Back Country Horsemen of Montana Mission Statement

• Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of America’s back country and wilderness.
• Work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
• Assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
• Educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage.
• Foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.

Letter from the Chair
Mark Himmel, Chairman, BCH Montana

Having been Chairman for a year now someone at convention asked me what is the hardest part of being Chairman. Well, writing this letter is probably the most difficult part for me. I’d sooner be out packing gravel or walking behind a grader than trying to write something really inspirational.

At convention on Saturday afternoon, I was having a discussion with someone when it was mentioned that BCHMT was the third largest organization in BCHA. I kind of took that the wrong way and I replied back that yes we only have 1147 members in Montana but we also only have a population about a 1,000,000 people. As a percentage of the population, BCHMT does pretty well, if not the highest of any western state; and with about 15,400 miles of trail in Montana, we have our work cut out for us.

There has been lots of discussion on how to engage younger members. One only has to attend a rodeo in any town and see several hundred spectators attending. Trying to convince younger horsemen to come out and clear trail or install water bars is never going to compete with the thrill of barrel racing or team roping. Could it be that we are just a shade older and enjoy the slower pace of leading a pack string? I don’t consider myself old compared to some other more seasoned and experienced members, but I do look for someone younger when it comes to loading gravel or swinging a Pulaski.

We have children or grandchildren that ride along with us in their early years up through high school but then they go off to college and life sort of takes over. Kids or the job are more important until they can afford to own a horse again.
Letter from the Chair  continued…

 Heck most of us know that our monthly hay bill is almost a car payment. I know in my own case, once the kids were gone I could afford a few more dependents; the problem is I keep adding to the dependent herd.

 We can plant the seed in youngsters, but our immediate future is in the late thirty- to forty-year old horsemen who are just starting out. They may have been exposed to horses in their youth but this is the first time they personally own stock, trailer, tack and all the other necessary gear, and that’s where BCHMT can help with our knowledge on how to make things work.

 We maintain the trail for today with the hope that it will still be there for the next generation of horsemen. This summer I hope everyone has a chance to get out and make a difference, whether swinging a Pulaski or planting the seed.

 Have fun and be safe.

Mark Himmel

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**Rick Klein’s “Secret” Chili Recipe**

- 6 cans S&W chili beans
- 1 can S&W dices tomatoes with peppers
- 1 medium onion diced
- 1 pound hamburger
- 1 24 oz bottle Pace picante sauce

Sauté hamburger and onions. Meanwhile, heat chili beans. When onion and burger mix is cooked, stir into bean pot and enjoy.

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*Within these plantations of God a decorum and sanctity reign, a perennial festival is dressed, and the guest sees not how he should tire of them in a thousand years. In the woods we return to reason and faith.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson. (1803-1882)

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**BCH of MT Contacts**

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Everyone agrees. The 2013 Back Country Horsemen Montana Convention was a great success. Held in the Flathead “Where It All Began” this convention was a celebration and a reminiscence of 40 years of history. Kudos go out to the Flathead Chapter who worked so hard to organize this wonderful event.

All 17 Chapters were represented at the convention. Among the nuts and bolts of the convention was the tally of statewide volunteer work hours and contributions such as pack stock, stock hauling and personal vehicle miles. The total value for 2012 was a little over $670,000!

How it all began and lessons learned – There were many highlights to the convention and one of these was the Oral Traditions panel, a “campfire” discussion with BCHM founding and charter members. All are in the Flathead and Missoula Chapters of BCHM (which of course did not exist back then). In the early ’70’s, as hiking and backpacking became more popular, public opinion was turning against horse-use in the back country. Regulation of horse-use loomed. Founder, Ken Ausk and a few others met with district rangers, recruited members by speaking anywhere they could, and shaped a philosophy that still holds true today. Their focus was on “education not regulation” and becoming “a service organization second to none.” The strategy for collaborating with the Forest Service was to address concerns and solutions from the standpoint of benefitting the resource values. Getting agency personnel out from behind their desks and onto the trail made a difference, in the view of at least several panelists. Today the Forest Service could hardly do without the Back Country Horsemen for maintaining thousands of miles of trails on public land.

Themes: Youth and Collaboration – A couple of themes emerged as the convention progressed; getting youth involved, and the importance of collaboration among diverse interests in achieving success. The BCHM “Council of Elders” had some good ideas when asked how to engage a new generation. Smoke Elser noted that more than half of the participants in his packing workshops are young people. The trick is to continue that engagement over time. Russ Garvin recommended BCHM members participate in the Forest Expo. Fifteen-hundred sixth-graders came through the recent Expo he participated in, and the pack horse station drew the most attention from the kids and left a big impression on them. Focusing on being “green” taps into concerns of the current generation. Of course, getting kids out on pack trips is the best way to stimulate that interest. As
Continuing the thread of collaboration, BCHM and Equine Land Conservation Resource (http://www.elcr.org/) signed a memorandum of understanding recognizing a shared interest. Joan Packard representing the Forest Service, and Carol Treadwell of the Bob Marshall Foundation recognized the BCHM as significant contributors to achieving their goals. Representing Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, Pat Taber invited BCHM as a collaborative partner, noting many areas of common interest between the two groups including the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, and the Wilderness Act. He suggested assigning liaisons from the two

Wade Murphy observed later in the conference, school, jobs, and young families can get in the way of getting into the back country. But if interest is instilled in childhood, many will come back to back country packing – it just may be 20 years later.

Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Conservation Corps, and Americorps, are all organizations that get youth out into the backcountry and instill a love of nature at an early age. BCHM has been collaborating with MWA from the beginning, 40 years ago. Today, that relationship grows stronger because of support BCHM chapters provide to MWAs’s Continental Divide Trail Montana (CDT Montana) program.

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Mark Himmel, standing with Jon Gatchell and Shannon Freix, is honored as CDT Montana Volunteer of the Year Award.

BCHA recognizes Deborah Schatz, here with husband Greg, for her dedication and service.

CDT Montana honors Flathead, Upper Clark Fork, and Mile High Chapters for their “Trail-mendous” work.
groups to maintain open communication and collaborating on projects of joint interest: the Forest Jobs Act, Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, and the Wilderness Act.

BCHA president Mike McGlenn reiterated the importance of collaboration and cooperation. He presented Deborah Schatz an appreciation for her dedication and great work for BCHA, producing the national group’s newsletter.

_2014 BCHM Convention coincides with Wilderness Act celebration_ – Next year is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which will be celebrated at the 2014 BCHM annual conference in Missoula. Connie Long and Smoke Elser described exciting plans for the conference, including a film to be aired nation-wide, pack trips into the wilderness, and reaching out to youth.

_BCHA dues discussion_ – The topic that garnered the most discussion was the request by Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) for a $5 per member dues increase. Many took the floor and expressed their opinions both “for” and “against. Ultimately, BCHM voted against a dues increase, accountability being the primary concern expressed. Two weeks later, at the National board meeting, April 24-27 in Rapid City, South Dakota, the dues increase was ratified. Eighteen voted in favor and one state, Montana, opposed. Dues increase will go into effect in 2014.

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**Meet Meg Killen, Continental Divide Trail Field Coordinator**

*by Noorjahan Parwana*

With 3,100 miles snaking from Canada to Mexico, the Continental Divide Trail is only 78% complete and the largest unfinished section is the Montana/Idaho section, which is only 58% complete (source: wildmontana.org). The Montana Wilderness Association is working to complete the trail in Montana and they could not do it without Meg Killen.

Many Back Country Horsemen have met Shannon Freix, CDT Program Manager, who has been active in meeting members throughout the year at informational gatherings and celebrations. If you want to meet Meg, you are more likely to be successful if you get out a stretch of the Continental Divide trail in Montana that is under construction. Meg spends essentially the entire field season, from mid-June through mid-September on the trail wrangling volunteers and making sure they are well-provisioned, well-trained, and perhaps most importantly, well-fed.

Meg’s mother instilled a love for the outdoors in her children. When Meg graduated from University of Montana, she set roots here. Now, 17 years later, Meg is outdoors lots! This year is her fourth year as a Field Coordinator on the CDT and her second under the auspices of Montana Wilderness Association. This summer, Meg will be busy getting volunteer
Meet Meg Killen

crews organized to complete trail construction at ten locations in Montana, from the Bullhead Lake area in Glacier National Park to the Shoshone Lake area in Yellowstone National Park.

Meg is well-suited to her job. She is organized and personable and enjoys people. And, importantly, she is calm under pressure and a good trouble-shooter. For example, in 2012, Meg and a crew of volunteers hiked 21 miles into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. They had expected the ten-mule pack string to overtake them during the course of the day, but when they got to their rendezvous site, there was no packstring in sight. What to do? After all, the packstring was carrying almost everything they would require for comfort and survival. Meg’s volunteers come from many backgrounds. They come from urban areas and places like Florida, Missouri, the Eastern seaboard … and from overseas. Some have little or no backcountry experience! Meg remained calm and had her plan formulated for how her crew would spend the night. Thankfully, before she had to implement her emergency plan, she spied the string of ten mules off on the horizon! Saved!

This just goes to show, “Our projects could not happen without the Back Country Horsemen” states Meg. “If it were not for the Back Country Horsemen of Montana, volunteers would have to pack 70+ pounds of supplies and equipment on their backs.” It is unlikely there would be many volunteers under those circumstances.

Packers and their stock are a real highlight for some CDT volunteers, many who have never seen a packstring. The questions lead to conversations and sometimes the comaraderie around the camp fire extends into the wee hours, despite a long hard day’s work.

Meg has support from BCHM on every trail-building project she organizes. She is particularly thankful to the Mile High, Upper Clark Fork and Flathead Chapters of BCHM for their dedicated help in years past. She is looking forward to working with these chapters again and, in addition, to having the support of Pintler-Selway Chapter in the 2013 season.

Meg loves her job. For her, the best part is the people she meets. “People who volunteer their time are a special breed. The group dynamics are fantastic.” The only drawback to her work is summers spent apart from her husband and dogs. But in the winter she is forced to be a desk jockey and that is when she makes up for time away from home.

“I am eternally thankful to the Back Country Horsemen for their contribution to trails and for their cooperation with the Montana Wilderness Association and the CDT volunteers. Everyone is focused on one outcome and it is truly a positive experience for all.”

“Practice Bear Safety in the Back Country”

Studies by bear experts indicate that people using bear spray during grizzly bear encounters are injured far less often than people using firearms. University of Calgary’s Steve Herrero found that 98 percent of those who used bear spray walked away unharmed, and no people or bears died. Of those who used firearms, 56% were injured, and 61 percent of the bears died. The data are persuasive.

“...that the path before me was closed, that provisions were exhausted and the time come to take shelter in a silent obscurity. But I find that thy will knows no end in me. And when old words die out on the tongue, new melodies break forth from the heart; and where the old tracks are lost, new country is revealed with its wonders.”

From Gitanjali by Tagore
BEARSPRAY.com

PRODUCED BY A GRIZZLY BEAR ATTACK SURVIVOR!

"Thanks to God, a friend, and pepper spray, I am still here."

Mark Matheny
President

BE PREPARED!

WISDOM IS BETTER THAN STRENGTH!

Ecc. 9:16

Bear Attack!

Mark Matheny was attacked by a female grizzly bear on a main trail. In less than half a minute the grizzly charged and mauled Mark twice. Mark’s partner, Dr. Fred Bahnson, reacted immediately to Mark’s condition and treated his wounds. Fortunately Dr. Bahnson got Mark out of the woods and to the emergency room without further incident. Mark suffered extensive bite lacerations to the head and neck, bite lacerations to the right arm, and also to the left anterior chest. This bear attack is what motivated Mark to establish UDAP Industries, Inc.

UDAP Industries Inc., P.O. Box 4872, Butte, MT 59702

Ask for UDAP Pepper Power at your local Sporting Goods Store!

866 BEAR 911 BearSpray.com

UDAP products are formulated and filled in the USA!
2013 Convention

Top Row, from Left to Right:
Charter Member Roland Cheek
Banquet
Scott Calvert mantles up for a win in the Packing Competition
Charter Members Owen Klapperich and Rick Klein

Second Row, from Left to Right:
Smoke Elser of the Missoula Chapter
Speak up Stu!
Women of the Wild Horse Plains Chapter
Boogie down

Third Row, from Left to Right:
Kathy Hundley
Charter Member Mike Chandler
Charter Member Russ Garvin
Beartooth Camp
Rick Potts provided an entertaining and thoughtful keynote speech

Bottom Row, from Left to Right:
Mules not permitted
Charlie and Kristi
Charter Member Ken Ausk
Bill Maloit, one of the founders of the Last Chance Chapter
Women of the Mission Valley Chapter
So what do tepee rings and petrified redwoods have in common? Well, probably not much unless you happened to be on the May 11th ride with Three Rivers Back Country Horsemen.

Members were in the saddle by 10:30 on what proved to be a beautiful ride on a beautiful day, although we sure need moisture. We discussed extension of Idaho’s “Challis Volcanics” into Southwestern Montana during collision of the Pacific shelf and Continental Shelf over 20 million years ago as we rode up a 4X4 track.

We left the track a few miles up the trail to climb a ridge where we encountered 23 tepee rings left by the Lemhi Shoshone. The site is located on a low ridge in the middle of excellent wildlife habitat where a breeze should help reduce problems with biting insects during the summer. Seclusion was possibly as important to the Shoshone since the site is not visible to enemy warriors riding along the “Indian road” noted by Lewis and Clark on their venture up the Beaverhead River.

One of the women riders noted distance to water as a potential problem for the campsite. That discussion became somewhat lively when one of the male riders countered with the point that fetching water was “woman’s work”, and the Indian ladies obviously didn’t have many other important things to do each day.

Discussions deteriorated further when we noted some tepee rings were not complete and/or overlapped other rings. The same male culprit noted that a problem encountered by the Shoshone involved theft of horses and women by enemy tribes to the east who had obtained firearms from the British. When that happened, the Shoshone men had to find a new wife. “Surely, you don’t expect the new bride to use the same tepee ring used by the old wife,” he suggested. Some of our lady participants did not appear to agree, although he survived the ride.

A mile beyond the tepee rings we crossed a ridge and dropped into an adjoining drainage to develop a “loop ride”. An area on the north side of this drainage was adjacent to an inland sea millions of years ago, providing a climate capable of growing redwood forests. Some of the trees were buried in volcanic ash during major eruptions to the west, leaving petrified remains behind.
Tepee Rings continued...

Riders encountered some interesting obstacles while riding through an apparent riparian restoration project on public lands that involved sawing down juniper with no effort to maintain an open trail. Gullies left by a high intensity storm didn’t help. Lunch and lively discussion back at the trailers topped off a great ride on a great day. We look forward to more fun rides and work projects as the summer progresses, providing wildfires don’t close down the forests!

Eliminating Hazards

by Wade Murphy, Upper Clark Fork Chapter, BCHM

If you know me, you may know that I work as an electrician on the high voltage power system. We work around 500,000 volts on a regular basis. In our line of work safety is a huge priority. We have a constant effort towards recognizing and eliminating hazards. When a hazard can’t be eliminated we are careful to stay far enough away from it to stay safe. I am sure that each one of you has hazards in your job or life that you need to pay close attention to. Regardless of the hazard, the more time we spend in close proximity to it, the bigger the chances of getting hurt. The best idea is to make the hazard go away. But sometimes our confidence gets in the way of common sense.

On day eight, we had packed out the trail crew’s gear. That all went pretty well. The last day was day nine. Camp was packed up and the loads were balanced and ready to put on the mules. I got done putting my riding saddle on my trusty horse, Banjo, and took a couple of steps backwards, double checking his saddle. I backed right into the stump that I had avoided for eight days in a row. The stump threw me off balance and I fell backwards over it. As my weight came down on the stump the sharp point stuck into the back of my leg. The puncture hole was at least an inch deep and the size of my thumb. This is one of those times in life where it is hard to look cool.

Fortunately, we had kept the first aid kit on the top of the load like we always try to do. Fortunately, we had kept the first aid kit on the top of the load like we always try to do. Pat was able to patch me up for the ride out. You find out quick who your friends are, after nine hot, dirty days in the wilderness, when you need to drop your jeans for first aid. Thanks again Pat! This is another moment in life when it is hard to look cool.

We can look back on it now and laugh, but in all reality, things could have gotten ugly real quick. I went from being a helper to being a liability to my partner. This could have easily shortened our trip. I am glad it happened on the last day. I had spent eight days gathering firewood. I had walked by this stump with my saw many times. I have no idea why I never stopped to cut it down.
Eliminating Hazards continued...

What hazards are around you that you are ignoring? Like I said earlier, the more time we spend around hazards, the better the odds get that we will end up hurt. As horseman we have hazards all around us. Some we can’t eliminate but some we can. Some are hazards to your animals more than they are to you; loose wire in the corral, sharp nails, a spooky horse that needs a little training, a worn out latigo on your saddle, a stock trailer that needs new brakes or tires, a rude horse that likes to kick at other riders... Take a little time now to take care of whatever hazards you have been ignoring. It will pay for itself later.

I hope to be enjoying this horse lifestyle for many years to come. I know that it can only happen if I do it smart and stay healthy. This fall we are once again packing supplies for the Continental Divide Trail crew. They are working a different section of the trail near last year’s camp. I can’t wait to get back to that amazing camp and enjoy the beauty of the country. I will ride into camp, step off my horse, tie up the pack string, pull out my saw and cut down the darn stump that left that nasty scar on my leg.

Safe and happy trails.

Strength In Numbers

by Wade Murphy, Upper Clark Fork Chapter BCH

I remember sitting in my first State BCH convention in Helena a few years back. Someone was talking about the volunteer hour totals for all the state chapters. I remember how impressed I was with how much work the great members of BCHM put in each year. I also remember feeling a little inadequate being a part of one of the smallest chapters in the state. The big clubs were talking about their major trailhead projects and their big bridge construction jobs, and I knew there was no way our little club could take on stuff like that. We just don’t have the bodies to carry out those types of jobs. That inadequate feeling bothered me for a while but not anymore. I think what really changed that for me was when we started packing for the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. It was at that point when I realized that success of the Back Country Horseman is not based on chapter size. The success of BCH is thousands of individuals, each using their talents and gifts to help carry out our common mission.

If you are not familiar with the CDT trail crew, they do multiple trail projects all summer long along the Continental Divide Trail. A couple of years ago the original Continental Divide Trail Alliance closed its doors due to financial problems. Fortunately the Montana folks were picked up by the Montana Wilderness Association. Most of their work is done by volunteer labor. These folks hike way up into parts of the CDT and work to repair and clear the trail for a week at a time. One problem they have is getting all their food and
tools up to their camp. That is where we come in … They need animals to pack their stuff to their camp so that they can work on the trail. We have animals and need good trails to ride on. What a perfect partnership! Even though our local chapter does not have the manpower to take on the major jobs, we can still team up with others to make big jobs possible.

This September we have our fourth trip planned to support the CDT trail crew. They have taken us to some beautiful places in the Pintler Wilderness – places I may have never made it to if they had not needed our help there. We have even used these pack trips to teach some younger folks some of the tricks to packing. The work the CDT trail crews do on the trail is amazing. I almost feel guilty riding my horse up their trail after they have just got done rebuilding it. We have made some great friends during our trips. These trips also help to bridge the fragile relationship between hikers and horseman. Those hikers who sometimes frown on the impact our animals have on the trail system are mighty glad to see us when we show up with their week’s worth of groceries.

Regardless of your skills and abilities, the mission of the Back Country Horseman has a need for them. Whether it is clerical, organizing, packing, digging, politicking, mentoring youth… there is so much work to do. Don’t be discouraged if your chapter can’t keep up with what the Gallatin or the Missoula clubs are accomplishing. They too are making things happen one volunteer at a time. Together we are all part of a truly amazing organization.

See you on the trail. We have work to do!

Another Way to Do Good and Be Out on the Rocky Mountain Front

Casey Perkins, MWA’s Rocky Mountain Front Campaign Director, invites Back Country Horsemen for food, fun, prizes and some good old fashioned weed pulling.

What: Sun Canyon Weed Whacker Rodeo
When: Saturday, July 13th at 8:30am
Where: 22 miles West of Augusta at the base of Gibson Dam

What: Teton Canyon Weed Pull
When: Saturday, July 20th at 8:30am

Where: 15 miles West of Choteau at Abbott’s Picnic area

Public lands belong to all of us. Be a steward of your National Forest lands by helping get rid of noxious weeds. Weeds are bad for wildlife, livestock and biodiversity, which is why landowners, sportsmen, government agencies and conservation organizations join forces each summer to keep these invaders in check.

Contact Teton County Extension for more information: 466-2491. Rides available from Great Falls – call Casey at 466-2600.
In loving memory of Wendy George.

Date: July 13, 2013
Registration: 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Location: Gold Creek, MT

Ride & BBQ… $20 / rider  Ride & BBQ … $7.00 / Children under 12
BBQ Only… $10.00 / person  BBQ Only … $5.00 / Children under 12
Poker Hands (18 years & over) … $5.00 each
50/50 Tickets … $1.00 each or six for $5.00

BBQ starts around 3:00 pm and drawings for Door Prizes to follow.

Everyone Bring Your Horse or Mule and Have Fun!
FREE Camping Available. Campers are welcome to ride other days to explore on their own.

Absolutely NO Dogs on Ride!
Dogs in Camp must be on leash!

For More Information Please Contact:
Wade Murphy: 406-431-1717  or  Todd Boese: 406-491-1255
Study Finds Public Land Along Rocky Mountain Front is Driver of Growth

by Eve Byron, Independent Record

September 20, 2012 A new report by a Bozeman-based economic analysis firm says that communities along the Rocky Mountain Front have seen slow, steady growth with per-capita income and average earnings per job being 10 to 15 percent greater than elsewhere in Montana.

The research paper by Headwaters Economics — which was commissioned by the Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front — also says future income and job growth can be experienced if residents and businesses take steps to preserve their natural resources.

Chris Mehl, policy director for Headwaters, said that with telecommuting capabilities, many people can live just about anywhere they like, and many of those are flocking to areas where public lands create wide, open spaces. He added that as the baby boomers age, more and more are retiring to Western states.

“We’re seeing people making location decisions based on the quality of life as well as on jobs,” Mehl said. “We found that higher protection of lands means greater populations and jobs.”

The study looked at the 100-mile stretch of land along the east side of the Continental Divide that includes Lewis and Clark, Teton and Cascade counties. Using information from the U.S. Department of Commerce and Department of Labor, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the nonprofit group analyzed the impact of the Rocky Mountain Front to small communities in the area.

Among the findings:

Average earnings per job along the Front rose from $38,770 in 2000 to $44,527 in 2010, which is a 15 percent increase. That compares to statewide average earnings of $34,842 in 2000 to $38,690 in 2010.

From 1970 to 2010, employment along the Front grew from 57,260 jobs to 100,203 jobs, a 75 percent increase.

Service industries have been the primary driver of employment growth. Those include health care, social assistance, professional and technical services, finance and insurance.

Agriculture remains the Front’s predominant use, with 4,678 farm and ranch jobs in the three counties.

Travel, tourism and recreation play a significant role in the area’s economy, with 10,622 private wage and salary jobs in 2009 along the Front.

Despite economic difficulties nationwide, expenditures by bird and big game hunters remained fairly steady in the past five years along the Front at around $10 million annually. Montana residents contribute about half of that, with out-of-state hunters making up the rest.

The report goes on to note that the proposed Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act would have a beneficial economic impact by helping to preserve the hunting, tourism and recreation sectors. Created by hunters, ranchers, conservationists and business owners along the Front, the Act would designate 67,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land as wilderness areas.

The legislation also would designate 208,112 acres of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management properties as a Conservation Management Area, which is similar to wilderness areas but allow mountain biking, chainsaws and roads, among other items, and require the Forest Service and the BLM to prioritize noxious weed management on about 405,000 acres of public lands.

Critics are concerned it will limit grazing as well as access along the Front, and say that it just adds additional governmental oversight.

But Lewis and Clark Commissioner Derek Brown, who supports the legislation, said that as it was being developed they listened to people’s concerns and tried to address them.

“You will never please everybody, but at meetings in Choteau it was about four-to-one in favor of the Heritage Act,” Brown said.

Mehl adds that it will only preserve what is currently on the landscape.

“Without the Bob (Marshall) and Scapegoat wilderness areas, Lincoln and the Front wouldn’t be what they are today,” Mehl said. “It’s not changing anything and that’s a big, critical part.”

(with permission)

More on the RMF at www.savethefront.org
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Mile High
PO Box 4434
Butte, MT 59702

Mission Valley
PO Box 604
Ronan, MT 59864

Last Chance
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Helena, MT 59601

Mile High
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Mission Valley
PO Box 604
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Missoula
PO Box 2121
Missoula, MT 59806

Selway-Pintler Wilderness
PO Box 88
Hamilton, MT 59840

Three Rivers
PO Box 251
Dillon, MT 59725

Upper Clark Fork
PO Box 725
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

If you would like to join, please contact a chapter in your area.