Greetings, fellow Back Country Horsemen of Montana.

It seems since our last newsletter there's been a lot going on. In February, we had our annual Regional Forester meeting in Missoula, where we were thanked for all our volunteer efforts. Thanks to all of you, last year we worked 17,366 hours and traveled 96,308 miles for a total value of $648,940.13. Great job! We also discussed how difficult it was to receive TMO's from some Forest Service districts. They are working on making them more available. Thanks to Rich Inman and Webmaster Dan Marsh, TMO's on all trails in Region 1 are now listed on our BCHM website. Resource damage caused by motorized vehicles was also discussed. Education and law enforcement would be viable solutions. The current FS budget is about the same as last year, but they expect next year's budget to be cut by about 4%. We also invited Regional Forester Leslie Weldon, along with some of her staff, on an overnight camp-out the last week of June. She accepted the offer.

(Chairman, continued on Page 2)
On March 25-27 the Mile High Back Country Horsemens hosted our annual convention at the Copper King Hotel in Butte. Thanks to the Mile High Chapter for doing such an outstanding job of organizing this annual event. The 2012 convention will be hosted by the Beartooth Chapter March 30th thru April 1st in Billings, MT.

On April 25th Larry Durante and Barry Reiswig from Wyoming, Robbin Schindele from Idaho, John Simmons and myself met with Tim Reid, Chief Ranger and Ivan Kowski, Central Back country Office Manager of Yellowstone National Park. We discussed common private stock issues, impacts and violations. The requirements in our National Parks vary from park to park and are quite different than riding in our National Forests. I believe education is the key in avoiding problems encountered while riding in our National Parks. There are many publications available from the Park Service, which explain in detail, regulations for equine use in the Park. I have included some of these regulations in this newsletter.

That same week I attended the National BCHA board meeting that was held in Butte this year, where I had the opportunity to meet fellow Back Country Horsemens from all around the country and had the opportunity to see, first hand, how our National organization does business. The Mile High Chapter also hosted this event. Thanks for a job well done.

In closing I'd like to thank four men, Roland Cheek, Ken Ausk, Dennis Swift, and Duland Fulton who had the vision to see the need for an organization of horsemen that would specifically meet the needs and interests of all back country stock users.

John Chepulis
Chairman BCHM
Cross cut saw competition
Submitted by: Charlie O’Leary
Mile High Chapter

And the winners are:

Dave Crawford and Scott Kiser
They are both from the Mission Valley Chapter
14” log in 24 seconds! Way to go guys!

Thanks to Gordon Ash of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest for providing the saws and instruction for this event.
Upper Clark Fork Back Country Horsemen

FAMILY FUN RIDE

Date: July 9, 2011
Registration: 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Place: Gold Creek, MT
(Exit 166 of I-90, follow the signs, 5 ½ miles)

Approximately 4 hour Ride. You can ride through a Historic Ghost Town and past a Gold Dredge.

Ride & BBQ ……… $20.00/rider
BBQ only ………. $10.00/person
Ride & BBQ ………$ 7.00/Children under 12
BBQ only………..$ 5.00/Children under 12

Poker Hands (18 yrs & over)…………… $5.00 each
50/50 Tickets…………………………… $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00

BBQ starts at 3:00 pm and Drawings for Door Prizes to follow.

Everyone Bring Your Horse or Mule and Have Fun!

Camping Available

Enjoy evening campfires

Absolutely NO Dogs on Ride!

Dogs in Camp must be on leash!

For More Information Please Contact:

Dayna & Charlie Gilman – 846-2464
Pat & Wendy George- 846-3499
Wade and Lonnie Murphy – 431-1717
No MaHon in the morning
(January 26, 2011)
By Robin Morris, BBCH

I love mornings. Many of my friends relish a good lollygag in the morning – but my eyes are open by 5:30. Before I get out of bed I check the outside temperature on the thermometer that illuminates on our ceiling. Turn the TV on and switch it to the security camera. We have a camera in the paddock and run-in shed. I love watching that channel. Best station we have. Then I jump up, slip my barn coat over my robe, grab a stocking cap, put on my muck boots and mittens and head to the barn with the morning rations. My herd of three gets a pound of steamed oats and an ounce each of Sho-Glo and canola oil every morning. Should I miss MaHon’s feeding schedule (our Jenny Donkey), by even two minutes – she’s braying for me. We believe that the “boys”, our 4 year old TWH and 2 year old John Mule, put her up to it as her voice “carries so much better”. Anyhow, it makes me smile.

This morning, there was no braying. I called their names – and only the boys (they are half brothers) responded in their quiet, dignified murmurs and grunts (the Mule grunts). I was worried. I gave the boys their rations, and started walking out in the pitch-black pasture calling MaHon the entire time. Finally I heard a small squeak that grew to an all out bray as I headed towards her.

To back up, we have had an exceptional winter. There has been snow on the ground since November, topped with several inches of rain that quickly turned to ice. What melts during the day, reverts to an ice pond overnight. With a slice of the moon still lighting the night’s sky, and a warm evening, the herd headed out to pasture to nibble on the range grasses that were finally poking through the snow and ice. By morning there was a 300 square foot ice pond separating the pasture from the paddock - and the morning feeding. The boys made it in, but MaHon did what donkeys do – she slipped, she panicked, then she froze. Donkeys internalize their fear and simply shut down. I walked out to her, and reassured her that everything would be alright. My mule, John Henry, followed me out – he’s quite sure-footed – even on ice. I knew he would not offer much help, so I took him back to the paddock and closed him in with his brother. Then I rounded up some “hospital socks”, MaHon’s halter and lead, and a couple of cookies. The hospital socks are the slip-on type with rubber “paw prints” on the bottom to keep you from slipping. My husband received them upon admittance to the hospital years ago – I saved them.

Back to the pasture. MaHon was glad to see me headed back her way. I greeted her with a stroke and hug, followed by a cookie. I wanted her to think about anything but the ice and falling. I haltered her then slipped on her socks. All four of them. I only had one pair of the “no-slip” type, so I put them on the front; figuring she was more of a front-wheel drive type of an animal. With donkeys if you can’t get the front moving, nothing moves. I slipped the regular tube socks on the rear. That sweet spotted ass looked stunning with her bright blue socks on front – she always makes me smile!

She was still afraid of falling, so I engaged my donkey persona – “We have all day MaHon”. I would ask with a slow, steady pull on the lead, if she stepped forward she got the instant release. Donkeys will put their heads down and turn their nose to the sky when frustrated and/or scared. After a couple of steps she did just that. She was still not convinced that her slippers would keep her from falling on the ice. So I gave her some slack and we set smaller

(MaHon continued on page 9)
National Board of Directors Meeting Report
April 26-30, 2011
Held in Butte, MT

Tuesday: The Public Lands Meeting consisted of topics such as, getting elected officials on our side, revitalizing our public lands and developing a data base on storing information that has been developed in the past, the Forest Planning Rule, and MT reminded all that we would want to see "Historic and Traditional Use" included in the Recreational Section. Also discussed were Americans with Disabilities and USFS plans, and lastly Bicycles and Horses, “are we compatible”?

Wednesday: Old Business
Current membership of 12,880 members for 2010, similar numbers as 2009.
BCHA now has 22 State organizations and 8 Affiliates. The change being South Dakota becoming a State Organization and a new Affiliate in Florida.

The proposed Business Plan was explained by Alan Hill (Calif.) It was developed by him as well as the Exec.Committee of Phil Hufstader (Ore.), Larry Zauberis (Colo.), Nick Martinez (N.M.) and legal planning consultant Sherry Jennings. It was thought that this would increase communication, develop fund raising, and ensure management structure so that it would be coherent and sustainable.

The new Exec. Committee would be nine members: Chair, Vice Chair, Treas., Immediate Past Chair, and five elected members.

It was discussed at great length about if this was unconstitutional or not and finally decided it was not and that Robert's Rules of Order did not apply.

(NBD continued on page 7)
A motion to have a small committee revisit the Business Plan was made but voted down N 18, Y 16. A motion to accept the Business Plan was made and voted down N 16, Y 15, this was over-turned at a later date when Calif. reversed it's no vote to yes. Something the Montana Directors vigorously opposed. The vote reversal was legal under Robert's Rules of Order.

**Thursday:** A panel of Jim Bedwell, USFS Trails, Rec., Volunteers, Heritage; John Keck, NPS, and Brad Rixford, Northern BLM, discussed various topics. Bedwell talked about American Great Outdoors Initiative and the hope to get people in touch with Nature.

The Planning Rule was discussed which emphasized recreation and community focus on sustainable recreation. Montana brought to his attention that the Rule should contain "The Traditional and Historic use" wording.

He also addressed crosscut and chainsaw policy in that the lead would be taken by Recreation and Trails, led by Johnathan Stevens under Bedwell. Policies yet to be formulated.

John Keck, NPS, emphasized the willingness to work with BCH on Park access and use. There are 394 National Parks created by Congress. The Park Service was initially created under the Dept. War which explains the more authoritarian method of management.

Brad Rixford, BLM, talked about conserving wild lands and their management.

An application by a Fla. Chapter, East Fla. was accepted and passed. South Dakota was accepted as a State.

**Friday:** Trail Classification System was discussed by Dennis Dailey. Current overall USFS trails have a 43% management for pack and saddle stock. Region 1 has a 57% managed use for pack and saddle stock. The Trail Classes 2, 3, and 4 have the acceptable clearing limits for pack and saddle stock.

Make sure your Forests show these management styles and that they have the appropriate clearing limits for stock use.

There are 150,000 miles of inventoried trail in the USFS system.

There was a panel discussion with Backcountry hunters and anglers as well as Trout Unlimited, moderated by Dennis Dailey.

The Nominations Committee made its recommendations.

**Sunday:** Committee reports.

**Expansion:** by Mike Reedy. MSP to accept South Dakota as a State Member.

**Education:** by Phil Hufstader. LNT has a total of 48 Master Trainers. Next year only 2 will be trained and BCH will only pay 1/2 of the tuition of $600 and no travel. He reported that policy on internal self-certification has not been established, but R6 can self certify once the certifier is USFS certified.

**Affiliates/Liaisons Committee:** by Alan Hill. Recommended forming MOU with American Endurance Riders, as they have similar trail interests as BCH. MSP to do so. He recommended continuing the same relationships with the other Councils and Coalitions.

**Public Lands:** by Barry Reiswig. Most everything discussed on Tuesday. He is resigning from committee chair so Chair will appoint a new one.

**Visions Committee:** by Mike McGlen. This committee reviewed all the resolutions and made recommendations.

Resolutions and results:
1. Montana: Exec. Board, failed because of some wording. Mt. Directors were at other committee meetings, not at Visions Committee and not notified that changes were needed.
2. Internal Resolution by Dunn & Johnson for CEO/Exec. Director/Managing Director Proposal. Failed.
3. Wyo. and Calif. resolutions combined; resolution to centralize BCH BOD meetings Failed.

(NBD continued on page 8)

6. Visions Committee Resolution to raise BCHA dues by $5 and to make all family/individual memberships to BCHA $15. Failed.

7. Wyo. Golden Horseshoe award to include individuals. Passed.

**Volunteer Hours Committee**: by Nick Martinez: Skilled hourly rate of $30/hr. and unskilled at $21.36. There were 315,442 total volunteer hours for a total of $11,942,130 worth of labor value.

Plan to change name of Golden Horse Shoe Award to BCHA Legacy Award as to now include individuals.

**Budget Committee**: They would like any donations made to the Edu. Foundation made three months prior to asking for that money, this allows for the administrative time to establish that money in the correct account.

Total income for 2010, $168,935...............Total expenses for 2010 $165,719.

Paid contract salaries/expenses for 2011 are: Sr. Advisor Public Lands/Wilderness Dennis Dailey: $23,000. He is paid by hourly rate. Not all of his salary/travel was used in 2010.

Exec. Sec. Peg Greiwe: $34,100. Plus office expenses $8,900.

After the Business Committee was formed, it was MSP to forge ahead with finding an Exec. Director to do the daily activities of BCHA, and the Exec. Committee and the Chair would supervise and advise him. His job duties would include fund raising, management, overseeing the organization, communication, and interface between NBD and staff. Funding would come from consolidating the budgets of Exec. Sec. and Sr. Advisor; for a total of $79,200. Expenses would be: Exec. Sec. $34,100+ office expense $8,900, Sr. Advisor $23,000, and new Exec. Dir. $23,500 and travel expenses of $5,000.

This leaves a deficit of $15,300 which will be taken out of an account in Columbia Bank.

Elections.

Next BCHA BOD meeting to be held in Eugene, Oregon.
Respectfully, Chuck Miller and Dave Crawford

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**FYI**

The schedule for chapters responsible for newsletter articles is published on page 15 in each newsletter. In the past, when I requested articles, some chapters have indicated they do not have anything ready as they did not know it was their turn to submit an article.

The next newsletter will come out October 2011. The chapters responsible for articles are: **CM Russell, East Slope, Kootenai**. The articles will be due by September 10 and I’ll send reminders as usual.
goals. If she would walk 5 steps to the next fence post, I would let her have a cookie break. She studied me intensely, as I demonstrated how safe the ice was by dancing and hopping around on it. Then turned my back and walked off. We made our first goal. Time for a cookie and some processing. Donkeys process about as fast as they walk – slow and steady. But, once they have it – right or wrong – they have it! When she had calmed and raised her head just a bit, I headed off. MaHon was right behind me. We easily crossed the remainder of our 1” thick ice pond and made it to the paddock without any further hesitation. As the boys had already finished their rations, I left them penned until MaHon finished her breakfast – slow and steady.

I realize that many would have left MaHon out in the pasture, as the warm weather predicted for the day would have melted off the pond by early afternoon. I simply could not. Plus, it allowed one additional, real opportunity to let her know – she can trust me.

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The Stump Gulch Fire
By Robin Morris, BBCH

August 22, 2010 will be forever ingrained in my mind and that of my husband. The Stump Gulch fire, which flared the day before, appeared to be easily containable and of no concern to us. On the 22nd, the Euckers (Carolyn and Walter) stopped by with friends to see our horses perform their silly “circus” tricks. The star attraction, Kelley Boy, a three year old Tennessee Walker, is very gifted when it comes to learning tricks and developing new skills (on the ground and under saddle); however, he has strong tendencies to leap to the right-brain (unthinking, reactive side, run like a maniac and “blow” because you’re going to die side) under stressful situations. I have spent years reinforcing techniques that keep him calm and on the left-brain side – for the most part. We hadn’t a clue that those techniques would be put to the test later in the day. We could all see the fire at a distance, but gave it little thought.

Two hours later, everything changed. A large plume of smoke, driven by a northwest wind was apparently pushing the fire in our direction. We hooked up the horse trailer and closed off the north pasture since it borders an access road through our property that was quickly filling up with fire vehicles. Frank, my husband, climbed the hill north of the house to watch the fire and assess its progress. I was in the house reviewing our evacuation list when the power went out. Not a good sign. I went into evacuation mode. I grabbed the computer’s external hard drive (which had everything in it we would need in the event of a total loss), packed an overnight bag for each of us (including medications) grabbed the cell phone, packed a small cooler and loaded our vehicle. I tried to call Carolyn, as she is part of our evacuation plan, but the power outage extended to her phone as well. I thought of asking my husband for help with the three equines, but they know me better and I figured they would be calmer under my direction. I caught the two long-ears, MaHon (our 5 year old Jenny) and John Henry (our yearling John mule). We had just purchased a new trailer a few weeks earlier and had been training the equines to feel comfortable loading in it. While John Henry self-loads, he had never ridden in a trailer. MaHon had ridden in a trailer once, 4 years prior, but seemed to accept our trailer-loading lessons. They easily loaded in tandem; I closed the back door and let them relax inside with feed while I haltered my beloved horse, Kelley Boy a 3 year old Tennessee Walker. I left Kelley Boy in the front pasture with his lead rope draped near the gate.

“I was in the house reviewing our evacuation list when the power went out. Not a good sign. I went into evacuation mode.”

(Stump continued on page 10)
I walked up the hill to let Frank know it was time to take the long-ears to Carolyn’s. He was surprised as he was unaware of the power-outage or my activity, since he went up the hill. Our neighbor arrived at that point and agreed to stay with Kelley Boy and our dog until we returned from delivering the two long-ears to Carolyn’s place. We live just north of the I-90 overpass, bordering Rapelje Road and I-90. A barricade was already in place by the time we got to Centennial Drive. I told the Deputy that we would be back as we still had our horse and dog to transport; she informed us that was not an option. We focused on what we could do. We delivered the long-ears to Carolyn’s and headed back to the barricade on Centennial Drive. There were several other neighbors already engaged in heated discussions about the need to get to their property, families and livestock - some threatening to “blast the barricade”. I had already devised Plan B and Plan C. I approached the Fire Marshall with my request and he reaffirmed the obvious, while he knew our place was not in imminent danger, if he allowed us through and not the others – there would be mayhem. Using Plan B, I then requested that the on-site Sheriff’s Deputy give me a ride to our place, transport our dog back to my husband and allow me to walk my horse the 1 ½ miles out. They agreed.

We have continually worried about the safety of the I-90 overpass on the Rapelje Road - for humans and livestock - as the banisters are knee-high, at best, with limited visibility from either direction. I had asked the deputy if he could please insure that emergency traffic not cross the overpass while I was leading my horse down the center-line. I switched to a 22’ lead line. In this case I figured more was better, and headed off with a CB radio clipped to my pocket. Frank had one in the tow vehicle so we could communicate if necessary. By the time I got to the end of our lane, flames were 20 feet high on the east side of the Rapelje Road, just a short distance from our lane. Emergency personnel were everywhere. I was extremely relieved to see the deputy that brought me to my horse, along with a Highway Patrol Officer, had blocked Rapelje Road just north of our lane to allow me and Kelley Boy to safely cross over the overpass. My husband later told me he had breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that “black speck” crest the overpass.

Months, actually years, of working with Kelley Boy to accept my leadership paid off big time. He was calm and actually enjoying this “adventure”. He paused at the first metal seam on the overpass, I let him sniff it then asked him to continue, and all was fine. I was very proud of him and of his level of confidence. Upon our arrival at Carolyn’s, the choral welcoming from the long-ears was truly magical. They were safe, we were safe, and a well planned and rehearsed evacuation, including alternatives, resulted in the best ending possible.

For any homeowner the best way to minimize the loss that can result from fire is to “plan ahead of time”; however, for those of us with beloved equines additional planning is truly necessary. Our trailer is always in good condition and readily accessible to hitch up and load while our tow vehicle always has plenty of gas in it. We knew where we were going, halters are always readily available on the outside of the paddock, and our equines are all trained to lead and load. I do need to teach the donkey to load in other types of trailers in the event evacuation is necessary when we are out of town. We remained calm, not wanting to transfer any anxiety to our equines.

Things we would change? We had not registered our cell phone with Stillwater County since we also have a land line. The power went out before the reverse 911 evacuation was initiated, so we were never contacted. That’s been taken care of. Finally, we should have left earlier and taken the dog with us.

Our plan was not developed overnight. It was through a “wet” rehearsal. We were evacuated the prior September due to fire as well. We learned a lot from that experience. The most important, knowing and preparing our equines – they are all individuals and respond differently to the same situation, knowing where we were going to go and knowing how we were going to get there. We cannot say thank you enough to our local law enforcement, fire personnel and horse buddies – they are the best!
Horsepacking in Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming, Montana, Idaho
Submitted by: John Chepulis (YELL 392 Revised 10/07)

Traveling in the Yellowstone backcountry with horses, mules or llamas is an exciting way to see the park. By their very nature, these large animals have the potential to leave great impacts on the land around them. To assist you in planning a safe, enjoyable, and low-impact trip, rangers have developed the following suggestions and regulations. Stock users must obey the conditions of their permits and all regulations identified in this brochure by a * sign.

Before You Start
Overnight stock use is not allowed until July 1st. Day use may be allowed before July 1, but is dependent on trail conditions. To be certain of which trails are open, check with park staff in the backcountry office where they can provide you with information on trail conditions, river crossings, and possible closures.

* The only pack stock permitted in Yellowstone are: horses, burros, mules, ponies, and llamas.

* Stock may not be left at trailheads or kept in front-country, drive-in campgrounds overnight.

(Yellowstone continued on page 12)
(Yellowstone continued from page 11)

* Prior to an overnight trip you are required to obtain a backcountry use permit which is available at most ranger stations. Permits for day use are not required, but day users must obey all regulations and should check at a backcountry office for any special conditions or closures. Stock may be kept only at campsites that allow stock. For a list of backcountry campsites available to stock parties, obtain a copy of the Backcountry Trip Planner which also includes information on making advance reservations and getting a backcountry permit.

During mosquito and fly season carry and use stock insect repellent.

* Stock selected for a trip in Yellowstone should be well trained, compatible with each other, and accustomed to the restraining techniques you plan to use in camp. These include picketing, hobbling, or the use of an electric fence. Saddle hobbles are also recommended (one pair for each rider) to help manage stock during your trip. Introduce stock to these methods of retention at home before your trip.

* Bring only enough stock to accommodate your party and equipment. “Ponying” extra stock is prohibited. Fewer animals make less work for you and have less impact on the country.

* The following are prohibited in the backcountry: hay, pets, weapons and firearms; food or equipment caches; motorized equipment (including chainsaws).

* All feed must be processed to eliminate weeds and weed seeds. Certified weed-free hay is allowed in the front-country.

* Stock users must possess proof of a negative Coggins test performed within the last 12 months for all equine stock entering Yellowstone. The certification paperwork must be signed by a licensed veterinarian and be available for examination by Park Rangers.

**At The Trailhead And On The Trail**

You should plan to arrive at the trailhead, pack up, and travel to your campsite on the same day. For a list of campgrounds outside the park that allow stock overnight, contact the Backcountry Office.

* Manure at the trailhead must be scattered or (preferably) removed.

* Keep stock off roadways, except at designated trail crossings.

* Trail travel must be single file on the established tread. This prevents braided trails and damage to surrounding areas. Shortcutting or cutting across switchbacks is prohibited.

Exercise caution when approaching other parties on the trail. Anticipate problems and have your animals under control. If backpackers seem unsure of what to do, courteously offer instructions to permit safe passage.

* Stock groups may take day rides off-trail. One pack animal only may accompany the riding group to carry lunches, supplies, etc. Pack strings may not travel off-trail. It is strongly recommended that picket rope(s) or saddle hobbles be carried so that stock are not tied to trees. For additional recommendations, read Managing Stock in Camp.

(Yellowstone continued on page 13)
All pack stock must be led; loose herding or free-trailing is not allowed.

In Camp

Each back country campsite has a limit on the number of people and stock allowed at the site. Select campsites which accommodate your party size (prior to obtaining your permit).

No permanent improvements such as corrals, tables, or tent frames may be constructed.

Use only the fire ring already established in the campsite. Creating another fire ring is prohibited.

Extinguish your campfire thoroughly and sift through the ashes for unburned food and trash, which must be packed out. Remove all foil.

Managing Stock In Camp

Proper stock management is one of the keys to minimizing your impact and damage to vegetation. As a general rule, stock should be confined as little as possible. Restless, restrained animals trample vegetation, paw up tree roots and debark trees. Use whatever techniques you prefer, hobbles, pickets, electric fence, etc.

*Keep in mind that whatever retention method you use, it must be set up and/or moved often enough so as to prevent damage to the resource.*

Select grazing areas carefully. Locate grazing sites at least 100 feet from streams, lake shores, trails, and camping areas. Avoid grazing in areas that have already been heavily grazed and remember to rotate grazing areas often. Overgrazing weakens grasses, allows weeds to overtake native grasses, leaves nothing available for the next party, and ruins the beauty of the meadows.

Keep your stock in the core camp only long enough to pack or unpack. A shorter time in camp means less impact and less manure that must be removed. Core camp is defined as that area within 100 feet of the fire ring or cooking area.

Manure in the core camp must be completely removed, and manure in the grazing areas must be scattered (kicked). Scattered manure breaks down quicker, and harbors fewer parasites. Subsequent users will find cleaner campsites and fewer flies. Watch where your stock graze so you’ll know where to look for the manure. Be prepared to spend extra time to locate and scatter manure throughout the entire grazing area, not just what you see on the way to and from your horses.

We have no corrals in Yellowstone’s backcountry. Tying stock to trees or constructed highlines for short periods (tacking and/or packing) is permissible, provided it does not damage the trees or the vegetation. Do not tie to a tree smaller than six inches in diameter. It is not a violation to tie a horse to a tree or highline; *a violation is causing resource damage while the stock is retained. To avoid damage to trees, use tree saver straps or padding to protect trees. Some stock users prefabricate their low-impact highlines to make set up easier.*

(Yellowstone continued from page 12)
(Yellowstone continued from page 12)

- Only dead and down wood may be used for picket pins and drag logs. Some users carry their own metal picket pins with them. Make sure your picket pins are pulled and not left in the meadow before you leave. Move picket and electric fence sites frequently to minimize grazing impact. Locate your picket or electric fence sites well away from the core camp and at least 100 feet from water or trail. Even if you use an electric fence, you still need to monitor your stock’s grazing.

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<th>Yellowstone Trails Not Suitable for Stock Use</th>
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<td>Shoshone Geyser Basin</td>
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<td>Artist Paint Pots</td>
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**Safety in Bear Country**

Proper food and garbage storage is essential to minimize the possibility of encounters with bears.

- All food, cooking utensils, food panniers, horse feed, garbage, and any scented items must be properly stored at night and anytime when unattended. Proper storage is at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet away from tree trunks. Food storage poles are available at most campsites. If food poles are unavailable or broken, it is still the responsibility of the user to hang any bear attractants properly. Nose bags or ground cloths are recommended for supplemental feed. Wasted feed can become a bear attractant.

Report all bear sightings to a park ranger. Notify a park ranger immediately of any dead saddle or pack stock. Dead stock must be moved well away from any campsite, trail, or water.

- Feeding, teasing, or otherwise molesting wildlife is a violation of park regulations.

For more information contact Yellowstone’s Central Backcountry Office (307) 344-2160 or via e-mail at Yell_BackcountryOffice@nps.gov.

“Packing unavoidably has a great impact on the country simply because horses and mules are big animals and have to eat. Packers have to accept this and make every effort to minimize the effects of their passing”

(from Packing In On Mules and Horses by Smoke Elser and Bill Brown, two Montana horse packers.)
Advertising Rates

About Your Newsletter

*Back Country Horsemen of Montana News* is published three times a year by BCH of MT, PO Box 4864, Butte, MT 59701.

Publication dates are June 1, October 1, February 1. Deadline for submission of advertising and articles is the 10th of the preceding month (May 10, September 10, January 10).

The newsletter has three main emphasis areas: (1) issues (2) chapter activities/volunteer projects (3) light material (i.e. Humor, history, etc.). Please submit a copy that is typewritten, legible handwritten copy or you can submit copy via e-mail. Photos should be prints (no negatives or proofs) or digital photos attached to e-mails. Black & white or color is acceptable.

Submit articles, photos, and advertising to Linda Brewer, 2167 N 4th Rd., Huntley, MT 59037. Phone: (406) 698-5880 e-mail: lbrewer@tctwest.net

BCH Chapters are once again responsible for submitting articles for publication in this newsletter. Chapter divisions and deadline date for articles is as follows:

- **May 10/11**  - Beartooth, Bitterroot, Cabinet
- **September 10/11**  - CMR, East Slope, Kootenai
- **January 10/12**  - Flathead, Gallatin, Hi-Line
- **May 10/12**  - Judith Basin, Last Chance, Mile High
- **September 10/12**  - Mission Valley, Missoula, Selway/Pintler
- **January 10/13**  - Three Rivers, Upper Clark Fork, Wild Horse Plains

**Cost By Number of Insertions**

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### MONTANA BACK COUNTRY HORSEMAN STATE CHAPTERS

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