

About Back Country Horsemen of America

Back Country Horsemen of America has been around since 1973 working to perpetuate the historic use of recreational stock in the backcountry.

Our Mission: Our purpose is to perpetuate the common-sense use of horses in America's back country, wilderness and roadless areas; to assist various government and private agencies in their maintenance of said resources; to work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use; and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resources by horsemen and pack stock.



Bylaws of the Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen

(Last Amended 5/12/2016)

We use equine stock in the wilderness and primitive areas of our country in a safe and reasonable manner. Our use of stock in the backcountry includes work projects and pleasure rides/pack trips. We are active in projects that maintain the use of trails in our region's wilderness and primitive areas. Our projects are in support of local agencies that are responsible for keeping primitive trails open and useable in the wilderness and roadless areas as well as access trails to these areas. We teach interested members of the horse and mule community how to safely enjoy the primitive wilderness with their stock while ensuring the continuation of our precious wilderness resources.

In order to keep the vision of the founders of the SPWBCH intact, the following bylaws have been created as a guide to remain on track.

PHILOSOPHY

- 1) We are a chapter of the BCH that is a **WORK** orientated group.
- 2) All members shall protect and promote wilderness and roadless areas.
- 3) All members shall promote non-motorized trails.
- 4) All projects and work shall be done on non-motorized, primitive, wilderness study areas, wilderness trails and access trails that lead to the above.
- 5) All members shall be responsible for themselves and their stock and shall hold other members and SPWBCH harmless.

PROJECTS

- 1) Yearly projects shall be determined by the executive committee or their appointed committee and shall be limited to only those that the work force can handle.
- 2) Projects may be either Forest Service related or personal choice by the SPWBCH.
- 3) SPWBCH is not responsible for individual membership insurance. SPWBCH will only provide day insurance on projects/functions that include nonmembers/public participation.
- 4) Only SPWBCH members in good standing will be allowed to participate in trail work projects.

MEMBERSHIP/DUES

- 1) **Full Individual** membership dues shall be \$30.00 per year (includes state and National dues)
- 2) **Full Family** membership dues shall be \$40.00 per year (includes state and National dues)
- 3) **Chapter Only Individual** membership shall be \$15.00 per year (Your state and national dues must be collected by another chapter where you are a member.)
- 4) **Chapter Only Family** membership shall be \$20.00 per year (Your state and national dues must be collected by another chapter where you are a member.)
- 5) **Temporary Membership** dues shall be \$1.00 per week per person. (No vote-for one time or short term volunteer opportunities)
- 6) If a new member joins after October 1st then annual dues shall be waived for the remainder of the year.
- 7) Each member shall be required to fill out a membership form annually.
- 8) All members shall sign a Hold Harmless Waiver annually when renewing membership.

** Chapter Only and Temporary memberships are not forwarded to BCH Montana-this membership is for a member wishing to belong to more than one chapter-Please let Treasurer know who your Home chapter is**

ETIQUETTE/SAFTETY

The trailmaster has authority over all matters of trail etiquette. If a problem/question arises concerning a decision made by the trailmaster and cannot be resolved, then in the interest of safety, the concerned parties are asked to follow the trailmaster's decision and later, at an appropriate time, discuss the problem/question with the board, officers and members.

- 1) No stallions shall be permitted on work projects, trail rides or pleasure trips.
- 2) Only dogs that are friendly, well-mannered and voice controlled shall be allowed on work projects.
- 3) Alcohol shall be prohibited along the trail but will be allowed in camp in moderation.
- 4) Firearms shall be allowed but will be kept in saddlebags or holstered except in case of emergency.
- 5) Proper riding/work attire shall be worn on all club activities.
- 6) For safety reasons, no member under the age of 18 will be allowed to operate a chainsaw, crosscut, axe, hand saw or any other tool deemed to be dangerous.

FUNDRAISING/DONATIONS

- 1) Fundraising shall be secondary to the main goals of the SPWBCH mission statement.
- 2) Fundraisers shall be planned/held with specific monetary needs in mind.
- 3) All items/funds donated to or raised by the SPWBCH shall be property of the SPWBCH and shall be used for the good of all.
- 4) Club property shall be used for approved SPWBCH projects and education.

TRAINING (Optional)

- 1) All members are encouraged to participate in the various training programs. Courses shall be in accordance with BCHM and USFS Guidelines.
 - a) First Aid/CPR: First Aid every 3 years/CPR every 2 years
 - b) Defensive Horsemanship: Initial training 8 hours-4 hour refresher course every 3 years
 - c) Crosscut Certification: Re-certification every 3 years
 - d) Chainsaw Certification: Re-certification every 3 years

COMMITTEES/PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 1) A committee shall be composed of a Chairman and any other members who wish to assist them.
- 2) No one individual may represent the SPWBCH at public meetings. A minimum of two members shall represent SPWBCH at public meetings.

MEETINGS

- 1) Board meetings shall be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00pm. Notice of location shall be given to each officer/director a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to meeting.
- 2) General meetings shall be held following the board meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Notice of location shall be given to each member a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to meeting.
- 3) Board meetings will be open meetings and all members are encouraged to participate. Communication will be considered essential and all members will have a voice and an opinion. It is encouraged that any member who has a grievance or a particular problem or issue should bring forth such topics to the board and general membership.

HISTORY AND AMENDMENTS OF THE SELWAY-PINTLER WILDERNESS BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN BYLAWS

The original Bylaws were adopted October 2006.

Amendments approved on April 8, 2008: **Projects # 4); Safety/Etiquette #6); Membership/Dues #5a) and #8); Committees/Public Meetings #1)**

Amendment approved on May 12, 2016: **Membership/Dues #1) Full Individual; #2) Full Family; #3) Chapter Only; #4) Chapter Family; #5) Temporary**