

The Trailhead News

Vol. 50 Issue 1

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

January/February 2025



www.bchw.org



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Cover Photo: Park Butte, Mount Baker. Photo Courtesy of Kambria Schwalen, Skagit County Chapter

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Please submit to: thn@bchw.org or mail to: PO Box 7184 • Olympia, WA 98507 • 360.754.4543

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April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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BCHW Directory located online at bchw.org.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "Lifetime," "Contributing," "Sustaining," and "Patron" members.

The Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page is provided by the BCHW Membership Committee. **If you have any corrections or questions, please e-mail membership@bchw.org.**

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Lifetime Members		2025 Sustaining Level		Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC
Mitch Baird	IND	Gene Brent.....	TAH	Kris & Don Hand	PSR
Scott Bauer.....	CHC	Danny & Jeanie Chappel.....	RRR	Bruce & Gigi Hiebert	TAH
Amanda Biles	TAH	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller.....	IND	Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR
Penelope Booker.....	IND	Kathy & Bob Cole	MSH	Robert Humes	PCC
Karen Briskey.....	PCC	Gary & Kathy Collins.....	MSH	Brain & Tammy Jansen.....	MSH
Caleb Canby	MVC	Greg Cox	GHC	Kathy & Bob Jones	TDC
Janis Collett.....	PCC	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Laurie Kallsen-George	PNC
Steven & Carol Crapson	CCR	Sherrie Elliott.....	NEC	Janet & Joe Keller.....	TAH
Missy Day	TAH	Bruce & Kathy Foreman.....	NEC	Ed & Teri Letcher.....	WEN
David Jackson	PSR	Robert Gish & Gloria Dennison.....	NEC	Julie & John Lundy	FRC
Kris Lenke	BHR	KEVIN & Lisa Graese	NEC	Kathy McGehee-Hansen.....	NSC
Lori Lennox.....	GHC	Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty.....	MVC	Paul Mellick.....	RRR
Kim Merrick	NSC	Mary Kane.....	TAH	Bob & Rani Merz.....	MAC
Heather Moorman	PSR	Lorraine Karmen.....	CHC	Kris Moran	GHC
Jason Ridlon.....	IND	Bill Kehner	IND	Jeanette & John O'Keefe.....	MVC
Kathy Russo.....	IND	Edris Kenan	TAH	Sheila Richards.....	NEC
Dave Seibel	MOC	Mike & Chris McGlenn.....	WCC	Leonard & Kathy Rolph.....	MAC
Bob Shonka	IND	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Laurel Saville	WCC
Teri Starke	IND	James Miller.....	IND	Larry Wachtel.....	IND
Cathy Upper.....	MVC	Mary & Dennis Owens.....	GHC	Joan & Ben Wildman	PNC
Barbara Woo	CHC	Kathleen Parshall.....	TAH		
Pat Wyers.....	MAC	Lynda Stafford	SCR		
2025 Annual Meeting Head Table		Michael Torok.....	MVC		
2023 Annual Meeting Head Table		Larry & Felicia Wachtel.....	IND		
Kinney/Churchill	TDC	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC		
2025 Patron Level		Louise & Peter Walton.....	NEC		
Christina Cline	MVC	Bonnie Witrak.....	TAH		
William Hamlin & Anne Razzolini.....	RRR	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge	MAC		
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC	JoAnn Yost.....	GHC		
Cindy & Dean Kobetich.....	BHR	2025 Contributing Level			
Mary Krauss & Joe Berner.....	CHC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth.....	CHC		
Dale & Tina Merten	GHC	Jim & Terri Anderson.....	MSH		
Bob Showalter.....	RRR	Carol & David Bainter	GHC		
Heather Spencer.....	PNC	Meg Brinton & Nick Lowe	MSH		
Brenda Wiebe.....	MAC	Tyler Castle	MSH		
Todd & Janet Wiebke	IND	Jan & Jim Craghead.....	CCR		
Nancy Wiest.....	PCC	Sue and Greg Duffy.....	RRR		
		Ken & Pam Evans.....	MAC		
		Carol Finney	MSH		

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

BettyRae Shonka
 Carol Wilcox
 Doc Wesselius
 Jim Murphy
 Laarin Lee Barber
 Marianne Finrow
 Teunis Wyers
 Trygve Culp

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance
 Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or trk21@msn.com.

Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a "trade or business" and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this "trade or business"). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your taxes. ↻



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

Happy New Year. It's hard to believe it's 2025—wow!! I hope everyone enjoyed a fun and safe holiday season with family.

Every two months, I need to draft an article, and every two months, I struggle with a topic.

As volunteers, throughout the year, we put in our time for this organization because we agree with the mission and have a passion for equines and the trails in both front and back country. Our public Lands belong to all of us, and we must keep fighting to keep our ability to access them. Hundreds of thousands of hours, mostly unpaid, because we care and have passion.

Many of our volunteers do not even get the recognition they deserve for their work, whether out on the trail or behind the scenes. Those who ride, hike, or bike on our public land trails appreciate that the trails are open, even if they do not know that BCHW does a lot of the work to keep those trails

open for ALL users. If you are not actively getting involved in your chapters, whether by holding an officer's position or volunteering out on the trails, please consider doing something. If we do not get out there and keep those trails accessible, there is a chance we will lose them.

Some of our chapters participate in our Volunteer Hours Patch Program to recognize our valuable volunteers. If your chapter wants information about the program, you can go to the website's Resource Page. There is information there that your chapter can use. We have lots of patches in stock, so let us help you get started with the program!

This month, we will hold Leadership Training for our NEW and current chapter officers. Please check your email for dates and times.

Legislative Day is scheduled for March 24, 2025. More information will be available in the coming weeks. 🐾

BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter "BCHA") and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows: The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

Did You Know?

BCHW has a "Membership Development Manual" to help chapters generate membership and strengthen the leadership. It is on the BCHW website under Members Only, Governing Documents, #7 Chapter Guidelines. Take a look.

Vice President's Corner



Why BCH

By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Vice President

Why do we have BCH? To preserve and enhance the rights of responsible horse riders to use horses and mules on public land. As an organization, we are much more effective than we are as individuals.

Who benefits? You do, all equestrians that ride the trails, all recreationists that use the trails, the community, and the environment.

BCH is divided into three levels: national, state and chapter. Each has a purpose and plays a vital role in keeping trails open. We educate, advocate, and build and maintain trails and trailheads between the three levels.

Is there a need? Yes. Public land managers do not have the budget, staffing or priority to do what is needed. They

depend on volunteers. It is more than just the work that needs to be done today or tomorrow. We must think long-term. We must be at the table when decisions are made about the future.

How do we volunteer? It takes a great deal of work to support the people doing the education, advocacy, and trail work. It takes people with all different skills, talents, abilities, interests, and time commitment. There is a place for everyone.

Final question. What will you do in 2025 to help keep trails open? Ask the chapter president what needs to be done. The time spent is well worth it, and it is FUN. 🐾

Official Announcement Regarding Revisions to the BCHW Bylaws

We are required to inform all our members through our Trailhead News 30 days in advance that we are proposing changes to our bylaws. They will be reviewed and voted on by your Board of Directors at our 1st QTR Meeting on March 14th, 2025, in Ellensburg. The draft of the bylaws is posted on the Members Only page of the BCHW website under Member Info/Governing Documents.

The changes that are being proposed are because of the report from The Better Business Practices Ad Hoc Committee (BBPAC) that was tasked with evaluating the business operations of BCHW to include:

- Board of Directors (BOD)
- Executive Committee (EC)

- Officers (O)
- Standing Committees (SC)
- Communications
- Bylaws, Standing Rules and Policies
- Centralized Accounting (CA)

An important thing to be aware of is that there were sections removed from the bylaws and put into Standing Rules so that in the future they can be adjusted more easily than editing them in the bylaws.

If you have any questions about the proposed changes, please contact us at president@bchw.org. Your Chapter Directors will review them and discuss them in March. 🐾

Rendezvous 2025



By Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer

2025 is shaping up to be a wonderful BCHW Rendezvous; it feels like we have something going on for everyone all day Friday and Saturday. BCHW is scheduling the entire fairgrounds for classes, demos, trainings, competitions and more. Please check our website at bchw.org for the most up-to-date schedule when we get closer to the event.

What we have right now:

- The Used Tack Sale in the Armory, using all the rooms!
- Trailmeister is holding a cinch clinic on Friday and Saturday. He is donating a portion of the class cost to BCHW and you will receive your loom, tools and directions to make cinches and more!
- Packing classes and competition
- Saddle Fitting – Dave Morrison
- Essentials in Emergency Preparedness - Amber Palmer
- Equine Massage – Brandy Crawford
- CPR classes
- Kendra Bandoock is presenting a mini rider confidence clinic; more information to register on the Rendezvous page

- Essentials in Emergency preparedness – Amber Palmer
- Dutch Oven cooking Friday and Saturday with Bill McKenna and George Cook
- Saturday night prime rib dinner and weekend concessions by Cascade Mtn Grilling
- Vendors in the Umptaneum, Manastash, and outside
- BCHW store with logo wear in the Manastash
- Cowboy Church – Jack Gillette
- Equine Massage - Brandy Crawford
- Janet Jones, bestselling author of Horse Brain Human Brain-two presentations
- Gas Small Engine demo and maintenance
- Saddle Cleaning/Conditioning and Checking for Safety Issues – Sheila Shockey
- Macramé Coiled Basket Class – Sheila Shockey

We are adding presentations and as many classes as possible. If you don't see something we can do, reach out to me at 253-709-5052; and let's see if we can add it in 2025! 🐾

BCHW Sponsorships Program

We are now offering annual sponsorships!

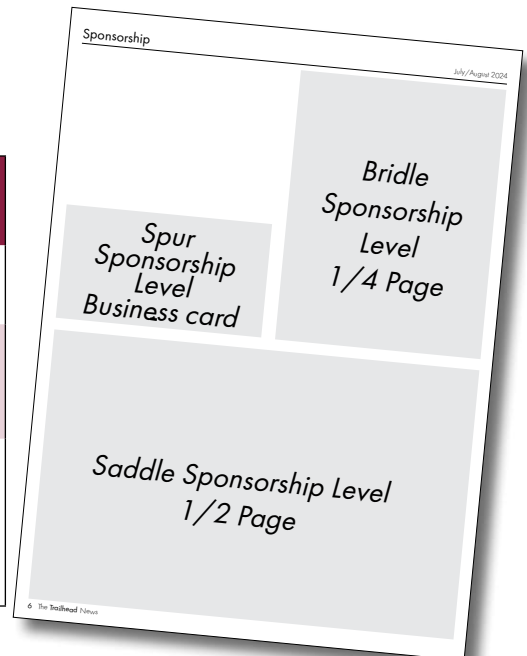
Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

All levels of sponsors will be listed on the Sponsors page of our website.

- **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Facebook page has 8.6K Followers**

- **The Trailhead News publication goes to 2100+ members**
- **Rendezvous Three-day event gathers 400+ members and 100+ public attendance**

Sponsorship Level	Benefits
Spur \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business card-size listing in all 6 editions of our Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events
Bridle \$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter-page listing in our 6 editions of The Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired)
Saddle \$5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-page listing in all 6 editions of The Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired) • Posts on BCHW Facebook page



Contact president@bchw.org for more information

2024 BCHW Awards Program

Never too early to start the list

By Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Start the process of gathering information for the nomination packet now. Nominations are due by February 1, 2025 and will be awarded at Rendezvous in March. There are so many deserving BCHW members that should receive one of these awards. If your Chapter does not have a nominating committee for Awards, please put it on the agenda for your next meeting. I am more than happy to assist you with your nominations. In addition, BCHW appreciates donations from individuals and Chapters for these awards. For more information and to see past award winners, please visit the Awards page at bchw.org/programs/awards.

BCHW AWARDS CATEGORIES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT This award is for the BCHW member or couple who has shown a lifetime of dedication to BCHW by actively pursuing and promoting the organization and the BCHW Mission Statement in a variety of ways. This award is for recognition, not a contest.
Lifetime = 1, max 2 awarded

LOPPER AWARD This award is for a BCHW member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to their chapter or to BCHW by participation and promotion of what the BCHW Mission Statement stands for. This is kind of an “all around” award, with the nominee being active in several different aspects of the many things that make up BCHW.
Lopper = 3, max 4 awarded

CAMP COOK This award is for the BCHW member who willingly keeps the campfires burning and the kettles hot and full of delicious food to share with others. Whether it is at meetings, work parties or social functions, they are in the kitchen making sure all are well fed.
Camp Cook = 1 awarded

TRAIL WARRIOR This person may not make all the chapter functions or even own a computer, but they are out rain or shine, day in and day out, working on the trails.
Trail Warrior = 3, max 4 awarded

DESK JOCKEY This person is one of the behind-the-scenes people, always at a computer or running from meeting to meeting. They keep the wheels of our organization turning.
Desk Jockey = 2, max 3 awarded



JUNIOR BCHW Our future! Who stands out in your chapter? This person would participate in chapter events such as work parties, fund raisers, LNT/education, training or BCHW promotion such as parades.
Junior BCH = 1, max 2 awarded

BACKBONE This award is to recognize that special member who is always there when needed, ready and willing to do some special job that no one else can or will do, sometimes at the last minute. This is a member who is very important in keeping the chapter, organization or an event operating smoothly.
Backbone = 2, max 3 awarded

CINCH AWARD The BCHW Board of Directors nominates this award and the President nominates five directors to make the selection. It was created to recognize those hard-working BCHW members who have consistently and competently carried out jobs at the state level, year after year. Recipients shall be Volunteer Committee Chairmen, Volunteer Committee member, or an UN-ELECTED state officer - they keep the wheels of this great organization running smoothly. They may or may not be very visible - they may be quietly working in the background, reliably doing their jobs. They may or may not be active or hold an office in a chapter or even be a chapter member, but they are invaluable at the state level.
Cinch Award = 1, max 2 awarded

PRESIDENT’S DIAMOND AWARD The BCHW President awards a person or persons “In recognition of outstanding dedication, passion and commitment to the BCHW mission”. The President’s Diamond Award is decided autonomously from the BCHW Awards Program.
President’s Diamond Award = 1, max 2 awarded

SPONSORSHIPS Last year eight different BCHW chapters and one business sponsored BCHW awards. Thanks to Ponderosa, Pierce County, Capitol Riders, Scatter Creek, Methow Valley, Tahoma, Buckhorn Chapters and Harbor Saw for your sponsorships. These sponsorships, partnered with the BCHW award budget, resulted in nineteen volunteers being recognized in eight categories. Please encourage you, your chapter or businesses to support the BCHW Award Program for one or more of the award categories. Also remember that with our 501(c3) there is a tax advantage for award donations. 🐾

2024 BCHW Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)

Lifetime Achievement	_____	Desk Jockey	_____
Lopper Award	_____	Junior BCHW	_____
Camp Cook	_____	Backbone Award	_____
Trail Warrior	_____		

Nominees' Name _____

Chapter(s) _____

Submitted by _____

Chapter(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Information to include in your nomination presentation:

- In 75 words or less, give an opening statement telling why this person is deserving of special, statewide recognition for this specific award.
- Then separately, on as many pages as you need, create a presentation detailing WHY this person should receive this award.
- Chapters this person has belonged to and for how long
- Positions or job titles this person has held
- An estimate of his or her volunteer hours (Chapter Vol Hour Chairs can help with this)
- Awards this person has won
- Trails or camps this person has worked on
- A little family history
- Include anything which will make your nominee stand out! (Letters of recommendation from land managers, news clippings, photos, etcetera.)

The presentation you submit will be given to the recipient.

Mail nomination forms with your presentation via the US Post Office to: BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Susan Sundahl
 15188 Stevens Rd. S.E. Olalla, WA 98359
 Questions: pappihorse@wavecable.com or 253-380-0343

Must be received before February 1, 2025



Please clip out and mail



BCHW – Volunteer Hours Report

By Deb Wesselius, BCHW Volunteer Hours Chair

The BCHW volunteer hours Summary Report covers the reporting period from October 1, 2023, thru September 30, 2024. These are the year-end totals and they represent a job well done by chapter members, officers and your Volunteer Hours Coordinator. The Excel document represents the totals by Chapter and by Agency.

2024 BCHW VOLUNTEER HOURS = 55,502
 (2023 – 58,520)
2024 TOTAL VALUE = \$2,476,837.56
 (2023 - \$2,385,134.60)

Even though the overall hours have decreased from the previous year’s the BCHW-Volunteers put in a great effort accumulating over 55k of volunteer hours. Due to the increase in the values, the overall total value is higher than previous year’s. This is a time to give the entire BCHW-Volunteers a big thanks and hats off to everyone.

This needs to be said every year and that is the success of the BCHW Volunteer Hours program is due to the assistance of your BCHW VH Regional Committee, I couldn’t get the volunteer hours reviewed and accurate without their help. Big thanks go out to Louise Caywood-PCC, JoAnn Yost-GHC & Kathy Iddins-SKT who worked diligently on reviewing and

assuring accuracy in their chapters’ quarterly and final reports.

Throughout the year we continued to collect and report the BCHW Volunteer Hours on a quarterly basis to assist with chapters who struggle to complete the reports accurately. Quarterly reporting is also beneficial for chapters to keep up on the VH data entry and making it easier to meet the final yearend reporting deadline.

The BCHW Summary Report will also be provided to your chapter VHC for your chapter records. If you have any questions regarding the volunteer hours report, please contact me.

This year we will be working on another virtual Volunteer Hours Training (scheduled Zoom Training courses) watch for details from the BCHW President, Dana Chambers, who will be sending out the vision for this year’s Training. Please remember it’s important that your chapter Volunteer Hours Coordinator attend or plan on sending a representative, especially if you have a new VHC.

Finally if you or someone you want to recommend would be interested in joining the BCHW Regional Volunteer Hours team let me know. I think it’s important that we continue to look forward and embrace change and new volunteers can help with that. 🐾



Back Country Horsemen of Washington

**Volunteer Hours Report
State Summary**

2024 ~ Final prepared by: Deb Wesselius, BCHW VH Chair



Washington State Chapter	Trail Work		Admin		Travel Time	Total Volunteer Hours	Personal		Total Dollar Value
	Basic	Skilled	L.N.T.	Public			Vehicle	Stock	
	Trail	Trail	Educ.	Service			Miles	Days	
Buckhorn Range Chapter	213	33	138.5	376.5	217	978	7262	1	43,234.34
Capitol Riders Chapter	155	7	88.5	270	124.5	645	3442	34	30,614.93
Cascade Horse Club	158	81.5	12.5	322.5	133	707.5	3752	38	34,873.69
Crab Creek Riders	53	0	39.5	107.5	48.5	248.5	1796	7	11,621.87
Ellensburg Valley Chapter	444	101	376.5	1071.5	356.5	2349.5	8757	22	94,947.45
Ferry County Chapter	145	30	64.5	437	106	782.5	3493	45	37,048.68
Grays Harbor Chapter	751	694	88.5	862	628.5	3023.5	12661.0	162	150,216.93
Independent	0	34	0	2117	96	2247	3921	0	81,114.54
Lewis County Chapter	1384.5	1213	84	616.5	540.5	3838	17089	214	198,652.02
Methow Valley Chapter	91	53	0	0	4	148	186	23	6,123.59
Mt Adams Chapter	83.5	23	27	17	69.5	220	1982	16	12,428.52
Mt Olympus Chapter	170	169	6	335	61	741	1199	40	34,263.80
Mt St Helens Chapter	1221	443	261	1341.5	870.5	4137	25007	116	194,223.40
Nisqually Chapter	109.5	0	57	872.5	280.5	1319.5	6228	37	57,222.86
Northeast Chapter	322	263.5	133	269	427	1414.5	12666.5	92	80,382.37
Oakland Bay Chapter	200.5	55.5	23.5	93	197.5	570	2802.5	36	28,301.75
Okanogan Valley Chapter	46.5	4	42.5	327	91	511	1308.5	2	19,196.83
Olympic Chapter	170	89	64	215	66	604	1504	19	26,123.22
Peninsula Chapter	4695	2052.5	441	125.0	1407	8720.5	22287	57	363,620.17
Pierce County Chapter	1092	407.5	374	2365.5	983.5	5222	20919	155	210,410.06
Ponderosa Chapter	143	13.5	33.5	819	152	1161	5188	12	46,126.68
Purple Sage Riders	374.5	7.5	714.5	1401.5	552	3050	17197	157	145,111.00
Rattlesnake Ridge Riders	98.5	135	339.5	367	183.5	1123.5	5230	59	54,321.42
Scatter Creek Riders	90	6	12.5	449.5	143.5	701.5	4295	18	31,641.93
Skagit Chapter	0	0	0	901	229.5	1130.5	7028	0	47,348.25
Tahoma Chapter	704	310.5	345.5	2276	633.0	4269	15962	49	175,840.28
Traildusters Chapter	158.5	6.5	5.5	139.5	82	392	1533	5	15,931.44
Wenas Chapter	225	52	82.5	1568	279	2206.5	9098	31	90,906.72
Wenatchee Valley Chapter	141	135	24	93.5	143	536.5	2427.5	48	29,504.41
Whatcom County Chapter	391.5	482.5	158	606.5	503	2141.5	14003.5	87	109,575.61
Whidbey Island Trail Riders	133	59.5	10.5	103	57.5	363.5	2029	0	15,908.80
Totals	13963	6961	4048	20865	9666	55502.5	242253	1582	2,476,837.56

State Agency Report	Basic		Skilled		Edu	Admin		TT	Total Hours	POV	Stock	Total \$\$ Value
U.S.F.S. (A)	4907	3608	310	181	2886	11892	67530	723	642,641.62			
State DNR (B)	1833	372.5	135.5	106	697	3144	17906	173	159,326.32			
State Parks (C)	619.5	157	0	57	204	1037.5	5069	44	49,717.20			
National Parks (D)	893.5	560.5	0	10	264	1728	3911	30	76,283.35			
Education & LNT (E)	0	0	3390	0	724	4114	19449	136	165,734.01			
Dept. Fish & Wildlife (F)	100.5	11	111	15	93	330.5	2477	9	15,721.54			
Administrative (G)	0	0	0	18408	2754	21162	79595	128	817,768.63			
BLM (M)	142.5	5	0	0	56	203.5	1593	26	12,299.47			
NOLT (O)	52	2	0	0	8	62	146	0	2,306.96			
Rendezvous (R)	0	0	24	1827	324	2175	11824	2	89,053.15			
Private Timber (T)	1990	1090	13	131	935	4159	21813	268	221,479.06			
County (W)	3425	1155	64	130	721	5495	10940	43	224,506.25			
Totals	13963	6961	4048	20865	9666	55502.5	242253	1582	2,476,837.56			

New Equestrian Trail Robin Hill, Clallam County Park May – October 2024

PHOTO BY DONNA HOLLATZ



Construction of turnpike across a wet area.



PHOTO BY BEN WILDMAN

Inaugural ride with President Theresa Percy, Martha Ireland, and Stephanie Burns

By Donna Hollatz, Peninsula Chapter BCHW

In early May of 2024, Don Crawford, Director of Clallam County Parks, gave Peninsula Chapter of BCHW permission to build a new section of equestrian trail to increase the trail riding opportunities at Robin Hill Park. This park is located mid-way between Sequim and Port Angeles, has a wonderful area to park horse trailers, and provides access for horses to the Olympic Discovery Trail. It is very popular with “front country riders” who are starting a young horse or want a short trail ride that does not require a long drive with a horse trailer. We were excited for this new trail building opportunity.

The plan was to add about a 3/4 mile section of trail to make a “loop” that would travel along the eastern side of the park near the trailhead on the south to meet existing trails near the wetland on the north end. Jim and Donna Hollatz spent 3 days flagging a route, beating through salal brush, salmon berry, and 4-foot-tall nettles, using a phone app to stay within the park boundaries, while finding a path around a small creek drainage to avoid mud and areas that were too steep. The easy part was crossing the high ground under tall trees where the only obstacles were old fallen logs to step over and around.

Once the route was evaluated and approved in early July, they spent 3 more days “brushing” a wider path with a chainsaw, cutting up and removing downed trees, and falling and removing several large, dead, standing trees along the path to make the trail safe.

At the end of July, Dan Dosey brought his small dozer and spent one day cleaning the path to a 7-foot-wide corridor. This included moving enough dirt to create a switchback to lessen the steepness along one stretch of trail. Jim Hollatz worked with

a chainsaw along with the dozer to clear hazards encountered along the way.

In mid-August, a small excavator was rented and Dan Dosey spent a day improving the tread along the route. There were three places that needed culverts and turnpike built to mitigate wet areas. Clallam County covered the expenses involved with equipment rental, culvert pipe, ground cloth, and gravel. Members of Peninsula Chapter provided the labor and

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PHOTO BY TOM MIX

Dan Dosey using his small dozer to build new trail.

New Equestrian Trail Robin Hill

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PHOTO BY DONNA HOLLATZ



Tom Mix and Jim Hollatz planning a culvert installation.

PHOTO BY TOM MIX



Dan Dosey operating excavator and Jim Hollatz assisting to refine trail tread.

trail building expertise. A skid-steer was rented to move some of the gravel to the necessary areas and members Jeff Chapman and Dan Dosey both brought small tractors to help one day. Small logs were harvested and peeled near the trail to meet the needs of side rails for the turnpike areas and several crews put in busy days with equipment at the end of August to get the gravel moved and turnpike areas completed.

Three work parties, of about 10 people each, spent an additional 3 days using hand tools to cut out roots and rake out the

rough spots in the tread and trim overhead limbs, making the new trail safe for riders and hikers.

Peninsula Chapter hosted an inaugural ride on Nov. 9th, where a long-time Peninsula resident and equestrian, Martha Ireland, was honored for her work in the original development of the park and with coordinating cooperation of neighboring property owners to allow easy work access for the new section of trail. This new trail is a “win-win” for the County, local equestrians and walkers, and Peninsula Chapter. 🐾

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2024 and the renewal season starts on October 1st. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR SINGLE AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ARE INCREASING.

In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

Ponderosa Work Parties



In front of metal corrals Riverside State Park equestrian campground, Ponderosa BCH work party. left to right, Ranger Russell Aldrich, Bob Brannan, Ranger Mouse Hempel, Ken Carmichael.



Work party on trail at Riverside State Park Troutman Property State Park work party November 9, 2024. Person in foreground with head down is Ken Carmichael (BCH).

By Ken Carmichael, Ponderosa Chapter BCHW

PBCH held several small work parties to improve the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area. BCH was instrumental in the original construction of these features and is maintaining them. We installed eight new corrals in the equestrian campground, performed maintenance on several features in the obstacle course and installed three hitchrails in different areas of the park. The Park Volunteer Coordinator is managing the development of a multiuse trail on the Troutman Property, where we participate.

This work supports the arena, round pen and 80 miles of trails.

Riverside State Park hosts the annual spring poker ride. It is also a wonderful place to stop and rest your horses as you travel.

PBCH also supports the development of new trails in Spokane Palisades Park. This large new tract of land will support recreation, including an equestrian trailhead.

PBCH also supports BLM on area land. This year, we updated the trail markers on a multiuse trail at Fish Trap Lake. 🌲



Please clip out and mail



Permanent or Temporary Address Change Form

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

New Address: _____

Temporary Address for Snow Birds: _____

Start date: _____ Return Date: _____

Mail to: Dana Chambers, State Membership Chair, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391

Email to: membership.bchw@gmail.com

Pacific Northwest Splendor



By Kambria Schwalen, Skagit County Chapter BCHW

Park Butte is among the bucket list places for equestrians to discover in Washington State. A slightly challenging trail and better than typical forest service roads bring you to a delightful location on the side of Mount Baker. There are two overnight horse camping sites at the trailhead on a first-come, first-serve basis. It doesn't appear to get much use by the way the moss is growing around the hitching posts and undisturbed gravel driveways. There are campfire rings and a creek to water the horses at. You must bring water for human use or a filtration system. The road is (or has been these past two years) in good condition, with just a few potholes about a mile before the trailhead and a touch of washboard in some places. Don't even think about going on a weekend due to the line of cars who park along the forest service road, on both sides, instead of using a parking lot or finding a different trail (we could really use a permit system to cure the issue of never being able to access the backcountry on horseback in the northern part of the state on weekends - a time typically when young riders who are not retired are out of work or school and able to ride or do trail work).

As for the trail, it can be challenging, and it is a backcountry trail. The glacial melt causes the Rocky Creek Fjord to be knee to chest deep but swift and silty, so you cannot see the large boulders underfoot. It is best to start from the trailhead pre-dawn to avoid deep glacial melt on the ride back when it is essential to cross the stream to make it back to the trailhead.

It is good to keep an eye on the forecast for excessive heat days combined with soft spring snowpack or big rain events, as both can raise the creek level. Once you climb a couple thousand feet in elevation gain, the trail plateaus with astounding views of Mount Baker and the glaciers. Sometimes, you can see the steam coming from the vent on the upper right near the "Roman Wall." A little bit further to the intersection, you are looking into the Puget Sound and San Juan Islands and a nice view of the Sisters. Huckleberries and mountain blueberries abound when the season is right for them.



We need more horse people using the trails in the northern part of the state as every trail we are getting more and more pushed out each year, making it inaccessible for horse trailers or riding. Hannegan Pass, North Fork Sauk, Cutthroat Pass, Bridge Creek parking to access south on PCT and into McAllister, Crater Creek Trailhead in Methow as well as Twisp River Road trailheads (during good weather weekends end of September into early October when colors abound) to name a few scenic backcountry horse trails.

Hopefully, doing all the sawyer training to keep access in the backcountry on horseback doesn't just mean I'm clearing a bunch of trails where I can't even park my horse trailer and cannot ride anywhere scenic on a weekend with my family. Happy trails.
-Kambria and Chelsey 🐾



Scouts Saw Training Class a Great Success



By Gary Zink and Kathy Young

Saturday, November 9, was a very special day for 14 Scouts and five adult leaders from Troop 066 and 166 (Seattle). It was also a very special day for eleven Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) saw certified instructors representing the BCHW Saw Program and the Tahoma Chapter of BCHW.

In October, Scoutmaster Robyn Reed asked BCHW saw instructors if we would like to conduct a crosscut saw training class as a field trip for Scouts camping at Camp Sheppard. Camp Sheppard is a BSA Scout camp located on State Route Washington 410, a few miles east of Greenwater, Washington. Of course, we jumped with delight to accept the invitation. Introducing the next generation of young people to trail logging is one of the primary goals of the BCHW saw program! A class date of November 9, 2024, was set.

We emphasized and agreed that such an introduction to cross-cut sawing class was meant to provide only basic saw training and not Forest Service saw certification.

Nick Lichtenstadter, US Forest Service trails manager at the North Bend Ranger Station, was kind and understanding enough to allow us to use the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF Dalles Campground near Camp Sheppard as a training location. The campground is closed while undergoing renovation, and numerous downed trees have spread across several campsites. We found a lot of downed timber for use in this training.

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Scouts Saw Training Class a Great Success

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At about noon, the Scouts arrived at the campground's shelter, which we instructors had prepared with a large fire in the fireplace and lots of leftover Halloween candy. When everyone had gathered, introductions were made, and the instructors collaborated to provide a 20-minute safety briefing. We signed everyone in, explained what training to expect for the day and discussed some basic PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and safety items. Everyone was proudly fitted with a hard hat, gloves and safety glasses.

After 20 minutes, we dispersed into five saw team groups, each with an adult youth supervisor and two BCHW experienced saw instructors. Each saw team found their respective cutting site. We agreed to meet back at the campground shelter by 3:00 pm, hoping we wouldn't get rained out before that time. Once on site, the saw team instructors provided basic safe sawing instructions and allowed every Scout plenty of crosscut sawing time. Some teams were instructed in safe ax handling, wedge setting and chopping.

At the end of the afternoon, all saw teams assembled at the campground shelter again for an accounting of what was learned and enjoyed. We beat the rain! All the participants, adults and youth, were elated with the accomplishments and skills learned. "Thank you for the opportunity" was expressed by everyone, instructors, students and leaders alike. Finally, instructor Sara Newlon handed out Achievement Certificates to each scout in appreciation for their successful saw training. A few may have taken home a wood "cookie" they sawed. Someone put out the fire in the fireplace, and we all left the campground.

Robyn Reed, Scout trip leader, followed up after the Scouts returned to Camp Sheppard and expressed it this way: "I just found a spot with cell reception, so I wanted first to say again THANK YOU for that really excellent afternoon! I have had several Scouts tell me how much they learned and how much they enjoyed it, and a few have declared it "the best outing EVER." The adults all had a blast, too."



Acknowledgments

The BCHW Saw Program would like to thank Robyn Reed and Torin Bergsma for allowing BCHW the honor to conduct this training class.

The BCHW Saw Program would like to thank Nick Lichtenstadter – US Forest Service trails manager at the North Bend Ranger Station, for allowing us to use the Dalles Campground for this training class.

Above all, the BCHW Saw Program would like to thank the instructors for donating their time and skills to our future sawyers and dedicated service to our Country:

Bill Rodwell, Sara Newlon, JB Robinson, Frank Rossi, Ben Semer, Mark Boatsman, Robert Boatsman, Kathy Young, Terry Swiatkowski, Doug Murray, and Gary Zink.

**Photo note: In some photos, instructors necessarily shared their hard hats with students so that they all had PPE while learning and working. 🐿️*



On Horses, Humans, and the Trail Ahead

PHOTO BY SHARON HOOFNAGLE



In the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness.



Riding in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON HOOFNAGLE

By Sharon Hoofnagle, Whatcom Chapter BCHW

My horse, Joey, and I were nearing the top of a ridge, glad that the last 15 miles back to the trailhead were downhill. The area had changed since our previous trip many years ago. Although fires had devastated the forest, in its aftermath it had left vast vistas and fields of wildflowers. As we approached the ridgetop, mountain peaks towering above us, we were startled by a rushing sound coming from the ridgeline above, soft at first, then expanding into a bellowing wind that filled the air around us. Joey looked over his shoulder at the mountain tops. I felt a twinge of fear until I realized he was not afraid. Suddenly, he answered the call of the wind with the loudest, longest whinny I have ever heard. He called, and called, over and over, his whole body trembling with the effort. The wayward wind filled me with awe as it called, and my horse called back. When the wind gradually died, I softly said, “Joey, we can’t go with those horses in the sky, maybe someday, but not today,” and we headed down the mountain.

This incredible bonding we experience is the result of chemicals and brain circuitry, but there is also something else. Karma? Love?

How I ended up on that ridge alone with my horse is another story. Most of our rides together are far less dramatic, but they almost always end with peace and tranquility. So, what is it about horses, humans, and trails? How did they develop this incredible awareness, this profound bond with us? The short answer is that it’s mainly chemicals and brain circuits. But it’s also something else. Both horses and humans are herd animals. Neither can survive without the herd. So, nature devised some incredible survival tools, such as hormones. They are our body’s chemical messengers, and once released by glands into the bloodstream, they control everything—from how the body functions to how you feel.

One group of hormones is nicknamed the “feel-good do-good hormones,” not just due to the happy and euphoric feelings they produce but also the altruistic feelings they engender towards others. Dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin are euphoric hormones

that result in happiness, bonding, kindness, and empathy, including compassion and understanding for others, allowing us to relate to people and animals successfully. It’s not just what we are saying to others that is important, but how they interpret it. These feelings are picked up by humans and animals, resulting in the release of the same hormones, a happy contagion. Endorphins are natural brain chemicals that act as nature’s painkillers and reduce stress by moderating the adrenaline rush, helping to avoid injury.

The endocrine system that produces hormones works with the nervous system to influence many aspects of behavior. The autonomic nervous system kicks in during times of danger or high excitement. Adrenaline shifts blood flow from non-essential areas to the muscles and heart, allowing instant flight from danger or increased speed in a competition.

However, there can be a disadvantage to calming chemicals. Sometimes, we are a little too calm. One time, we were slowly moving up a trail. I grabbed berries to the right, and Joey grabbed grass to the left. Feel-good hormones lulled both of us until I was startled by an object just a few feet in front of us. A doe had stepped out on the trail, her mouth full of whatever deer browse on. She stared at us with a typical deer-in-the-headlights look. She was frozen. I was frozen. Joey had not yet spotted her. Horses and deer typically are not afraid of each other, but this was unexpected, and she was far too close. I knew the next few seconds were going to be very interesting. There was nothing to do but hang on. I knew Joey would spin, but I didn’t know which way. He lifted his head and spotted the doe. He and the doe exploded in opposite directions. Joey spun 180 degrees faster than any competitive reining horse, and I could feel his rear legs flex and prepare to propel us down the steep trail at 40 mph.

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On Horses, Humans, and the Trail Ahead

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The danger from bolting is likely a rider's greatest fear. A racehorse can accelerate from 0 to 40 mph in just a few feet. Jockeys describe coming out of the gate at a racetrack like being shot from a cannon. Without a good grip on the mane, the horse could leave them behind. Yet they know it is coming and the direction they are going. Picture the trail rider whose horse suddenly sees a terrifying object on a trail. It may be in front, back, above, below, or to the side.

In this case, horse, human, and deer were all flooded with chemicals. Adrenaline allowed us to flee, but endorphins permitted us to remain calm and gave us the heightened awareness that made it possible to deal with the issue. The human realized she should not jump off her horse because he could hit her when he spun. Adrenaline increased the blood flow to the heart and muscles as the horse spun out of harm's way and prepared to run. But endorphins kicked in, and panic did not overcome him. Recognizing the deer, he stopped. The 40-mph downhill dash was averted. The adrenaline of the sympathetic nervous system propels the racehorse around a track or the bike rider down the trail. Endorphins moderate this, countering panic and keeping the spooked trail horse from running far or crashing into anything. They enable an injured hiker to crawl back up to the trail after falling. These profound evolutionary tools help humans and non-human animals deal with dangers and injury.

Riding in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness. Photo courtesy of Sharon Hoofnagle

We were again on a trail, Joey and I. It was a usual ride; feel-good hormones were high—until we heard something in the brush 50 feet off the trail at the four o'clock position. It was too loud for a deer and, very likely, a bear. Fortunately, it was behind us; best to keep going. A little adrenaline kicked in, but there was no real concern until we heard a louder commotion at the nine o'clock position.

The feel-good hormones evaporated, and adrenaline took charge. We were between a cub and its angry mama. To complicate the situation, the trail went straight for about 100 feet ahead of us but then hooked directly towards Mama Bear, then abruptly north out of danger. Joey and I were in a typical northwest forest with downed trees and challenging terrain. There was no other route.

We hear a lot of advice on dealing with wildlife. Play dead (not applicable here; Joey would not be the least bit interested in playing dead). Look big (I'm a human on a horse; together, we weigh 1100 lbs. and are eight feet tall.) There was little time to do more than react. The message from the mama bear was short and clear: "GET AWAY FROM THE CUB."

It was interesting riding Joey towards an angry bear. It was the most reactive I have ever seen him, but the bear quieted once we moved away from the cub. The adrenaline level dropped. Relative calmness took over. Some of this is due to the human-animal bond. Joey and I had stayed relatively calm because we trusted each other; there were mutual dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin levels.

Once, we met four runners, running abreast towards us on a road. I felt Joey tense. I, asked the runners to slow down with a hand signal. When I thanked them for stopping, they said they didn't realize that running towards us was frightening to a horse. A biker coming downhill didn't stop or slow despite my calls and

hand signals. When he finally stopped, he explained that he knew to stop but wanted to get closer. He was surprised that both horse and rider could be frightened by his approach. A hiker we met was afraid of horses, so we moved out of his way to give him space. An inexperienced biker didn't want to stop on the steep trail for fear that she could not get started again. We moved off the trail for her, even though horses have the right-of-way. These are all examples of situations where trail users need to register the issues and feelings of others. We need empathy and concern for each other.

But we also need plain old education. We need stop signs, speed limits, and one-way street signs in life. And we often require flashing lights, bells, and drop-gates to get a point across. Some people need to be told not to approach a cuddly-looking bear to pet it.

All creatures exist in their own time and space. Prey animals are frightened by fast-moving objects. A horse's eye can see a fast-moving object but may not be able to identify it immediately. They are reactive animals; they survive by running away. Their large eyes are positioned on the side of their heads, allowing broad panoramic vision of almost 350 degrees—they can see a lot but may not recognize what they're seeing. They will run first, then later stop to focus on what the object may be.

Horses are incredibly perceptive animals that pick up on subtle environmental changes. They have an innate ability to sense energy emitted by those around them. The human's energy level affects the horse, and vice versa. It seems contradictory, but horses are often drawn to troubled people. Some are quieter when close to an agitated person, which makes them excellent therapy animals. This is the beauty of nature—we can all sense empathy and kindness, and it's contagious.

Horses benefit from the same positive feelings as humans. Although we need to train horses in order to be safe around them, the concept of the human being as the passive leader has replaced the idea of alpha domination, one the horse gravitates to and bonds with. This incredible bonding we experience results from chemicals and brain circuitry, but there is also something else. Karma? Love? No name can encompass it. The feeling is beyond comprehension.

So, what triggers these feel-good-do-good chemical reactions? Food, music, cuddling, laughter, exercise, and friendship will do it. But high on the list is relating to animals, spending time in nature, and being on a trail, and for me, riding a horse on a trail just about tops the list.

We can't make laws or instruction manuals covering all the idiosyncrasies of behavior and situations, especially when other species are involved. But genuine compassion and concern for all living things will cover all the bases.

It's been years since the restless, wayward wind called to Joey and me from the mountaintops, and Joey called back to the wind. To this day, I still feel that extreme awe, peace, power, and joy from those few minutes. 🌿

~ Originally published in *Adventures Northwest Magazine* with a link to www.adventuresnw.com.

Auburn Veterans Parade



By Cathy Dye, Pierce County Chapter BCHW

As Back Country Horsemen, we had the honor of participating in the 59th Annual Auburn Veterans Day parade on November 9th, 2024. There were over 160 entries, 3,500 participants and thousands of spectators!

We all felt the excitement of waving to our Veterans and spectators in this wonderful parade. Spectators were cheering, pointing and smiling. They truly loved seeing the horses, young and old alike. It was quite a moving experience, watching the tributes to Veterans.

While representing the Back Country Horsemen of Washington, our group encompassed members from multiple chapters, Pierce County, Nisqually and Tahoma Chapters. Our entry began with a 2-horse drawn Country Wagon with 5 members on board, fully decorated with a patriotic theme. Our mounted unit of 14 riders followed and was led by a 2 horse Color Guard bearing large American Flags. All the horses were decorated with flags, butt banners and patriotic adornments. Riders wore flag bandanas, red, white, and blue attire and carried small flags. Our group also included three Junior members of the Pierce County Chapter.

Bringing up the rear of our unit was the Pierce County Chapter LNT Clean Up Crew, a 3-member team. Spectators cheered as they scooped their way along. As we moved along the parade route, the announcers identified our group and talked about the BCHW mission to provide maintenance on

trails and their appreciation for volunteers who provide this service. Additionally, as we moved along, they explained the purpose of the clean up crew and encouraged spectators to 'Leave No Trace', not only on trails and recreation areas but in our communities as well. Following the parade, several people asked how to join BCHW and expressed interest in volunteering. We provided contact information and encouraged them to follow up and join our organization.

In the days following the parade, our PCC Parade Coordinator, Karen Armstrong, received notification that awards were issued to parade participants. She was surprised and honored to receive on behalf of BCHW, 1 of only 6 awards from the Auburn Parade Committee!

BCHW won the Veteran's Award for best non-motorized entry!

BCHW is honored to have many veterans within our membership, and it was with great pride that we were able to show our appreciation for all that our Veterans have done for all of us.

Thank you to all who participated. BCHW was well represented with members from Pierce County Chapter, Nisqually Chapter, and Tahoma Chapter.

We were invited to participate in the 2025 parade and look forward to representing BCHW once again.

A job well done by all! 🍀

Planning For Your Horse And Mules For A Future Without You

By Lori Lennox, Grays Harbor Chapter

Have you made plans for your horses, mules and other livestock when you pass or can no longer care for them? They can be harder to deal with than small animals. Don't be that person who, when you are no longer around or can't make decisions, has friends and family scrambling to figure out what to do with them!

Make a plan and put it in your will ASAP! Or write up a separate document and have a couple of witnesses sign it. Put it in a safe place with the rest of your end-of-life papers where the executor of your estate can see it. And give a copy to the wonderful person who has agreed to the job. Protect your animals; even old and unusable horses and mules have a financial value in the slaughter market. Some relatives may not care where they end up, and others who do may not understand the slaughter market and can very easily give or sell them to someone promising to give them a good home when, in fact, they are sending them to slaughter.

First, find someone who knows horses, etc., understands your situation, and will agree to take on this assignment. They will need room for them unless whoever will be moving to your place will keep them, such as a responsible relative who knows horses and mules.

List the animals or include a date: "the horses I have as of January 1, 2024" or some such thing. It is unfair to have had a friend or relative say yes to dealing with the one horse you had at the time of the agreement, only to find out a year later that you acquired several more in the meantime! Keep registration papers, bills of sales, etc., together, along with a copy of your plan.



The agreement could include having specific animals put to sleep (PTS) upon your having to give up ownership or care. That is sometimes the most humane way to deal with aged and unsound animals instead of uprooting them.

If you can, set up an account with a stockbroker in the name of the guardian, with enough funds to cover immediate feed, feet and veterinary needs (including euthanasia and disposal) until the animals can be sold or given away as per the plan you and the new guardian have agreed to. Include "and all existing hay, grain, medicines" to go to the new guardian; that's only right. You could also include giving that person your tack - maybe a horse is going to be sold; having tack that fits and goes with that animal may make it easier to sell. And again, unscrupulous strangers offer clueless relatives pennies on the dollar to take all your tack.

That happened in my family.

Some thoughts on the future of your horses: in my case, I have an older, unsound, but comfortable with shoes (\$\$) mare that is to be PTS when I am not around to care for her. Money is set aside in the guardians' name for the vet and backhoe. Another older but still usable gelding is to be given to someone who is known to his future guardian to use until it is "time." Then the guardian will have him PTS. The marketable horse is to be sold, first offered to friends of the guardian or to BCHW members, then the public. Or to be given to a member who can use and care for him, releasing the guardian. The money from a sale is to go first to cover any expenses not covered by the guardian for the horses, and the balance to BCHW. 🐾

Content Deadline for the March/April 2025 Print Newsletter is January 18, 2025

Cover Photos can be sent anytime, 8x10 Vertical orientation is best (300 dpi).

You can send articles, photos and calendar of events early!

Please email your articles (700 word maximum) and 3 or 4 photos with caption and photo byline to thn@bchw.org as soon as possible.

ATTENTION!

FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event.

• Check to see if dogs are welcome.

Note: The BCHW Trailhead News represents as many events as possible; however, it makes no guarantees an event will be published. The calendar of events is subject to change. Please check with ride contact for most updated information. Please send calendar corrections to: thn@bchw.org.

1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting
Friday, March 14, 2025
5:30 pm Teanaway Room
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

Equine Packing Clinic & So Much More!
BCHW Mount St. Helens Chapter
Saturday, March 29, 2025
Clark County Saddle Club
Demonstrations incl: Packing, High Lining, Hobble Training, & More!
watrailriders@gmail.com

Grays Harbor Fund Ride 2025
Saturday, June 21, 2025
Schafer Grade near Matlock, WA
No permits needed.
Limited camping avail.
2 Loops option w/ raffle & grand prize.
Lunch will be avail. for purchase.
Lots of parking.
Contact Beth Branshaw:
bbranshaw@hotmail.com

2025 Rendezvous
Friday-Sunday, March 14-16, 2025
Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg, WA
treasurer@bchw.org

BCHW Legislative Day
Monday, March 24, 2025
More details soon
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting
Saturday, June 21, 2025
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting
Saturday, September 20, 2025
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

Example

Your Chapter Ride or Event Must Be Open To All BCHW Members To Have A FREE Listing

Lines in the listing have a maximum character count of 32, including spaces. Please keep this in mind.

Please submit the following information with your event listing to thn@bchw.org.

Chapter Name _____
Name of Ride _____
Date _____
First Rider Out _____
Location _____
Register _____
Lunch _____
Name of Pass Required (if needed) _____
Weed-Seed-Free Feed Required _____
Camping (if available) _____
Cost to Member _____
Cost to Non-member _____
Contact Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Website _____

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks



Jan. 1 — First Day Hikes; New Year's Day
Jan. 20 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day
March 9 — Billy Frank Junior's Birthday
March 19 — State Parks' Birthday
April 22 — Earth Day
June 7 — Free Fishing Weekend
June 8 — Free Fishing Weekend
June 19 — Juneteenth
Aug. 9 — Smokey Bear's Birthday
Sept. 27 — National Public Lands Day
Oct. 10 — World Mental Health Day
Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day