

2007

RESOLUTION #1 2007 Submitted by Gallatin Valley BCH MT
Subject: BCHA-USFS Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS, On November 29th and December 13th respectively of 2006 the Back Country Horsemen of America and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service signed a service wide Memorandum of Understanding 07-SU-11132424-002; and

WHEREAS, The Forest Service agreed in that MOU to facilitate the continued access and use of National Forest System lands for equestrian and recreational stock use; and

WHEREAS, The Forest Service further agreed to consider BCHA's goals and concerns in trail system analysis and planning and in particular in developing and managing FS programs and activities conducted on NFS lands; and

WHEREAS, The Back Country Horsemen of America agreed in that MOU to provide input on trail system analysis and planning and assistance to land managers involved in equestrian and recreational stock projects, educational activities and management; and

WHEREAS, Gallatin Forest Supervisor Becki Heath did listen to stock user's requests in the public comment period and modified the alternative in her final Record of Decision, but did not include Back Country Horsemen in the planning and analysis stages, resulting in seasonal and outright trail closures; and

WHEREAS, Some of the closures were not necessary and many of the closures could have been prevented through public education, proper trail maintenance, and/or trail relocation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Back Country Horsemen of Montana send a letter to all the Forest Supervisors requesting that district rangers include members of the Back Country Horsemen in the detailed analysis and planning prior to any trails being closed permanently or seasonally to stock as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding.