

JUNE 2010

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

Myra Mumma, Editor

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Stoverud & Diane Tidwell	273-0862

President's Message.....



Greetings to all. It sure has been a busy spring. The Expo is behind us and was again a very successful event. Thanks to all who made this event happen. We signed up some new members at the Expo. Some comments were there was so much going on that they could not see it all. They wanted to join the group because of the good things we do!

Welcome to ALL our new members for this year. You bring new ideas to our Club. Hopefully you'll all be able to participate in events, projects and day rides. See the list on page 5. And don't forget our annual August Potluck. (Details on p. 7)

Have any of you ever thought about why you wanted to join Back Country Horsemen of Missoula and how it has affected your life? I know I have. My time with the Chapter has been adventurous and addictive. I love the teamwork, camaraderie and working with a great group of high achievers.

It's time to get our horses and mules shod, saddles fitted and head down the trail. We have a few projects and if you would like to get on the list, contact Mike Moore or Dan Tuxbury. (Phone numbers on left.) We also have some fun rides planned. Our next big event is the Father's Day Steak Ride on June 20 at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range. Contact Alan Meyers to pay for the tickets you received so he can stamp them paid, or return them to him. Thanks again for your support. It is very much appreciated! Remember the words of Winston Churchill....."No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle."

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MEETINGS

273-3779

360-2121

June 9

June 10

Steak Ride Planning Meeting, 6:30 PM, FW&P

June 16

July 7

August 4

September 11

Last Expo Meeting, Potluck at Curdy's, 4:30-8:00 PM

Steak Ride Planning Meeting, 6:30 PM, FW&P

Hwy. 200 Cleanup Safety Meeting, 7:00 PM, FW&P

BCH of Missoula Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, FW&P

Montana BCH Board Meeting, 10:00, Lewistown, MT

On a Sad Note......Jon McBride passed away on June 2nd while bike riding with the Wednesday



group he kept organized. About 12 men were bike riding between Bearmouth Chalet and Drummond when Jon died, apparently of a heart attack. Jon was a long-time member of this Chapter. He was the National Smokejumper Assn. Trail Maintenance Coordinator and received the Gold Level service award for over 4000 hours of volunteer work on National Forest System trails in 2009. His presence will be missed......

TRAIL ETIQUETTE & SAFETY

Preferably travel with experienced horsemen and women. Make sure your horse is ready for the trail--physically fit and conditioned to obstacles such as water, bridges, bogs, and gates. Your horse should stand quietly while tied. Condition them to gear such as hobbles, cruppers, britchens, rain slickers, overhead branches and riding alone. Get conditioned for riding yourself. Leave a horse that kicks or a green-broke horse at home until you've worked with a trainer enough to take them out. No stallions, dogs or foals are allowed on trail rides, even if they are well mannered. Be vigilant of a cycling mare who can stir up other horses on the ride. No drugs, alcohol or smoking on the trails.

Don't leave home without your helmet! Ride with a boot heel of at least one inch. Carry an emergency medical information card. As you saddle up, be aware of loops hanging from your saddle that could trap you to the horse during a mishap. Always fasten the main cinch first (in increments), then the back cinch, then breast collar and then crupper. When unsaddling, unfasten the main cinch last. (Remember to check your cinches after taking a break.) Never mount a horse that is still tied up. Remember: Horses are always more comfortable and calm if they do not feel trapped.

Don't be shy about using a mounting block or log or rock to get into the saddle. Once mounted don't start down the trail until eve-

can get extremely nervous making it difficult. if not impossible, for anyone to mount. Wait for all other riders at water crossings or obstacles. Wait at water tanks, streams or ponds until all the horses have had a chance mount if you must turn your horse around on to drink. Stay together.

Stay alert! Remember you are the one with the thinking and reasoning ability. Maintain control of your mount at all times and think about what effect your actions might have on others less experienced that you. Maintain the proper distance between your horse and

the one in front of you-two to five horse lengths between horses. Don't

Be alert! **Accidents hurt!**

crowd. Always be aware of your own horse in relation to others. Remember there is no such thing as a bombproof horse. If you can, dismount to put on your raincoat, unfold a map or hand an item to another rider. Even if you don't spook your own horse, you could spook another horse in the group. And speaking of dismounting, kick both feet free of the stirrups. That way if your horse moves you won't get the left foot hung up in the stirrup. Watch that loose garments don't catch on the saddle horn.

Walk your horse on mountain trails. A Club trail ride is not a horse race. Keep up so you don't find your horse trotting to catch up. If a rider needs to stop, notify the leader. Avoid

ryone is in the saddle. A horse left behind stopping when going uphill or downhill when there is another rider behind you. The more difficult the terrain, the slower you and your group need to travel and the more room you need to give other horses. Preferably disnarrow and/or steep trails. Always turn his head out over the down side so he can see what his feet are doing. Your weight will not be able to throw him off balance this way either. Give your horse his head in a bad spot and don't be too quick to bail off if he stumbles. This applies particularly to stream crossings, bog holes, etc.

> Approach any stock with caution, letting them know you are in the area, either by voice and/or touch. Yield to uphill users and pack strings; vield to a larger string than yours. Generally pack stock has preference over saddle stock. When approaching bikers or hikers, talk with them so they will hopefully respond. That way the horses can see and hear them. Also, have them stand on the downhill side of the trail so they are less threatening to stock. Be courteous and respectful.

> Adapted from: June 2001 Feedbag, "Back Country Horsemen of Montana Defensive Horsemanship," Paul Evenson's "Defensive Horse Safety True/False Challenge Quiz" BCH Missoula April 2008 General Meeting, "Horse Safety 4/28/07" by Gary Salisbury and "You and Your Horse" --Wilderness Outfitters, Smoke & Thelma Elser with input from Richard Tamcke.

Back Country Horsemen of Montana State Board Meeting March 26-27, 2010, Bozeman, MT

.....Connie Long

The Pre-Convention Board Meeting consisted of a power point presentation by Dave Crawford which showed work hours that Montana's State Chapters collectively contributed -- a total of \$620,936. Mark Himmel listed issues, including Jon Testor's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. He also discussed oil leases, of few of which have been retired. He brought up a brochure about the Continental Divide Trail that is being put together by the Continental Divide Trail Association (CDTA) to educate safety between trail riders and cyclists. A Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared between CDTA and BCHM. CDTA would rather BCHM was a sponsor on the new safety brochures. Paul Evenson as Education Chair passed out handouts on wilderness. Rich Inman briefly talked about Trail Maintenance Objectives (TMO) and suggested everyone keep up on them with local District Rangers. Merlyn Huso is going off the State Board but the Board would like him to continue his work on the Rocky Mountain Front Coalition.

At the Post-Convention Board Meeting, the Board agreed to send both National Directors and Alternate to the BCHA national meeting to keep up on the committee meetings and handling BCH of Montana's resolution. It was agreed to sign onto the CDTA safety brochure project and to donate \$100 toward the cost of the brochure. The following elections were held: Chuck Miller, National Director and Ken Ausk as Alternate. John Chepulis is the new Chairman, Mark Himmel is Vice-Chairman and Fred Fitzpatrick is the new Treasurer. New Chairman John Chepulis then appointed Nancy Pollman of the Bitterroot BCH as the new Board Secretary. Dates were set for the next Board meetings: May 15th at Lincoln; September 11th at Lewistown; and December 11th at Missoula. All meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. Next year's convention will be in Butte on March 25-27, 2010.



Standing Left to Right: Connie Long, Barbara Koepke, Gary Salisbury, Smoke Elser. Seated Left to Right: Mack Long, Paul Evenson, Ken Brown, Richard Tamcke and Diane Tidwell.



Left: Sandy Brosious is working with her new Rocky Mountain horse. Right: Gary is demonstrating the "emergency brake" for a horse. Thank you, Gary and Caroline, for sponsoring this valuable clinic.

Spring Tune-up for Human and Horse w/Dutch Oven Lunch, April 3rd, Salisbury Arena



Log &

Water Crossing, April 10th,

Log & Water Crossing, April 10th, Erskine Fishing Access

Far Left: Judy McBride. Middle photo: Randy Velin and Larry Popp leading the pack horse. Thanks to Richard Tamcke for again leading this Log and Water Crossing clinic. *Photos by Ken Brown*.





This year's Horse Safety Clinic hosted 22 participants with 6 instructors. The horses were good. The mule is always good. This certification is valid for three years. Thanks to the Harpers for hosting this important safety clinic. Middle photo, Left to right: Larry Popp, Judy Ward, Randy Kappes, Dan Harper. *Photos by Don Dodge*.

Defensive Horse Safety, April 17th at Harper Arena

A saw training course is offered each spring to prospective volunteers who plan to use a chainsaw and crosscut saw on National Forests. This sawyer certification is valid for three years. Some of the topics covered in the classroom and in the field are: Personal protective equipment and clothing, features of the chainsaw and how to maintain it, different "bind" situations, felling hazards, and situation awareness. This course is required for Forest Service employees and volunteers. It is a pre-requisite to the field certification test. This year the Club had 12 participants and 2 instructors—Mark Wright, "C" Chainsaw Certifier and John Favro, "C" Crosscut Certifier.



May 19th Membership Meeting Program

Program was presented by Colonel Raynor Roberts (center) with the help of Smoke Elser (left) and Gary Salisbury (right). Raynor talked about his World War II experiences, working with Smoke's outfitting business after retirement and about the beginnings of our Club. Raynor was our Club's first elected President. His presentation was informative and laced with humorous anecdotes!

Recreation Day Rides





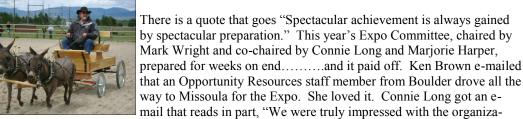
A smattering of pictures from our recreational day rides this spring: April 24th at Blue Mountain, May 1st at Lubrecht Experimental Forest, May 8th at Rattlesnake, May 15th at Pattee Canyon and May 16th in Marshall Canyon. These rides are scheduled by Ken Brown and Richard Tamcke. If you're interested in a bunch of fun and camaraderie, riding trails in the surrounding mountains full of gorgeous scenery, wildlife and flowers or exercising and training your horse with some safety-conscious horse people, then join us. Many, many thanks to all the leaders of the rides: Richard Tamcke, Mark Wright, Ken Brown (above), Don Sokoloski and Dan & Marjorie Harper. See page 5 for more recreation ride dates. *Photos contributed by Don Dodge, Ken Brown, Mark Wright.*

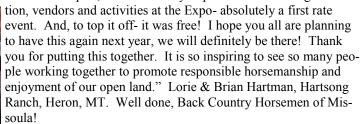
Packing and Equestrian Skills Expo, May 22, 2010

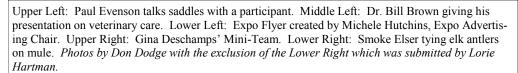












2010 Work Projects & Rides

Volunteers on public land must have skills and training needed for the project work. Volunteers who bring pack or saddle stock must have a current Defensive Horsemanship certification card. Day riders will need to pack a lunch unless otherwise noted below.

Project/Description/Directions	Date	Project Leader
National Trails Day —Meet at Blue Mountain Trailhead for a combination work project, trail maintenance, building trailhead improvements and day ride.	June 5	Barbara Koepke 626-4351
Mount Jumbo Day Ride —Meet at the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area trailhead ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Group size limit of 10 riders per Forest Service regulations.	June 6	Ken Brown 207-6067
Burnt Cabin Day Ride —Ride in to take measurements at the cabin, assess work and make plans for the June 25-27 Work Project.	June 6	Paul Evenson 251-2163
Stuart Peak Day Ride and Trail Maintenance—some tree clearing on this ride. Group size limit of 10 riders.	June 9 (Tent.)	Richard Tamcke 258-6621
Woods Gulch Day Ride —Meet at the Rattlesnake Trailhead ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Group size limit of 10 riders.	June 12	Ken Brown 207-6067
Steak Ride Trail Day Ride—Scout the route for the upcoming Steak Ride and show the teamsters their route. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the River City Grill next to the Bonner Truck Stop.	June 13	Paul Evenson 251-2163
36th Annual Father's Day Steak Ride —Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range at 11:00 a.m., tickets required. Call Alan Meyers, 360-2121, for tickets. (See flyer on back cover for directions.)	June 20	Paul Evenson 251-2163
Burnt Cabin Work Project & Ride —Up Monture Creek and into the Bob Marshall Complex. Repair roof of cabin, replace stove, work on corrals and if time allows add porch and put in sink. Camp will be set up at the Monture Cr. Trailhead for members who want to camp and day ride.	June 25- 27	Mike Moore 370-7549 Paul Evenson 251-2163
Bitterroot Larry Creek Day Ride —Meet at 10:00 a.m. ready to ride at 10:00. Directions: Take Hwy. 93 So through Florence. Go 3 miles to "Bass Creek" sign on right. Turn right after sign (comes up quickly) onto Bass Cr. Road to Charles Walters Campground on the left. Turn right to Larry Cr. Horse facility.	July 10	Jane Kelly 370-4363
Highway 200 Cleanup —Meet at 9:30 at the Way Station near the Clearwater Junction where the cow is.	July 10	Herb Monk 549-8756 360-8001 Cell
Blue Mountain Day Ride—Meet at the trailhead ready to ride at 10:00 a.m.	July 17	Richard Tamcke 258-6621
South Fork of Lolo Creek Overnight Ride —Call Richard by July 17th to arrange a spot. Limit of 10 riders. Directions: Take Hwy. 12 from Lolo for 10 miles until you see the Elk Meadows sign. Turn left, go 2 miles, cross cattle guard and take Rd. #2160 which turns left across Lolo Cr.	July 24- 25	Richard Tamcke 258-6621
Big Creek—Pack National Smokejumpers Association trail maintenance crew in and pack them out.	July 26-30	Mike Moore 370-7549
Danaher Educational Pack Trip —Meet at the North Fork of the Blackfoot Trailhead. Call to reserve after June 7th but before July 6th. Limit 15 BCH members. Not a guided trip; riders are responsible for their own horses and gear, including pack stock.	Aug. 5-8	Ken Brown 207-6067
Sanders Lake Overnight Ride—This is a pack trip into the Rattlesnake. Group size is limited to 10 riders including riders and pack stock.	Aug, 13- 16	Dean Hoistad 549-3953
Lolo Area Day Ride —Meet at 11:00 a.m. Directions to Alan's horse property: Take Hwy. 93 South toward Lolo. From the Peak Fitness Center drive about 4 miles. Turn right into the lane PAST Bird Ln. on the right. Ride will be from corrals up the mountain.	Sept. 5	Alan Meyers 360-2121
Frenchtown Day Ride—This ride will be led by Larry & Debbie Popp, Barbara Koepke and Mike & Michele Hutchins.	Sept. 25	Larry Popp 626-2401
Highway 200 Cleanup (Tentative)	Oct. 16	Herb Monk 549-8756



Horse Sense for Humans

By Marianne Birenbaum, RN MPH

Riding season is finally upon us and our attention is focusing on tuning up our horses and planning rides. It's also a good time to review some common sense basics of safe horsemanship, both on the ground and in the saddle. A few reality checks are reviewed below:

Horseback riding is dangerous! Risk factors for injury include: Not wearing a helmet every time you ride. More experienced riders have a greater the risk of injury. Why? Because we tend to become complacent when we do anything routinely. Also, the more we ride the greater the risk of sustaining an injury. Another risk factor is all horses spook—not one is "bomb-proof." The most frequent cause of death and serious injury for mounted and dismounted horse activity, such as leading, grooming, mounting and dismounting, is head and/or neck injury. Dismounted injuries most often involve being kicked or trodden by a horse. Mounted injuries involve falling from or being thrown from a horse. Every three of five equestrian deaths is caused by head injury. Even with the advances in medical technology and rapid First Responder arrival and extraction, the greatest risks are permanent injury or disability. The reality is: A fall from two feet can cause permanent brain damage. A mounted rider is eight feet or more above the ground. A human skull can be shattered by an impact of 4-6 mph: horses can gallop at 40 mph.

Remember: A safe ride is a smart ride. DO always wear a helmet when riding. DON'T follow another horse too closely when riding and/or leading on the ground. Any horse can kick. ALWAYS be aware your surroundings and what's happening with your horse. Most injuries occur when the rider is distracted and least expects it. REMEMBER to re-check cinches. WAYS carry a readily available knife for emergencies. ALWAYS walk beside a child on a horse and keep one hand on the child at all times.

Accidents occur in any sport and horseback riding is no exception. It's impossible to anticipate every event; however, we can take precautions with those risks we are aware of.

Marianne is a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula. She is also works with the On-Call Trauma Services at St. Pat's and sees first hand the results of horse-related injury. References for this article are available upon request.

Mill Creek Trail By Diane Tidwell

A number of years ago before I began With the chainsaw recovered and the trail moving around so much, Pat Culver, Carol McCrum, Don Dodge, Holly Young and I took an awesome ride up Lantern Ridge from the trailhead at the South Fork of Creek. After some steep switchbacks, we topped out to a spectacular view of Lolo Peak and the sheer, rocky drainage and at a fork in the trail I remember someone commenting that it was the we turned back. way down to Doty's place. We didn't want

South Fork side and eventually back to our trailers.

Since then I have moved to my Mill Creek location and have been fascinated by the prospect of riding up to Lantern Ridge from the Mill Creek side. First attempts were foiled by a few logs fallen across | Sweeney Peak in center. the trail, which were diffi-

cke and Larry Popp offered to come out this problem. Thank goodness for Richard and bring a chainsaw on a pack horse.

When Richard cut out the first log, I couldn't believe how fast it was. Hardly time to get off my horse. Then we came to another and another, each requiring a little more work than the last for both men who were cutting and wrestling the chunks off the trail. There were a lot more logs than I remembered, and finally we came to THE LOGS. Two great big ones that had fallen nearly at the same spot and angle across the trail amidst thick brush and branches. Richard attacked the top larger one—first cut good. The second cut, though, was through a really thick section, and not able to finish the cut from the top. Richard started to complete the cut from under-Then the log slumped and its neath.

weight closed the cut on Richard's saw. The situation seemed hopeless without another saw to cut out the stuck one. But those guys had taken their Geometry, or whatever necessary science to figure it out, and they started building a structure of smaller criss-crossed logs higher and higher to use as a fulcrum for a lever log. Little by little they were able to get enough sound material underneath to lift the log. With Larry on the end of the lever, if the structure had collapsed, he would have gone flying through the air like a cannon.

cleared, we continued on up a steep set of switchbacks to a high old logging road that headed into the next drainage and the continuation of the Lantern Ridge trail. Up and up we rode through land scarred by logging long ago. A big black bear rolled up a hillside beyond us, and Lolo Peak west face of the Bitterroots. Going back loomed larger and nearer. Finally we realwe went down the trail in the Mill Creek ized time was getting away from us and we were not nearly to the top of the ridge, so

to end up there, so we crossed back to the The trip home was quite a bit faster than

the going up. Richard chose to lead his horse followed

down my horse's neck! Getting off a horse's neck pointing downhill is tricky. If I'd been riding my old horse

cult to get around or over. Richard Tam- with high withers, I would not have had and Larry and all their coaching.

down the steep switchbacks and I wished I had suit when my saddle began slipping

So we finally made it back and I am still fascinated with the idea of riding up Lantern Ridge from my house. Or from the South Fork. But I don't think I'll try it alone. And my horse and I will learn to use a crupper. Anyone care to join me?

Congratulations to Kimm and Brett Fells who became parents of baby girl Kelsey Lynn born on June 1st. AND, congratulations to her grandparents, Nike and Cheri Fisher!



Lolo Peak on the right. Ridge connecting Lolo Peak to

Classified Ads

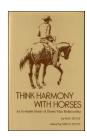
Wanted to Rent: Housing for new BCH of Missoula member. Jayme Feary is working on a Masters degree at the U of MT. He's moving here from Jackson Hole and was an officer and project leader in the Teton Back Country Horsemen. He needs pasture or good-sized corral for a 10-yr. old molly saddle mule. If he could find a rental with pasture, that would be ideal for him. (307) 690-1260. E-Mail: jfeary@jaymefeary.com. His webpage is: www.jaymefeary.com.

For Sale: St. Patrick Hospital Trauma Services has Troxel equestrian helmets for sale. \$23.00. Contact Marianne Birenbaum at 214-7575 or e-mail eiranne@vzw.blackberry.net.



Hay for Sale: Selling in Missoula or Arlee by the bale, ton or semi-load. Rounds, 3X3X8, or 3X4X8. Will deliver. Alan Meyers, 360-2121

LIBRARY NEWS



New additions! "Think Harmony With Horses" by Ray Hunt. This is a short read about his philosophy. Also, a 50-minute VHS tape called "Turning Loose" about Ray Hunt's training methods. He believes in "letting the horse come up with the ideas." Call Myra at

542-7443 if you'd like to check either of these out.

August 20 Potluck, Holt Heritage Museum 6800 Hwy. 12 West, Lolo, 6:00 PM

Don't miss this annual potluck! Meat and beverages are provided, so bring a side dish. Tour a fantastic Old West Museum. In Lolo turn onto Hwy. 12. The Museum is just past Guy's Lolo Cr. Steakhouse on the right. Look for teepees!



June 11-13 Montana Mule Days, Missoula Fairgrounds Ongoing Nine Mile Wildlands Training Center 626-5201

Non-Profit Spring Fair Southgate Mall, April 3rd

Submitted by Marianne Birenbaum

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula took advantage of an opportunity to be visi-

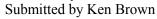


Paul Evenson and Visitor chat about BCH of Missoula

ble during this community-wide Fair. We had a lot of visitors at our display and we had a great time talking about and handing out flyers for our annual Expo and Steak Ride. The display board was a huge hit and our largest attraction.

Thank you to the following BCH Missoula members who contributed time and effort to make this short-notice event possible and so successful: Paul Evenson, Karen Harlan, Gloria Curdy, Michele Hutchins, Connie Long and Mark Wright. *Photo submitted by Marianne Birenbaum*.

Photography in the Back Country





We have had great response from members who have submitted their Back Country Horsemen pictures. We have used them in the potluck membership slide show, in developing our own club's calendar, in *The Feedbag* and in presenting our club activities at the State BCH convention. Here are a few tips on how to make your pictures even better.

- 1. Use the highest quality setting.
- 2. If you don't want your pictures to blur, hold the camera very still. Prop yourself up against something, like a tree. Use a shutter speed 60 or higher, unless you want to blur parts of the picture. If you want to stop action use a shutter speed of 500.
- 3. Check that your white balance is for the proper setting. If you are unsure use the automatic white balance feature.
- 4. Get close enough to the subject so someone else will know what it is.
- 5. Determine the subject of your picture. Sometimes it is hard to tell from pictures what we are supposed to be looking at.
- 6. Find favorable views of your subject. Generally, the hind end of your horse is not it's best feature; the same can be said of its rider. Thanks for listening and keep taking those pictures.





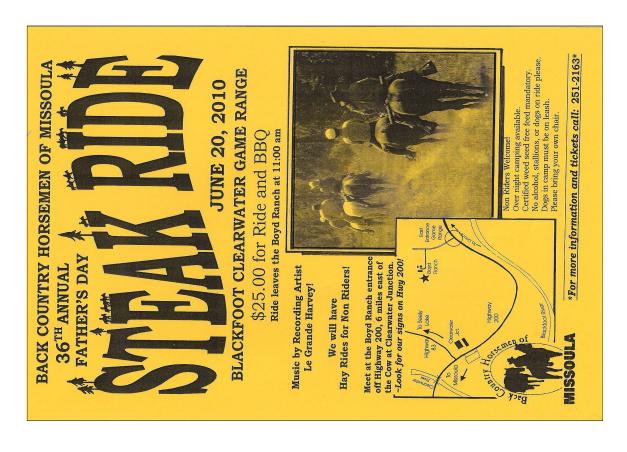


Back Country Horsemen of Missoula The Feedbag
P. O. Box 2121
Missoula, MT 59806

MISSION STATEMENT

- Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- Work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreation and stock use.
- Assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
- Educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

TO:



Flyer Credit: Michele Hutchins