



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

Founded 1978 - 37 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS - May 2015

OFFICERS

President:

Bob Hermance

Vice President:

Joe Suta

Secretary:

Helen Suta

Treasurer:

LeAnn Hermance

State Directors:

Fred Fitzpatrick
Ron Ries

Alt. State Director:

Merlyn Huso

Chapter Directors:

Bill Poser
Clete Gregory
Lisa Schmidt
Dick Kinyon
Steve Hutton
Debbie Ries

Jr. Director:

None

Editor: Le Ann Hermance

Hermance@3rivers.net

Webmaster: Fred Fitzpatrick

richfitz@3rivers.net

BCH of Montana:

Chairman: Connie Long
Missoula Chapter

ESBCH-Web Site:

[www.bchmt.org/esbch/
default.html](http://www.bchmt.org/esbch/default.html)

Montana BCH Web Site

www.bchmt.org

May President's Letter:

The convention in Hamilton went well. They had a little Boom Town setup and the vendors were there in wall tents. Convention was a little different this year as there were no workshops. Instead of picture boards, a CD was made of the clubs work projects and viewed at the meeting. During the raffle drawing we crossed our fingers and toes that Dick would win "Jasper" the mule, but no luck.

The weather has been awfully dry and we hope there is not a big fire season as predicted. Our first work project will be over Memorial Day Weekend with the South Fork Trail Maintenance project. We need to have everyone going make sure their membership dues are paid before the next meeting on the 14th. Also we will have the next two work project signup sheets at the meeting. Our next scheduled meeting for June will be the 11th and the Elk Creek work project is the 13th and 14th. We will need to know who is going for food planning purposes. Oh and don't forget to get your horses ready too!

We will also be doing 2016 convention planning at the meeting. Mark your calendars for April 1st, 2nd and 3rd of 2016 for helping with the convention. Thanks to Fred for keeping us on track.

See you on the trail,

Bob





MAY BIRTHDAYS

Pat Dailey, Jim Broger,
Charlotte Marshall, Kurt
Dyer, Fred Fitzpatrick,
Merlyn Huso, Helen Suta

April 9th Minutes

Vice-President Joe Suta called the meeting to order at 7:15P.M. There were four members in attendance, Joe Suta, Helen Suta, Fred Fitzpatrick and Ron Ries.

MINUTES

Fred Fitzpatrick made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published. Ron Ries seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT

Helen gave the treasurer's report for LeAnn. Fred made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Ron, and the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was correspondence presented about the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act celebration to be held Saturday, May 23, an article from the tribune about the Bob Marshall Wilderness meeting to be held April 11 in Choteau, and a letter sent by Connie Long asking for information about our club so it could be compiled into a power point presentation. The deadline for that is April 18th.

STATE COMMITTEE REPORT

Fred gave a report on the State Committee that he and Ron Ries attended prior to the State Convention. Senator Daines voted for an amendment to the budget proposal that would allow the State of Montana to buy Federal land. State BCH Chair asked members to write a letter to Senator Daines about BCH's concern about his vote. Fred received an e-mail from another member with a copy of an amendment negating the previous amendment Senator Daines voted for, and asking us to write a letter of support for this.

Also discussed at the State meeting was the fact that there were a few Forest Service districts that will need to renew travel plans in the future. Flathead District is one being renewed at this time. It was recommended that individual clubs review plans as they come out, and send comments as needed.

The Missoula club has printed out a new booklet on defensive horse safety additions. Their booklet was adopted as a standard for all Montana BCH clubs.

Joni Packard, Acting Regional Wilderness, Rivers and

Guides Program Manager said that all Forest Service districts have been combined in regard to Work Comp issues. In the past, when a Work Comp claim was filed with a district, it had to be paid from that district's budget, cutting into other projects.

Mark Himmel attended an Interagency Saw Training in Florida in February. The purpose of the training was to provide updated info and set new standards.

U of M Historical Society said they would be very interested in saving all history of BCH if it would be submitted to them.

And finally, a bear safety expert was also at the convention. He is willing to give BCH clubs bear safety training supplies and discounts on bear spray.

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

In regard to the BCH convention for 2016, Fred said he was looking into the possibility of a bear proof cooler as a raffle item. Fred also talked about a letter, which all officer's received, concerning a proposed change to the Forest Service food storage order. This is being done to make the food storage order uniform in all Forest Service Ranger Districts in the nation. Of concern were the proposals on how to store food at night when people are in camp and how to store game meat. The information was late getting to us, but we have until the 27th of April to make a comment to Joni Packard.

There being no further business, Fred made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Helen. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Suta, Secretary

BCHM NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Articles: Please submit in **Microsoft Word** (doc) format if at all possible*. Photos should be submitted separately (as described below). It would help me if you could provide photo captions with the article and associate the caption with the name of the photograph you send. That will help reduce confusion on my part.

Chairman's Message: Word limit – ~1,000 (two pages). This assumes I will use one photo.

Chapter News: Word limit – 1,500 words (approximately three pages). This assumes I will use four photos. If you wish me to publish more photos, please contact editor to see if there is room in this edition of the newsletter.

All other articles: Word limit – 1,000 words or less (approximately two pages). This assumes I will use two photos. If you wish me to publish more photos, please contact editor.

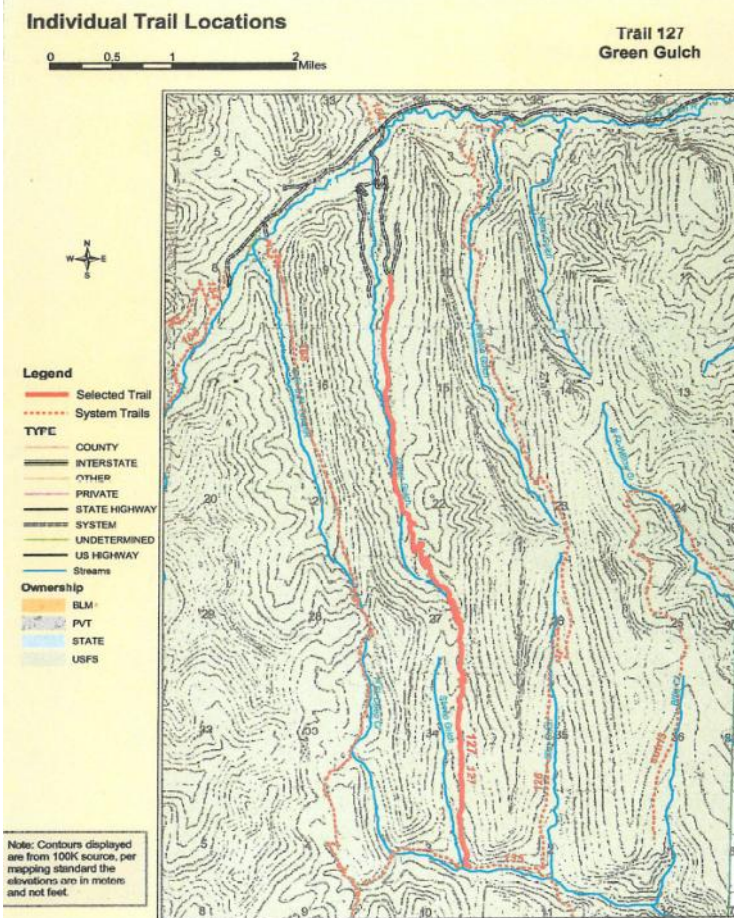
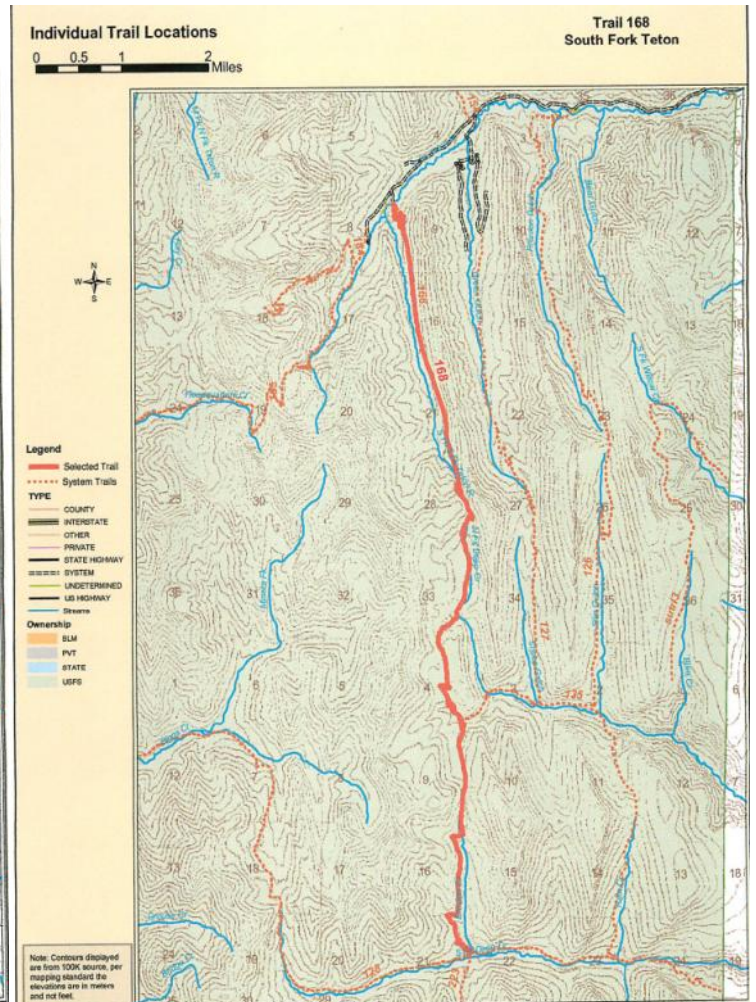
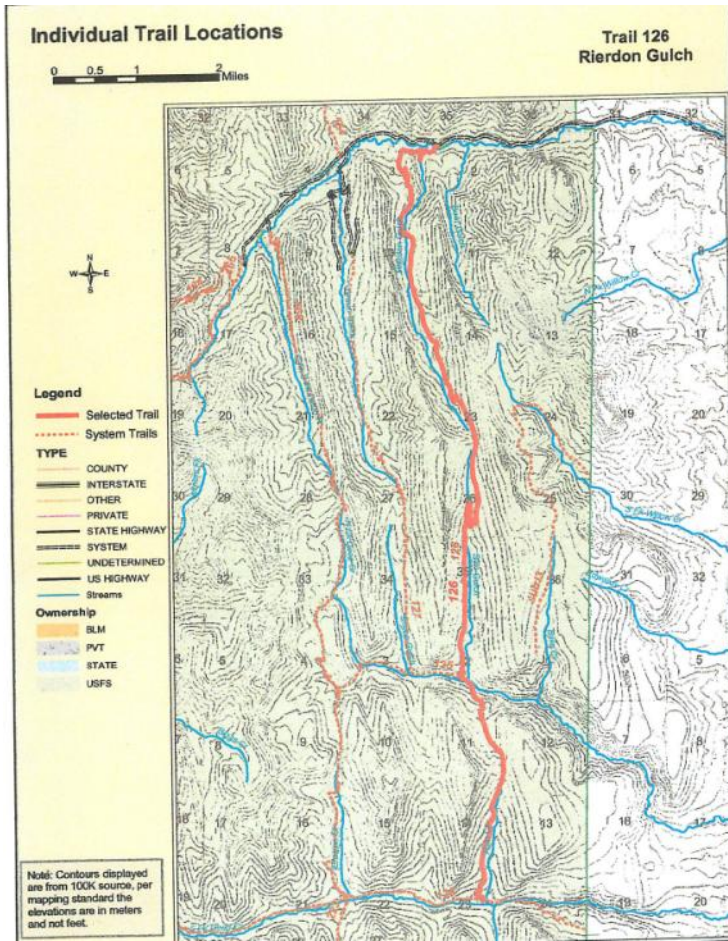
Photos: Please send photos in jpeg. The digital newsletter is in color but the printed newsletter will be in black & white, therefore photos with good contrast are encouraged.

Please contact me if you are struggling with an idea for a topic, if the word limit is a problem, or for any other reason. I would be more than happy to help you work through the problem.

You can contact me by email: nparwana@hotmail.com or by phone: 406.782.3682.

Best
Noor Parwana
editor, Decker Dispatch

Memorial Day Work Project Maps



Membership paid up to April 9, 2015:

Merlyn and Linda Huso, Bob and Le Ann Hermance, Cletis and Bonnie Gregory, Joshua Snow, Ron and Debbie Ries, Joe and Helen Suta, R. Fred Fitzpatrick, Steve Hutton and Lisa Schmidt, Abby Hutton and Will Early, Kurt Dyer, Charles McCubbins and Marsha Cox-Niemen and family, Dick Kinyon, Bill Poser, Ken Alltucker, Robert Skorupa, Greg & Deb Schatz and Ginger Fleisch.

Renewal forms can be found on the website and please download the membership packet. You can copy and paste the below link to go directly to the forms.

<http://www.bchmt.org/esbch/Membership%20Bundle.pdf>

SAFETY ALERT

SNAG/GREEN TREE HAZARDS

Falling SNAGS and GREEN trees kill and injure more wildland firefighters each year. The 1993 National Snag Hazard Report states "nineteen have been killed since 1959, fifteen of those since 1985"... The seriousness of this situation cannot be over-emphasized.

For your consideration, following is a snag/green tree hazard alert checklist.

- Snags/green trees are falling or have fallen in work area.
- Hazard tree indicators are present in work area.
- High risk tree species are present in work areas.
- Crews are working in a hazard tree area at night.
- Crews are working in a hazard tree area and the wind is blowing.
- Crews are working in an area where trees have been burning for some time.
- The operational period for functional briefing did not include a discussion of hazards.
- Crewmembers are taking a break in a hazard tree area (staging area, drop points, camps, etc.).
- Lookouts have not been posted in a hazard tree area.
- Lookouts are not advising the crew of the presence of hazard trees.
- Winds are increasing or are predicted to increase.
- Tree height within fire perimeter equals or exceeds distance to control line.
- Escape routes pass through hazard tree area.

Following are some rules to remember:

- Help maintain hazard tree awareness at all times for all firefighters.
- Emphasize standard firefighting orders, and Situations that Shout "Watch Out".
- Include "SNAG INTELLIGENCE" in all fire suppression discussions and briefings; i.e., expected burn through time, location and marking, areas of snags, additional hazards due to slope, etc.
- Strengthen leadership communications skills for dealing with diverse organizations and crews.
- Be aware of complacency on fires of all sizes during all phases; particularly during non-threatening and uneventful periods.
- Direct and train all firefighters to do their own safety assessments, and encourage all to interact with their supervisors to ensure better safety.

Can you think of a slogan that will help prevent hazard tree accidents?

SNAGS -- STOP, NOTICE, AND GO SAFELY
SNAG SMART -- GET SOME
LOOK UP AND LIVE

Many of you have had personal experiences with hazard trees. Share those experiences with others. It may save a life.

- S** Size up snag hazards in work area
- N** Never become complacent
- A** Always look up
- G** Get weather reports

Back Country Horsemen of Montana

Newsletter Advertisement Rates

The *Decker Dispatch* is published three times per year and has a distribution of over 1,200 addresses in Montana. The *Decker Dispatch* also has a nation-wide distribution through the Back Country Horsemen of America.

Full page – \$100 One-Quarter page – \$50

Half page – \$75. One-eighth page – \$25

Second edition rates are the same as above.

Third edition rates are ½ price.

To place an ad, please contact Noor Parwana, editor of the Decker Dispatch:
email: parwana@hotmail.com
cell: 406.782.3682

East Slope Back Country Horseman Meetings and Work Projects 2015

April 9, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M.
May 14, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M. Sign up for work project to be held Memorial Day weekend.
May 23, 24 & 25, 2015 –Work project. South Fork Trail Maintenance.
June 5, 6 & 7 –Whoop-up Trail Days in Conrad Montana.
June 11, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M. Sign up for June work project.
June 13 & 14, 2015 –Work project. Elk Creek Trail maintenance.
July 9, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M. Sign up for July work project.
July 25 & 26, 2015 –Work project. Swift Dam Trail Maintenance.
August 1 & 2, 2015 –Grizzly Days in Dupuyer.
August 1 & 2, 2015 –Work project. Swift Dam Poker Ride Sunday 2, 2015.
August 13, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M. Sign up for August work project.
August 22 & 23, 2015 –Backcountry weed project behind Gibson Dam.
September 10, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M.
October 8, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M.
No Meeting in November.
December 6, 2015 –Christmas Party at Dr. Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon home. Regular Meeting @ 6 P.M. before meal and gift exchange.
January 10, 2016 –Annual meeting and election of officers. Dr. Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon home. Regular Meeting @ 6 P.M. before meal.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	1. WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY Working in Bear Country	2. LOCATION LCNF	3. UNIT RMRD
JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA) References-FSH 6709.11 and 12 (Instructions on Reverse)	4. NAME OF ANALYST Samsara Chapman	6. JOB TITLE Forestry Technician	6. DATE PREPARED 05/20/2009
7. TASKS/PROCEDURES	8. HAZARDS	9. ABATEMENT ACTIONS Engineering Controls * Substitution * Administrative Controls *PPE	
Working in Bear Country	Encounter of a Bear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DO NOT RUN: When you run you may look like prey to the bear. - Do not threaten the bear and force it fight back. - Allow the bear a way out with dignity. - Talk to the bear in low, soft tones and slowly back away. - Pretend you are not afraid. - The secret with bears is to avoid surprises. - Be aware of wind direction. If the wind is in your face the bear may not smell you. - Use noise makers such as a spoon tied loosely to a pan, talk loudly to your companion, whistle while you work. 	
	Cubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid sows with cubs when at all possible. - Back away slowly but deliberately, in the direction from which you came and at a slight angle so that you are moving across her vision. Bear depth perception is poor and if you move directly backwards it may look to her like you are moving towards her. - Continue to avoid the area. 	
	Bear food cache - smell or see rotted carcass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Backtrack immediately and quickly. Do not investigate. - Do not force a bear to defend it's meals from you. - Avoid the area. 	
	Bears in Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep camp clean and organized. - Do not ever allow bears to get to your food. - Cut down on attractive odors. Think about the types of food you carry. - Cook away from your tent/sleep area. - Clean dishes after every meal, and be aware of food scrapes. - Keep all food out of your tent. - Hang food in trees well away from camp and out of reach of bears. Remember: black bears are good climbers so string the food between trees. - Double plastic wrap all food items to reduce odor. 	
	Odors that Attract Bears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food, cooking and eating utensils, grills, fire pits used for cooking, stoves, fishing tackle, ice chests/coolers, trash, wash basins, cosmetics, toiletries, beverage containers, perfumes, soaps. 	
	Bear Repellant Spray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crew should have a bear repellent spray safety session. - Know how the spray canister works: limitations, range etc. - Avoid spraying into the wind or breeze - it will blow back into your face. - Repellent spray is considered a hazardous material for transport - use an approved container for transport in aircraft. - Handling the spray canister must be considered the same as a loaded gun - never point or spray the canister at anyone. 	
	Carrying a Firearm in Bear Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RMRD employees are prohibited from carrying firearms on the job, except the LEO. 	
10. LINE OFFICER SIGNATURE <i>Michael Munio</i>		11. TITLE District Ranger	12. DATE 5/22/2009

JHA Instructions (References-FSH 6709.11 and .12)

The JHA shall identify the location of the work project or activity, the name of employee(s) writing the JHA, the date(s) of development, and the name of the appropriate line officer approving it. The supervisor acknowledges that employees have read and understand the contents, have received the required training, and are qualified to perform the work project or activity.

Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6: Self-explanatory.

Block 7: Identify all tasks and procedures associated with the work project or activity that have potential to cause injury or illness to personnel and damage to property or material. Include emergency evacuation procedures (EEP).

Block 8: Identify all known or suspect hazards associated with each respective task/procedure listed in block 7. For example:

- Research past accidents/incidents
- Research the Health and Safety Code, FSH 6709.11 or other appropriate literature.
- Discuss the work project/activity with participants
- Observe the work project/activity
- A combination of the above

Block 9: Identify appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate the hazards identified in block 8. Abatement measures listed below are in the order of the preferred abatement method:

- Engineering Controls (the most desirable method of abatement).
For example, ergonomically designed tools, equipment, and furniture.
- Substitution. For example, switching to high flash point, non-toxic solvents.

Work Leader

- Administrative Controls. For example, limiting exposure by reducing the work schedule; establishing appropriate procedures and practices.
- PPE (least desirable method of abatement). For example, using hearing protection when working with or close to portable machines (chain saws, rock drills portable water pumps)
- A combination of the above.

Block 10: The JHA must be reviewed and approved by a line officer. Attach a copy of the JHA as justification for purchase orders when procuring PPE.

Block 11 and 12: Self-explanatory.

Emergency Evacuation Instructions (Reference FSH 6709.11)

Work supervisors and crew members are responsible for developing and discussing field emergency evacuation procedures (EEP) and alternatives in the event a person(s) becomes seriously ill or injured at the worksite.

Be prepared to provide the following information:

- Nature of the accident or injury (avoid using victim's name).
- Type of assistance needed, if any (ground, air, or water evacuation)
- Location of accident or injury, best access route into the worksite (road name/number), identifiable ground/air landmarks.
- Radio frequency(s).
- Contact person.
- Local hazards to ground vehicles or aviation.
- Weather conditions (wind speed & direction, visibility, temp).
- Topography.
- Number of person(s) to be transported
- Estimated weight of passengers for air/water evacuation.

The items listed above serve only as guidelines for the development of emergency evacuation procedures.

JHA and Emergency Evacuation Procedures Acknowledgement

We, the undersigned work leader and crew members, acknowledge participation in the development of this JHA (as applicable) and accompanying emergency evacuation procedures. We have thoroughly discussed and understand the provisions of each of these documents:

SIGNATURE	DATE	SIGNATURE	DATE
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I would like to Thank everyone who took the time to attend and donate to my benefit. I truly appreciate all that everyone has done.
Words cannot express the heartfelt thanks that I have for all of you.
Thanks Again, Fred



An early Forest Service picture of the Chinese Wall