



# The Feedbag

July 2023

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<http://bchmt.org/wp/missoula>

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/missoulabch/>

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P.O. Box 2121  
Missoula, MT 59806

Volunteer Organization, 501c3

*Hello dear BCH Missoula,*

I hope your summer has been wonderful, with many rides and barn full of fresh hay. What a hay season it has been!

BCH Missoula was busy this spring. We showed up at public meetings, giving the horse community a voice for continued access to our public lands, taught horse and mule packing to youth groups and adults, offered horse training and obstacles courses and some of us just got back from a few days repairing the hay shed at Burnt Cabin in the Monture Drainage of the Lincoln-Scapegoat Wilderness.

I continue to be amazed how we can fit it all in. This spring, the Flathead BCH hosted our state convention in Kalispell, celebrating 50 years of service to the community. Half a century of educating the public and working with partners to keep trails open for everyone. Next year, it is our turn to celebrate 50 years!

We were the second BCH chapter to be established in Montana (and the country!). What makes Missoula BCH special and how do you want to celebrate this accomplishment? Share your thoughts and join us for our annual Ice Cream Social and horse trivia on September 20, 6:30pm at Smoke Elser's barn in the Rattlesnake. The ice cream is on us!

Auf bald,

*Eva*



## BCH of Missoula Officers, Board and Committees

### Officers

Eva-Maria Maggi	President	406-531-6037
Ken Brown	Vice President	406-370-7374
Carey Powers	Secretary	434-989-8018
Jane Kelly	Treasurer	406-370-4363
Dan Harper	Past President	406-544-7296

### Board of Directors

*Second year:* Robert Braun, Mike Chandler

*First year:* Alex Drayton, Eric Skelton, Sydney Young

### State Directors

Judy Allen	406-274-2339
Gary Salisbury	406-529-7242
Smoke Elser (Alternate)	406-549-2820

### Committee Chairs

Issues:	Mike Chandler/Ken Brown
Social Chair:	Nancy Chandler
Membership Chair:	Judy Allen
Electronic Media Coordinators:	Robert Braun Carey Powers
Feedbag Editor:	Bonnie Doyle
Assistant Editors:	Dan Harper Sydney Young



## What to do When Meeting a Horse on the Trail

### STOP

- from a safe distance
- Horses have the right of way, **yield to them.**
- Get off your bike and stand still.

### SPEAK UP

- Let the rider and the horse know you are there, especially if you are coming from behind. It identifies you as a human and not an animal that wants to harm or eat them. **Speaking is unique to people.**
- Using a bell is not effective with horses and is hard to hear for the rider.

### STAND BACK

- On a narrow trail, step off on the **down side** of the trail.
- Prey animals attack from above. Horses feel safer with people/dogs below them. **It is easier/safer for the rider to stay on a horse going uphill.**
- Give the horse plenty of room.
- Control your dog with a leash.
- If in a group, all parties need to be on the same side of the trail.
- Stay in full view so the horse can see you. Don't hide behind a tree or bush.
- **Wait for instructions from the rider on what to do.**
- Do not try to pet the horse unless you have permission from the rider.
- If on a bridge – **get off the bridge** to let the horse/rider safely cross. All parties are in danger of being seriously injured or killed.

### SMILE

- thank everyone for their cooperation and to enjoy their day.

*Adopted from: Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, Blue Ridge Trail Riders, Inc., Harvey Broome Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, Ginny Fay and Tom Brigham, Missoula, MT 5/30/17, American Trails, and Ken Brown, Back Country Horsemen of Missoula. 5/28/23 revision.*

## Flower Ride 2023

On Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, eleven Backcountry Horseman (and women) and their horses rode up Marshall Mountain on the annual 'Wildflower Ride.' Riders were saddled up and ready to ride by 10 am at Dan Harper's barn, which is quite the location if you've never been. The ride was spectacular- taking riders through dense brush to vistas overlooking East Missoula and the Clark Fork River. Along the way, as the namesake suggests, Dan Harper and other riders shared their knowledge of native Montana wildflowers like Indian Paintbrush, Arrow leaf Balsamroot, and Lupine. The weather cooperated, despite some clouds in the sky.



I rode Tuxedo, Ken Brown's black gelding, who proved to be a steady and unhurried mount. Ken told me that Tux, as he's lovingly called, used to be called Ash but the name didn't quite suit him. I asked Ken if it was bad luck to change a horse's barn name, which I had always heard, but Ken replied by stating "it's not bad luck if

you've got this!" lifting Tux's mane and showing me a rabbit foot-shaped marking on his neck. Once all the riders had mounted, the group headed up into the brush and trees, ascending into Marshall Canyon. The ride was mostly uphill until lunchtime, proving to be quite the workout for the horses that wintered well in their pastures.

We stopped for about 30 minutes for lunch, allowing the horses to cool off in the shade. We tied the horses up to some trees on the hillside, which highlighted the importance of having a portable saw to clear snags and limbs on the tree you tie your horse too. After this ride, I'd also consider riding in a halter and lead rope, as tying off to a tree with reins proved tricky for some. The lead rope can easily be daisy-chained or looped around the saddle horn, but it's essential to have it long enough that you can tie your



horse up to a large-diameter tree. After lunch was over, a few riders headed up the hill and identified some more sub-alpine wildflower species and looked at the future site of the proposed downhill biking trails on Marshall Mountain. We then headed back down the trail, admiring the views as we went.



I was a little bit saddle-sore by the time we got back down the mountain, but Dan & Marj Harper graciously provided good conversation, nutritious snacks, and cold drinks once the ride was over. It's moments like these that I'm grateful to have found this community of like-minded horse people. See you on the trail!



**Sydney Young,**  
BCH Missoula  
Board Member

### **Burnt Cabin Project 2023**

Backcountry Horsemen of Missoula completed a work project at Burnt Cabin on July 14th-17th. This project consisted of repairing a hay shelter that was originally built and erected by 14 members of Backcountry Horsemen of Missoula in 2009. The last few years rodents, probably pack rats and maybe even porcupines have done damage to the lower one foot of the hay shelter. On July 15th three members of Missoula Backcountry Horsemen, Dan Tuxbury, James Domino, and Mark Wright packed into Burnt Cabin to complete repairs on the hay shelter.

We took two riding horses, one riding mule, a pack mule, and a pack horse. All these horses and mules did an amazing job on the trip in and the trip out, and seemed to enjoy the trip as much as we did.

The metal that was used to repair the hay shelter was packed in by Nine Mile pack string the week before with a load of hay. The plan was to stay at Monture Guard station the night before the trip, and to travel during the cool of the morning to the cabin. Burnt cabin is located about 8.5 miles up Monture trail #27 from the Monture trailhead which is close to the town of Ovando Mt. Burnt Cabin sits at the trail junction that takes you either over Limestone pass (trail # 402) or you can continue over Hahn pass into the heart of the Bob Marshall wilderness.

There is a beautiful Creek that flows right next to the cabin called Burnt Cabin Creek that provides water to travelers and the stock tank in the two corrals. The cabin is used by Forest Service trail workers, wilderness rangers, and forest service volunteers like us.

The following morning after our trip into the cabin work began early when the weather was cool. Metal called "coil stock" was put on the lower two feet of the cabin all the way around the perimeter. The metal and metal screws matched the color of the cabin perfectly. By the time the work was completed the day was getting hot and we were ready to put the tools away. The rest of the day was spent swapping stories in the shade and looking at a map of the Bob Marshall wilderness. We had amazing meals thanks to Dan's and James's cooking skills. With the project completed and the forecast for the following day being close to

100°, we decided to leave as early as possible for the return trip. So, the following morning with a light breakfast and some of Dan's great coffee we packed up our gear, tacked up the horses and mules, mounted up and headed back to Montour guard station.

We were already talking about next year's project and what we could accomplish at Burnt Cabin. The ride back was enjoyable with a beautiful cool morning. Backcountry Horsemen of Missoula has had a decade and a half of work projects at Burnt Cabin. Members have remodeled the interior, taking out the hay storage room and moving the stove, reroofed the cabin, built a front porch, construction of the watering system to the corral just to name a few of the many projects. A lot of these projects were done while other members were clearing trails to Limestone and Hahn passes.

This is not a complete list of the legacy but more of sample of the history that BCH of Missoula has accomplished with its partnership with Seeley Lake Ranger District as Forest Service volunteers. I am urging members, especially folks that are interested in doing this for the first time to sign up for next year.

A special thanks goes out to Jeremy Watkins who oversees the Seeley Lake ranger district trail crew and for all his help getting this project organized and to his crew that work so hard to keep our trails open.

***Mark Wright***





## BCHM AT THE BIG SKY HORSE PARK

The BCH of Missoula had a role in the development of the Big Sky Horse Park. In 1983, among other farsighted equestrian's, Smoke Elser, and Marjorie Harper spent many hours in public meetings and worked with various equestrian groups to develop support for the equestrian park. Smoke became the first president. Marjorie was subsequently elected as president and served three different terms. The BCHM participated in numerous work programs early on. Over the years the park, now renamed the Big Sky Horse Park, has developed an excellent cross country course, western arena, dressage arena, and main arena. Horse activities now fill every weekend at the park from May through September. In addition, numerous hikers, joggers and dog walkers enjoy the park daily. While the park is on county land, it is completely self sustaining. All improvements and all insurance coverage is paid by those equestrians who use the park.



In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the BCHM under the leadership of Mark Wright, coordinated with the Horse Park for the production of the PACKING AND EQUESTRIAN SKILLS EXPOSITION. These well received events

were open to the public. The focus was on safe use of equines, as well as riding and packing skills. Over the next several years, the involvement of the BCHM at the Big Sky, Horse Park began to atrophy.

Now the BCHM is back at the Big Sky Horse Park. On May 10th nine members rode a trail obstacle course. The tents, camp, chairs, signs, and garbage cans did not cause any problems. Some of us, though did have some problems with bridge crossing, water crossing and gate opening.

The Missoula 4-H group had a weekend camp at the Horse Park. On May 13 Eva Maggi, Mike Chandler, and I entertained a dozen 4-H girls age 8 to 14 with a hands on horse packing demonstration. Everyone learned about the importance of the half hitch. Many were able to mantly up a load, and some were able to load a horse using the basket hitch. The young ladies were enthusiastic and eager to participate. It was a fun time for everyone.

The Big Sky Horse Park represents a serious commitment by the horse community and is a wonderful asset for both the horse community as well as the non-equestrian users. We are fortunate to have a fine Horse Park available in Missoula. Let's make an effort to become more involved with the Big Sky Horse Park.

**Dan Harper**



Lolo National Forest Supervisor's Office

Attn: Amanda Milburn – **Lolo Plan Revision**

24 Fort Missoula Rd

Missoula, MT 59804

This is the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula's (BCHM) input for the Wilderness Inventory and Wild and Scenic Rivers for the Lolo Forest Service Plan Revision.

#### WILDERNESS INVENTORY

We see the need for connectivity for wildlife from the Bitterroot Selway Wilderness through such polygons, but not limited to: SB PW -05, GB-06 to continue to recommend Wilderness for the Great Burn, GB-PW-08, String of Pearls, GB-01-04, 28-34, 19-21, 15-18, 1-11, 22-27, and 35 – 46.

The Great Burn needs to continue to be recommended for Wilderness in which mountain bikes and snow mobiles are not allowed. We are opposed to matching boundaries with Idaho.

We support the Rattlesnake to have polygon RS-04 and RS-05 for recommended Wilderness, along with 52-54.

We recommended additions to the Welcome Creek Wilderness to include WC-01 and 02, Sliderock (SL-PW-10), SL-01 and 49.

Include Bob Marshall and Scapegoat additions, BMWC-01 and 55.

We want the trails from trailheads, (such as, the North Fork of the Blackfoot, Monture Creek, Lodgepole, Indian Meadows, and Pyramid Pass) to the dedicated by Congress Wildernesses boundaries, to be closed to mountain bikes. This will enhance the safe use of livestock. We want these trail sections only open for foot and stock travel.

We want stock trailheads kept for stock use and not allowing non-stock users to occupy those sites.

We want the emphasis for the Forest Service to provide for the conservation of forest land for wildlife, water quality, protection from erosion, and recreation; not to reach quotas of number of board feet of timber harvested.

Snowmobile access should be eliminated from recommended Wilderness areas to protect Wilderness values, wildlife (mountain goats, wolverines, and lynx) and to avoid user conflicts. In non-Wilderness areas snowmobiles may need to be restricted for the protection of wildlife.

#### WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

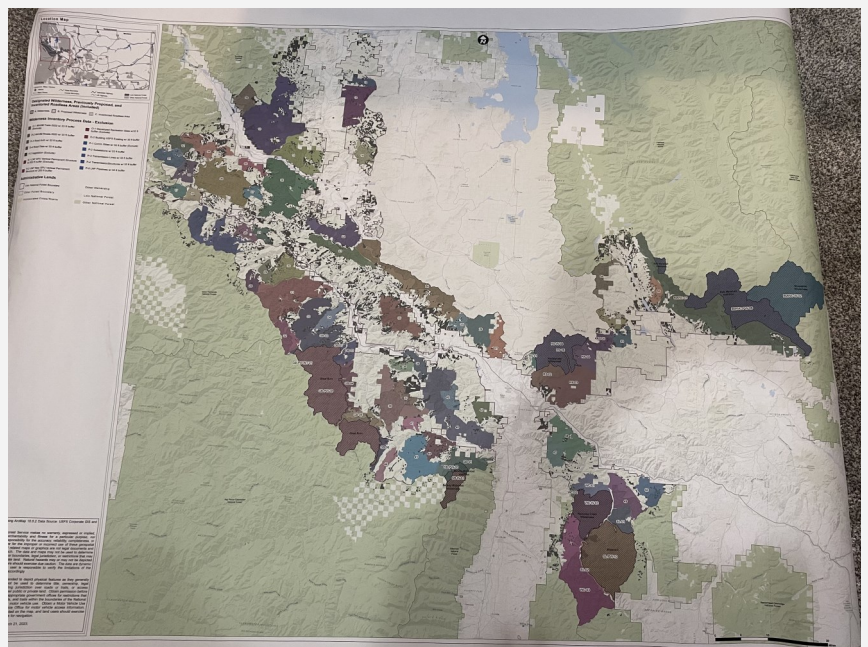
All or parts of the following rivers and streams should be considered for Wild and Scenic designation.

1. North Fork of the Blackfoot River
2. Monture Creek
3. Rattlesnake and Spring Creek
4. West and North Fork of Fish Creek
5. Cash Creek
6. Straight Creek
7. South Fork of Lolo Creek
8. Montana Creek

Thank you for this opportunity to give input into the Lolo Forest Service Plan Revision.

**Ken Brown,**  
**Vice President and Issues Chairman**

For the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula



# BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MISSOULA

P. O. Box 2121 Missoula, MT 59806

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2023

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### ATTENTION!!

Notice of Risks Inherent in Equine Activities!! Serious injury or even death can result from equine riding and related activities. There are risks inherent in equine activities, and these dangers or conditions that are an integral part of equine activities include but are not limited to: a) the propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury or harm or the death of persons on or around the equine; b) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to such things as medication, sound, sudden movements, and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; c) hazards, such as surface and subsurface ground conditions; d) collisions with other equines or objects; e) the potential of another participant to not maintain control over the equine or to not act within the person's ability.

Participants in any equine activity shall act in a safe and responsible manner at all times to avoid injury to themselves and others and shall be aware of the risks inherent in equine activities.

**The Back Country Horsemen of Missoula shall not be liable for injury to or the death of a participant as a result of their voluntary participation in any sponsored activity.**

**\*\*I certify that I have read and understand the above notice\*\***

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

\_\_\_\_\_ Family: \$45/year                      New Member \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$30/year                      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Membership: \$15/year

The membership list will be distributed to the members to be used only for legitimate BCH Missoula business. You may choose to opt out by place a check next the following options:

opt out of email sharing \_\_\_\_\_                      opt out phone number sharing \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is on a calendar year basis (expires December 31<sup>st</sup>). Please make payments to Back Country Horsemen of Missoula. Any membership dues received after October 1<sup>st</sup> will be applied to the following calendar year.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Feedbag (quarterly club newsletter)? EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Occasional notices of meetings, rides, and special events? EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

State BCH Newsletter? EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_