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Nag News



Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

October 2021

Issue #10

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MISSION STATEMENT

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.
6. To cooperate with other B.C.H.A. organizations.

Inside

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Horse Sense

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Ads & Services

DEADLINE FOR THE Nov 2021

NAG NEWS is
5 p.m. Nov 9, 2021

SUBMIT YOUR
ARTICLES AND ADS TO:
lionel.lavallee47@gmail.com

·To improve accuracy please
confirm all ads by deadline
date.

A Message from our President

What a great last project of the season. The Rock Creek Horse Camp project was a success with 10 members participating. Eleven fire rings were replaced with new rings. Thanks to project leader Bonnie Morgan for organizing the project, coordinating with the Forest service, and guiding her crew. Also, a thank you to Bill Slemph for bringing his Skid Steer. It made pulling up the old fire rings a snap. We were not able to replace the rotten picnic table wood because the increased price did not allow the Forest Service to purchase what was needed within the budget.

An added benefit of this project was the publicity we received as partners with the Bitterroot National Forest. The Region 1 office sent their Press Officer, Dan Hottle, to create a video of the project. Bonnie Morgan was interviewed as part of the video. You can view the video at <https://youtu.be/xRTCgxT90nY>.

Our chapter will be holding its election of officers and directors at the November 18 general membership meeting. I appreciate Bonnie Morgan and Lori Hutchinson for serving on the Nominating Committee. We have reached out to all our members who are eligible to run for one of these offices. If you have not responded to voice- or e-mails we left and wish to run for one of these positions, please let one of us know. Now is a great time to participate in the leadership of your chapter. We will be seeking additional nominations at our October 21 meeting.

Gene Merrill, President

Committee	Chairs & Members	Contact
Audit	Dan Maiyo	208-940-2887
Budget	Candace Erickson	
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
Election & Nominations	Sandra O'Brien	907-529-1315
Equipment & Inventory	Chris Grove	381-7600
Fair		
Fundraisers	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
RTP Grant	Christy Schram-Duggan	360-5947
Historian	Tim Meyer	907-440-0841
Issues	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
Memberships	Kathy Stoppel-Holl	961-0096
Newsletter	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
Packing Clinic Scholarship	Chuck Miller	961-5453
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Jones	415-264-5457
Programs	Philip & Pam Torgerson	360-4933/360-3201
Projects	Dan Brandborg/Lionel Lavallee	381-5643/640-1242
Social Marketing	Susan Slemph	821-2017/381-5910
Sunshine	Cindy Beck	360-1165
Trail Rides	Jan Bullock	907-242-9853
Training	Bonnie Morgan	381-9021
Education Committee	Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan	369-3140/360-5947
Website Design	Nancy Pollman	546-6492

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2021 Officers & Board

Chapter Officers

Position	Name	Term	Contact
President	Gene Merrill	2021	208-310-6326
Vice President	Dan Brandborg	2021	381-5643
Secretary	Christy Schram-Duggan	2021	360-5947
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2021	928-606-0855

Board Members

	Term	Contact
Ed Bullock	2020-21	907-575-7878
Jan Bullock	2021-22	907-242-9853
Ed Duggan	2021-22	369-3140
Joe Kirkland	2021-22	802-2286
Katie Williams	2021-22	531-0688
Lionel Lavallee	2021-22	640-1242
Mike Costanzo	2020-21	375-1340
Julie Schram	2020-21	961-2457
Dan Maiyo	2020-21	208-940-2887

Past President: Karen Philips 406-961-0101 **State Chairman:** Sherri Lionberger 208-691-6218

State Directors: Lionel Lavallee (2021) 640-1242
Taylor Orr (2021-22) 930-5838

Alt State Director: Chuck Miller (2021) 961-5453

October 21st BRBCH Monthly meeting: Corvallis School Cafeteria
(No potluck) Program Speakers: Brittani Rosas from the organization Humans and Carnivores,
will describe their proactive approach to conserving carnivores and sustaining people's
livelihoods by preventing conflict on ranches, farms, communities and in the back country

NOTICES

PANTRY PARTNERS' FOOD PACK MANAGER

It's time to think about our chapter's annual assistance with Pantry Partners' holiday food pack.

Brad and Nancy Pollman have managed this for the past number of years, but due to their schedule are looking for someone to run it this year. Pantry Partners was so delighted with the changes implemented last year, with its efficiency and ease, that they're hoping to see this structure continue. Pantry Partners' timeline is to have the food boxes to them prior to December 1. It will be BCH only performing the food pack, just like last year, meaning no school kids or other help. BCH can choose the pack event date; Pantry Partners will coordinate the food delivery to the site chosen by BCH for the pack.

The food pack will be discussed at the October general meeting. Please consider managing the event this year; Brad and Nancy would be happy to provide direction to make the project manager's task easy. Questions? Call Nancy at 406-546-6492.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

As of the December issue, Lionel will be stepping down as editor of Nag News. Editing and publishing duties require about 3-5 hrs. per month, a knowledge of Microsoft Word, and some minor tasks involved with pushing out issues for print and web versions. Lionel will provide guidance and training up to several issues and be available to answer questions and provide details. Please reach out to Lionel or Gene Merrill if you're interested.

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Saturday – 9 – 4

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Winterizing Horses, part 2 Posted by Nancy S. Loving, DVM | Nov
10, 2019 | www.thehorse.com

*Take a few simple precautions and management approaches to help your horse
weather winter safely. This is part 2 of information presented as a service to
BRBCH members. (Edited for length)*

Looking out upon a
wintry farmscape it's
common to see
equine forms
silhouetted against the
snow, huddled against
the wind. Or, you

might glimpse the glow of lights from a barn
housing blanketed equine charges. In northern
climes winter generally is a time of slowed
activity for both horse and rider, but
attentiveness to horses' health and
management is just as crucial during these
chilly months as it is during the warmer ones.

Protect and Support Respiratory Health

Horses evolved as plains animals, well-
equipped to deal with wind, cold, and snow.
Nonetheless, horse owners like to protect their
charges from the elements, often building

complex stabling structures to keep them
sheltered and warm.

One of the downsides to stabling around the
clock in winter stems from poorly ventilated
structures: Closing a stable up tightly traps
stale air pollution inside with accumulation of
urine ammonia, endotoxin particulates from
manure, dust, and molds from hay and
bedding—these pollutants challenge the equine
respiratory system.

So, if you plan to keep your horses stabled this
winter, keep in mind that inhaled ammonia can
destroy their airways' epithelial lining and
contribute to the development of respiratory
diseases such as inflammatory airway disease
(IAD) or recurrent airway obstruction (heaves),
says Wes Elford, DVM, an equine practitioner
from Randolph, Wisconsin.

Outdoor Shelter

Full-time turnout (paddock and/or pasture) is the most healthful way for a horse to live, even in cold climates. "The best housing for horses in winter is no housing at all, or at most a wind break," says Elford. Wheeler also likes using run-in sheds: "The design should provide a dry location and reduced wind speeds.

Surrounding 'sacrifice' paddocks with an engineered surface that sheds precipitation and is easily cleaned of manure provides a safe environment where being at liberty is the goal rather than grazing."

Heading into winter, check that your sheds are in good repair, with roofing in place, nails safely embedded in wood, and no protruding sharp edges. Ideally your run-in should offer protection from the elements from at least one direction, with the solid side facing the prevailing winter wind; a three-sided structure open to the south allows drying, says Wheeler. "A shed design works best if at least eight feet high and with exits no less than 10 feet wide to allow two horses to pass," she says. "Consider also the location of structural support posts—horses find it difficult to transition from bright to low light levels and could clobber themselves on the posts."

To Blanket or Not to Blanket

Unless your horse needs his coat clipped for activities such as showing or foxhunting, most veterinarians recommend letting his coat grow out naturally during winter. For horses with a full body of hair, says Elford, blanketing is not usually necessary. "Horses have an innate ability to withstand cold and wind with no more than a windbreak," he says. Furthermore, blankets tend to compress a wooly coat's layers, which compromises their insulating properties, notes Wheeler.

Turnout

While turning a horse out is ideal for his general health, doing so in questionable winter footing is not always a safe bet. "It's dangerous

to turn horses out when the ground is frozen in ruts created by hoof prints or vehicular traffic—I have seen coffin bone fractures as a result of a horse stepping into a frozen rut," says Elford. "Also, following a thaw, 'lakes' of (pooled) water then freeze overnight with pastures turning into 'glare ice.' This increases the risk of fractured legs and split pelvises." Plan ahead to have a safe, dry area to keep horses in times like these when traction is at a minimum. Alternatively, keep some form of gravel or even kitty litter available to put onto unavoidable icy areas.

Exercise and Feet

To keep your horse in moderate fitness and ready for more intense conditioning come spring, keep him in light exercise during winter. Besides benefiting musculoskeletal and mental health, Elford remarks, "Exercise is also important to maintain intestinal motility." Turnout and/or consistent light riding both provide exercise.

In cold weather take time for warming up and cooling down. "Walking is an effective warm-up," says Elford. "The cool-down is hardest because once a sweaty horse stops work, he can quickly chill. Evaporation of sweat pulls heat from a horse's internal core—this compounds the chill of winter air. A horse damp from a workout can be blanketed immediately upon pulling tack. In addition, continue walking him a short while to maintain muscle (blood) circulation; this helps avoid muscle cramping while skin and muscles cool down gradually. Once he's dry, the blanket can be removed unless the horse has been clipped."

And while you might feel like frigid air assaults your airways during the first few minutes of a winter run, Elford notes he has never encountered a horse with a respiratory or breathing problem caused by exercising in cold weather. A horse's long nasal passages warm the air as it is inhaled. Toweling off frosty muzzles and other wet areas after a ride,

however, helps reduce the slight risk of frostbite before turning the horse out again.

Digestive Health

Water intake is especially important in winter to maintain hydration and avoid impaction colic. "Drinking is encouraged by providing warm water through heated buckets or stock tanks with heaters," says Elford. "Water heating systems should be grounded since horses can sense low voltages and may refuse to drink. Use PVC pipe coverings over electrical wires to prevent a horse from electrocuting himself."

Prior to winter make sure you're well-stocked with good quality hay, particularly in the event of supply shortages due to drought. "In winter a horse's diet doesn't need to change," advises Elford. "We've been told that additional calories help to keep a horse warm but it's best to increase calories in winter by offering more hay, not grain, as fermentation of forage in the hindgut generates internal warmth. Forage also doesn't create a carbohydrate load in the

hindgut that could cause laminitis (inflammation of the sensitive laminae that connect the hoof to the coffin bone)."

Elford recommends feeling a horse's back, withers, and ribs routinely to track body condition and adjusting rations accordingly. Make sure your horse has a healthy fat covering over his ribs (body condition 5 or 6 out of 9) rather than entering winter months in too lean a condition.

Take-Home Message

In general, horses thrive best when there is room to move around in and fresh air to breathe—regardless of the season. Movement helps keep musculoskeletal tissues limber and healthy, and it keeps the digestive tract motile and the equine respiratory tract healthy. Taking a few simple precautions in addition to these basic, healthful approaches can help your horse weather winter safely.

BRBCH Members Recognized

The Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation would like to thank Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen for your ongoing partnership and support! This summer BCH members provided multiple pack trips for our volunteers at the St. Mary Lookout, as well as on a Blodgett Canyon trail project. We are so grateful and could not have accomplished our wilderness stewardship work without you! We look forward to working with you again in 2022. Thank you!

- Krissy Ferriter, Volunteer Coordinator, and Sally Ferguson, Executive Director, on behalf of SBFC

BRBCH Members involved:

St. Mary's Lookout Pack Supply

Joe Kirkland (project lead)
Dan Brandborg
Dan & Leslie Maiyo

Gene Merrill
Ed Dugan

Blodgett Canyon

Joe Kirkland (project lead)
Julie Schram
Ed Duggan
Carol John
Kathy Stroppel Holl
Colter Kirkland

Dan Brandborg
Karen Phillips
Dan Maiyo
Travis Grinnel
Bill Goslin

FWP UPLAND GAME BIRD ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM *Compiled from various sources on <https://fwp.mt.gov>.*



Program Goal

The goal of the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program is to: efficiently and responsibly conserve and enhance upland game bird habitats and populations—providing quality public hunting opportunities for present and future generations.

Program Overview

The Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program (UGBEP) serves Montana's residents and visitors by enhancing upland game bird habitats and populations and hunting opportunities through the use of upland game bird hunting license dollars. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) administers the program, which is further organized into two separate parts:

- Upland Game Bird Release Program (UGBRP)
- Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program (UGBHEP) Principle outcomes of the UGBEP are:
 - Establishment or enhancement of upland game bird habitat
 - Conservation of high quality and "at risk" upland game bird habitats
 - Seasonal pheasant release and periodic wild upland game bird transplanting
 - Enhanced public upland game bird hunting opportunities

Program Benefits

Upland game bird enhancement projects fulfill the program goal by addressing habitat limitations, promoting conservation and expansion of functional habitats, and providing reasonable public hunting opportunities for present and future generations – on both private and public lands.

In addition to biological and recreational benefits, UGBEP projects are intended to:

- Foster productive and positive relationships between landowners, hunters, and FWP
- Develop relationships with landowners who initially release pheasants but may pursue future habitat enhancement work
- Build partnerships between nongovernmental organizations, State, Federal, and local government agencies
- Stimulate local economies through purchasing supplies, materials, and labor in addition to promoting hunting opportunities and attracting hunters with their associated expenditures

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks work directly with landowners-and other individuals, groups and organizations-to improve private and public lands for Montana's native sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and mountain grouse, as well as the state's adopted game birds-ring-necked pheasants, Hungarian Partridge, and wild turkeys.

Guiding Principles

The UGBEP and the dynamic strategic plan are administered in consideration of the following guiding principles. The program must:

- Be science-based and habitat focused
- Provide strategic, effective, and efficient long-term returns
- Be effectively/efficiently implemented with accountability and fiduciary prudence
- Emphasize value to partnerships
- Be respectful of private lands
- Recognize social and economic values
- Recognize value of long-term protection of the natural resources and access
- Where possible, implement the program at a landscape scale
- Balance program expenditures across species and habitats, recognizing public demand, species' conservation needs, and habitat priorities at statewide and regional scales, defined within 3-5 year time-frames
- Recognize each administrative region may not participate equally in the program.

Project Eligibility

Projects eligible for funding under the Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program should comprise at least 100 contiguous acres of land, with some exceptions. Your FWP habitat specialist or wildlife biologist will help landowners determine if their land can be improved to offer upland game birds better:

- Winter cover
- Food plots
- Nesting cover
- Shelterbelts
- Habitat components, including range management, conservation easements—and wetland restoration, for the benefit of upland game bird populations.

Open Fields Access

The Open Fields program provides hunters access to Upland Game Bird habitat as part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. See video link for more details: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Mx563GKVj4>

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN



DUTCH OVEN BASICS from <https://dutchointopia.com/dutch-oven-basics/>

You can cook anything in a

Dutch Oven that you can cook in a regular oven – or on a stove top or a grill for that matter. In fact, there are some things that you can only cook in a Dutch Oven and nowhere else, due to your ability to precisely control heat. But this page of the website is all about the basics of Dutch Oven cooking, for those who are just getting started. It's important to understand the correct techniques for using Dutch Ovens so you do not destroy your food, or your ovens. Let's start at the beginning, with preparing or "seasoning" your Dutch Oven.

Seasoning a Dutch Oven

Many new Dutch Ovens come pre-seasoned, but some do not. Plus, if an oven becomes rusted and unusable, it will need to be scrubbed down and re-seasoned. There are several ways to do this, but the way listed below is considered the best. Prior to seasoning is the ONLY time you will ever allow soap of any kind to touch a Dutch Oven. Scrub the oven completely with soap and water and dry it completely. If the oven is rusty, carefully remove the rust with steel wool or a wire brush. Once the oven is clean and dry, season the oven by doing the following:

- Using a paper towel, rub pure vegetable oil all over the oven – inside, outside, legs, handle and lid
- Place the oven and lid in your regular oven at 200° for 2 hours (the smell of burning oil on metal may not be pleasant – send the family to a movie!)

- Pull the oven out, re-oil everything put it back into the oven for another 2 hours at 200°
- Pull the oven out one more time, re-oil it and bake the oven for a final two hours

The oven will become black over time as you use it. That's what you want to happen! Occasionally rub some more oil (a small amount) on the inside of your oven and the underside of the lid to keep it black and in good shape. This blackening is called the patina and gets better with age. I've cooked with an oven that is over 160 years old with the same patina and it was great!

Cooking with a Dutch Oven

Heat is most commonly provided to a Dutch Oven using lit charcoal briquettes, commonly referred to as coals, once they are lit. Always use a quality brand of briquettes and never use a "match light" version. Match lights burn out too quickly and do not provide heat as evenly throughout their lifecycle as regular briquettes. One set of briquettes typically last about one hour of cooking time before needing to be replaced.

Heat placement formula

The amount of heat you place on or under an oven depends on the temperature desired, size of the oven, and type of food. Let's first discuss how to establish "even" heat throughout the oven. First, determine the diameter of the oven you will be cooking in. Typically, a 12" 14" or 16" oven is used. To get the oven to 325°, take diameter of the oven and add two to that number. That is the

number of coals to be placed on the top of the lid while cooking. So, if you have a 14" oven, you will place 16 coals on top of the lid. Now, place two coals less than the diameter of the oven under the oven. In the example of a 14" oven, that would be 12 coals. Placing those coals on the lid and under the oven will achieve 325°. To increase the temperature, simply add one coal to the top and one coal to the bottom of the oven and an additional 25° will be added. Continue this process to add more heat to reach your desired temperature. For example, if you want to reach 375°, add two coals to the top and two coals to the bottom.

Placement of coals

The total number of coals number of coals stays constant using the formula detailed above, but the number of coals on the lid vs. underneath the oven can change based on the type of food you are cooking. Basic rules are as follows:

- Even heat: meats, vegetables
- More top heat than bottom: breads and desserts (typically two to four coals are moved from the bottom to the top)
- More bottom heat than top heat: soups and stews (typically two to four coals are moved from the top to the bottom)

Specific placement on the lid or under the oven can vary by recipe. In general, breads and desserts do better with coals ringing the edge, while meats and vegetables do well with coals dispersed evenly. Note: some recipes require the oven to be removed from bottom heat near the end of cooking time, to ensure no burning on the bottom of the oven.

Cleaning your Dutch Oven

Only use hot water and a mild plastic scrubber to clean your Dutch Oven. Be careful not to pour cold water into a very hot oven, as you could crack the cast iron.

Rock Creek Horse Camp - Lake Como

Ten BRBCH members and four Forest Service personnel replaced all 11 fire rings at the Rock Creek campground at Lake Como on September 16, 2021. Member Bill Slemph used his Skid Steer to yank out the old fire rings. The sites were then cleaned, and new rings were placed a few inches into the ground, pinned down, and leveled. Rocks were placed on the ground inside the ring. Members mixed cement, shoveled it over the rocks in each ring, then smoothed the top of the cement, making the fire rings easier to clean in the future.

Another crew combed the campground for "micro trash"- wrapper ends, bottle caps, and cigarette butts. Bill Slemph then used his skid Steer to load the old fire rings onto the Forest Service trailer so the rings in good enough condition could be refurbished and installed in more primitive campgrounds



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, August
5, 2021**

The August 2021 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:01 pm via Zoom Meeting, by Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan.

No quorum

Taylor Orr led the pledge.

Present were officers, Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan and Treasurer Barbara Walker. Also present were Board members Ed Duggan, Ed Bullock, Julie Schram, Jan Bullock, Dan Maiyo, Katie Williams, State Director Taylor Orr, and Past President Karen Philips. The following were not present, President Gene Merrell, Vice President Dan Brandborg Board members Joe Kirkland, Lionel Lavallee, Mike Costanzo, State Director Lionel Lavallee, and Alternate State Director Chuck Miller.

Minutes: Due to no quorum, minutes were not voted on.

Treasurer's Report: Barb reported the Treasurer's report. Due to no quorum, Treasurer's were not voted on.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Issues: None

Projects: Coyote Coulee and Two Good Cabin were canceled due to the Stage 2 Restrictions. St. Mary's Lookout pack-in went well. Joe Kirkland and Ed Duggan did the first trip in. Took about 4 hrs. to get up and 1.5 hours on the way back.

State Director: No updates for the State. Brad discussed the BCHA still working on the eBikes issues.

Membership: Christy reported to Kathy that the BRBCH has 80 memberships and 139 members.

Education/Training: No training updates

Program: Karen

Outreach: Karen is looking for someone to take her place on FB.

OLD BUSINESS

Ravalli County Fair: Earl summarized all the happenings at the North gate. Shortly the main gate will be switched to the North gate due to the parking. Christy passed around the folders to encourage folks to sign up and work a gate.

BCHMT Monture: Who all is going please try and carpool if you can.

NEW BUSINESS

Compensation for project members in case of livestock injury: This was discussed but was not was voted on due to no quorum. To be placed on Oct. Board Agenda.

Consideration to reserve East Fork Cabins: for June 22nd General meeting, work to repair corral, fun ride, possibly trail project. This was discussed and Katie Williams to reach out to Forest Service for additional information and report out on the Oct. Board meeting,

Teller Refuge location: Great facility and location. Thank you Kathy for coordinating that.

OTHER BUSINESS

NA

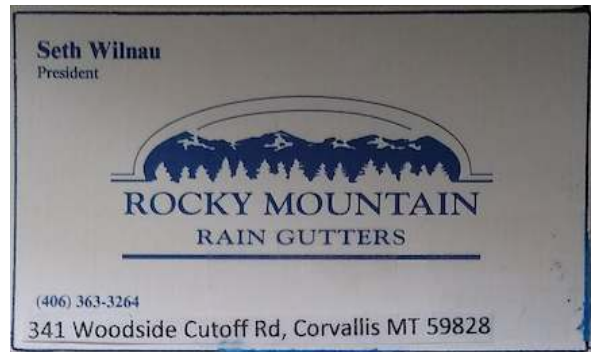
Adjourn 7:58 pm.

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, October 21st

Location: Corvallis School Cafeteria

Meeting at 6:30

