



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

July 2024

Issue #7

In Partnership With



BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN MISSION STATEMENT

- To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- 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.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.
- To cooperate with other BCHA organizations.

THURSDAY, JULY 18th, 2024 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Coyote Coulee Trail Head/Horse Parking Area

The next General Meeting will be at the Coyote Coulee Trail Head/Horse Parking area. On Hwy 93 N. drive south from Hamilton 12 miles and turn west onto Lost Horse Road, continue for 2 miles and veer right at the sign for the Coyote Coulee Trailhead on FS Road #496.

A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by our monthly meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm. Guests and new members always welcome.

**No President's message
this month.
(Haying Season)**

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- Pp 2. Summary East Fork barb wire removal project.
- P.3. Maps of EF fence removal
- P. 4. EF Fence removal photos
- P. 5. 2024 Project list
- P. 6. Draft June 20 General Meeting Minutes
- P.7. Horse Sense
- P.8. Back Country Kitchen
- P.9. List of Officers and Board
- Pp.10,11 For sale/List of Advertisers

Our June guest speaker is Seth Romocki, the new Stevensville District Ranger. He will introduce himself and inform us of upcoming projects.

For more information call Gene at 208-310-6326 or check out our website at: www.bchmt.org/bitterroot.

Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH)**.

Caution!
**Owning Horses May Be Hazardous
To Your Wealth!**

**DEADLINE FOR
NAG NEWS**
Thursday, August 8th
**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
AND ADS TO:**
djmaiyo@gmail.com

SUMMARY
Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
East Fork Guard Station Barbwire
Removal Project
Friday June 21st - Saturday June 22nd
Project Leader: Dan Maiyo

At noon Friday, June 21st, six members of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen and in coordination with Brand Browning, Recreation Specialist for the U.S. Forest Service, Darby Ranger District, met at the historic Forest Service East Fork Guard Station to remove old 4-strand barbwire fencing and t-posts along and within Forest Service property boundaries.

After a tailgate safety session, equipped with leather gloves, fencing tools, bolt cutters, saws, t-post puller, and *true grit* we rolled/removed a total of 2,160 feet of 4 -strand old barbwire fence (4 x 2,160 ft.= 8,400 lineal feet) that was either dragged about by wildlife or smashed under fallen trees along and near the East Fork Bitterroot River and along the East Fork Road. We removed at least 75 metal t-posts, collected fencing clips, u-nails; and piled t - posts and fencing along existing fence line for Forest Service pick-up and disposal.

After a steak fajita dinner prepared by Kathy and brownies/ice cream by Leslie we retired to our camping sites.

After a wonderful breakfast fixed by Kathy we resumed work at 8:00 am Saturday June 22nd. At 2:30 pm we concluded all work; and after another delicious dinner prepared by Kathy, departed for home. Rick elected to stay the night in the cabin.

The six of us completed field work totaling **8.5 hours**.

Add **6 hours** for Kathy in food shopping/planning/preparation.

Total Work Hours: **8.5 + 6 + 14.5 hours**

No injuries/incidents!

Thank you Chris Carrera, Rick Russell, Mary O'Dell, Leslie Conner-Maiyo, Kathy Stroppe-Holl for your hard expert work in barbwire fence rolling. Thanks to Kathy for the breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast, lunch and delicious steak fajita and chicken dinners, to Leslie for the chocolate Mexican brownies, rhubarb crisp and ice cream deserts. Thank you Rick for the coordinate maps showing the extent of our work!

Chris takes a turn on the t-post puller. We pulled at least 70 metal t-posts!

Editor's Note: Our tough team ranged from 61-80 years of age!



Chris & Dan compete in barb wire roll-up race.

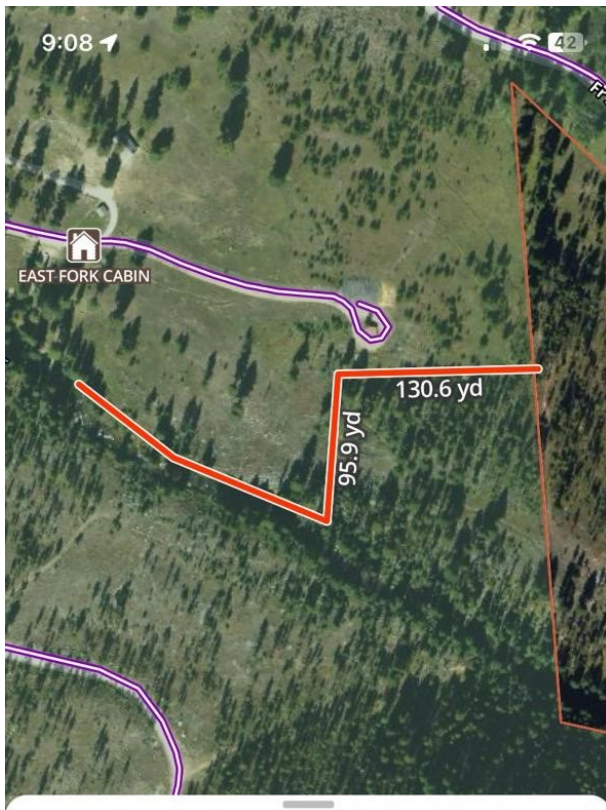


Leslie, Mary and Kathy expert barb wire rollers!



Thank you Rick Russell for providing the coordinate maps from your hand held devise!

Fence and t-post removal along EF Bitterroot River and behind storage barn, terminating at private fence line.



Line 06/22/24 10:15

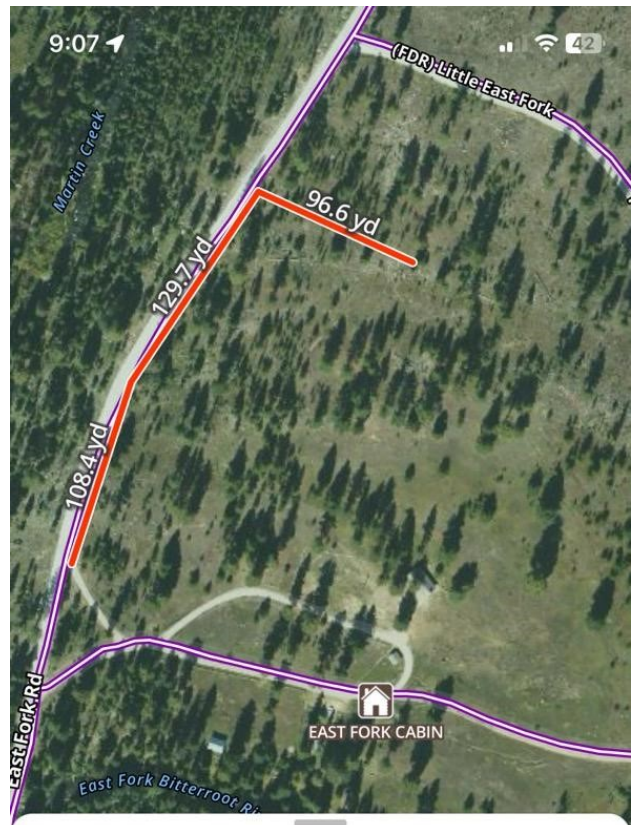
6/22/24, 10:15 AM

Elevation



Edit Add to Folder Share Export

Fence and t-post removal along EF Road and heading S.E. along F.S. fence line.



Line 06/22/24 22:30

6/22/24, 10:30 PM

Elevation



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Rick, Mary, Chris,
Kathy, Dan
untangling wire in
the Rat's Nest



Yummy Fajita dinner with dessert!



Projects with FS approval 2024 Updated 5/10/24

Project or Training	Description	Project leader	Dates
Defensive Horsemanship	Complete Demonstrations, C max	Bonnie Morgan	March 23rd 9-2:00
Defensive Horsemanship	Complete C max Stables	Bonnie Morgan	April 6, 9 - 12:00,1-4:00
Horse Camp Out at Como Trailhead	Complete Day Ride and Camp Refresher	Bonnie Morgan	May 11th-12th
Larry Creek	Complete Clear all trails	Brad Pollman	June 1st
Coyote Coulee	Complete Clear both loops of trail	Travis Grinnell	June 15th
East Fork - Guard Station	Complete Wire fencing removal	Dan Maiyo	June 21-23
Bitterroot Connection Fred Burr	Complete Fred Burr to Mill Pass	Dan Brandborg/ Joe Kirkland	July 1st-9th
Saint Mary's Pack Support	Supplying Lookout with stock	Ed Duggan	TBD
Big Creek lake Pack In Support Hitch 1	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	July 31st- August 1st
Crazy Creek Campground	Canceled Trailhead horse camp	Dan Maiyo	August 1st- 4th
Big Creek lake Pack Out Support Hitch 1	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	August 6th-7th
Big Creek lake Pack Support Hitch 2	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	August 13th-14th ?
Big Creek lake Pack Support Hitch 2	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	August 20th-21 ?



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 20, 2024**

The June 2024 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:03 pm. The meeting was held at the Larry Creek Horse Trailer Parking Area. Approximately 32 members and 1 guest were present. There was a Board quorum. Diane led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guest: Ron Sanguins.

PROGRAM

Carol introduced our speaker, Dr. Eric Gren who spoke on "Living with Rattlesnakes in the Bitterroot Valley": He said few people are neutral on snakes and he enjoys helping people learn how to be safe around them. Rubber boas, green racers, garters, prairie rattlesnakes and bull snakes are found in Montana. Bull snakes are commonly confused with rattlesnakes. His advice is if you aren't sure, don't interact with the snake. A rattlesnake uses venom to paralyze prey and for defense and digestion. It can swallow prey half its body size so it uses venom to digest its food. Estimates are that 30% of bites are not venomous. Rattlesnakes may bluff strike but not bite. They mate in early summer and birth live babies in early fall (3-15 babies called pups). Moms and aunts stay with the babies. Babies look like small cinnamon rolls when coiled. They have been seen collecting water in their bowl-shaped coils to drink later. They are ambush predators (they wait for their prey). Baby venom is more toxic but has little volume, and babies don't always control how much venom they expel. They are prey for hawks. One myth being studied is that where there are bull snakes there are fewer rattlesnakes. Eastern Montana has lots of rattlesnakes, and some areas here, like Sula, have a heavy population. Snakes sun when it's warm and go underground when it gets hot. Rattlesnakes benefit us by controlling rodents and disease vectors, dispersing seeds (especially after hot fires), and by pharmaceutical companies using venom for drugs. To reduce risk, provide snake avoidance training to your dogs, and eliminate what attracts snakes (bird feed, etc.). If you need a snake removed, call Eric, UM or MPG Ranch. If you get bit, use your cell phone to call and drive to the hospital. You have two hours to get care before your condition deteriorates.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The May minutes were printed in the June Nag News. **Lionel Lavalley motioned and Ed Bullock seconded to accept the May minutes as published. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: The June treasurer's report was provided. **Lionel Lavalley motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the June Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety Moment: Tim Meyer reminded us to check our trailer lights and signals before we head out.

Mule Days: Barb said there were lots of classes and participants.

Thank you to Darrell Reece: Karen circulated cards for members to sign to thank Darrell for his three years of very

generous financial support to our chapter. It is much appreciated!

Orienteering Event 6/27 at Larry Creek: Karen stated this event will have 200 participants and it will be very crowded that day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: No report

Projects: Dan B reported that we had a successful project at Coyote Coulee clearing the lower loop, including cleaning 51 water bars. We had a mishap when Julie Schram's horse rolled on her. The first aid response was very professional, and Julie is recovering. Bonnie was injured on the Larry Creek project and is still recovering. Dan M is leader for the East Fork Guard Station project and they will roll up barb wire near camp and hopefully along the road. Meals will be prepared by Kathy SH, and Leslie is bringing deserts. Dan M has five people coming and more are welcome, stock included. Fred Burr is the next project, starting Monday, July 1, with five people attending. Kathy SH and Becky Brandborg are organizing food for Fred Burr.

State Directors: Rendezvous is June 21-23 at the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA. Several members are attending. There will be horse training and Light on the Land presentations, and BBQ provided by Mike and Trish Foster.

Education & Training: No report

Membership: There are 78 memberships and 123 members.

Outreach: Karen said the Calf Creek portable toilet was delivered May 17, and a sign listing the organizations paying for the service was placed inside it. This is an important service that we provide for the community.

Program: Seth Romocki, new Stevensville District Ranger, will introduce himself and inform us of upcoming projects at the July 18 meeting.

Sunshine: If anyone knows of a member who needs a get well, congratulations, or condolence card, let Jenna Wright know.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Fair Fundraiser Gate Volunteers: See the BRBCH website for the online signup or call/text Bonnie Duggan at 406 -544-8925. Kathy SH explained how ticket taking and ticket sales are handled.

Ryan at the Shirt Spot: Dan M showed a cap that Ryan had added our logo to. \$25 for one; volume orders get a discount.

OTHER BUSINESS

Historian needs project input: Tim Meyer asked us to send him stories and photos.

Next Meeting: July 18 at the Coyote Coulee, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Bring your own chair and beverage.

Lionel Lavalley motioned and Kathy Stoppel-Holl seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion carried.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

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Summer Exercise Strategies for Your Horse: Keeping Fit and Safe in the Heat

With the arrival of summer, maintaining a consistent exercise routine for your horse is crucial for their physical fitness and overall well-being. However, the hot weather poses unique challenges that require careful consideration to ensure your horse stays fit and safe during exercise.

Schedule Exercise During Cooler Times:

Plan your horse's exercise sessions during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening, when temperatures are lower. This helps avoid the peak heat of the day, reducing the risk of heat stress and exhaustion. Monitor weather forecasts to select the optimal times for workouts.

Gradual Warm-up and Cool-down:

Start each exercise session with a gradual warm-up period to prepare your horse's muscles and joints. Begin with light stretching and walking exercises before progressing to more intense activities. Similarly, incorporate a gradual cool-down phase at the end of the workout to allow your horse's body to gradually return to a resting state.

Hydration is Key:

Proper hydration is crucial during summer exercise to prevent dehydration and associated complications. Always provide access to clean and fresh water before, during, and after exercise. Consider electrolyte supplementation, under veterinary guidance, to replenish essential minerals lost through sweat.

Provide Ample Shade and Rest Breaks:

Ensure that your horse has access to shaded areas during exercise. When taking breaks, allow them to rest in shaded spots to avoid excessive exposure to the sun's heat. This provides relief and helps regulate body temperature. Monitor your horse for signs of fatigue or distress and adjust the exercise intensity accordingly.

Modify Intensity and Duration:

Adjust the intensity and duration of exercise according to the weather conditions. Reduce the intensity and duration of workouts on extremely hot days or during heatwaves. Focus on low-impact exercises, such as trail rides or light schooling, to minimize strain on your horse while still maintaining their fitness.

Protect from Insects and Sunburn:

Shield your horse from the annoyance of flies, mosquitoes, and the risk of sunburn during exercise. Use fly masks, fly sheets, and fly repellents to keep insects at bay. Apply sunscreen on exposed areas of light-skinned horses to prevent sunburn.

Proper Hoof Care:

Pay special attention to your horse's hooves during the summer. Regular hoof maintenance, including trimming and monitoring for cracks or sensitivity, is essential. Ensure the hooves are well-maintained and balanced to support your horse's soundness and comfort during exercise.

Consider Alternative Exercise Options:

If the heat becomes too intense, consider alternative exercise options that provide mental stimulation without the physical strain. Groundwork, liberty training, or interactive toys can engage your horse's mind and maintain their fitness while minimizing the risk of overheating.

By implementing effective strategies such as scheduling workouts during cooler times, gradual warm-up and cool-down, prioritizing hydration, providing shade and rest breaks, modifying exercise intensity, protecting from insects and sunburn, ensuring proper hoof care, and exploring alternative exercise options, you can keep your horse fit and safe in the heat.

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN SPONSORED BY:



The Shirt Spot

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The Shirt Spot is new to Montana since April 2023, but has over 20 years' experience in the industry! Services offered include printing, embroidery, sign banners, stickers and business cards. Quality clothing including tee's, tank tops, and ladies crop tops are offered at a reasonable price. Also offered is a huge variety of headwear ready for embroidery!

DUTCH OVEN ELK'N KRAUT

Ingredients:

- 3 Idaho spuds, diced
- 1 1/2 lbs elk chunks
- 1/2 cup H2O
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 Tbsp. catsup, chili sauce or BBQ sauce
- 1 jar sauerkraut, drained

- 1 cup croutons or 2 slices diced wheat bread
- 1 chopped onion
- Several slicers of any kinda cheese

Heat oil over charcoal fire in 12" Dutch oven.
Add ingredients except cheese and stir once.
Place coals on lid and let cook for 1 1/2 hours.
When done, add cheese and let sit with lid on
for one minute.

Serves 4

Exclusively at the Shirt Spot! Embroidered Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen logo on in-stock vests or a vest of your own choice. Personnel Wyoming Traders vest shown. Custom thread color available. Inquire for pricing. Caps offered in a variety of styles and colors! \$25/cap or \$20/each/20 caps. Show your support for our BCH Chapter!



2024 Committees	2024 Chairs & Members
Audit	Joe Kirkland, Shawn Kern, Judy Posey, Bonnie Morgan
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock
Budget	Gene Merrell, Jan Bullock, Barb Walker
Education	Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan
Election & Nominations	Bonnie Morgan, Leslie Conner-Maiyo,
Equipment & Inventory	Ed Duggan
Fair and Reports	Christy Schram-Duggan
Advertising	Ed Bullock
Grants	Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, Barb Walker
Historian	Tim Meyer
Issues	Carol Johns, Kathy Stroppel-Holl
Memberships	Joan Scheffer
Newsletter	Dan Maiyo
Parliamentarian	
Programs	Monica Stanton
Projects	Dan Brandborg
Social Marketing	Travise Grinnell
Sunshine	Jenna Wright
Trail Rides	Jan Bullock, Dan Maiyo
Training	Bonnie Morgan
Website Design	Nancy Pollman

Bitter Root Backcountry Horsemen Officers and Board

Chapter officers				
Position	Name	Term	Contact	
President	Jan Bullock	2024	907-242-9853	
Vice President	Dan Brandborg	2024	406-381-5643	
Secretary	Kathy Stroppol-Holl/Karen Phillips	2024	Kathy 720-244-2943, Karen 406-369-0725	
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2024		
Board Members	Term	State Director	Term	BCHMT State Chairman
Travise Grinnell	2023-24	Chuck Miller	2023-24	Mack Long
Carol Johns	2023-24	Brad Pollman	2024-25	
Joe Kirkland	2023-24			BCHMT Vice State Chairman
Brad Pollman	2023-24	Alt. State		Sandy Himmel
Cherie Barton	2023-24	Director		
Lionel Lavallee	2024-25	Ed Duggan	2024	
Joan Scheffer	2024-25			BCHMT National Directors
Dan Maiyo	2024-25			Brad Pollman
Mark Wright	2024-25	BRBCH Past		John Chepulis
		President		Alt. National Director
		Gene Merrell		Chuck Miller




FOR SALE Heavy duty scalloped harness leather old timey headstall, lined. Brass hardware. Will fit large head horse or mule. Designed to hide the head of an ugly horse. \$80.00
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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, July 18th, 2024

Coyote Coulee Trail Head/Horse Parking Area

Dinner at 6:30pm Meeting at 7:00pm

Visit our Website:

bchmt.org/bitterroot

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 1083
Hamilton, MT 59840