

The meeting began at 5:05PM Pacific Time

<u>Financials - Reports were emailed to all National Directors.</u>

- Bank Account Balances provided.
- Stifel Account balances provided.
- Youth grants awarded provided.
- All categories of donations provided.
- Net Revenue provided
- CDs are set to renew, and we will research other alternatives for potentially higher rates.

Public Lands

Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Roadless Rule Withdrawal:

After two discussions with BCHA Public Lands regional co-chairs and as directed by the chairman, Randy crafted a public comment letter in response to the Secretary of Agriculture's <u>announcement</u> to eliminate the US Forest Service Roadless Rule. The Rule currently protects about 58 million acres of national forest lands from most new road building and commercial timber harvesting, although it includes exceptions particularly for forest restoration and wildfire prevention and remediation efforts. The Secretary's announcement kicked off a 3-week public comment period as per the agency's <u>Notice of Intent</u> to prepare an EIS on the proposal.

BCHA's comment letter emphasized that current Roadless Areas provide exceptional backcountry recreational opportunities and requested that the pending EIS analyze alternatives to outright scrapping of the Rule. BCHA also signed onto a coalition letter crafted, and to be submitted, by The Wilderness Society that invoked additional issues in its request to largely leave the Roadless Rule intact.

American Horse Council: On behalf of BCHA, Randy chairs AHC's Recreation, Trails & Land Use Committee. He and AHC convened their quarterly meeting, which included Randy updating committee members on BCHA actions including



the US Forest Service Roadless Rule and updates on important bills in Congress, including the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act and the America the Beautiful Act (which would extend for seven more years funding for deferred maintenance of public land assets, including trails, for all federal land agencies). Randy informed committee members that he may soon be calling upon them and all state horse councils to contact their senators to support these important bills.

At the request of AHC, Randy shared BCHA's public comment letter regarding the Roadless Rule to committee members, some of whom plan to submit their own organization's comments. He asked committee members not copy BCHA's text verbatim in their own comment letters but, instead, use it as an example of how to shape their own scoping comments and convey their expectations regarding the EIS process.

Coalition Zoom Meetings: Randy represented BCHA in the following coalition zoom meetings:

- PNTS Advocacy & Policy Committee—discussion included the following topics: Reorganization of the USDA, Rescission of FS Roadless Rule and the Appalachian Trail Centennial Act.
- PNTS Advocacy & Policy Committee, All-Member Forum—the committee
 conducts quarterly forum that is open to all PNTS members with updates on
 key issues being addressed by the committee. Randy was tasked to speak
 about recent rollbacks to the Forest Service and DOI NEPA regulations.
- Coalition for Recreational Trails—advancement of RTP Full Funding Act.

Tennessee talked about letters they have written regarding trails in their state.

Colorado discussed a mapping app they have been working on that includes what is allowed on the trail; motorized or non-motorized. Also includes reporting. Colorado was not included in the AHC impact study. Maybe because the state didn't commission a report.

Illinois also discussed the Horse Council in their state.



AHC's latest economic impact study: https://horsecouncil.org/economic-impact-study/

These reports are every 5 years; the next one is due in 2028. State Horse Councils will have to pay if they want a state specific profile.

Committee Updates

- Fundraising: Sponsorship programs, museum fundraising, and looking for more support in fundraising.
 - We are looking for corporate sponsors, if you know of a company or know of someone who can help, please reach out to Tif.
- Chapter Support Grants: Moving ahead to get ready for 2026.
- Marketing & Media-Focusing more on marketing
- Volunteer Hours: The new long form is available on the website now.
- Youth: Trying to organize some videos.
- Education: Finishing up educational videos.

Sawyer Program: Partnering with the forest service regarding saw training needs. The states are divided into East, Central and West now. The next training will take place in Brushy Creek Missouri at the beginning of November and 188 people registered or are interested. This is C Level with some B level.

Looking at combining parks and forest service into using one curriculum.

The working group document emailed to the National Directors; this shows what states are in which areas now.

Museum

It was decided we were going to raise \$15,000 to combine with Montana who is providing \$10,000 to total the \$25,000 sponsorship. Last night the EC voted, after a long discussion, we are paying \$15,000 out of saving and the fundraising will go back into the BCHA savings account to replace the museum funds.

Museum is located in Missoula Montana. Museum link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WFSbFtEKEM

History Sub-committee: Craig is working on this to be able to gather and maintain history for states.



Emails: We are asking states to try to get their members to share their emails so we can get information to as many members as possible. BCHA does not sell information or provide it to anyone.

Meeting ended at 6:02PM

Next National Director Call is October 29th, 2025.