



# Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen  
50 Years of Service

May 2026 Issue #6



## 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, JUNE 11th, 2026 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING**

**Larry Creek Horse Trailer parking area**

**Potluck Dinner** is served at 6:30 p.m. The general meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Our guest speaker, Ethan Zimmerman of Foundation Horsemanship will speak on trailer loading in emergencies. Guests are welcome. For more information contact: Diane Duffie: 707-529-8284. Check out our website at: [www.bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://www.bchmt.org/bitterroot) or Facebook: Bitter Root Back

### *THIS ISSUE*

- P.2. Monture Rendezvous, work project overview.
- P.3. Monture Rendezvous flyer
- P.4. Draft General Meeting Minutes
- P.5 Two Good Cabin project
- P.6 Larry Cr. Project
- P.7. Horse Sense, Shirt Spot
- P.8. Officers and Board
- P.9. Advertisers

### **Training - Contact Bonnie Morgan**

#### **Chainsaw/crosscut Certification**

Chainsaw and crosscut saw certification dates TBD.

#### **Projects - Contact Ed Duggan**

- June 18-21 Monture Creek Rendezvous: It is a work project combined with fun rides, and we can start showing up on Wednesday. Julie will bring the cook trailer to Monture on Wednesday.
- June 27<sup>th</sup> Coyote Coulee.

### **DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS**

**Thursday, July 9th, 2026**  
**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES & ADS**  
**TO:**  
[djmaiyo@gmail.com](mailto:djmaiyo@gmail.com)

## 2026 Monture Guard Station Rendezvous, Fun Ride and Pasture Fencing Project June 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>

**Note:** *This fencing project is completely voluntary; and not a requirement for participation in the Rendezvous.*

The Monture campground will open Wednesday the 17th. Work is to begin Thursday morning. Folks may choose to arrive on Wednesday to get set up, relax or saddle up and ride. High line trees are available throughout the site as are a few stock pens. A water supply and stock troughs are available but it is recommended that you use bio security for your stock. Weed free hay is required 2 days before and during your stay.

Wade Murphy's horsemanship clinic is scheduled for Friday June 19th 1-4pm. There is no charge for this clinic and is limited to 10 participants. Please refer to the flyer and QR code on the next page of this newsletter.

A Saturday evening dinner will be provided at 6:00 pm for \$15 per person. You may send cash or check to: BCH Missoula, PO Box 2121, Missoula, MT 59806. Meal fee must be in before June 5th. The Bitter Root BCH will provide a cook trailer on Wednesday.

**Fencing Project Objective:** Opportunity to support the Forest Service Packing Program by assisting Seeley Lake Ranger District in fencing a new proposed pasture. Please see project site map in this newsletter and on the BCHMT website.

**History:** The area was evaluated and a report done in 2020 by Rachel Fiegley, former Seeley Lake Ranger.

The project of clearing the acreage was started in 2024 by Keith Guschausky, a Forest Service Packer and former BCH member. Keith used a Skid steer with a timber grabber to start the process of making

burn piles. At that time materials for the fencing project were purchased by Seeley Lake Ranger district and stockpiled until the project could be started. Since then the Forest Service has had major layoffs with seasonal employees. The project was projected as a three year project to fence, remove slash, treat weeds and non-native grasses. Keith Guschausky passed away April 28, 2025 of cancer.

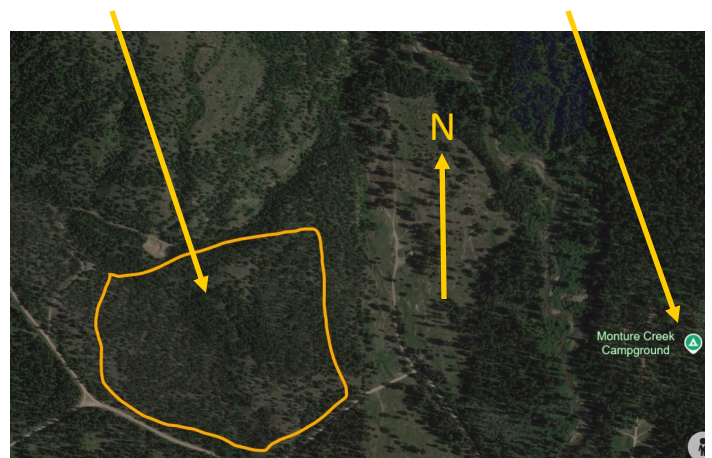
**Scope:** The Back Country Horseman proposed Volunteer work project would involve putting up barbless fence wire and "T" posts. The Forest Service is going to put in "H" braces at corners and specified distances along the fence line.

**Tools:** Tools that volunteers could bring if they have them (but not required) are; fencing pliers, "T" post pounders, tape measure, wire puller and any other tools you may have that would be helpful.

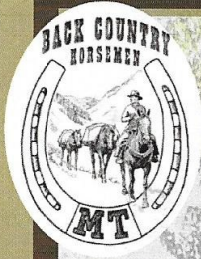
**Personal protection equipment and clothing recommended:** Boots, long sleeve shirts, and work gloves along with eye and ear protection, electrolyte, insect repellent and first aid kit.

If you need more information please contact Mark Wright (Bitter Root BCH): (406) 531-2455 (cell/text). Email: [saberhorse76@gmail.com](mailto:saberhorse76@gmail.com). Also, check out the QR Codes on the Rendezvous announcement flyer in this newsletter.

Fencing project site Monture Campground



Scan the QR Code to obtain detailed information



# State Back Country Horsemen Rendezvous

## Monture Ranger Station from June 18-21

**Volunteer Opportunity:**  
U.S.F.S Fence-Building  
Project

**Horsemanship  
Clinic with Wade  
Murphy on Friday!**

**Saturday Community Supper 6:00 p.m.**  
**(\$15 per meal)**

**Pulled pork, baked beans, and coleslaw provided.**

**Horses  
welcome,  
but not  
required.**

**Mail meal payment (Checks only) to:**  
**BCH of Missoula**  
**P.O. 2121, Missoula, MT, 59806**

**Questions? Contact Mark  
Wright at  
saberhorse76@gmail.com**

**Wade Murphy  
Clinic**



**More info on  
rendevous**



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**  
**DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, MAY 65st, 2026**

The May 21, 2026 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Diane Duffie at 6:59 p.m. The meeting was held at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Approximately 30 members were present. There was a board quorum. All members led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: John & Lindsey Larson, Scott Bramstead & Angela.

**PROGRAM**

**Program:** Dr. Rollett Pruyn, Blue Mountain Veterinary Hospital, spoke on EHV-1 & RHV-4 & springtime equine issues.

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** Cheyenne: The April minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no edits except for Kathy Stroppe-Holl's name spelled incorrectly. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the April general meeting minutes with correction. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Elaine presented the May treasurer's report. Two donations were made for the Rock Creek Horse Camp event. There were no questions. **Helen Engle motioned and Kathy Stroppe-Holl seconded to accept the May treasurer's report. Motion carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Announcements:**

Brandi Ashford, our Grants Committee chair, is working on her CPA license.  
Thirsty-five years ago Helen Engle became a member of the BRBCH.  
Bike, Hike, or Ride; all are welcome on trail projects!

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**State Directors:** Brad/Ed/Julie: May 9 meeting items discussed: A River Runs Through It Wilderness Act, Monture Creek. Rendezvous, National Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Resolutions were passed at national level. All FS saw trainers will be trained to also teach first aid/CPR. Light on the Land is up and active. State BCH is looking for a social media person.

**Education & Training:** Bonnie's Lake Como report: 6-7 people came to enjoy the rain and sleet and hail and no table staining was done. Staining will be done tomorrow 5/22 @1:00 at the Rock Creek Campground. Sale June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Darby with lots of driving equipment.

**Membership:** There are currently 61 memberships and 94 members.

**Outreach:** Karen reported that Calf Creek opened 5/15. Toilet is installed and signage supporting the service is inside. The service will be paid through November 30. She met with Sarah Glass, the new general manager of the Bitterroot Star, who may cover our Larry Creek project on National Trails Day, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Projects:** Ed/Christy on next projects:

5/30-5/31 Two Good Cabin: sign-up sheet circulated; there will be a safety brief at 9am, head out 9:30. Fun day to follow.

6/6 Larry Creek: Project leader is Mary Odell. Nancy and Brad are providing lunch. Meet at 9am.

6/27 Coyote Coulee: More info to come.

FS will update a list of projects they would like help with and provide it to Christy.

We need to schedule a project to clean up the cook trailer and learn how to assemble and disassemble the tent.

**Programs:** Pam reported that Ethan Zimmerman will speak at our June 11 general meeting on trailer loading in emergencies.

**Fair:** Christy and Brad: Testing and debugging the system next week. North gate should be easier, there will be a kiosk at gates for people to scan themselves, ticket takers just monitor and stamp.

**Public Lands:** Brad said there is an ongoing battle regarding elimination of the Roadless Rule.

**Constitution:** Dan reported meetings as follows: April 12, May 10, and June 14<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to have bylaws done by August.

**Sunshine:** If a member needs a get well, congratulations, or condolence card, let Jenna Wright know.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Monture Rendezvous and Fence Project (6/18-6/21):** Mark provided sheets to mail for reserving the Saturday meal with payment. Bring certified weed-free hay, practice biosecurity for equine disease prevention.

**Summer Meeting Locations:**

- June 11 Larry Creek
- July 16 Coyote Coulee
- Aug 20 Lake Como (Three Sisters Site)

**Next meeting:** June 11 @ Larry Creek

**Karen Philips motioned and Travis Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell, Secretary BRBCH

**Saturday, May 30th**  
**Twogood Cabin Project**

BRBCH members braved a day long downpour to cut 3 trees going in, deep cleaned the cabin and completed the project. Cabin is ready for the season! Thank you Ed, Christy, Travise, Cheyenne for a job well done!



## Saturday June 6th. National Trails Day at Larry Creek Bitter Root Country Horsemen of Montana

22 members of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen volunteered at Larry Creek on National Trails Day. Animals were packed, ponied and ridden along with walkers who all altogether cleared 8 water bars, 17 rolling dips, 6 downed trees and thousands of pinecones. Three bridges were also cleaned of debris and old boundary signs were removed and packed out. Notes were taken where water bars need improvement and trimming and limbing also occurred. After returning to the parking area, we enjoyed a great lunch provided by Nancy and Brad Pollman. A big thank you to all the volunteers. You make a difference. With this project, we logged 162 volunteer hours for the Forest Service.



Before and after chain saw treatment



**BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN**  
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**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!

**Recipe section will return next month.**

**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!**



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406-961- 4917 Monday-Friday 8 – 5:30 Saturday–9 – 4:00

**Horse Sense will resume next month**

**2026 Committees**

Audit  
 Audio-Visual Equipment  
 Constitution  
 Budget  
 Election & Nominations  
 Fair  
 Grants  
 Historian  
 Public Lands  
 Long-Term Planning  
 Membership  
 Advertising  
 Newsletter  
 Outreach  
 Parliamentary  
 Pleasure Rides  
 Programs  
 Projects  
 Social  
 Sunshine  
 Training  
 Website

**2026 Chairs & Members**

2026: Barb Walker, Elaine Driskell, Nancy Pollman  
 Travise Grinnell  
 Dan Maiyo  
 Earl Phillips, Elaine Driskell  
 (Changes Annually)  
 Christy Schram-Duggan  
 Brandi Ashford  
 Tim Meyer  
 Brad Pollman  
 Bonnie Morgan  
 Barb Walker  
 Virginia DeLeo  
 Dan Maiyo  
 Karen Philips  
 Joan Scheffer  
 Pam Ristad, Candice Erickson  
 Pam Ristad  
 Ed Duggan  
 Jenna Wright  
 Bonnie Morgan  
 Nancy Pollman

**Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Officers and Board**

**Chapter officers**

Position	Name	Term	Contact
President	Diane Duffie	2026	707-529-8284
Vice President	Barb Walker	2026	928-606-0855
Secretary	Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell	2026	406-214-1108
Treasurer	Elaine Driskell	2026	916-698-8544

**Board Members**

Board Members	Term
Dennis Hardman	2026-27
Joan Scheffer	2026-27
Pam Ristad	2026-27
Ed Duggan	2026-27
Chris Carrera	2025-26
Mary Odell	2025-26
Julie Schram	2025-26
Christy Schram –Duggan	2025-26
Travise Grinnell	2025-26

**State Directors**

State Directors	Term
Brad Pollman	2026-27
Ed Duggan	2025-26
<b>Alt. State Director</b>	
Julie Schram	2026

**BCHMT State Chairman**

Sandy Himmel

**BCHMT Vice State Chairman**

Chris Nygren

**BCHMT National Directors**

Mark Himmel  
 Connie Long

**Alt. National Director**

John Chepulis

**BRBCH Past President**


Brad Pollman


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**Bitter Root  
Back Country Horsemen  
50 Years of Service**



**NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, June 11th, 2026**

**Larry Creek Horse parking area**

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

**Visit our Website:**

**[bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://bchmt.org/bitterroot)**

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