



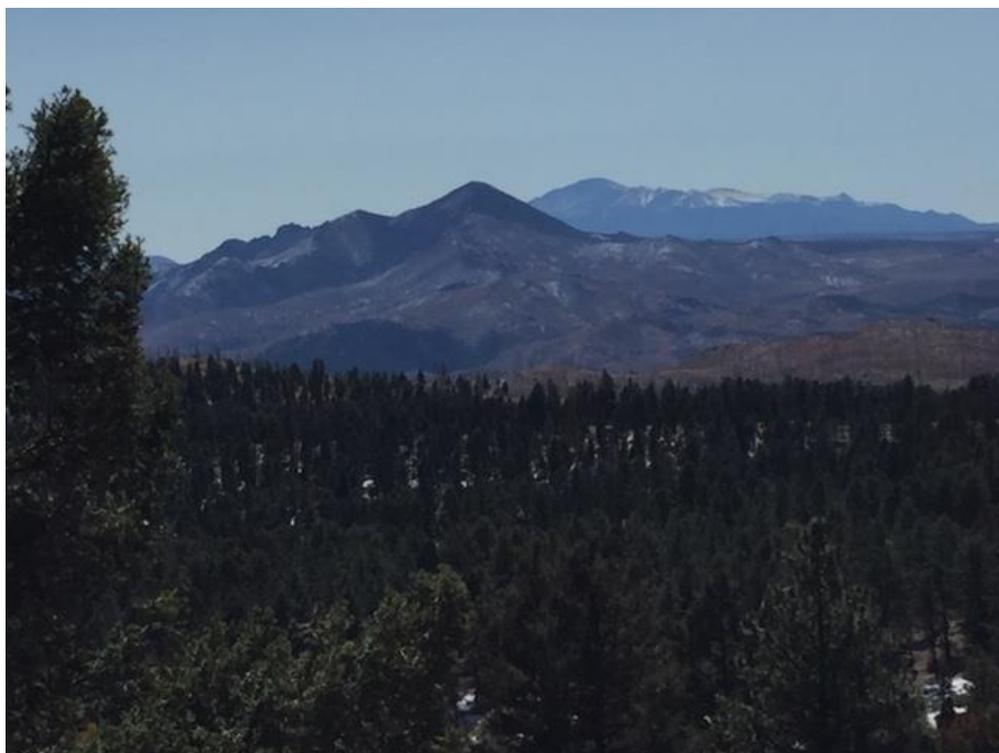
Front Range Back Country Horsemen est. 1996
P.O. Box 150521 Lakewood, CO 80215

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*Working to keep trails open to saddle and pack stock today
and for future generations through education, service and
voice.*

Without trails, where would we ride?

November 2019 Newsletter



View of Pike's Peak from Oct 12 Little Scraggy Ride

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Deadline for articles
15th of each month!

Next Meeting: Tuesday November 19, Morrison Inn - 301 Bear Creek Avenue in downtown Morrison. 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

Pres Sez

Well I am not sure where this year has gone as winter is upon us but it looks like there will be a few more good days to ride. We have a couple things going on, the Christmas tree cutting is right around the corner. It is a lot of fun dressing up our horses and watching all the kids faces light up when they see us. Joan has taken the coordination of it this year and there will be more information in the newsletter. Also

our annual Christmas party and volunteer celebration is Dec 15 at 4pm. The flyer is also in the newsletter. We will also be having another silent auction this year and Courtney will be coordinating that. We always have so much fun so please join us!

Our last scheduled meeting is on November 19th at the Morrison Inn, Morrison Colorado. Social hour starts at 6 pm and the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Happy Trails and hope everyone has a great Holiday season.

Sharon



Presentation on Noxious Weeds of Colorado Delayed to the January Meeting

Due to the winter weather and light attendance at the October meeting, the planned presentation on Noxious Weeds was delayed until the January meeting.

Courtney Cowgill will give a presentation on Noxious Weeds. Courtney is a Colorado Master Gardener, trained in Arapahoe County. She has submitted the documentation showing completion of required classes and tests to earn the designation of Colorado Native Plant Master through CO State University.

In 30 minutes, Courtney will cover Colorado's noxious weed process including:

- the definition of a noxious weed,
- how noxious weeds are regulated and managed by the state and county,
- resources available to identify noxious weeds on your land or on the trail, and
- what eradication efforts work best on each type of weed and what could be managed on the trail.

Attendees at the meeting will be provided a spiral-bound book describing the noxious weeds on the A, B and C list, including a list of weeds "to watch". In addition, they will receive a flyer on weeds especially damaging to horses and other livestock.

Make your plans to attend!

Pike National Forest Christmas Tree Cutting and FRBCH Ambassadors

Each year we provide the Forest Service with mounted ambassadors for the Christmas Tree cutting. It is a great opportunity to meet and greet people who are visiting the forest. They enjoy the meeting the horses and the horsemen and often want to hear about our activities as maintainers of the forest trails.

The tree cutting takes place in the Pike National Forest south of Buffalo Creek. I have arranged parking in an area just north of FS 550 where you can unload, tack, and decorate your horses.



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takes place in the Forest south of Buffalo Creek. I have arranged parking in an area just north of FS 550 where you can unload, tack, horses.

Please contact me if you are planning to participate.
Joan Wealing (219)-863-7253 or joanwealing@gmail.com

The dates for tree cutting are:

November 29, 30 and December 1, 7, 8, and 14.

People typically come to the forest from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Please come and join. You can ride as much of the time as you want or just come for a short time.



**Front Range Back Country Horsemen's
Annual Christmas Potluck and Volunteer
Celebration.**

Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 PM

**Grandview Grange
2280 East Noble Place
Centennial, Colorado.**

FRBCH will provide the main dish, along with beer, wine and sodas.

Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share.

Here's how you'll know what to bring: If your last name begins with

A - J Please bring an Appetizer

K - R, a Side Dish

S - Z, a Dessert.

Gift Exchange!

Bring a wrapped gift valued at \$15 or more to exchange.

Don't be left out – This is so much fun!

Spouses and guests are welcome, so bring a friend (or 2 or 3) so they can learn more about Back Country Horsemen.

You'll receive an Evite in your email so please RSVP.



Questions? Contact
Majestictrail@AOL.com



Sharon Jayne at
or 303-570-4559.

Hope to see you there!

Don't Miss the Silent Auction at the Holiday Party!

One of the most exciting events at the Holiday Party is the Silent Auction. Great bargains and unique items appear on that table! Tack, artwork, food, tools and clothes have graced the Silent Auction table in prior years. Donating is a great way to distribute all things related to horses, hiking or the Holiday season that you no longer need or use. The proceeds go to a good cause: FRBCH! And the FRBCH Holiday Silent Auction is a great way to find a deal on something you've been looking for, are thinking you might need or is such a bargain that you can't turn it down!

So please bring a quality item to support the Auction and a checkbook to pay for the items you want!

Contact me if you need any additional details.

Courtney

BCHA Giving Trailsday

This is a reminder that Giving TrailsDay is 12/3/19. The goal for the national level of BCH is \$5,000. Two very generous donors are matching your donation up to a combined \$1,500! But why stop there? Facebook will also match up to \$7 million, on a first come first serve basis, so you must make your donation on our [BCHA Facebook page](#) at 8:00 a.m. ET, 5:00 a.m. PT on [12/3/19](#). 100% of your donation comes to BCHA when donated through Facebook and supports our work of keeping trails open for you! Click the above dates to easily add this important date to your calendar.

And watch this fun video of the amazing work we're doing sent in by Danny Riddle, High Desert BCH, Nevada!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OmvrZS20V5gKgjD_evXbJJalYk3GQXH7/view?usp=sharing

Sweetwater Lake

The Conservation Fund (TCF) and the Eagle Valley Land Trust (EVLT) are leading a campaign to raise \$3.5M to purchase Sweetwater Lake for the public before it is sold for development or extractive commercial uses. See this link to get more familiar with the effort, and please consider a donation or letter of support for this program:

<https://evlt.org/join-us/savethelake/>

Browns Canyon public outreach event Nov. 23

From the Friends of Brown Canyon: Everything is coming together for a big public outreach event at the Salida Steam Plant next week. National guitar flat-picking champion Tyler Grant will be performing along with Rocky Mountain Grateful Dead Revue, which is essentially a Colorado all-star band. Before the band plays, we will say a few words to highlight the importance of commenting on the Draft RMP/EIS and show an 11-minute documentary about Browns Canyon.

We will have tables set up in the lobby with Information about how the RMP could better align with our recommendations in the Sustainable Alternative. We will also have laptops and postcards for people to write and submit comments at the event. And we will have email sign-up sheets so that we can follow up with people to ensure they have the info they need to submit comments.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the music will finish around 9:30 p.m. The cost to put on this event is a little over \$2,000, so we would greatly appreciate any organizations and businesses that are willing to sign on as sponsors at either \$100 or \$250. All sponsors will receive recognition on our marketing materials - posters, press releases, social media - and at the event. If your organization would like to be a sponsor, please let me know asap so that I can get your logo on the event posters.

We could also use a few volunteers to help engage with people in the lobby and encourage them to submit comments. So please let me know if you'd like to volunteer.

I've created a Facebook event on the Friends of Browns Canyon page and shared it with various community and music groups/pages. Please help us spread the word by sharing the event on Facebook. And most importantly, plan to join us at the SteamPlant for a fun evening with some great live music.

Thanks,
Joe

Joe Stone
Board Member
Friends of Browns Canyon
720-414-2289

BCHA Tahoe National Forest Lawsuit

As Chairman, I want to communicate directly with you about litigation that BCHA and its partners filed last week in Federal District Court in order to protect our ongoing use and enjoyment of national forest trails. BCHA rarely enters into litigation. The last time we did so was in 2006, when the US Forest Service unilaterally, and without seeking public review and comment, proposed a change in its Trail Classification Standards that would have harmed the interests of BCHA and its membership. We ended up settling that lawsuit with the agency and, remarkably, our relationship ended up stronger as a result.

Tahoe National Forest Authorization of Electric Bikes on 132 Miles of Non-Motorized Trails

On October 23rd, 2019, the Western Environmental Law Center (WELC) filed a lawsuit with the Eastern California Federal District Court on behalf of BCHA, BCH California and its Mother Lode Unit, The Wilderness Society and two local organizations over the Tahoe National Forest's stealth authorization of electric bike (e-Bike) use on 132 miles of non-motorized trails. The authorization happened early this summer and without any opportunity for public review, comment, and environmental analyses. The text of the lawsuit can be found [here](#). For more background on this and the broader e-Bike issue, please refer to the Public Lands Report in BCHA's Fall 2019 newsletter.

BCHA has never been quick to support litigation. It can result in strained relationships and comes with several potential downsides, including not yielding the result we might want. But in this case, members of our co-plaintiff team were consistently rebuffed by personnel from the Tahoe National Forest when we inquired about this (unannounced) change in policy. In addition, our joint "[demand letter](#)" to the Forest Supervisor, which we submitted on September 9, 2019, went unanswered. Given the magnitude of pressure being exerted by e-Bike proponents on federal land management agencies, we felt compelled to take a stand.

Objectives of the Lawsuit

Our primary objectives for filing this lawsuit were to compel the Tahoe National Forest to rescind its approval of e-Bike use on non-motorized trails, close these trails to e-Bike use, and to cease advertising the new system of trails via the forest's [website](#). If the agency still felt compelled to re-designate trails for e-Bike use, we would insist on a public process where all stakeholders could review and provide formal comment. We further hope the lawsuit will act to place a "freeze" on any national forest that might be poised to authorize e-Bikes on non-motorized trails in the absence of a transparent and public process.

Next Steps

WELC has yet to be notified about which judge the District Court will assign to this case. Importantly, the filing of the lawsuit should not affect your day-to-day interactions with the US Forest Service. If anything, it might serve as a feather in our cap that demonstrates to agency personnel BCHA's commitment to, and support of, the need for a full public process when decisions are made that affect trail classification standards and trail management objectives. I would be interested to hear from you if, however, you receive any negative feedback from Forest Service personnel regarding the lawsuit. It never hurts to better understand any criticisms leveled at BCHA and our tactics in keeping pack and saddle stock trails open and enjoyable to our membership.

Should you or your chapter receive any inquiries from the press/media about this case, please convey that BCHA's spokesperson on this issue is Randy Rasmussen, BCHA's Director for Public Lands & Recreation (WildernessAdvisor@bcha.org). Please refrain from providing your personal opinion to the media, as BCHA wants to ensure our public message remains consistent with that of our fellow co-plaintiffs.

Working Proactively to Address Threats to Our Mission

I hope you'll agree that by taking this action, BCHA is being proactive on behalf of our membership in order "to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses (and mules!) in America's backcountry and wilderness." I believe this is yet another valuable role that BCHA serves our 31 states and nearly 200 chapters. Moreover, BCHA's exploration and implementation of this lawsuit was done in close coordination with, and with the unanimous support of, BCH California and its Mother Lode Unit. As Chairman, it's another example of the incredible value that is realized when all three elements—BCHA national, BCH state, and the local BCH chapter—work in unison to advance the interests of our membership.

Respectfully,
Darrell Wallace
Chairman

National and State issues

- BCHA has entered into a lawsuit regarding the e-bike directive in Tahoe NF; several alerts have gone out leading up to this. Here is some information:
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw6bVXf7gP3tT1d6ZHdveWp3SkdITldpM2ZUVERZeDFRLTVJ/view?usp=sharing>
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw6bVXf7gP3tTkF0X3lxcndhZ1Fic3dPVW9PUkFSM1JuMEIj/view?usp=sharing>
 - <https://www.sfchronicle.com/travel/article/Suit-blasts-Tahoe-National-Forest-for-allowing-14557974.php>
 - ALL inquires should be directed to our BCHA Director of Public Lands & Recreation, Randy Rasmussen, for comments/questions/concerns. We are asking that members do not engage in dialogue. Randy's contact information, WildernessAdvisor@bcha.org; 541-602-0713
- Final letter BCHCO, MVBCH and 4CBHC signed on to with other partners, re Tres Rios TAP 1 BLM Comments, e-bikes:
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eP20VU--eor32z_O7cFzt4Oe5TleObq/view?usp=sharing
- **Really exciting news:**

As a result of our efforts in partnership with South Dakota and Wyoming, the Region 2 pack string is reinstated. It will stay in Cody, WY, as they have facilities there and it's a bit cheaper. There is not any dedicated funding yet, and that's being worked on. The FS lead in WY is putting one of her staff on the pack string for now; she's been extremely supportive and a champion of it, having built corrals and holding facilities, and rented pack gear on a 20-year lease. The issue now is that the region needs to come up with about \$200,000 a year and hire the personnel. More to come as CO, WY and SD work together on this. Something to think about, a project that could use the pack string, so we can be sure to show how appreciative we are and how much it is utilized.

BCHA in the news

The linked feature article in this month's AT E-newsletter is from BCHA and explains a partnership with the BCH California Shasta-Trinity Unit, their local USFS & California Conservation Corp (CCC). It is well worth the read.

Link forwarded by Julie Chaney

The Keys to Making Ambitious Trail Partnerships Work

Equestrians work with Forest Service and Conservation Corps for effective trail maintenance. Organizations working together can tackle problems and issues that are too large for single organizations to handle.

<https://www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteers-are-making-ambitious-trail-partnerships-work>

News from State: BCHCO Meeting November 2

What a GREAT BOD meeting this past Saturday. Thanks to everyone for coming, sharing, and most importantly all of the work you are all doing statewide.

Several items to share:

- As per unanimous vote, please see the Sweetwater Lake LoS [HERE](#). Let me know by 11/8/19 if you have any adds.
- Please consider writing your own letter of support as well, more information can be found at these links:

<https://evlt.org/letterofsupport/>

<https://evlt.org/savethelaketalkingpoints/>

- Our NEW Facebook page is up and new website design is underway. Please encourage your members and their friends to join our page so we reach more people; Kendra is managing it (thank you, Kendra!), and will be contacting folks to feature items for the page so we can get word out statewide when support/help is needed for chapters. Please support these efforts!
- Also, we'll be working with WY and SD to show support for the preservation of the Region 2 pack string.
- We've been contacted to provide input right out of the gate re equestrian access for the newly acquired Crazy French Ranch in Trinidad, CO. The BCHCO Public Lands Committee is working on this. Interesting article here about it: <https://coloradosun.com/2019/07/08/trinidad-state-park-crazy-french-ranch/>. While our input doesn't guarantee all that we suggest, it's a great opportunity to help form something from the ground up.

Questions, issues, feedback, please contact me any time.

Thank you.
Tif Rodriguez
BCHCO Chair



Activity Schedule for FRBCH for 2019

November

- 29, Friday and 30, Saturday – Christmas Tree Ambassadors

December

- 1, Sunday - Christmas Tree Ambassadors
- 7, Friday and 8, Saturday – Christmas Tree Ambassadors
- 14, Saturday – Christmas Tree Ambassadors
- 15, Sunday - Christmas Party

Activity Schedule for FRBCH for 2020

January

- 22, Wednesday - General Meeting, South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

February

- 25, Tuesday - General Meeting, Morrison Inn, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting
- 27, Thursday – set up for Rocky Mountain Horse Expo
- 28-29, Friday- Saturday- Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

March

- 1, Sunday - Rocky Mountain Horse Expo
- 25, Wednesday - General Meeting, South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

April

- 21, Tuesday - General Meeting, Morrison Inn, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

May

- 20, Wednesday - General Meeting, South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

June

- 23, Tuesday - General Meeting, Morrison Inn, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

July

- No July meeting - possible social trail ride and potluck

August

- Colorado Trail Ride
- 26, Wednesday - General Meeting, South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

September

- 22, Tuesday - General Meeting, Morrison Inn, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

October

- 28, Wednesday - General Meeting, South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

November

- 17, Tuesday - General Meeting, Morrison Inn, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

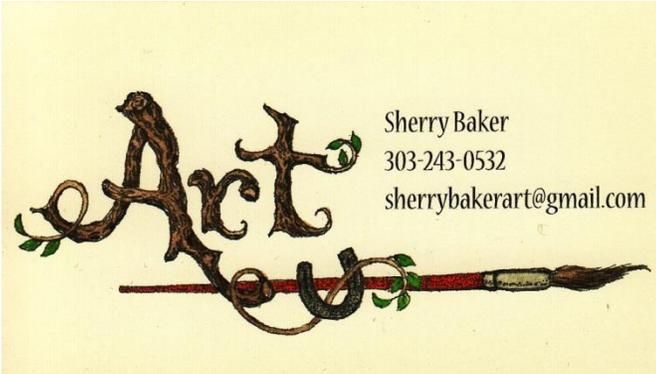
December

- Christmas Tree Ambassadors
- Parker Carriage Parade
- 13, Sunday - Christmas Party

South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters is located at 9195 East Mineral Avenue in Centennial. The meeting room is downstairs (take the elevator).

The Morrison Inn is at 301 Bear Creek Avenue in downtown Morrison. There is additional parking east of the restaurant.

updated 11/21/2019



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