUST FUND

Coalition for Recreational Trails
www.crrt.org
1/15/22

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Jefferson National Forest

Favorite Trails, so many to choose . Old 84 is the old road bed of Forest Road 84 in Jefferson National forest, VA. Also Iron Mountain Trail also in Jefferson National Forest. I can ride theses trails out the back gate of my farm in Sugar Grove VA. My BCHVH friends and I, keep these trails open.

Thank you Dawn Theisen, BCHVH

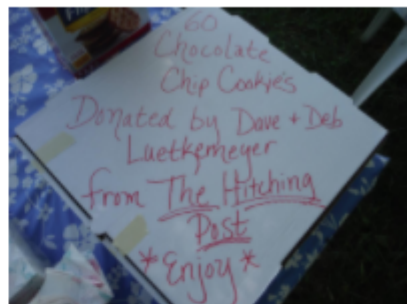


Black Hills BCH Off To a Great Start for 2021

The Black Hills BCH kicked off their yearly trail clearing and support of improvements to the public lands of South Dakota the weekend of May 20th – May 23rd with our yearly BH BCH camping trip to Iron Creek Horse Camp in the Black Hills National Forest. We had a great turnout despite some rather dreary weather, with 19 members showing up who donated a total of 320 hours of work. The weekend started out with a new crosscut sawyers certification Thursday afternoon. Two members were newly certified. Starting Friday morning through the remainder of the weekend the crew brushed and cleared over 40 miles of trails from Iron Creek Horse Camp, spread over 50 tons of gravel in the corrals and on the campground roads, and replaced the logs and rebar approach to one of the wilderness bridges where there had been exposed rebar that was a hazard for horses. A big thanks to the Black Hills National Forest and the campground concessionaire, Forest Recreation Management, for providing the required gravel. The weekend wrapped up with some minor additional tree damage resulting from tornados in the Custer area on Sunday night. But we managed to complete the work prior to the big Memorial Day weekend. The crew followed this work weekend up with another on June 11-13 at Old Baldy Trailhead outside of Spearfish SD where 5 members cleared 25 miles of trail and contributed 88 volunteer hours. The District Ranger even attended and rode the trail with our crew. We had productive discussions about future ideas on bridges and gates for equestrians. That totals over 400 volunteer hours and more than 65 miles of trail cleared....and we are just getting started!!!

Thank you Shara Kelley, BCH Black Hills

NEMO Chapter of BCHMO Membership Recruitment Ride



The NEMO Chapter of BCHMO and our Membership Recruitment Ride we host every year on National Trails Day. We took them out for a 3.5 hour ride, showcasing the work that our chapter does, in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers, such as turnpikes, switchbacks, structures, etc. We then come back to a light meal of hamburgers and hotdogs, prepared by one of the COE staff.... Shelly Howald. We were very thankful for the donation from The Hitching Post Restaurant for the homemade cookies and all of the ice for our drinks. We had a total of 15 people at the event, and were very happy.

Thank you Becky Krueger, BCHMO

SEND US YOUR STORY!

Does your chapter have a trail, project or great story you would like to share? Please send them to michellewade@bcha.org. We will do our best to include them here.

- Limit pictures to 4
- Provide description: project, place, purpose, etc. No more than one paragraph.
- Please include the name of person and chapter submitting the pictures.

Keeping Trails Open for Everyone.

COMMITTEES

Are you ready to jump into action?

Check out our committees below and if you are interested click that committee to email the committee chair. You do not have to be a National Director to contribute, any member can join a committee.

BCHA is always looking for members to join committees.

Click the committee below to email the committee chair.

[Public Lands](#) - Brad Pollman

[Fundraising](#) - Latifia Rodriguez

[Education](#) - Craig Allen

[Marketing & Media](#) - Brian Pierick

[Chapter Support Grants](#) - Karen Saner

[Membership](#) - Dennis Serpa

[Volunteer Hours](#) - John Chepulas

[Expansion](#) - Truman Prevatt

[Youth Committee](#) - Greg Schatz

[Partnership Committee](#) - Darrell Wallace

EQUISURE INSURANCE

As a member of BCHA you are eligible to receive Equisure Insurance. A Million dollar coverage for only \$20 for Individual or \$40 for Family. Click the links below for the FAQ sheet, this will answer your questions and download the application form to sign up.

[FAQ Sheet](#)

[Equisure Application](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fundraising Committee Meeting
Public Lands Committee Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting
National Director Meeting

July 12th, 2021
July 12th, 2021
July 27th, 2021
July 28th, 2021



BCHA 2022 National Board Meeting

Kansas City, Missouri
April 9th, 2022 - April 13th, 2022
SAVE THE DATE!

CONTACTS

How to Contact BCH for Help

Please contact your appropriate state representative first, thank you.

Membership:

1. Contact Your State Membership Coordinator.
2. Not receiving your BCHA newsletter? Contact Dana Chambers, BCHA Membership Data Coordinator, memberdata@bcha.org or call 206-498-6952.
3. Have an address change or going south for the winter? Open and fill out the special membership forms.

Financial:

1. Contact Your State or Chapter Treasurer.
2. Latifia Rodriguez, BCHA Treasurer at treasurer@bcha.org

Administrative: (or if you are not sure who to contact)

1. Contact Michelle Wade, Executive Administrator

michellewade@bcha.org or call 360-443-6996.

Public Lands/Advocacy:

1. Contact Your State Public Lands Coordinator.
2. Contact Your Regional Public Lands Committee (PLC) Co-Chair.

Southeast - Deirdre Perot
Northeast - Yvette Rollins
Rocky Mountains - Jim Allen
Far West - Kathy Young
Southwest - Rod Player

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