

Back Country Horsemen
Of Missoula
P. O. Box 2121
Missoula, MT 59806

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www.bchmt.org/wp/Missoula/

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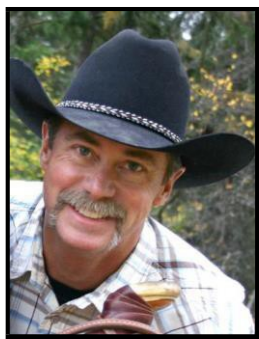
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The Feedbag



September, 2015



President's Message...

No way, summer can't be over already! It seems like just the other day we were looking forward to it. None the less, Back Country Horsemen has not sat still. We started the summer with another great Steak Ride at the Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range and even though it was 100 degrees, riders still enjoyed the new route and the food was awesome! Good job by all the hard workers on that committee.

This summer, our chapter had a number of trail and pack projects. As usual our members worked hard and put in many volunteer hours to accomplish these. Projects assisted various Forest Service Ranger Districts as well as the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. The heat this summer made this work even more challenging. Thanks to all who participated in these projects.

Our chapter took the lead on a new Bear Spray Program this year. This program was a cooperative agreement with Counter Assault of Montana. This company offered BCH chapters bear spray at a reduced price as long as they participated in a short training course. Our chapter would like to thank Counter Assault for its generous support in keeping BCH members, their stock, and the bear's safe in the back country. A "thank you" needs to also go out to Smoke Elser and Chuck Bartlebaugh for making this all possible.

BCH of Montana has received notice that a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant the Missoula chapter helped submit was approved. This means that BCH chapters in the state that chose to be involved in this grant process now have the green light to be reimbursed for future projects that were selected as our part of the grant. Thanks to all those that put in time on the RTP grant committee.

I know that many of you have been out on rides, pack trips and work projects this summer even with the heat and smoke from forest fires. However, I do believe that some of the best riding weather and scenic beauty is coming up in the fall. So get out and ride! Our club has some exciting upcoming events: the Autumn Fest on September 12th in Frenchtown; our ice cream social which is thirty minutes prior to our September General Meeting; and the annual Wire Roll-Up work project at the Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range on October 3rd.

I will end this President's message by affirming the important things in life which are family, love, friendship, respect for the land, forgiveness, the ability to see the other person's point of view, and our responsibility to our animals.

Thank You for all that you do.*Mark Wright, President*

2015 Calendar

Sept. 12 Primm Meadows Ride, Richard Tamcke, 258-6621

Sept. 12 ORI Autumn Fest, 10am-4pm, 16894 Hamel Rd, Frenchtown 721-2930

September 16 Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m., Opportunity Resources Inc., 2821 So. Russell, across from YMCA
Ice Cream Social Before September General Meeting, 6:30 PM

Oct. 3 Wire Roll-Up Project, Clear Water Game Range, Jason Hanlon, (850) 591-1615 & Richard Tamcke, 258-6621

October 7 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m., Opportunity Resources Inc., 2821 So. Russell, across from YMCA

Oct. 19 Rattlesnake Ride, 11:00 AM, Rattlesnake Trailhead, Ken Brown, 207-6067

October 21 Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m., Opportunity Resources Inc., 2821 So. Russell, across from YMCA

November 4 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m., Opportunity Resources Inc., 2821 So. Russell, across from YMCA

November 18 Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m., Opportunity Resources Inc., 2821 So. Russell, across from YMCA

December 2 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m., Opportunity Resources Inc., 2821 So. Russell, across from YMCA

Dec. 5 Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, State Board Meeting, 10:00 AM

Club Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. General Membership meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Both are held at ORI, Opportunity Resources Inc., 2821 So. Russell, across from YMCA. Board and Membership meeting locations are subject to change – always check your email for the most up to date meeting location.



Steak Ride 2015

Help us save paper, postage and money by subscribing to our electronic newsletter! Simply email Rebecca at rpiersol@gmail.com to sign up for your emailed copy today!

BCH RIDES FOR THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

By Bob Doty

Lead packer Dan Harper along with Bob and Vicki Doty met at Bonner truck stop. We made our way to Indian Meadows Forest Service cabin, about 100 miles up the Blackfoot.

Friday evening we put up a highline for Dan's horses and mules, and our stock was kicked out in a corral. We were ready to sit back and take it easy, when about 20 head of loose horses and mules come running in. This can be very dangerous for the animals on the highline. We got them all rounded up and moved to another pasture before we had a wreck. Thank goodness we could settle in for a good night's sleep.



We were early to get up and feed all the critters, pack the panyards and mantie the loads for the five volunteers. We rode in past Webb Lake to Lander's Fork. We passed Twin Lakes on the way to Marion Creek. We had a total of 8 head, 5 mules and 3 horses. The loads consisted of 4 bear boxes, misc. duffle, cooking utensils and sleeping bags. Most interesting was the picks, Pulaski's, axes, saws, and loppers. I have packed these items before but Dan had his wooden back boards he built. He showed them at a BCH meeting earlier this year. They worked great.

The drop off point was 10.7 miles by the GPS. We never adjusted a load. After dropping our cargo we ate a snack and headed back out. This time we went around Heart Lake. What a beautiful ride! Almost 22 miles of riding with high temperatures. All the critters and riders were pretty tired at the end. After taking a short break and unsaddling all the stock,



we headed out on the 125 mile drive home. We stopped at the Pit Stop in Lincoln, Montana for one of the best hamburgers ever. I think we should go back and try the burger again when we aren't so tired just to make sure it was really that good.

Thanks to Dan and Vicki for a great ride.

For more information regarding the BMWF, please visit : <http://www.bmwf.org/>.



Noxious Weeds and Your Horse

From Montana Farm Bureau

Horses will not seek out weeds to eat if there are other nutritious items available. However, there is no guarantee that your horse won't eat one, either. Horses in dry lots are particularly vulnerable as noxious weeds tend to grow in areas like corrals where the ground has been stressed. A general rule of thumb is, if it's growing in your corral, it can't be good. There could also be toxic weeds found in hay, so you always check your hay or the farmground it was cut from to make sure there are no weeds. And remember, where there are weeds, there are seeds, which means feeding seed infested hay in a place that didn't have that weed could spread the weed there!

Which weeds could be harmful to my horse? Weed poisoning is a tricky subject with no absolutes. Age, size and general health of horse, type of plant ingested, amount of plant ingested, time of year/conditions when plant grew before it was ingested and other factors can all affect how toxic, if at all, a plant is to your horse. Weeds that have possible toxic effects are:

HOUNDSTONGUE: All stages of plant growth may be toxic and could cause permanent liver damage. If a horse eats 6 percent Houndstongue of its daily intake for two 2 weeks, it may accumulate a lethal dose. Prognosis is death in less than six months due to liver failure in that situation. Houndstongue is easily identified by its seeds, which look like teardrop shaped, small burrs. Pick them off and throw them in the garbage.

TANSY RAGWORT: 4-8 percent of a horse's body weight could be a lethal dose. Like Houndstongue, it also affects the liver. It has been found to maintain it's toxicity in hay.

YELLOW STAR THISTLE: Unfortunately, horses like it. Fortunately, it is not common in Montana. If ingested it can cause Chewing Disease, where a horse cannot chew and swallow food or water properly. The condition is incurable and is fatal. The same toxin is found in Russian Knapweed.

RUSSIAN KNAPWEED: (See Yellow Star Thistle). Can cause Chewing Disease. Not to be confused with Spotted Knapweed, which is very common in Montana. Spotted Knapweed is a noxious weed, but is not toxic to horses.

TALL BUTTERCUP: The toxin in this plant makes horses (and humans) lips swell on contact, so it is unlikely (but not impossible) that horses would eat it. If ingested it could contribute to gastrointestinal upset or colic.

LEAFY SPURGE: Plant contains latex, which can cause sensitivities in the skin or eyes-especially on white or light colored horses including Paints and Appaloosas. Leafy Spurge is common in Montana, and is extremely difficult to control. Herbicides, flea beetles, sheep and goats are all ways to try and control it's spread.

ST. JOHNSWORT: St. Johnswort can cause serious photosensitivity in horses who eat it. This condition can become so serious, a horse's entire skin might slough away from the body.

KOCHIA: Can cause nitrate poisoning in cattle. Kochia is very common, especially around corrals. It can shift its response to herbicides rapidly, so changing your spray every year can help.

COMMON TANSY: It isn't likely that your horse would eat this, as it is very strong. In fact, some old fashioned remedies called for making a tea out of this plant. However, it can cause abortion, colic, cardiac and respiratory suppression, so make sure your horse doesn't have access to it.

ANADIAN THISTLE: While not particularly dangerous to horses, this plant can cause nitrate poisoning in cattle.

YELLOW TOADFLAX: Can cause gastrointestinal upset in horses. It looks like a Snapdragon with its pretty yellow flowers.

HOARY ALYSSUM: Can cause laminitis and edema (swelling) in limbs.



National Trails Day 2015

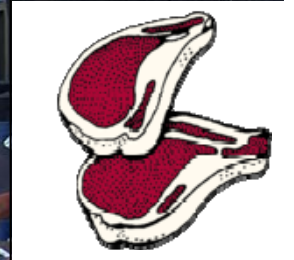




**BEAR SPRAY
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Feeding weed-free forage is a growing trend! *By Mistie Dillree, Axmen*

Although certified weed free forage isn't required on all federal lands nationwide, its a growing trend. You should check with your local National Forests, National Parks, and BLM agencies to see what their requirements are and the type of weed free certifications needed in those areas.

Seeds are brought onto our public lands all sorts of ways via wildlife, logging and mining equipment, multiuse trail (such as hikers, backpackers, cyclists, and all-terrain-vehicle operators), highway repair crews, cattle and even the wind. So you cant just blame one in particular. It's the responsibility of all public land users to do their part. That being said, horse owners aren't opposed to keeping public and federal lands environmentally sound and weed free. After all, equestrians are highly visible recreational users dedicated to trail preservation, management, and use.

Finding certified forage may seem like a hard thing to do, but most feed stores are now carrying these kinds of products. It is available in quite a few different forms as well. It's available as alfalfa hay, grass hay, pelleted and cubed forage. First, determine what your restrictions are in the area you choose to ride in. Some may require certified forage in specific locations only. Designated wilderness areas automatically require the use of certified forage under the Wilderness Act.

It is your preference for which weed free option you choose. Unprocessed feeds are more similar to your horse's normal feed but may be more difficult to find. Commercially processed feeds are readily available but don't provide the roughage that the equine gut was designed to digest. Many experienced packers will take and use all three according to their personal preference. Most commonly offering hay and supplementing with pelleted or cubed feeds to round out a diet.

Regardless of which way you decide to feed, make sure you keep tags intact with the bags in case it needs to be verified.

If you are changing your horses diet it should be done gradually BEFORE your trip to reduce the chance for colic. Your job is to figure out which form of weed free feeding fits what is best for you and your horse. Whichever choice you make, the long term goal is to have fun and enjoy sight seeing from the back of your horse!

Happy Trails!!!

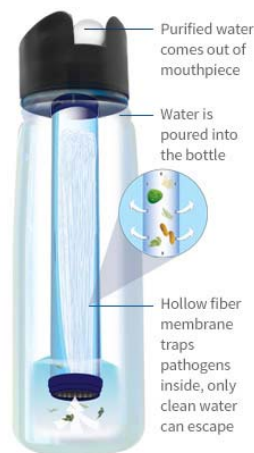
PRODUCT REVIEW CORNER *By Rebecca Connors*

As a frequent hiker, rider, or overnighter of the backcountry, I always find myself packing water in, but left with a dilemma of what to do when its gone. Earlier this year, I found a simple and easy solution to iodine tabs, filters and boiling water. Its called the LifeStraw! For \$30, I purchased the LifeStraw bottle for a trip on the Smith River . I drank water straight from the



Smith and didn't experience any bad after taste or illness from drinking muddy, runoff

water. It has a nice clip so you can attach it to your saddle or backpack, its light, BPA free, and provides the convenience of drinking water from any stream or lake. They have several different products, but the light, potable bottle is my favorite. Definitely put it on your Christmas list!



The EQUUS International Film Festival & Conference Sept 18—20

equusinternationalfilmfestival.com

Don't Miss this AWESOME event! EQUUS International Film Festival is the premier venue for award-winning equine film, television and all media focused on the equine/human bond, featuring stories, topics and issues that bring awareness and understanding to all things equine while celebrating the magnificent horse and other equines. Catch the feature film, UN-BRANDED, that tells a story of wilderness, horses, and conservation! Meet the young men who made the incredible pack journey from Mexico to Canada. For more information, tickets, and show-times, visit www.equusinternationalfilmfestival.com.



A good time to get growing *By Ashley Juran, MC Weed District* Feeling the heat? So is your pasture. The hot, dry weather this year has made it challenging to keep good grass growing. As the weather begins to cool and moisture (hopefully) returns, the upcoming months are an ideal time to reseed areas that need improvement. Learning the amount of moisture your property receives annually will help determine which grass species are best suited for your location. The type of soil you have greatly impacts how well plants can access available water. The web soil survey is a valuable resource that can provide you with extensive information on the benefits and challenges associated with the type of soil found on your property as well as the average annual precipitation for each soil type. Once you have typed in your address under the quick navigation column a map will appear of your property. You can then select your area of interest on the map, such as your pastures. The soil on your land is the foundation of your pasture, knowing a bit more about its personality will improve your ability to increase forage production.

Understanding your grazing needs will also help guide your decision making process regarding which types of grasses can provide quality forage for your animals. To better understand grasses, it is important to differentiate between warm-season and cool-season grasses. Warm-season grasses produce more than 60 percent of their forage in mid-summer, while cool-season grasses produce most of their forage in spring and fall. Having a combination of cool- and warm-season grasses in your pasture will help ensure forage is available throughout the growing season. To learn more about which grasses will perform best in your pasture please enjoy the following linked publications which provide abundant information on [dryland](#) and [irrigated](#) pastures here in Montana.

If you would like help developing a revegetation plan for your pastures please contact the Missoula County Weed District – Weed Prevention Coordinator, Ashley Juran at ajuran@missoulaeduplace.org or (406) 258-4218.



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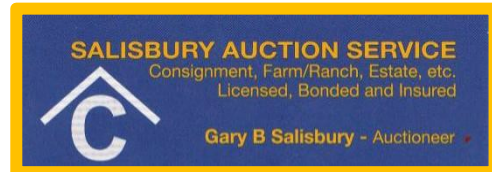
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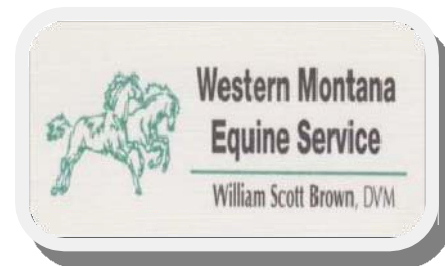


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Back Country Horsemen of Missoula
-Mission Statement-

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses In America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreation and stock use.
3. To assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
4. To 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.
- 5. To foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.**