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During the development of the BCHA Strategic Plan at Reno in 2004 it was proposed that Backcountry Horsemen of America become the primary provider for Low Impact training for stock users nationally. During the BOD meeting at Park City Utah in 2005 the Education Committee was directed to develop a Leave No Trace Trainer Program.

The idea was based on the belief that Backcountry Horsemen members were the most qualified to teach LNT principles and practices to stock users. As the program developed it was realized that if BCHA was to become the primary provider for LNT training to stock users our state organizations, affiliates, local units and chapters had to become a primary provider as well.

The Education Committee of BCHC has developed a Leave No Trace training program that will establish BCH as primary trainers of stock users and assist state and associate members to realize their training goals and objectives. Please review the Backcountry Horsemen Leave No Trace Training Program article in the summer issue of the 2006 Backcountry Horsemen of America Newsletter. Basically BCH Master Trainers will train LNT Trainers and LNT Trainers will hold LNT Awareness Workshops that are presented to the stock users in their area.

BCHA has entered into a partnership with the Center For Outdoor Ethics and the Wildlands Training Center. The Center For Outdoor Ethics will certify the courses and issue certificates to the Masters and Trainers. The Wildlands Training Center will provide one Masters course per year to students selected by the BCHA Education Committee from applicants submitted by member states and affiliates.

LNT Master Educators are the key to the success of the program. Each state or associate member must have Master Educators willing to hold LNT Trainer courses. Those state and associate members that do not have Master Educators or Master Educators willing to hold LNT Trainer Courses may submit candidates for the Masters Course. Master students will be selected by the Education Committee based on the needs of the state or associate members.

Plans are to establish a national BCHA fund raising program to support the BCHA LNT Training Program. If successful the program will fund all or part of the tuition cost for the members select for the Masters course. Donated funds will be routed through the BCHA Education Foundation and thereby tax deductible.

In order for the Education Committee to make informed decision as to the development and direction of the training program we have attached a questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire and return it to Jerry Ledbetter jbarranch1956@directcon.net as soon as possible. Please feel free to e-mail or call me personally if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely

Jerry Ledbetter, BCHA Education Chair.

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