



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025, at 5:00 PST

Zoom: [Click here to access meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 817 5603 0264 Passcode: 568627

In Attendance: Mark Himmel, Craig Ferdig, Latifia Rodriguez, Heather Schultz, Greg Schatz, Jim Allen, Brad Pollman, Heather Cox, Darrel Wallace

Staff: Randy Rasmussen, Michelle Wade

Welcome & Introductions

Called to order at 5:02PM

Agenda

Chairman went over the agenda.

Minutes: July 2025

Motion to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Financial Reports – July 2025

- **Balance Sheet**

- Operations balance provided.
- Total bank accounts combined balance provided.
- CD's balances provided, including interest gained in July.
- Stifel Account Fees Provided.
- Youth Grants paid out \$500.

- **Budget Vs. Actual**

- Donation income provided.
- Expenses provided.
- Disaster Relief Fund donations provided.

Motion to accept the treasurer report as presented. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Public Lands

US Forest Service Changes to Implementation of National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA): Randy represented BCHA in an interview by Oregon Public Broadcasting about the July announcement by the US Forest Service to drastically revise its regulations regarding the need and extent of public involvement related to its requirements under NEPA. For over five decades, NEPA documents (Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)) have served as a primary means by which federal agencies analyze major federal actions that might affect the natural and social environment. The new policy would effectively eliminate the need for public involvement and comment on such projects, with the sole exception that public input would only be required at the scoping stage of an EIS—and not the more typical EA, which BCHA and its states/chapters often provide public



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comment on proposals that might affect access to and enjoyment of public lands by horseback riders.

A summary of the OPB interview is here. National Public Radio (NPR) picked up OPB's story on this topic and used a 10-second cut quoting BCHA. Our voice made it to national airwaves! The NPR story included the following:

“Randy Rasmussen of the Back Country Horsemen of America says it's a big deal for Western states like Oregon — where there is A LOT of federal land. RASMUSSEN: The public will be more and more shut out of decisions that affect our livelihoods, our recreational activities, the things that we all as Oregonians care about.”

Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Reorganization Plan: As directed by the EC, Randy crafted a public comment letter on the Forest Service's proposed reorganization, which includes the elimination of all nine Forest Service regions. The comment letter emphasizes BCHA's partnership with the Forest Service and highlights potential benefits of increased funding reaching the ground. It recommends structuring current and future CCS and other agreements to cover multiple national forests and grasslands as needed, while making an impassioned plea to fund and continue local and regional Forest Service pack stock centers of excellence. The letter includes a request to meet with agency leadership in order to identify Best Management Practices that seek to minimize inconsistency and promote uniformity in how national forests develop and manage volunteer agreements.

Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS): On behalf of BCHA, Randy chairs the PNTS Membership Committee. PNTS is in the midst of recruiting additional Affiliate Organizations to join the organization and the committee has developed a number of written materials and updated its website in support of this effort. As a committee member, Randy conducted outreach to potential new Affiliate members.

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

- PNTS Advocacy & Policy Committee—discussion included the following joint actions: USDA Reorganization, Rescission of FS Roadless Rule, committee September Forum (zoom), 2026 Hike the Hill preparation.
- Coalition for Recreational Trails—advancement of RTP Full Funding bill.
- Trails are Common Ground—continuation of core program elements, including trail etiquette



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Museum – Vote for donation to Forest Service Museum.

- Montana is trying to raise \$10,000, currently at \$9,500.
- Nationally we would like to raise an additional \$15,000.
- These funds will be raised separately from operating costs.
- Looking for a vote tonight to be able to begin accepting donations for the Museum.
- The only other thing we need to do is provide information for the BCHA display in the future. Possibly a task force to accomplish this.
- Fundraising committee is already working on a flyer and fundraising for this project.
- National Forest Service Retiree's Association is heading this project.

Motion to approve participating in the National Forest Service Museum and raising/donating \$15,000 by December 31st, 2025. Seconded. All in favor, None opposed. Motion passed.

2026 National Board Meeting

- The costs are still going up and we are working on bringing costs down.
- Currently the NBM budget shows a \$10,000 loss.
- Do we want to keep paying for Non-Directors to attend the National Board Meeting.
- Audio/Visual is more expensive and in conjunction with printing.
- We will be asking questions on the National Director call about NBM priorities.
- Reconsidering the live auction funds and distribution of items to specific areas
 - Suggestion: Live auction items go to operations and silent auction items can go to committees.

Committee Updates

- Fundraising
 - Meeting in the morning
 - Going over survey results
 - Working on corporate sponsorships
- Partnership
 - Saw Program
 - A letter was written, directly related to saw, and sent to the Chief of Forest Service by the Saw program committee members.
 - They kept the letter positive
 - Brenda from USFS has reached out with questions, and answers were provided.
 - USFS Chief is working on a response to the letter.
 - Provided a Saw Working Group Structure for BCHA States.
 - Saw training in Missouri is scheduled for end of October.
 - This is separate from a letter Randy is considering writing/sending.



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- Volunteer Hours
 - Updating spreadsheets
- Marketing & Media
 - Working on website
- Education
 - Working on Code of Conduct
- Chapter Support Grant
 - Ramping up for the new year
- Youth Committee
 - No Updates

Next EC Meeting: September 23, 2025

National Director Call tomorrow night.

Adjourn 6:42PM

Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Meeting URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81756030264?pwd=7wI ZZnGvCbPZ5movtcy jxDgtlb1abV.1>