

Last Chance Back Country Horsemen

October 1, 2025 meeting – Montana Wild

Terry Hutton opened the meeting at 7:00. Jason Hughey and Jason Funkhauser were both out of town.

Attending: Terry Hutton, Sherri Lionberger, Ali Kenny, Alissa Bare, Fred Benson, John Pavsek, Neil and Darlene Horn, Bob Tomaskie, Nick and Taylor Patterson, Merlyn Huso, Tom Weiss, Katy Donnelley, Denny and Marie Haywood

We had an excellent presentation about People and Carnivores presented by Amber Kornak. She had great information and good discussion.

Minutes from the September meeting were sent out. Terry said our email list is still a bit off and at least one person didn't get the Sept minutes nor the Oct meeting notice. This will be worked on so everyone is getting communication. John motioned to approve the minutes seconded by Nick. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report. Ali said there have been no deposits and no checks written this last month. The BCHMT cashed our \$1,000 check for the museum in Missoula.

Opportunity Bank - Total account holdings as of 10/01/25: \$49,390.58

Account Type	Current Amount	Amount Last Meeting	Interest Rate	Term	Maturity
Checking	\$13,155.96	\$14,155.96	-	-	-
Savings	\$1,728.20	\$1,728.20	0.05%	-	-
CD1-6738	\$11,688.12	\$11,688.12	5.25%	12 mo.	4/18/26
CD2-3512	\$11,253.94	\$11,253.94	5.25%	12 mo.	3/7/26
CD3-3547	\$11,569.36	\$11,569.36	5.25%	12 mo.	3/7/26

Merlyn made a motion to approve the report seconded by Katy. Motion passed.

New Business:

State Board Meeting, Sept 20

- Katy attended and shared highlights of a long meeting. Membership is down nationally and there was discussion about how to increase our memberships locally. We can explore those thoughts but no time tonight. A lot of discussion on public lands issues. Mack Long, President, wrote a letter for BCHMT about keeping the roadless rule intact. He will also be writing to our congressional delegation. The

9 USFS regions were going to be abolished effective 10/1/2025 with 3 service centers with one in Missoula – who knows about this since the government shut down October 1. They are discussing repealing travel plans as well, but again unknown. Stock programs are apparently under threat. In one forest somewhere a state took over the FS stock program. More job cuts are expected at the FS in the near future. FS saw managers are disappearing around the nation, so it may get more difficult to get trained. We, as BCH, have the most sawyers in a volunteer organization. Because of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) changes, we may not hear about stuff going on, so make sure to stay in touch with our FS partners that we still have. BLM is expected to have the order repealed that allowed recreation and conservation to be on equal footing with oil and gas.

- BCHMT Rendezvous will be back at Monture in 2026 – it will be the weekend before we normally had it – it will be on Fathers day weekend, but will go from Thursday thru Saturday in case anyone wants to spend Fathers day with family. June 18-20 with an optional day on June 21 (Fathers Day). It will have a work project helping to clear a pasture. The FS will be bringing in heavy equipment to do the hard work! No work is required to be done by everyone – just as you wish.
- The state raised \$10,000 for the FS national Museum in Missoula - the total need was \$25,000 and the national will pay for the rest. The May meeting for the state is May 9 – so we can avoid that date perhaps for our freeze branding event.

USFS 2025 Project Reimbursement Request

- Terry – She has been working on the reimbursement request form for the work we've done this last summer. Fred and John have helped by submitting project reports – Terry will get with Mandy Alvino next week to finish it up. No other members submitted info. She did add Katy and Merlyn for their talk at the Helena Outdoor Hiking group as well as Sherri and Hughey's for the youth expo.
- We can get reimbursement for the food we personally bought at the June 7th National Trails Day but she does need receipts. Receipts to be copied and emailed or send a picture by text no later than Oct 8. Terry #406-439-7768

Old Business:

Christmas party planning update – Ali/John/Alyssa/Fred

- Their proposal is as such (and if we have feedback get them an alternative!). Planned at the East Helena VFW on Dec. 5 on Friday, starting at 6. They looked at different catering options, Event Thyme is available for \$25 per person at perhaps 75 people. We also wanted to change up the prizes that might be nice for all – some for décor, perhaps bring treats for dessert to share (with a prize). Catered meal, décor, and prizes might come to \$2625 total cost for 75, but if we think only about 40 people it would be less. Last year was a taco bar that members provided so it was much cheaper. In the past (catered event) we have had people pay \$10 to help offset the cost and it gets people to commit to going. We spent some time discussing this, but Katy would like to just let the committee decide.

- We decided to hold a meeting in November on the 5th – we haven’t had one in the last several years due to hunting season, but we need one to deal with the Christmas party and elections. The majority wanted to have members pay \$10/person for the meal to make sure people had “skin in the game” and will attend. Kids are free. We do need to approve checks for the VFW hall, caterer deposit. Terry moved to approve \$1000 on the party at this point to cover our deposits. Katy seconded. Motion passed.

Annual Elections

- Jason Hughey moved into the presidency of 2023 when Tony resigned – his 3 years are basically up. Jason Funkhauser is out of town all winter and can’t attend meetings, so he is stepping down. Terry has been secretary for over 3 years, but is willing to continue if needed. Terry requested someone to step up as nominating committee. Terry will reach out to folks and Fred and Ali will help. The nominating committee can present a slate of nominees at the November meeting so we don’t have to have a business meeting at the Christmas party.

2026 Project Planning

- We have had Mandy Alvino, FS, book the Eagle guard station for National trails day June 5-7, 2026 as well as Thomson guard station July 10-12, 2026. Mandy said they also have the Monarch bridge material and may have an MCC crew to help us with the construction. Get the dates on your calendar for 2026!

Other Business

- John noted that we had talked about having more speakers and he wondered how often. Pretty much any time.

Motion to adjourn by Katy.