

We have also worked with the state Fish Wildlife and Parks in such projects as the Grizzly Bear DNA study and have packed in fish biologists for their work pertaining to cutthroat trout preservation.

We have assisted other organizations in their projects such as MCC and Continental Divide crews and have worked on joint projects with other BCH chapters.



Packing Contineatal Divide Crew

BCH History

The first Montana Back Country Horsemen Chapter was formed in northwestern Montana on January 17, 1973. The Great Falls Chapter was organized in March of 1985. Montana now has 18 Chapters and there are numerous Chapters in 21 other states. Our local Chapter is affiliated with the Montana State Chapter and the Back Country Horsemen of America. Together we form a strong voice for support of the right to use horses in the back country.

Back Country Horsemen are diverse people of all ages and from all walks of life. Some do not own a horse but all enjoy the opportunity to share with others their love of horses and the back country. We share a firm belief that the purpose for this organization is vital for the continued use of our back country and wilderness areas by future generations of horsemen.

The club coordinates with other agencies, such as the U. S. Forest Service, to coordinate work or service projects (such as trail clearing, campground facility maintenance and construction, signing, etc.) for club members to carry out.

We organize clinics and programs for our monthly meetings.

We actively participate in travel planning and other issues that may affect horse use in the back country or wilderness.

Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the FWP building at 7p.m.



The Back Country Horsemen may be of interest to you if:

You use your horses to hunt in Montana's back country or wilderness areas.

You enjoy weekend or evening rides in some of the open space surrounding Great Falls.

Your vacation is frequently spent in one of Montana's many beautiful wilderness areas.

If you care about preserving the back country for future generations of horsemen.

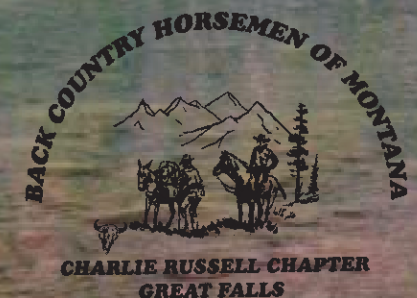


Charlie Russell
Back Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 3563
Geat Falls , MT 59403

Charlie Russell Back Country Horsemen



Working to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness



The Purpose of the Charlie Russell Back Country Horsemen of Great Falls

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in the back country and wilderness.

To assist the various government agencies in their maintenance of said resources

To educate encourage and solicit active public participation in wise and sustaining use of horses and use by people commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource.



Projects: Highwoods



In 2006 CRBCH members worked the Windy Mountain Trail for National Trails Day.

Excessive rain eroded deep gullies in sections of the trail making horse use unsafe.

In a signal day members moved 5 tons of clay dirt a mile and a half up the trail.

The trail was repaired making horse traffic safe. Charlie Russell members receive the National Stewardship Award for their efforts.



Filling the erosion



Both boxes and buckets were used to haul dirt

Hoover Creek



Backcountry Horsemen work closely with the Forest Service to design and implement training programs for our volunteers. In this case, members are taking the same packing training that is required by FS employees.



Our organization has created, along with the Forest Service, an effective horsemanship safety training program that has become an agency wide model.

As an organization we recognize that we have a responsibility of passing on the skills of back country travel and packing to our new and younger members in order to perpetuate the life style.



With each ride more experience members share their knowledge with the less experienced in packing and horsemanship making enjoyable times for all.

