

MARK HIMMEL

BCHA CHAIRMAN RESUME

I am submitting this resume for the position of Chairman of Back Country Horsemen of America. I have always been a horse advocate my whole life although not always able to afford them. I was born in southeastern Pennsylvania where horses were, and still are, a way of life. I have been a self-employed building contractor since graduating High School in 1977.

I started visiting Montana in 1991, and after years of begging, convinced my wife to move west in 1997. For once we were able to finally have our horses with us at our home.

Being self-employed and a one person crew, I've had to be involved in every aspect of construction projects from the bidding process to the final stages of construction. I've been able to carry over that experience in volunteering with the Back Country Horsemen.

I can still remember the day and location that I decided I needed to join a BCH chapter. My wife and I joined the Charlie Russell Back Country Horsemen in spring of 1998, in those early years I held positions of Chapter Director, Vice President & President. Represented BCH on multiple forest in Travel Planning for the east side of the Rocky Mtns. The Forest Service had asked me many times to be the middle person and find common ground between the many multiple users groups in R1.

Elected to the Montana State Board in 2005, served as State treasurer, Vice Chairman and Chairman from 2007-13. I've been a Committee Chair on just about every Committee. I was fortunate to meet and work with Ken Ausk my first year as BCHMT Chair; along with many of the other founders of BCH in getting their perspective on the direction and future of BCH. In 2015 was asked by R1 to attend the interagency saw training in Florida which turned out to be the prelude for the current saw program.

Elected as Alternate National Director in 2015 and Montana National Director in 2016. Elected to the Executive Committee in 2018. Served on the committee for new saw policy, currently a C sawyer evaluator (C faller chain saw & cross cut) in R1. Served as Media & Marketing Chair and currently Vice Chair of BCHA.

Elected BCHA Treasure in 2019. In September of 2019 I was asked by Region 1 to be one of the BCH representatives in meeting with the Chief of the Forest, Canadian Forest Chief and the Representative from Mexico on how equine volunteers work with the Forest Service. Just recently, I accompanied Randy Rasmussen to Washington DC for Hike the Hill in Representing BCHA. I've always known that the decisions and money our land managers receive come from DC, however, to see the process firsthand, I realized on a higher level the great importance of our continued work with our partners. This year I was able to chat with our partners nightly on topics about Volunteers - Access - Donations and the future. BCHA must be at these meetings so that our thoughts and needs are known, our partners are very helpful with advice and supportive of our goals!

The last year as your Chairman has been challenging and rewarding. The many challenges were easy to overcome from past experience and the Team around me that I rely on. Getting curriculums completed especially multiyear ones such as Light on the Land have been very rewarding in that this curriculum will be a reference that Back Country Horsemen can use for years to come.

Thank You,

Mark Himmel