WHEREAS, Some of the objectives in the Purpose Statement and Constitution of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana are “To perpetuate the common sense use of horses in America’s back country” and “To educate people to wisely use horses in the back country so as to sustain the use of animals and resource in a manner commensurate with our heritage, and to encourage and solicit active participation by members and the general public in such activity”; and

WHEREAS, Extended trips into the back country by stock have plummeted, dropping off 50% in 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Educating and exposing youth to stock use, the skill of packing, wilderness and Leave-No-Trace (LNT) is critical to the success of the Back Country Horsemen Mission Statement; and

WHEREAS, A framework for the education of youth is already in place, beginning with the Montana 4-H Packing Program at the county level, high school and college continuing education and college level courses at several Montana Universities. These educational opportunities are the ground floor on which a sustainable Back Country Horsemen Youth Program can be built upon. Now therefore it be

RESOLVED, That the delegates of the 2014 Back Country Horsemen of Montana Convention direct the Officers and Board of Directors to implement a youth/young adult Education Committee specifically geared towards stock use, the skill of packing, wilderness and LNT by the BCHM convention of 2015. This committee will be a clearing house of ideas shared with all the chapters so each chapter doesn’t have to reinvent the wheel along with being instrumental in researching areas across the state where there is an opportunity to create programs for youth/young adults to learn stock use, the skill of packing, wilderness and LNT and be it

Further Resolved, The Back Country Horsemen of Montana State Officers and Board of Directors appropriate funds in the state budget to be used, when needed, for young adult horse and mule packing programs.