



Meeting began at 5:02PM Pacific

Financial Report – No meeting in December; presented two months.

- November 2025
  - Balance Sheet
    - Account Balances provided.
    - CD- No Change
    - Stifel investment account values provided.
  - Budget Vs Actual
    - Donation total provided
    - Museum donations are provided.
- December 2025 Financial Reports
  - Balance Sheet
    - Account balances provided.
    - CD- Interest was accrued in December.
    - Stifel investment account values provided.
    - Total Liabilities and Equity provided.
  - Budget Vs Actual
    - Dues notice went out December 4 and a few states have paid dues
    - Payments were moved from Administration General to Software and Computers; these are the payment for online platforms.
    - Line 7900 License and Fees were created for legal fees paid toward BCHA trademark/logo. Fees were moved from Administration General to Line 7900.

### Public Lands

Hike the Hill®: There is an opportunity for BCHA officers to participate in the Feb. 9-11 virtual (zoom) briefings to be held prior to the March 1-5 in-person Hike the Hill event in DC. See: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/#hike-the-hill> for listing of the briefings and registration information. During the Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> virtual briefing, BCHA will discuss the ramifications of, and the recreation community's pending response to, the proposal by the US Forest Service to repeal its 2005 Travel Management Rule.



Celebrating its 29th year, [Hike the Hill](#)® is a joint effort between [American Hiking Society](#) (AHS) and the [Partnership for the National Trails System](#) to bring together the trails community to advance shared trail priorities with congressional and federal agency leaders including: trails funding, public lands management and conservation, and reauthorizing the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund. BCHA has participated each year in Hike the Hill, dating back to at least 2012.

**FY'26 Appropriations:** After intense public pressure, Senator Lee withdrew his amendment to remove text in the FY'26 appropriations bill that directs the Department of Interior to continue to maintain all Park Service-administered units, wild and scenic rivers, and national scenic or national historic trails “as an entity of the National Park Service.” Removal of this language could have created a pathway for states or local governments to take control over the management of some national park units or national scenic or historic trails.

The appropriations bill moved forward, and the most recent House-Senate compromise bill bodes fairly well for public lands-related outdoor recreation and trails. If passed into law, the Forest Service would face a \$59 million cut in its overall budget. Yet the agency would see a \$2 million increase in its trails budget (CMTL) from \$20 million to \$22 million, a 10% increase. This funding is intended for programs rather than personnel, providing an opportunity for the Forest Service to modestly enhance trail work during the forthcoming season.

It's no coincidence that the \$22 million CMTL figure matches the amount requested by the national trails community, as reflected in our FY'26 appropriations [request](#). It's proof positive that the appropriation requests we develop each year, backed by meetings with congressional appropriations committee staff during Hike the Hill and AHS submitting congressional testimony, continue to yield positive results for our nation's trails.

The Park Service and BLM are expected to take similar, but limited, hits to their overall budgets at minus (-) \$70 million (NPS) and -\$33 million (BLM). Yet these budget cuts would not have been nearly as deep as [cuts proposed by the](#)



[administration](#), which for example would have cut Forest Service trails by \$12 million (representing a 60% cut from the current CMTL budget). In doing so, Congress [asserted its authority](#) to set and determine the annual budgets of the federal land management agencies.

**US Forest Service Travel Management Rule (TMR):** BCHA signed onto a letter spearheaded by American Trails and representing the national trails community, that laid out reasons that the [proposed repeal](#) of the TMR would be bad for trail users. BCHA's ongoing efforts to prevent repeal of the TMR is described in the Mid-December 2025 Public Lands Report. The Forest Service is expected to formally announce its proposal via the Federal Register this spring, at which time there will be an opportunity for public comment.

Public Lands Chairman stated it is now more important than ever to have a relationship, communication with local leaders. As we go through these changes, the best information is going to come from your local level. Ask them, *"How Can We Help"*.

### Committee Updates

- Chapter Support Grant
  - Applications are coming and will continue to take applications until March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Application has been updated and it is working better than previous applications.
- Double Diamond Award
  - Taking resumes now.
- Marketing & Media
  - A person from Missouri will be helping the M&M Chair.
- Education
  - Waiting on the latest edits of the education video for Light on the Land.
  - Webinar coming up with National Wilderness Alliance.
- Fundraising
  - Meeting have been moved to once a month
  - Committee members are working on grants and sponsorship.



- If folks would like to be involved, please contact Tif at [Irodri0202@gmail.com](mailto:Irodri0202@gmail.com)
- Volunteer Hours
  - Reports are coming and they are due January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- Partnership/Saw
  - Museum construction will be done in the middle of March.
  - Museum will install the electronics inside after construction completion.
  - Museum opening the first part of June.
  - Sawyer is going ok
  - The last letter to the Chief has been received and read.

Chairman stated we are in a unique position to have a substantial input on saw training for the Forest Service. Also asked the National Directors to provide the amount of sawyers they have in their states.

- Youth Committee
  - We are going to make a change with the youth committee chair.
  - 2 potential members have been identified
  - If you know of anyone interested, please contact Craig Ferdig.

### Other Updates

- A credit card policy has been created
- Public Lands job description has been created
- National Board Meeting meetings are scheduled to work on the agenda, in particular Tuesday.
- Vice Chairman asked to be added to states/regions public lands calls. Please email Tif at [Irodri0202@gmail.com](mailto:Irodri0202@gmail.com).
- There will be a new national director orientation for the National Board Meeting in March. This will provide necessary information for new National Directors to prepare for the National Board Meeting and what to expect when you arrive.
- Latifia is attending Hike the Hill with Randy, if there is anything you would like to discuss with her before she goes, please reach out to her. [Irodri0202@gmail.com](mailto:Irodri0202@gmail.com)



**Question:** Anyone using a membership database, if so, what?

- Membership Works
- Google Forms

**Mountain West Trails Conference**

- May 19-21, 2026, in Rocky Springs, WY (19<sup>th</sup> is the packing demonstration)
- BCH will have a booth providing information and swag.
- Help is appreciated if interested please reach out to Tif.  
[Irodri0202@gmail.com](mailto:Irodri0202@gmail.com)
- Reduced rate for BCH members working there.

**SE Region is planning a region wide rendezvous**

- This is the first one at Camp McClellan
- Each state will submit proposals for the following years.
- Hope BCH members can attend.

**Comment:**

- Indiana, Thank you Mark and Tif for the great sawyer training in Missouri. Indiana is going to hold another class.
- Please, if you need anything, or have any questions, reach out to us, we are here to help.

**Meeting ended at 6:00OM Pacific**