

# Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

## PRESIDENT'S PEN

November 2020

The Camping and hunting was great the seeing and getting was NOT. We saw no Elk no Deer No Bear, no Moose.

But we did see one Mountain Grouse, one pair of Grey Jays (Camp robbers) one very interesting Ermine, and two different field mice, the Mice in our pack boxes. Great weather that is why we go to the mountains.

John Simmons



## BBCH DIRECTORS

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President- John Simmons  
328-4163  
Vice President- Randy Thomsen  
328-7355  
Treasurer- John Jenkins  
855-0238  
Secretary- Nancy Thomsen  
328-7355  
Director- John Chepulis  
322-4823  
Director- Bonnie Chepulis  
322-4823  
Director- Cathy Reck  
690-9066  
Director- Mary Sybrant  
328-9112

## STATE DIRECTORS

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Director- John Simmons  
328-4163  
John Jenkins (Alternate)  
855-0238

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR

•••

John Chepulis  
322-4823

## General Meeting – November 16<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

### “Virtual” GOTO MEETING

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/328651293>

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### BBCH November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - AGENDA

Board and General Meetings/Combined

Call the meeting to order, 7:00 pm, pledge allegiance, Roll call to determine a Board quorum.

Secretary read the minutes from last Board meeting

President's report *I sent a letter to Ken Coffin about the old trail area near Iron Creek*

Vice President report

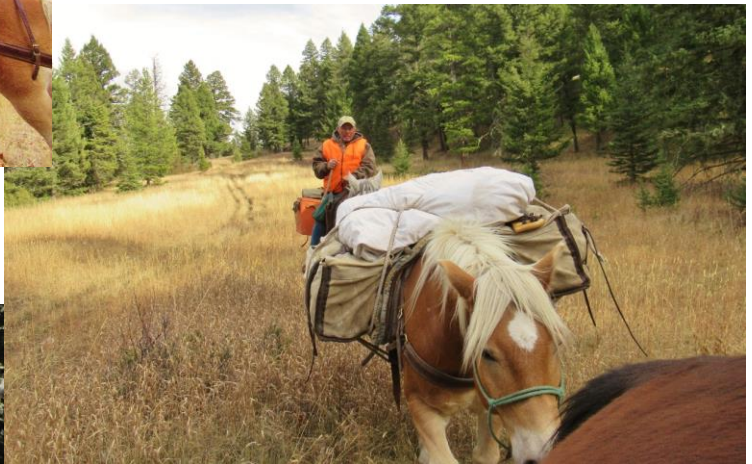
Treasurer report

Activities Report John C, John J, Randy Discuss any projects

1. Education: Also, the Great Rockies Sports show is January 15, 16, 17, 2021 at Billings
2. Issues: *John S letter to Ken coffin about GAOA money his request for Grant money for trails.*
3. Unfinished Business: The tabled motion,
4. New business; ?? our input to spend GAOA money on trails and T.H. construction. The Pryor's BLM trail plan.
5. The memo from state about being courteous
6. A policy for advertising in the newspaper.
7. We need a report from nominating committee.

John S. Pres.

More hunting pictures...contributed by John Simmons.



BBCH – BOARD/GENERAL MEETING ~ OCTOBER 19, 2020

DRAFT

“Goto meeting” called to order at 7pm.

Board Members in attendance were John Simmons, Randy Thomsen, John Jenkins, Nancy Thomsen, John Chepulis, Bonnie Chepulis.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes- John Prinkki moved to accept September meeting minutes. John Jenkins second. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report – Checking account balance is \$28,581.03. Expenses outstanding PO Box rental payment and some pack trip reimbursements. Randy Thomsen moved to accept Treasurer’s report. John Chepulis second. Motion passed.

Introduction of new member Ray Longstreth.

Activities – John Simmons was notified that the supplies for the Meeteetse Spires corral have been ordered. John Chepulis gave a review of annual work hours and will send a copy to the membership.

Education – The Great Rockies Sport Show will be January 15 if there is interest from members to participate. Marilyn Simmons suggested a Pack Clinic in March, instead, she will get a committee together.

Fish and Game and the Forest Service will be discussing the Lodge Pole road with the Stillwater County Commissioners.

Discussion on the “John Simmons Motion” (this motion is in last month’s minutes). Instead of a monthly percentage of the special license plate income being sent, it was suggested that a lump sum be donated to BCHMT and BCHA. Also, suggestions of the money having an earmark for certain projects, such as, The Continental Divide trail, or Pryor’s project. It was also suggested that the membership get some return for their efforts. John Jenkins moved to table the motion until the next general meeting, when more input could be heard. John Chepulis second. Motion passed.

Dues – Most of the dues collected by BBCH goes to BCHMT. Only \$10 - \$15 more is charged by BBCH. John Chepulis moved to lower dues by \$10 each per

person/family/business starting 2021. John Jenkins second. Motion passed. Individual \$25 (formerly \$35) Family \$35 (formerly \$45) Business \$40 (formerly \$50)

Randy Thomsen moved to donate \$500 each to ABWF and PLWA. John Jenkins second. Motion passed.

State and National newsletter can be found on their respective websites. Information for these newsletters should be put in club newsletter.

John Jenkins moved to adjourn meeting at 8:38pm. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.



**When was the last time you caught up on local, state AND National BCH News?** It's only a click away. You can access the 2020 Fall BCHA Newsletter, and BCHMT "Decker Dispatch" from BCHMT's home page: <https://bchmt.org/>

While you're there...check out our Chapter's Webpage. From the BCHMT homepage: click on the "About" tab; then click "Members," locate our Chapter on the map, click and voila! Our own Jessi Erickson took on this task last fall and has contributed a *ton* of hours. Thank you for your hard work Jessi...it is looking fantastic - *GOOD JOB!*

FROM BCHA CHAIRMAN, DARRELL WALLACE

BCHA Strategy for GAOA Implementation

October 13, 2020

With passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, the US Forest Service (USFS) and other federal agencies are implementing plans to address “priority deferred maintenance,” which includes roads, trails, bridges, horse camps and trailhead facilities. BCHA units in many states may wish to be involved in those efforts in at least two ways.

- A. Influence the selection of projects for deferred maintenance  
BCH members will need to contact agency staff to determine their plans for 2021-2025, and try to influence decisions about priorities for deferred maintenance. BCHA’s Public Lands Committee and its Director of Public Lands & Recreation can share information on effective ways to influence project selection.
- B. Agreements to partner and perform deferred maintenance  
BCH chapters often perform such maintenance with or without reimbursement of expenses. BCHA can share information about how to effectively negotiate agency agreements.
  - a. Volunteer Agreements  
Volunteer agreements are generally non-financial but cover volunteers in case of personal injury and liability. Often used when outside grant funds are used. Very little paperwork is required but BCH experience can be shared.
  - b. Challenge Cost-Share Agreements  
CCS agreements require a certain level of grant administration but can involve reimbursement from an agency to a BCH state or chapter for direct costs associated with mileage, use of stock, fuel or other supplies, materials and other expenses. They usually require a “match.” i.e., donations of labor or other acceptable forms of in-kind contributions to completing specified tasks. While agency staff usually help complete the agreement itself, the BCH state or chapter may be required to complete quarterly billings and reports, and must have a SAMS account in order to process payment. BCH experience can be shared, and BCHA may be able to provide its SAMS account and even assist with the quarterly billing, while the local chapter would provide the direct contact with the agency – usually with local staff.

Limitations:

Chapter agreements would have to be approved by state BCH leaders. Chapter or state officials would have to provide local representation, and be responsible for deferred maintenance being performed. BCH states unable to pay up-front costs (i.e., cash match) could apply for BCHA loans to be repaid upon payment by the agency.

FROM BCHA CHAIRMAN, DARRELL WALLACE

BCHA National Directors:

Recall our conversation about Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) funding, which is intended to address "priority deferred maintenance" over the next 5 years. The message to share with your chapters is this:

1. All interested BCH states/chapters should contact their local US Forest Service office to provide input on deferred maintenance projects important to horsemen and that can be implemented in Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021 through 2025.
  - a) The list of projects is set in stone for FY'21, which started October 1st--but they'll need your help next field season with many of these projects!
  - b) Ask for their list of deferred maintenance projects. Then convey (in writing) to local forest officials which projects are priority for your chapter in the forthcoming years.
2. Most, if not all, USFS District Rangers and Forest Supervisors are well aware of the GAOA and scrambled last month to develop their lists of priority deferred maintenance projects for FY'21.
  - a) They should be reaching out to your chapters in short order, to develop their lists for FY'22 and beyond. Plus, there should be future "public listening sessions" when you can provide input.
  - b) Either way, contact your local USFS officials within the next few weeks to let them know of your interest in providing input on specific trail maintenance needs and how your chapter can help (including whether entering into a Cost-Share Agreement would be viewed as beneficial by local USFS officials).
3. As a result of the 2016 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (the "Trails Act"), the USFS identified 15 priority areas throughout the nation to demonstrate progress in addressing the trail maintenance backlog.
  - a) A map and description of those areas can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/priority-areas>
  - b) The priority areas were established at a time when the USFS did not have special funding to address, in a broad fashion, their trail maintenance backlog. **Now that GAOA funding will be available over the next 5 years, the agency will need to look beyond these 15 priority areas to address priority deferred maintenance for trails.** So don't despair if your local forest is not within the current priority areas!
4. For those chapters involved in trail maintenance projects with the BLM, National Park Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service, you are encouraged to also reach out to them to inquire about how you can help set priorities support their implementation of the GAOA.

## FROM BCHA CHAIRMAN, DARRELL WALLACE

5. **TAKE ACTION:** This fall, the agencies will begin to develop their project lists for the following fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2022, or Year 2 of GAOA implementation). **This represents an important opportunity for BCH chapters to compare notes with local federal land management leaders on what projects should be funded.** BCHA encourages your chapter to put forth its "priority deferred maintenance projects" for this and the remaining four years of GAOA funding and share it with your local agency contacts.
6. In the near future, we should expect the agencies to formally invite the public and stakeholders to submit their GAOA project nominations (for Years 2 through 5) by either holding public listening sessions or seeking formal written requests. With nearly five years remaining, there should be ample time to encourage the agencies to conduct and complete NEPA analysis for more complex trail maintenance and relocation projects.
7. We need not limit our thinking for GAOA projects to the realm of trail maintenance. The agencies should be amenable to projects that include maintenance of bridges and expanding trailhead facilities, including better parking for our trailers! While the focus of GAOA funding will remain "priority deferred maintenance," packaging such maintenance with other logical and unmet "needs" is recommended.
8. BCHA recommends that chapters **start the necessary dialogue with local agency officials now**. Let them know that your chapter has specific ideas for GAOA funding. And that you will be there to help with the heavy lifting. Take advantage of the GAOA funding that will soon flow. This could represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for BCHA volunteers to help the agencies make significant strides toward reducing their deferred maintenance. Make this hard-fought effort work for you.
9. What's eligible and what is not? Eligible projects include deferred maintenance of:
  - a) Transportation projects (including paved and unpaved roads, bridges, tunnels, and paved parking areas);
  - b) Trails (and minor reroutes) including drainage structures, turnpike, puncheon, etc.;
  - c) Trail bridges;
  - d) Trail signage;
  - e) Campgrounds, corrals, etc.;
  - f) Trailhead facilities (including kiosks, upgrading or removal of vault toilets, water systems, hitching posts/rails, and parking).
10. What is not eligible? Just about everything not listed above. It's unlikely that GAOA funding can be used for public planning efforts (even postponed or canceled planning resulting from a lack of funds) and environmental analysis.



**Please note the deadline for written comments!**

## **Pryor Mountain Travel Management Plan / Environmental Assessment**



The Bureau of Land Management's Billings Field Office announces the public release of the Pryor Mountain Public Draft TMP/EA and invites you to join us for a virtual public meeting.

### **Public Review Virtual Town Hall Meeting**

In light of current events and consistent with DOI interim guidance, the BLM is offering an online opportunity to review highlights of the Draft TMP/EA and how to comment.

Participants will listen to a short presentation and be able to ask questions. However, formal comments will not be taken during the meeting. Meeting materials will be posted online prior to the meeting and will be viewable live during the meeting.

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

**Join us from 5:30 pm - 7 pm**  
(presentation will begin at 5:30 pm)

Please register to receive the call-in information and meeting reminders:  
[us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BgKXzIHNOqnaKiVknKfMpDw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BgKXzIHNOqnaKiVknKfMpDw)

Review the Draft TMP/EA and comment online at:

[eplanning.blm.gov](https://eplanning.blm.gov)

Search: DOI-BLM-MT-C010-2019-0029-EA

Hard copies of the meeting materials may be made available upon request by contacting: [BLM\\_MT\\_Billings\\_FO@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_MT_Billings_FO@blm.gov)

Comments should be submitted either via ePlanning or by mail to 5001 Southgate Dr, Billings, MT 59101.

**Written comments must be received by December 14, 2020.**



# Backcountry Horsemen of America

## Volunteer Hours Report

Beartooth Chapter  
2020

	Totals	Rate per hour/mile/day	Total Value	
Total Basic Hours	218	\$27.20	<b>\$5,929.60</b>	Calculated per hour
Total Skilled Hours	273	\$40.80	<b>\$11,138.40</b>	Calculated per hour
Total Trail Recon Hours	18	\$27.20	<b>\$476.00</b>	Calculated per hour
Total LNT - Education	0	\$27.20	<b>\$0.00</b>	Calculated per hour
Total Public Meetings	6	\$27.20	<b>\$163.20</b>	Calculated per hour
Total Administrative Service	49	\$27.20	<b>\$1,332.80</b>	Calculated per hour
Total Travel Time	237	\$27.20	<b>\$6,446.40</b>	Calculated per hour
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>800.5</b>			
Wilderness Trail Miles	41			
Other Trail Miles	42			
<b>Total Trail Miles</b>	<b>83</b>			
Personal Vehicle	1110	\$0.90	<b>\$999.00</b>	Calculated per mile
Stock Hauling	4194	\$1.10	<b>\$4,613.40</b>	Calculated per mile
<b>Total Travel Miles</b>	<b>5304</b>			
Power Equipment	64	\$26.00	<b>\$1,664.00</b>	Calculated per hour
Heavy Equipment	0	\$81.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	Calculated per hour
<b>Total Equipment Hours</b>	<b>64</b>			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	71			
<b>Total Stock Days</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$10,700.00</b>	Calculated per day
Total Donations	\$3,250.00		<b>\$3,250.00</b>	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,712.80</b>	



### November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Riding Stillwater County Roads

Directions?

Head out your backdoor and enjoy some of the beautiful views, while riding Stillwater Counties plentiful county roads. If you run out of roads in our county, neighboring Carbon County has just as many. It's a great way to keep our equines legged up through the winter, while enjoying time in the saddle. If your equines aren't shod, there are plenty of dirt roads that even the most tender-footed horse could enjoy.

Please send any submissions for the Newsletter to Robin Morris, [junkerette@msn.com](mailto:junkerette@msn.com), by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

Thank you to these local businesses for their continued support!



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