On The Trail

- The Defensive Horse Safety Class is required to participate on trail projects when using stock.
- Bringing along experienced pack stock is most welcome. We pack trail maintenance equipment, supplies, camping gear, fish for transplanting and anything else forest workers need.
- Some members do not have horses but enjoy hiking along. The pace is usually 3 miles per hour or less.
- Most projects are one to three days but several days are planned for holidays such as the Memorial Day weekend. We enjoy a camp kitchen, great potluck breakfasts and dinners and endless stories around the campfire.
- Back country camping is usual for activities such as trailhead maintenance, trail clearing, packing, and other Forest Service designated work.

A Historical Summary of the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead

- In 1972, four horsemen became concerned about the real possibility of losing the right of access to the back country and Wilderness areas by horses and other stock. Accordingly, in 1973, an organization was formed with the narrow purpose of preserving the tradition of the horse in the Wilderness.
- To show our dedication to the resource, BCH members assist the U.S. Forest Service and other government agencies by providing volunteer services as maintaining trail, building and maintaining trailhead facilities and providing packing support for back country projects.
- The Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead (BCHF) started as a local organization and soon was joined by other like minded groups in Montana and, by 1979, was joined by other State organizations to form the original Back Country Horsemen of America as a non-profit public service corporation.
- The Back Country Horsemen of America has grown to over 16,000 members nationwide. The organization has a continuing influence on stock access to public lands including National Forests, National Parks, and Bureau of Land Management and designated wilderness areas throughout the United States.
- The Back Country Horsemen of Montana (BCHMT) is in the unique position of representing the founding state. Our future depends on us carrying on the founders’ vision and the organization’s purposes.
The activities our Montana BCH Chapter members enjoy

- Close cooperation and services to the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Continental Divide Trail Coalition Montana and other like organizations.

- Help maintain back country trails, trailheads and other facilities in National Forests, Glacier Park and the Montana wilderness complex.

- Using stock to pack in supplies and building and maintenance materials for various back country projects, particularly where no other means are practical or permissible.

- Continual training in horse and stock safe handling, packing and proper tack usage and classes in first aid, CPR, and cross-cut and chain saw usage and safety. Such training is usually free to members or at a nominal cost.

- The Montana chapters have regular monthly meetings to keep our members informed and that often includes timely and relevant presentations and training sessions.

For contacts and more information on BCHMT and our Chapters, see our website at:

[www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)

Facebook: Back Country Horsemen of Montana

Send mail to:
Back Country Horsemen of Montana
2130 9th Street W #109
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Our Purpose

- To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America’s back country and wilderness.

- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

- To assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.

- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

- To foster and encourage the formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.