



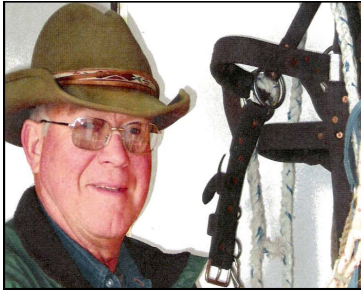
FEED BAG



Myra Mumma, Editor

September 2009

President's Message.....



Greetings to one and all. Our chapter has had a very active summer to date. Our experiences in the backcountry and wilderness are many:

- June 6--38 members participated in National Trails Day.
- June 22--three of our members packed the hay shelter into Burnt Cabin (Monture Creek drainage -- Seeley Lake Ranger District). They were assisted by the Forest Service pack string from Ninemile Ranger District (see story in issue).
- June 26--11 members rode to Burnt Cabin and worked on the trails up to Hahn Pass and Limestone Pass.
- July 7--four members worked out of Benchmark Guard Station (Rocky Mountain Ranger District) and opened up two lookouts. One lookout went to Prairie Reef and the other went to Patrol Mountain.
- July 20--two projects for the National Smokejumper Association. One was on the Bitterroot National Forest (Big Creek) and the other on the Helena National Forest (Sourdough Creek). Six of our members participated in the Big Creek project, along with three members from the Selway/Pintler Wilderness BCH. Six members participated on the Sourdough Creek Project. The two "pack it in -- pack it out" projects were completed on July 25.

*"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."
Benjamin Franklin*

On August 21 we had our annual chapter picnic at Holt's western museum. Bill and Ramona were the most gracious hosts. There was a very good turnout for this annual event.

Richard Tamcke has hosted numerous fun rides. We also continue with our commitment to the trails we have adopted.

I welcome all new members to our chapter. I appreciate all who work hard behind the scene to make things happen. Thank you.

Paul Evenson, President

MBCH Board Meetings: First Wednesday of each month, 6:30
MBCH General Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month, 7:00, Fish, Wildlife & Parks Office on Spurgin Ave.

Montana Back Country Horsemen

Have you visited www.bchmt.org lately? Our state organization's website has Defensive Horse Safety online in three formats: HTML presentation, .pdf for printing and flash media presentation. Very well done!

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY—June 6, 2009

This year's National Trails Day celebration at Blue Mountain Recreation Area Trailhead was on a cold and windy day but in spite of the weather, the MBCH trail crew cleared and maintained trails on the upper part of Blue Mountain and the rest of the MBCH volunteers put up the wall tent, handed out pamphlets, water, trail bars, dog biscuits (to the dogs) and completed surveys. Bob Bohne and Barbara Koepke prepared and shared their famous Dutch oven cooking so the volunteers didn't go hungry. The weather didn't dampen the Fred Hartkorn Trail Dedication either. Sara Wilson gave an excellent presentation on Fred's life and several members shared memories of Fred, including Smoke Elser, Pat Culver and his son, Mike.



Above NTD Chairwoman, Barbara Koepke
Photo Credit: Michele Hutchins

Below, Sara Wilson giving her presentation on Fred Hartkorn. Photo Credit: Michele Hutchins



Above: Fred Hartkorn, Steak Ride, 1985. (The Steak Ride wasn't on Fathers Day in the past.
Photo credit: Ron Bailey



Painting of Fred : Photo
Credit: Pat Culver

Fred Hartkorn: Back Country Horseman

Mike Chandler, Reprinted from *The Feedbag*, April 1994

February 22nd we all lost a great friend, but our magnificent back country resources lost even more. No one will ever fill Fred Hartkorn's boots as the practical back country teacher. At the drop of a hat, he would take anyone interested to the hills to see firsthand the condition of some big game winter range or just "what's over the next ridge." Really the only requirement was that it would always be horseback whether there were trails or not.

Fred was one of the original seven people that sat down over coffee in the 4 B's East the summer of 1973 and helped form the Back Country horsemen of Missoula. He served as President in 1981 and over the years filled numerous committee positions, served on the Board of Directors, was a State Director and had more rides than anyone ever has or probably ever will. He worked hard on nearly every major work project and pack trip the Club has sponsored including cooking for the annual steak rides.

The first trip I went on with Fred was a "show-me" trip up the North Fork of the Blackfoot the spring of 1966. As a wildlife biologist with the Fish & Game Dept., Fred felt it was necessary to check things on the group continuously. Whenever possible, as on this trip, he made arrangements for about 10 members of the Western MT Fish and Game Assoc. to come along and learn a few things. Fred's opinions on wildlife and back country management were of the greatest value because they were always based on years of first-hand experience. Because of the experience and down-home humor laden philosophy he could quickly cut through the phony or self-serving, and have everyone rolling in the grass laughing at one of his great stories or antidotes.

From raising show quality POA's to helping youngsters and disabled persons get their first ride, or analyzing the condition of some elk winter range, Fred's whole life served to enhance the quality of life for those he left behind.

Someday I hope we can all meet Fred again and ride up Larch Hill Pass, by the Trilobite Lakes, or maybe Elk Meadows and Rainbow Lake. I'll always remember watching the moon come up from Blue Mountain with Fred on one of his spontaneous moonlight rides.

"It is not length of life, but depth of life." Robert Waldo Emerson

THE TWO LOOKOUT TRIP TO THE EAST SIDE

By Paul Evenson

In early June, Russell Owen called to ask if I could help put two lookouts up. He said I could bring one or two BCH members with me. The timeframe was to be the first week in July, but that changed to July 8th due to snow in the high country. I talked it over at coffee one morning with Alan Meyers, Dan Tuxbury, Mike Speake, Don Barth, Randy Kappes, Mike Beckel, Scott Tuxbury, Nick Kaufman and a few others. Everyone wanted to go! When it came down to it only Alan Meyers, Dan Tuxbury and Mike Speake were able to go as the rest had job or family obligations so were unable to make the trip.

Dan Tuxbury has been to Prairie Reef Lookout but never to Patrol Lookout so he was excited to go. Alan and Mike wanted to go to Prairie Reef Lookout so they could look at the Chinese Wall. I'm not sure if either Alan or Mike had ever been to a lookout before as they were sure excited to make the trip.

We left Missoula bright and early July 7. Alan pulled his big stock trailer full of horses and mules with Mike riding shotgun. Dan and I were in Dan's pickup full of duffle bags and all sorts of gear. We stopped in Augusta to pick up a key and radio and were soon on our way to Benchmark. When we arrived at the Benchmark corral the horses and mules were down for water so we locked them out and unloaded ours. My four horses stay on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District for the summer as I go over often and some of the Forest Service personnel use them also. From there we went to the administrative cabin to wait for the two lookout personnel and to get settled in.

The first lookout to show was Sam Sara Chapman. This is Sam's 13th season—12 seasons on Patrol and one season on Prairie Reef. Dan Tuxbury started supper. Dan is a very good cook. If any of you go with Dan on a trip, you are in for a treat. The other fire lookout specialist, Isan Brant, showed up in time for supper. This is her first season on a lookout. After supper we packed Isan's food, duffle and water so we would be ready for an early start on July 8. Yes, we pack water to the lookouts—40 gallons every 2 weeks. Do you think you could survive on 40 gallons for 2 weeks?

We were up at 5:00 a.m. and had a very good breakfast, up to the corral and saddled, loaded and on our way before 9:00 a.m. Alan rode Diamond, Dan was on Checker, Isan was on Java, Mike was on Shelby and I was on Hank. We packed Dolly, Molly, Justus, Marco, Clair and Max. The trip went real well until we came to the South Fork of the Sun River pack bridge. Dolly would not go across, but at long last she went and life was good until we came to the West Fork of the Sun bridge where she broke the breakaway and we had to chase her down. The loads rode well and no further trouble on the way to the lookout. By then it started to rain so we put the rain gear on.

When we got to the lookout the wind was up and the rain was horizontal and turned to sleet then snow but we got unloaded and opened the lookout. We got the radio going and the stuff unman-tied and back on our way down to Indian Point where we were going to spend the night. Unfortunately we were not able to see the Chinese Wall because of weather. At Indian Point we gave the stock a good ration of pellets as they had put in a 28-mile day. After another fantastic supper by Dan we were ready for some sleep.

On July 9 we were up at 6:00 a.m. and after a fantastic breakfast by Dan we were saddled and on the train back to Benchmark by early afternoon. After we took care of the stock we had a relaxed evening. It was just the four of us as Sam had hiked up to her lookout. We called her and asked for a snow report. There had been a snow slide in Honey-moon Basin that was mostly gone, one drift just before you get up on the ridge and some snow on the trail to the lookout. There was a big drift just below the lookout and she said she was going to dig out the trail for us. After another masterpiece by Dan we were ready for bed.



Leaving "The Knife" to Patrol Lookout

We were up at 6:00 a.m. the next day. We had packed Sam's duffle and food the night before so we were ready to go after breakfast and cleanup. When we arrived at the corral the stock were out in the front pasture. Now what happened?! Shelby had a bad wire cut on her left forearm and other scratches because she had been pushed through a wire gate. Mike loaded Shelby up and headed to Choteau to the vet and we loaded up and headed to the lookout. I was in the lead as neither Alan or Dan had ever been to Patrol Lookout. It's a good trail and nice river grade along Straight Creek until we cross the creek and then it is up. I told Alan and Dan that Hank and I would set the pace and we would not stop until we got to Honey-moon Basin. Dan said there were two places in the trail where Checker wanted to pass. I guess he felt the pace was too slow.



Dan & Paul at
Honeymoon Basin

We gave the horses a blow in Honey-moon and then off to the lookout we went. The snow slide was not a problem and neither was the drift at the ridge. We were able to stay on the uphill side of the drifts on the trail, but the one below the lookout was a different story. The snow was too crusted and deep for Sam to dig out. She said it was the most snow she'd seen in 12 seasons.

It was still a beautiful day and the guys had fun playing "Tommy Tourist". They had their cameras going and then it was time to eat as Sam fixed us lunch. It was an uneventful trip down. The end of a great day. We saw some beautiful country, used our horses, were with some great people and we were off the hamster wheel. Alan said it was great fun. Dan has been to all three lookouts on the District now and likes Patrol the best. He can't wait to do it again. I think we all said that silent prayer "O Lord let me live long enough to do this again!" I know I did. Alan also said, "if I was rich I would do this for free."

My BCH friends,

I feel I need to write to you all and apologize for dropping out of sight in the last year or so. My life has taken a bit of a side trail since last May. At that time I quite my job of the last eight years, and leapt into the void.

I cashed out my IRA just ahead of the economic crash, bought new computer equipment, and started free-lancing. I took a class at the university in computer animation and found a sense of direction for my art and graphic skills. I am now a full time university student and a part time free-lance artist. Check out the new Kettlehouse beer labels.

I spend an inordinate amount of time staring at a computer screen now but I love what I am doing. Hopefully this plan will lead me into a higher level of creativity and prosperity.

In this time both Feather's mother and mine have died and Feather brought her ninety five year old father home to live with us. He is wheel chair bound and in stage six dementia. He takes round the clock care but is a dear sweet man and a joy to have in our home. This has brought our family together as all our adult kids have pulled together to help out with the caregiver scene.

Last October a group of people that Feather and I have been working with over the last four years bought a forty acre piece of land adjacent to Lubrecht Forest in the Potomac Valley. Our intension is to build an extreme green village as a demonstration project. The plan is to create a new model of development and resource use in the forest interface. Please check out sundogecovillage.org.

Feather's good old horse died last September and the young

horse I have been working with over the last four years died of colic in March. With him died the life style I have lived for the last twenty years. These changes have taken me away from the days of making a living in the saddle to seldom riding at all. I am still holding on to my backcountry dreams but it is all on hold until these new developments settle out.

This has burned through what I once had in free time to devote to BCH activities and meetings. I miss you folks. I miss the conversation about horses, the rides, the work projects, and the comradery. I even miss the meetings.

I have learned a great deal with you all. I can hardly imagine a better example of collective knowledge and wisdom when it comes to horses. It looks like you all have a dynamic new crew for leadership that should bring about a fun and productive year.

Thank you all for the great memories and I hope we will get back into the saddle with you all soon.

Many thanks to Paul, Richard and the Indian Meadows crew for pulling me back in for a fine and somewhat wild adventure. It has been the high point of my summer and a good story in the telling.

Rick Sherman



**Marshall Canyon
Wildflower Ride
May 30th**



On May 30th, Dan and Marjorie Harper organized a Marshall Canyon Wildflower Ride. Riders were: Dan Brown, Randy Kappes, Mike Hartkorn, Mark Wright, Dr. Barth, Bob Doty, Chris and Randy Kappes, Mike and Sherry Fisher on mules (Kim & Brett Eells' parents from Pennsylvania), Lana Hamilton and Patty Martin. The ride was a steady climb from the Harper Arena with tons of wildflowers and great scenery.

Blue Mountain Trail Ride, August 12th. Back to front: Jenna Wright on Rambler, Michele Hutchins on Deja and Barbara Koepeke on Dancer. Photo by the Editor.



Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, Senate Bill 1470

Senator John Tester introduced this legislation in Townsend, Montana, on July 18th. Our own Back Country Horsemen member and founder, Smoke Elser, as well as other members attended. "It's money in the bank for our forests; it's money in the bank for all of our small, rural communities that make money from recreation to tourism; and it's money in the bank for the outfitting industry as well," Smoke said.

The last time a wilderness bill was sponsored was in 1988. That plan called for an additional 1.4 million acres of wilderness and it was passed by Congress but vetoed by President Ronald Reagan. Senator Tester's bill will: Require the Forest Service to harvest at least 70,000 acres over ten years in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Require the Kootena National Forest to harvest at least 30,000 acres over ten years. Creates a new Big Hole National Recreation Area. Sets aside forest areas for snowmobilers and cyclists. Releases 76,000 of BLM ground to uses like time harvest and recreation, which is part of seven Wilderness Study Areas, meaning that it isn't wilderness but is managed like wilderness. Ensures 670,000 acres of good hunting and fishing habitat for futures generations. Does not impact grazing rights. The Bill is a way to create jobs, protect clean water and keep healthy hunting and fishing habitat.

The Montana Wilderness Association supports this Act because it "permanently protects as wilderness nearly 700,000 acres of Western Montana's most spectacular backcountry. It will allow logging in areas that are already roaded and require habitat restoration through reduction in road densities, while also reducing fire risk near communities. The bill also allocates funds to improve fisheries, water quality and wildlife habitat. Projects must comply with all environmental laws, policies and regulations including NEPA, ESA, habitat protections for grizzly bears, and National roadless policies and directives."



Smoke Elser, left, Sun Mountain Lumber owner Sherm Anderson, U.S. Sen. Jon Tester unveil "forest jobs" plan in Townsend on July 18th. (*Great Falls Tribune*, Photo by John S. Adams)

But there is plenty of opposition to Tester's *Forest Jobs and Recreation Act*. Critics are questioning the legislation and how it was drawn up. Some conservation groups argue the bill opens up too much land for logging in exchange for a relatively small increase in wilderness. They also wonder how mandated logging is ever going to pay for itself when demand for timber is at an all-time low. Critics on the other side question how many jobs the bill can actually create. While wilderness is guaranteed the moment it becomes designated, no such guarantees exist when it comes to attempts at reinvigorating Montana's timber industry amid a housing slump and slow economy.

Michael Garrity of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies believes the bill is a "logging without laws" bill. He said the proposed measure would turn over the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Kootenai National Forests to the timber industry, while tying the hands of forest managers

Senator Tester agrees that his Bill's process will be a struggle. He has said "government works for those who show up." We must show up!

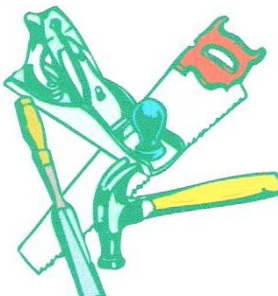
Compiled by the Editor with Sources: 7/28/09 Flathead Beacon, www.senate.gov/forest, 7/18/09 Great Falls Tribune, Wild Montana Special Edition Newsletter of the MT Wilderness Assn Aug. 2009, Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act handout from Townsend Introduction of Legislation—provided by Mack & Connie Long.

Third Annual Old West Autumn Fest will be held Saturday, September 12, 2009 from 10am – 4pm at 14275 Hamel Road, Opportunity Ranch in Frenchtown. The Fest will be an event for the whole family. Planned activities include: hayrides, pumpkin picking, dancing, music, farm animals, firefighter displays, exhibits, apple cider making and lots of games. Sales vendors include: food, arts and crafts and farmers market. The Old West Autumn Fest combines historical western folk lore and music along with farm and ranch activities. The 2007 and 2008 Fests attracted nearly 3,000 people. This year children 12 and under will be admitted free of charge. Children 13 and above along with adults will be charged \$5.00. The Fest will take place in Frenchtown at Opportunity Ranch, a 160 acre working ranch for individuals with disabilities. Over the past five years Opportunity Ranch has raised sheep, cattle, pigs and garden produce. This year the Ranch Crew is expecting to raise 3,000 pumpkins for festival activities. In addition a variety of wool products have been produced including 950 wool blankets using a blend of Opportunity Ranch wool.

Opportunity Resources, Inc. is a non profit community organization serving 400 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Services include: employment, training, housing supports, transportation and recreation. Opportunity Resources is currently entering its 55th year of services.

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Sponsorship, Anna Tucker	273-3779

Club-Sponsored DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 2	MBCH Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. FW&P
Sept. 6-7	Pack Bob Marshall Foundation crew to Cabin Creek, Call Paul or Mack & Connie Long, 251-2163 or 543-0528
Sept. 16	MBCH September General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., FW&P
Sept. 19	State Board Meeting in Deer Lodge
Oct. 7	MBCH Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., FW&P
Oct. 21	MBCH General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., FW&P
Nov. 4	MBCH Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., FW&P
Nov. 18	MBCH General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., FW&P
Dec. 12	State Board Meeting and Christmas Party



Don Dodge shot this picture of Anna Tucker on their recent ride to Big Creek in the Bitterroot Mountains. The scenery was awesome. There was some smoke from the Kootenai Creek Fire but otherwise a perfect day. Anna's elderly father, who has been caring for her mother for many years, is failing so Anna and the family have been taking turns helping out. Anna plans to return mid-September. Keep Anna and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

For Sale

Family home with barn in Target Range on 1.3 acres. One-half ton utility trailer, \$200, Ed Hogan, 549-6628

1995 D N custom built bumper pull 4-horse stock trailer with tack compartment. Fully enclosed. Call Paul Evenson at 251-2163

The word of this issue of the Feedbag is "uxorious." If you know what this means, call Paul Evenson at 251-2163 and he will take you out for pie and ice cream and a beverage of your choice.

In Our Thoughts.....

Dean Solheim died of cancer on July 3rd. Dean spent 38 years with the Forest Service, mostly as a backcountry animal packer stationed at Nine Mile Historic Remount Depot. He lived in the Nine Mile area where he kept his own horses and mules. In addition, he was a self-employed farrier and leather craftsman, specializing in packsaddles and tack. He also enjoyed hunting and loaded his own ammunition. He remained an avid skier even into this last winter. He believed in caring for wilderness for others to enjoy.



Sandy Evenson's father, Emory Wamsley, passed on June 4th. Emory served in World War II and also the Korean War. He retired from the U. S. Postal Service as finance director. Emory and his wife, Lorraine, raised two daughters and have four grandchildren. He loved to bowl, shoot trap and skeet and golf. He also faceted stones, collected coins and remodeled apartments and the family home.



Forefront: Nancy Stoverud, Center: Richard Tamcke and Right: Jesse Maynard

Richard's Recreation Rides 2009

By the Editor

If you haven't been able to make one of Richard Tamcke's rides, you're missing out. He's full of information about horse behavior and getting into a horse's mind. He's safety conscious above all and just plain fun to ride with! The picture at the left was taken in early June. We rode from Gold Creek Road east over two ridges and back down into the Blackfoot River drainage to McNamera's landing for lunch. It was a ride of many firsts of the year: first whitetail fawn, first beargrass, first Bitterroot flower and when we sat down to juicy hamburgers at the restaurant, the first tick of the season crawled across my hand!

Richard rides every week, most days of the week and is happy to have the company. He doesn't limit himself to Gold Creek area, although there's a lot of good riding there. He rides other trails, including Blue Mountain where he did trail maintenance last week. The following story is about a young man who went on one of Richard's Rides.

Soren: Future Back Country Horseman?

By the Editor

Three years ago on June 30th, MBCH lost Brendt Stoverud, who died at Benchmark while getting ready to go on a pack trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. Surely Brendt was watching and beaming as Soren and his Nana took one of Richard's Rides on this last July 10th! We left Gold Creek Road at about 10:30 a.m. with Richard, Jesse Maynard, Mike & Sherry Fisher on their mules and Nancy Stoverud with her eight-year old grandson, Soren Stoverud-Myers (Kristin's son). Richard led us up game trails, over logging roads and along ridgetops. When we stopped for lunch, we asked Richard if we should save back part of our lunch for supper. (That's a joke—Richard likes to be adventurous!) Then back in the saddle for more game trails and logging roads.

Soren was such a great sport. Sapling lodgepoles had grown back in some of the logging roads but he just pointed Bailey at the thick saplings and held on with his red cowboy boots. Then we got into some big rocks that the horses clamored around on to get their footing, but Bailey and Soren did just fine. When we would ask how he was doing, he'd say, "I'm doing great." "Great," I thought. My left knee was killing me and my bottom end was sore, but if Soren's doing great then I'd better just buck up.

At one point he did say he wished he hadn't outgrown his chaps, though. During the ride Richard asked Soren who



Soren on Bailey, Nana, Nancy Stoverud, on Classy in front of him. Picture by Jesse Maynard

taught him to ride. He said, "Well, my Nana started me and Con (Con Ovnicsek, Pleasure Park Farms trainer) taught me the hard stuff." Well, Nana probably deserves a little more credit than that..... What a sight when we topped out on a ridge where we could see the back side of the Mission Mountains. Then we started back down to the trailers. Richard calls the turning around point "motivation direction" because the horses perk up then! Well, we did have to take a couple of spontaneous exploratory loops on the way down. That's when we were wondering if we should have saved more lunch. Some sandhill cranes flew off a lake when we passed and we saw some nice whitetail bucks who thought we couldn't see them.

I overheard Richard tell Jesse, "Let's go shake that young man's hand when we get back to the trailers." And they did just that at 5:00 when we returned. Richard told Soren they'd be making the same trip the next day. Would he like to go? Soren replied that not tomorrow, but he'd go the next day! What a trooper! We'd be lucky to have him in Back Country Horsemen of Missoula someday.

Editor's Notes: I don't know about you but my summer has gone by like a horse on a fast gallop! But you have to admit that fall really is the best time for riding. Horse flies are disappearing, colors are turning and cooler weather makes for much more enjoyable trail rides. Hope to see you out there!



Photo Credit:
Nancy Stoverud

Kent and Charlene Krone have another article in *The Trail Rider* magazine, July/August issue, about riding in Montana's Hell Roaring Country in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness north of Yellowstone Park.

Missoula Equestrian Park is holding their annual Draft Horse and Mule event on October 3rd. The teams will come in on the 2nd to mow and grade the perimeter trail at the Equestrian Park. Saturday they will have pulling contests. Members of the MEP will hold their annual meeting on the 3rd at 6:30 with a potluck. The Draft horseowners will give rides around the park that evening.

The Club's Horsemanship clinic is already scheduled for April 17, 2010 at the Harper Arena in Marshall Canyon.

Thanks to all of you for helping me put this issue of *The Feedbag* together. You're great! A special thanks to Paul and Sandy Evenson for all their help at a busy time in my life. Look for more stories, work project reports and rides in the December issue. Deadline for submissions is November 20.Myra



Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

The Feedbag

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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.

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