



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

October 2025 Issue #10



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, OCTOBER 16th, 2025 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

DALY- LEACH COMMUNITY ROOM

The next General Meeting will be at the Daly-Leach Community Room, 1010 Main Street in Hamilton. Potluck dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and the general meeting starts at 7:00.

Our speaker this month is Mark Wright, BRBCH member and board director, who will talk about the 2026 project at Monture Guard Station in coordination with other chapters, held during the Back Country Horsemen of Montana's annual rendezvous, June 18-21.

For more information contact Brad Pollman: 406-546-6491. Check out our website at: www.bchmt.org/bitterroot or Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen**.

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Editor's Note:

Newsletter:

Beginning 2026 I will be looking for a volunteer to take over or assist me with this newsletter. I've been your editor since 2022. Some experience with Microsoft Word and Publisher is desirable. I will be pleased to work with you in the transition. Call Dan if you need more information.

(208) 940-2887 cell/text

DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Friday, Nov Oct 13th
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES &
ADS TO:

djmaiyo@gmail.com



A Message from the President

Hello!

I hope all of you are doing well. Our chapter is busy wrapping up the year and preparing for next year. The Nominating Committee has a great slate of candidates to run for next year's leadership positions; however, we are still in need of a secretary and an alternate state director. Each are one year terms. Please consider stepping up and helping out. We have 109 members and we, like all organizations, are having a hard time finding members to step up and lead. We have many new faces and our goal is to blend these in to our officer and committee positions. Our chapter will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this coming year – no need to re-invent the wheel. There are many who will help and mentor you to be successful. Feel free to contact Bonnie Morgan or me for more detail on any position!

A chainsaw recertification class was held last weekend. My thanks to Mark Wright for his assistance as co-evaluator so he and I could get a start on the huge number of recerts that will be coming up next year. As a bonus, many of the downed trees in the Bear Creek trailhead picnic area are now cut into usable pieces.

Next month will be both our elections and Thanksgiving potluck. For those who do not regularly attend our meetings, I invite you to join us at the November meeting (or this one!). General meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month, starting with a potluck at 6:30pm, and followed by our monthly meeting.

Sincerely,

Brad Pollman

President, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

Editor's Note: Twogood Cabin closure project

On Saturday, October 18th, the BRBCH will handle closing the Twogood Cabin, and also will be cutting firewood at the site.

ED Duggan will be packing chain saw and PPE.

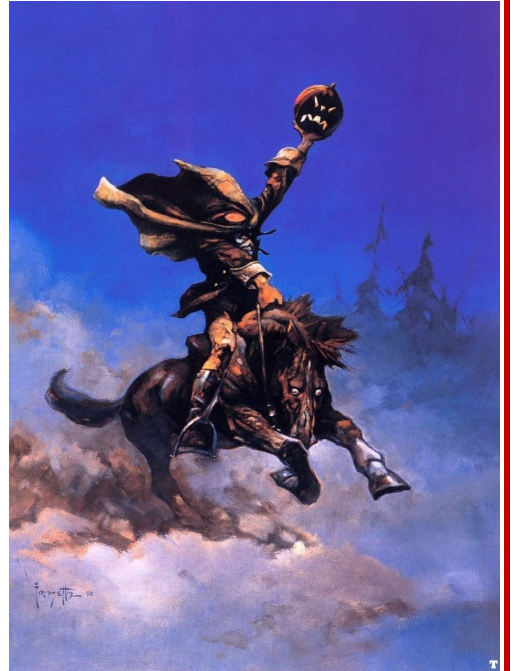
Rain or shine, the ride will depart the trailhead at 9:00 am. It a six mile ride to the cabin. Please let ED know if you are interested in participating.

To access the site, take the Warm Springs Road turnoff (directly across from Spring Gulch Campground) located 15 miles south of Darby on Hwy 93. Drive 5 miles to the Crazy Creek Horse Campground,



Members support Trapper Creek Job Corps crew

Dan Brandborg, John Perry and Lionel Lavallee helped the Trapper Creek Trail Crew students, who tackled an East Fork trail clearing project this summer, by packing the crew's gear in and out. Dan provided the mules for the pack-in on July 7, and John and Lionel helped Dan with the pack-out on July 17. This is another good example of our members providing support and outreach to our community.



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,
SEPTEMBER 18th, 2025**

The September 2025 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Brad Pollman at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held at the Corvallis High School Cafeteria. Approximately 26 members were present. There was a board quorum. All members led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: Bill and Susan Slempp and Nan Christianson. Member Norman Nather reported on a memorial ride he is hosting for Charlie Kirk to be held in Stevensville, Sunday, 9/21, at Lewis & Clark Park, ride to start at 2:00.

PROGRAM

Chief Joseph Trail Ride, Gene Merrell: Gene spoke about his 28 years of riding the Chief Joseph Trail, an historic trail that follows the route used by the Nez Perce to evade US troops. He reviewed the history of the ride, including the 13 segments of 100 miles, and the daily schedule. Participant numbers have ranged from 70 to over 300. People sleep in tents or trailers. A typical day starts early (5 am) with feeding and saddling, followed by a hearty breakfast at 6, making sack lunches, filling water bottles, and riding out at 8 am sharp. There is always a rodeo on the first day but horses settle down quickly. The trailers head out shortly after that. A lead guide determines potty stops for humans after riding about an hour and half, chooses safe watering holes for horses (horse troughs cause the most trouble), and selects lunch stops. Gene said they ride and ride and ride! It's a problem when riders get too strung out and lose sight of the lead riders. At the end of the day, riders nap, take care of their horses, or cool off in creeks. Dinners are hearty and after dinner there are introductions of trail scouts, trail crew members, the farrier, or the veterinarian. Education presentations are offered and there are dances on a real dance floor with a live band. His highlights over the years: on his first ride in 1998 at the Darby segment he didn't realize he needed a breast collar for the steep hills—his tolerant horse and the trail guide saved him with a makeshift collar made from the lead rope. Another year when a trailer went off the road, he had to deal with that—a challenge. His first horse won the 10 consecutive year award! On a Salmon segment ride, a pronghorn ran straight at him and his horse did a quick 90 degree turn and the antelope ran by. He has ridden through bison and bear country—exciting! In 2023, he was the trail guide and decided to ride up to the West Fork lookout. Huckleberries were everywhere and that ride took a bit longer due to huckleberry stops. That year he was awarded a silver belt buckle for two consecutive 13-year cycles of participation. There are many memorial ceremonies presented by Nez Perce representatives that made a lasting impression on those attending. Gene has been blessed with excellent, steady horses in his 28 years of involvement, and he paid special tribute to his wife Carolynn for her support!

BUSINESS

Minutes: The August minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no corrections. **Bonnie Morgan motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the August general**

meeting minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Elaine presented the September treasurer's report. There were no questions. **Dennis Hardman motioned and Helen Engle seconded to accept the September treasurer's report. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on Chuck Miller: Brad reported that Katie, Chuck's daughter, said he is in rehab at Riverside Rehab on East Broadway and is struggling to recover, but he is slowly improving. Visitors would be appreciated.

Dog Mushing Group: There will be a dryland race at Larry Creek on Oct. 11-12. Riders beware!

Apples Available Soon: Karen said past members Jim & Irene Shatney have apples available by October 1. Their number is 406-961-4399. Call them for more details. Helen suggested bringing boxes and be ready to chat with Jim.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Directors: Brad noted the State board meeting will be 9/20/25 in Deer Lodge. Mark Wright plans to join Brad at the meeting to help organize next year's rendezvous. Brad mentioned Mack Long's letter from BCH MT that dealt with the roadless rule debate. Comment period closes 9/19. The next topic to be considered is the administration rescinding a BLM policy on its Public Lands Rule that gives recreation equal status with oil, gas, and mining activities. He encouraged members to run for state director or alternate director positions.

Training: Bonnie spoke about saw recertification. Brad, Mark, Travise, and Ed will do recert training for interested members. The goal is to get some recerts done on Oct. 4, before a larger group needing recerts is anticipated next spring.

Membership: There are currently 69 memberships and 109 members. Brad mentioned that we might start up a wall tent display at the fair next year to promote membership.

Outreach: Karen reported that note cards are being printed and soon she and Nancy Pollman will begin writing thank you notes to our fair volunteers. Brad may do some phone calling, too.

Fair: Christy provided an exit interview/report at a meeting with the fair board on 9/9/25, which Brad also attended. The report summarized gate staffing and ticket sale statistics, provided ticket sale and equipment observations and comments, itemized positive and negative observations, and detailed Christy's meeting with the CEO of Event Groove, the provider of the new ticket sales equipment (software, printers, and QR code scanners). Ticket sales through the gates totaled \$233K, and online sales totaled \$59K for an overall total of \$292K. North and south gates will be reworked to accommodate increased crowds. The software program will be reworked and streamlined for next year. Our goal is always to make a good first impression with the public.

Continued next page

Sept. 18th Draft General Meeting Minutes continued

Projects: Brad spoke about the project summary report that Christy has put together. The last project will be closing the Twogood Cabin on Oct 17th - 19th. Brad is still working on streamlining the project reporting process and reducing necessary forms.

Program: Pam reported on a program idea for October to have project leaders do a brief overview of their project and take suggestions for ways to improve projects.

Public Lands: Brad said these were discussed in the state directors' committee report above.

Nominating: Bonnie, Julie, and Diane have been asking members to step up and help out the chapter. Bonnie emphasized the need to fill secretary and treasurer positions. We will be voting on four board positions and those, along with committee chairs, are easy ways for members to get started.

Sunshine: If a member needs a get well, congratulations, or condolence card, let Jenna Wright know. Members are encouraged to visit Chuck, but in small numbers. Brad requested a card to be signed by members and sent to Chuck.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Blanket Donation: Steve Greer donated outdated fire blankets to the chapter. They can be used under Dutch ovens or small campfires. These were given away to interested members. Mary Odell asked if there was a source of used fire hoses, which have many uses including wrapping trailer chains with them. Brad has a length of hose that can be cut up.

Chapter Donation to the National Museum of Forest Service History: Brad brought forth a seconded motion from the Board to send a \$1,000 chapter donation to the National Museum of Forest Service History, which is located in Missoula (<https://forestservicemuseum.org>). BCH has had a long history with the USFS, and BCH history will be represented by a kiosk at this new museum. Mark Wright highlighted the attention this display will get from the public, and that this is an excellent outreach opportunity for BCH. The estimated museum attendance is between 50 to 60 thousand visitors a year. After discussion by several members, the **Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Cook Trailer: Brad highlighted VP Dennis Hardman who took the cook trailer in and had it thoroughly gone over on his own dime. He and Diane are also storing it over the winter. Thank you, Dennis and Diane!

September Newsletter Copies: Dan Maiyo provided copies that members can take home.

Historian: Tim asked for project photos (please please please). Send them to him or upload them to the Google drive!

Next Meeting: October 16 at the Daly-Leach Community Room, due to the closure of the school for statewide teacher

in-service; potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Coffee is Diane Duffie and hot water is Christi Schram-Duggan.

Travise Grinnell motioned and Mary Odell seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, OCT. 2nd 2025

The October 2025 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Brad Pollman at 7:01 pm at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Present were President Brad Pollman, Vice-President Dennis Hardman, Treasurer Elaine Driskell, and Co-Secretaries Karen Philips and Kathy Stroppel-Holl; Directors Chris Carrera, Diane Duffie, Lionel Lavallee, Mary Odell, Julie Schram, Barb Walker, and Mark Wright. Absent were Directors Christy Schram-Duggan and Joan Scheffer, State Director Ed Duggan, and Alt. State Director Chuck Miller. There was a Board quorum. Committee chairs present: Dan Maiyo. All led the Pledge.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The September 2025 Board minutes were published in the Nag News. There were no changes. **Lionel Lavallee motioned and Barb Walker seconded to accept the September minutes as published. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine Driskell provided account balances for CDs, checking, and savings. There was discussion on the Calf Creek porta potty and billing. Barb will coordinate the porta potty pickup at the end of November. The CDs mature 11/8 – they will roll over automatically unless the Board decides to move an amount to checking; will discuss at the Nov board meeting. A copy of the 2025 budget was provided to consider for next year. **Karen Philips motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the October treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brad noted that the Bitterroot Star printed a letter from Jeff Burrows regarding the County Fair issues. In the letter, he recognized BRBCH for their efforts at the fair.

Chuck Miller is improving and doing more rehab.



Continued next page

Board Minutes Continued

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Membership approvals will be named in the minutes or included as an attachment to the minutes. There are 109 members and 69 memberships. Barb will send out an email about renewing for 2026.

State Directors: Brad discussed the State Board meeting held on Sept 20. Cost share mileage was appropriated, but the amount is still pending. Nancy sent the BRBCH mileage log to Bonnie Kiser at BCHMT. Bonnie will take all the chapter submissions and submit the total mileage to the USFS. Brad said checks from BRBCH and BCHMT have been sent for the USFS museum. BCHMT is in line with the \$25K donation goal. Mark Wright spoke about the Monture guard station pasture project. The date for the rendezvous is June 18-21, 2026, and it will have a work component. USFS packers are getting dismantled, so there is concern about who is taking care of the stock. BCHMT would like to support the pack stock program. Several chapters would like to do a project together, like the Monture project. Could do saw certification at the project. Good opportunity for BCH to show how serious we are about this trail. Mark will go to the next couple of state meetings to stay on top of the project. The project involves installing new fencing.

Training: There will be a saw recertification on Sat, 10/4, by Brad and Mark. All were notified who needed recertification. Folks will meet at the Bear Creek trailhead.

Projects: Brad noted that Nancy submitted the 2025 BRBCH project report to BCHMT and to Mark Smith at the USFS. The value of basic labor/volunteer hours is \$34/hr; skilled labor is at \$52/hr. The Board discussed the report summary and the various line items. Side note on Program: Barb said Pam (Program Chair) hasn't heard back from the project leaders regarding a project presentation at the Oct general meeting. Mark Wright agreed to give a brief overview of the 2026 Monture project. Barb will let Pam know.

Fair: October 26 is the regularly scheduled Fair Board meeting. They will be discussing improvements to the grounds. Either Brad or Dennis will attend to provide input on gate improvements.

Outreach: Karen will get a file from Christy with the volunteer names/addresses so she can send thank you cards.

Public Lands: Brad spoke about BCHMT contacting the house and senate representatives concerning the roadless rule. BCHA has written to the USFS Chief regarding the saw program and how getting rid of the regions has affected Regional Saw Coordinators. Suggestions were provided on how BCH's saw program can continue under these recent changes. Members are asked to keep your eyes open if you see vandalism or abuse on public lands, and contact Brad if you see any issues. Note the time and location of the event. Carol noted the BNF website has a message regarding the government shutdown with a political slant. A recent article about the Odell repeater (located in a WSA next to a trail) discussed the repeater being challenged in court as it was given

a categorical exclusion to place it. The judge decided the lawsuit is on hold for 2 years while public scoping is being done. The Bitterroot Water Forum is attempting to restore Tolan Creek off the East Fork using beaver analogues and restoring the watershed along the drainage.

Nominating: Diane reported there is a candidate for all positions except secretary. For President: Dennis Hardman; VP: Barb Walker; Treasurer: Elaine Driskell; Directors: Joan Scheffer, Travise Grinnell, Pam Ristad, Ross Posey, Diane Duffie; State Dir: Brad Pollman; and Alternate State Dir: Julie Schram.

Constitution: Dan noted the committee is continuing to define the constitution and extract from it to develop the by-laws.

OLD BUSINESS

October General Meeting Location: The Oct 16 meeting will be held at the Daly-Leach community room. It has been suggested that the chapter consider having general meetings at the Daly-Leach with the school as a backup. Karen suggested the Daly-Leach be contacted regarding their past 3rd Thursday usage. **Diane Duffie motioned and Karen Philips seconded that we pursue bringing the general meeting to the Daly-Leach.** Brad discussed whether we pay for the usage or increase the donation. Dan noted the Corvallis Grange was a good option when we needed a backup location. There is an expense to use the Grange. The Teller Slack Barn was another past meeting location with a fee. **The motion carried.** Brad will contact the Daly-Leach.

NEW BUSINESS

Pantry Partners Food Pack: Barb is meeting with Pantry Partners (Dawn and Karen) on Monday, 10/6, at 1pm to discuss the pack date. She anticipates the date could be before Thanksgiving, on Fri, Nov 21.

Budget: Karen noted the committee consists of Earl Philips and Cherie Barton. Barb will also join the committee. Budget estimates for the various line items are needed starting in November. It is the BRBCH's 50th anniversary in 2026, and a new line item will be added to the budget for the anniversary.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dennis discussed whether we should consider having a potluck in late October. It could be at their place. Julie noted that we've had Valentine parties in the past for a social gathering. Mark Wright asked about the cross-country ski club work days. Kathy will email the information.

Garmin Deactivation for the Winter: Elaine will deactivate the Garmin after the Two good Cabin project is done, approximately 10/21.

Karen motioned and Julie seconded to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:33 pm.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Co-Secretary BRBCH

Horse Sense - Sponsored By:



We carry all your equine vaccination and deworming needs, plus a large supply of animal health products. Visit us in Corvallis or Deer Lodge, on Facebook, or www.cowpokeranchsupply.com
406-961- 4917 Monday-Friday 8 – 5:30 Saturday–9 – 4:00

Keeping Your Horse Warm in Winter *Written by Sue Stuska, Ed.D. This article originally appeared in Eclectic Horseman Issue No.3*

Blanketing has its place. This artificial horse overcoat allows our companions to get through the cold months without growing such a thick hair coat. Blanketing is necessary if you're going to be competitive in winter shows. It is also very useful if you'll be working your horse hard and frequently through the winter. The key is the frequency. If you get him sweaty often enough, it's worth it to blanket him when compared to cooling out a long-haired horse. But, your horse does not need to be blanketed to stay warm and comfortable all winter.

Long Haired Winter Workouts. When you work a horse hard enough to get really sweaty, his long winter hair holds in that heat and moisture. What this means is that you'll need to take extra time to make sure he's cool and dry before you leave him and before the temperature drops at night. If you've ever worked out, and then sat around in the cold in your sweaty clothes, you know how this feels. Pretty soon you're uncomfortably cold. We would change into dry clothes. But the horse needs to cool out and dry his coat. After you've unsaddled, walking him (you can continue to do ground work) will allow his coat to dry by a combination of air flow and his own body heat. You can speed this process by brushing against the hair in the sweaty places to promote air circulation, by rubbing him with a dry towel, and even by using a hair dryer (consider this a training opportunity!) When his body feels the same temperature between his forelegs as on his shoulder, and his coat is dry all the way to the skin, he's OK to be left alone. This extra cool-out dry-off process, when you plan for it, is just more quality time with your horse.

Choosing to blanket your horse for the winter will not decrease your responsibility for cooling and drying your horse after exercise. Blanketing a still-warm or still-damp horse will leave him uncomfortably cold as he perspires and the inner blanket becomes damp. While it's easier to dry a short-haired horse, it still takes time to cool his muscles out and return his body core to pre-exercise temperature.

Body clip. To make the long-haired horse easier and safer to cool out, without taking away very much of his natural insulation, his chest, sternum, and centerline up to his flanks can be clipped close to the skin. This is called a trace clip because the clipped lines approximate the line

of the traces connecting a harnessed horse to the cart. Get help from someone who's experienced with clipping if you want to do this, because there are techniques which work well but have to be learned. You can actually clip in a number of different patterns, but any more hair loss than this will necessitate a blanket to replace what you've removed. Clipping the body shouldn't be done in the spring-time because it will alter the incoming summer coat, but it can be done any time during the winter.

Blanket vs. Hair. As the weather gets colder, the horse grows a thicker hair coat. The horse's winter coat works to trap heat and keep him warm by its loft. Like a fluffy down parka, the horse's body heat is retained by his fuzzy layer of insulation. On warmer days, he can slick his coat down and stand in the shade, or lie on the cool ground, to avoid overheating. The actual effect of a blanket is to compress the horse's natural insulation and replace it with our synthetic insulation. So, for a blanket to help your horse, it must provide more insulation than his own coat does. If you blanket lightly, the horse will still grow some winter hair.

Once we've started blanketing, we can't quit part way through the winter. If the blanket gets torn or damaged, or when it gets manure stained and we want to wash it, we need a spare. The horse won't be able to grow thick hair quickly enough to make up for the loss of the blanket.

That's not to say that we can't add a heavy blanket to an otherwise unblanketed horse during a cold snap; just restrict its use to the cold hours. Do a trial run so the new feeling isn't unnatural to your horse; most horses need to learn to get used to a blanket.

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(Horse Warm in Winter Continued)

Blanket layers & cost. Blanketing is expensive. You can easily spend \$50-\$150 on a moderately-cold weather blanket, and may choose features that increase the cost to \$200-\$300. Most horse owners who blanket own at least a thinner fall/spring and thicker winter blanket, or use an inner blanket liner. Besides adding temperature versatility, the liner can be washed more easily than the blanket, keeping a cleaner surface next to the horse.

Blanket fit. Blanket fitting is an art. In general, measure from the center of the horse's chest, horizontally around to beside his tail, and this length is the blanket size in inches. However, horses have different body shapes, and a blanket that fits in length but is too large between the chest and withers, for example, will rub.

Blanket rubs are a common challenge; you may need to try several brands before you find one that fits your horse well. Even a well fitting blanket can rub the hair off the withers and shoulders. Common solutions include using a stretchy inner liner that covers that area, lining the friction areas with satin or sheepskin, and buying a blanket with no-rub lining.

Check the belly straps often to ensure that they are neither adjusted too short (therefore restricting the horse) nor too long (where he can catch a hind hoof while lying down). If your blanket has hind leg straps, crossing the straps between the horse's legs allows the straps to be adjusted a little longer and still stay in place.

Blanket washing. Most horses won't go the entire season without soiling their blanket beyond use (and some can't even seem to make it overnight!) A favorite solution is the oversized washing machine at your local laundromat, but laundromat owners and other users sometimes object. If you do have a laundromat which allows- or does not disallow-this use, be sure to take extra time to clean up after yourself to help ensure this availability in the future. Blankets that can't be machine washed can be scrubbed by hand; commercial blanket cleaning is also available.

Blanket repairs. Strap failures and tears are the most common damage even in the highest quality blankets; horses are hard on blankets. You can make some repairs yourself with a heavy needle and carpet thread. For more extensive repairs, commercial services are available; ask at your local tack shop.

Blankets and warm days. If you leave your horse blanketed after breakfast on a chilly morning and the temperature climbs in mid-day, the horse will sweat under the blanket. When the temperature falls again in the evening, you have a wet horse wearing a damp blanket. Or, his skin itches and he scratches, tearing the blanket. This situation has obvious drawbacks, and most of us can't run home to change/remove blankets midday. There are breathable blanket materials on the market; these work in varying degrees, and add to the cost. The horse with a natural winter coat will, similarly, get warm in the middle of the day, but he can regulate his temperature more easily himself.

Wet weather. The horse's winter coat is well designed to shed water-mostly without wetting his skin. Look closely at your horse after a rain and you'll see the water dripping from his sides where the long hairs hang along his barrel, leaving his underside dry. Horses do not need to be blanketed in wet weather; they have lived outdoors for hundreds of years. If your blanketed horse is to be out in the rain, you do need a blanket that sheds water; there are many good fabrics on the market today that do a creditable job. Dressing your horse in a raincoat is much like dressing yourself in one-it's hard to get just the right balance of water repellency and breathability. (The ultimate rainproof material doesn't breathe, while the best breathable material isn't entirely waterproof.) It is possible to find a good balance- check with friends

who blanket to see what works in your climate.

Cold, wet weather, however, is the hardest for the horse to handle because once he's wet to the skin he is very susceptible to cold temperatures. Wind makes the situation worse. Aged horses and youngsters are particularly susceptible to these conditions. If you can predict the weather and have the facilities, keep the horse under a shelter (he does not have to be indoors) on these days. You don't have to keep him warm in this case; just keep him out of the pouring rain. Wild horses have no choice, and this is one situation where our domestic horses don't seem to take advantage of our offer. Our horses mostly choose to stay outdoors even in this type of weather and can get very chilled in the process. It's desirable to close your horse in on these days.

Providing shelter. One of the most effective ways to keep your horse comfortable in the winter is to provide a roofed shelter, which blocks the wind and rain, in his pasture or paddock. Plan your shelter so that it's easy for you to access (near the house), higher than the surrounding ground (to avoid water pooling), and oriented to block the prevailing cold winter wind. This does not have to be a closed structure. In fact, a barn tightly closed against the weather is warmer but less healthy for the horse because the ammonia build-up is hard on the horse's respiratory system. The air in the barn must circulate, and fresh air must be added, to provide a healthy environment.

Given the choice, your horse will choose to stay outside-and be perfectly fine-in most types of weather. If you provide a shelter he can get under at will, and that you can keep him in when necessary, he will mostly care for himself.

Heating the barn. It's nice for us to go into a toasty barn in the evening, and we feel we are pampering our horses, but horses do not need heated barns. The problem with heated barns, or even heated arenas (should you be so fortunate), is that the horse must eventually go outside. Exercising in one temperature and living in the other is a challenge because the horse must adjust each time you move him. If you do choose to heat your barn, be absolutely sure that there is no chance of fire; barn fires kill many horses each year.

Water. Whether you blanket or not, water is essential for the horse's health during the winter. When eating dry hay he needs more moisture for digestion than he does when eating grass. The water temperature is important too; if the water is too cold the horse may not drink enough and can suffer from impaction colic. Solutions include checking the water often to make sure ice has not formed on it, and breaking the ice if it forms; adding hot water at feeding time to bring the water temperature up to a comfortable temperature (be careful not to make it too hot); insulating your water bucket(s) to keep the water liquid longer (place it in a larger container with insulating material in between); and adding a tank heater (be absolutely sure there is no danger of electric shock). Check the water level at each feeding to be sure your horse is drinking.

Hay for warmth. If you anticipate your horse getting chilled on any given day (or night), you can help without blanketing. When he's truly cold, he'll shiver. Digesting roughage creates heat; the chewing and biological processing of hay is a good natural body warmer. Feeding hay will usually be enough to raise his temperature and stop the shivering. This must always be good quality hay: without dust or mold. It does not have to be high in protein; the carbohydrates provide the energy, so you don't need a more expensive legume (like alfalfa) mix hay. Grass hay is fine. Throwing your horse a few extra flakes of hay on those cold nights, or when the wind howls during the day, will give you the peace of mind that you are helping your horse stay comfortable during cold weather.

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN SPONSORED BY:



The Shirt Spot

1704 N 1st St Unit C
Hamilton MT 59840

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!

PUMPKIN PIE

Directions:

Plain Pastry Pie Crust

Go to the grocery store and buy one; or

Sift into a mixing bowl:

- 2 cups pastry flour or 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- Add: 2/3 cup vegetable shortening or lard or 1/3 cup lard and 1/3 cup butter

Mix (cut in) with a blending fork until the mixture is in even bits about the size of peas.

Put in a cup:

- 1/3 ice water
- Sprinkle it over the flour, stirring it with the fork until just enough water has been added so that you can pat down the dough lightly into a ball. Handle the dough as little as possible, do no knead it! Divide the ball in two, wrap the dough in wax paper and chill it.
- Dust a board lightly with flour, Set the ball of chilled dough on the board and tap it a few times with a rolling pin to flatten it a bit. Roll out the piecrust, it should be about 1/4 inch thick to fit over a 9 inch pan. Fold double and fit lightly in place trim edge evenly.

Set oven to 450 degrees

Use canned pumpkin or cut raw pumpkin in pieces, peel, steam, drain well, mash, and put through strainer.

Mix:

- 1 1/2 cups cooked or canned pumpkin
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup cream or evaporated milk

Line a 9-inch pie pan with pastry, pour in the filling.

Bake 10 minutes, then lower the heat to 300 degrees and bake until firm (about 45 minutes).

With Whipped Cream. Spread the pie with whipped cream, sweetened slightly and flavored with vanilla or brandy.

Pecan Pumpkin Pie. Flavor the filling with brandy, Decorate the top of the pie with pecan halves. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup Caramel Syrup.

Exclusively at the Shirt Spot! Embroidered Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen logo on in-stock vests and jackets or a vest/jacket 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/10 caps. **Tell the Shirt Spot that you saw this notice in this newsletter! Show your support for our BCH Chapter!**



2025 Committees	2025 Chairs & Members
Audit	(Changes Annually) 2025: Barb Walker, Joe Kirkland, Elaine Driskell
Audio-Visual Equipment	Dennis Hardman, Travise Grinnell
Budget	(Changes Annually) 2025: Gene Merrell, Earl Phillips
Election & Nominations	(Changes Annually)
Equipment & Inventory	Ed Duggan, Chuck Miller
Fair	Christy Schram-Duggan
Grants	Brandi Ashford
Historian	Tim Meyer
Issues	Carol Johns, Kathy Stroppel-Holl
Long-Term Planning	(Volunteer Needed)
Membership	Barb Walker
Advertising	Virginia DeLeo
Newsletter	Dan Maiyo
Outreach	Travise Grinnell
Parliamentarian	Joan Scheffer
Pleasure Rides	Pam Ristad, Candice Erickson
Programs	Pam Ristad
Projects	Ed Duggan
Social	(Volunteer Needed)
Sunshine	Jenna Wright
Training	Bonnie Morgan
Website	Nancy Pollman

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Officers and Board

Chapter officers				
Position	Name	Term	Contact	
President	Brad Pollman	2025	406-546-6491	
Vice President	Dennis Hardman	2025	307-699-1679	
Secretary	Kathy Stroppol-Holl/Karen Phillips	2025	Kathy 720-244-2943, Karen 406-369-0725	
Treasurer	Elaine Driskell	2025	916-698-8544	
Board Members	Term	State Directors	Term	BCHMT State Chairman
Diane Duffie	2024-25	Ed Duggan	2025-26	Mack Long
Mark Wright	2024-25	Brad Pollman	2024-25	
Lionel Lavallee	2024-25	Alt. State Director		BCHMT Vice State Chairman
Joan Scheffer	2024-25	Chuck Miller	2025	Sandy Himmel
Chris Carrera	2025-26	BCHMT National Directors		Alt. National Director
Mary Odell	2025-26	Brad Pollman		John Chepulis
Julie Schram	2025-26	Connie Long		
Christy Schram –Duggan	2025-26			
Barb Walker	2025-26			
		BRBCH Past President		
		Jan Bullock		

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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, October 16th 2025

Daly Leech Community Room

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