MAKE A DIFFERENCE

While clearing trails and providing pack support are always at the top of our summer project lists, consider expanding your volunteerism to include becoming an “educator”! Teaching something you are passionate about to others can be very rewarding.

A great teacher has his own love of learning and inspires students with his passion for education and for the course material. We all love horses/mules and the back country so please encourage members to “pass it on”!

We continue to expand and promote our Youth Program, but what about the adults in your community? Perhaps this winter contact some of your local groups such as Lions Club, Rotary, Soroptimists, Kiwanis, etc. and volunteer as a guest speaker?

Or, contact your local schools and perhaps do a classroom presentation on the back country. Many teachers love to bring in the public to expose their students to activities in their community.

Backcountry Flora

Poisonous to Equine

Bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum)
Also known as: brake fern, eagle fern and also known as a fiddlehead fern

Horsemen Favorites

Indian Paintbrush

Backcountry Fauna

Chipmunks are one of Montana's cutest and most visible animals. Of the sixteen species of Western Chipmunk, Montana is home to four of them: the Yellow-pine Chipmunk, the Least Chipmunk, the Red-tailed Chipmunk and the Uinta Chipmunk. (Shown clockwise L to R)

JUST FOR FUN

Defensive Horsemanship

We highly recommend against this!
HORSEMEN MANNERS & ETIQUETTE

THE TRAILHEAD
As Back Country Horsemen, how the public views us can begin at the trailhead!

Always clean up any manure, shavings or straw left by your stock. Be a responsible BCH member and clean up trailheads even though the mess may not be caused by you. We need to set a good example to maintain our reputation and not give other users such as hikers and bicyclists a reason to frown upon stock users.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can now watch hosts Smoke Elser and Bob Hoverson in the “Leave No Trace for Stock Users” video by going to BCHMT.org website homepage and clicking the YouTube link. This video series was produced by the USDA and the US Forest Service National Technology & Development Program in cooperation with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

- PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE
- TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES
- DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY
- LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND
- MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS
- RESPECT WILDLIFE
- BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Go to www.bchmt.org

USFS REGION 1 INFORMATION

- Proposing fee increases at some campgrounds, lookouts, cabins, etc.

- Looking at a 5% cut in trail budget across the board for 2018

- Conservation Stewardship Program-YCC/Youth funding being explored-Joni Packard has more info

EDUCATION: The Bitterroot National Forest would be willing to host a “Trail Building” training session for Back Country Horsemen in the spring of 2018. Do we have BCHMT members from around the state that would be interested?

HORSE HEALTH

White Line Disease
The white line is the junction between the hoof wall and the sole on the bottom of the horse's hoof. White Line Disease is a widening of the white line, or a separation of the hoof wall from the sole. This separation is then invaded by bacteria and fungi, leading to infection that progresses up towards the coronary band which produces a white or gray powdery material. It is usually first noticed by the farrier during a routine trimming because only severe cases actually cause lameness.