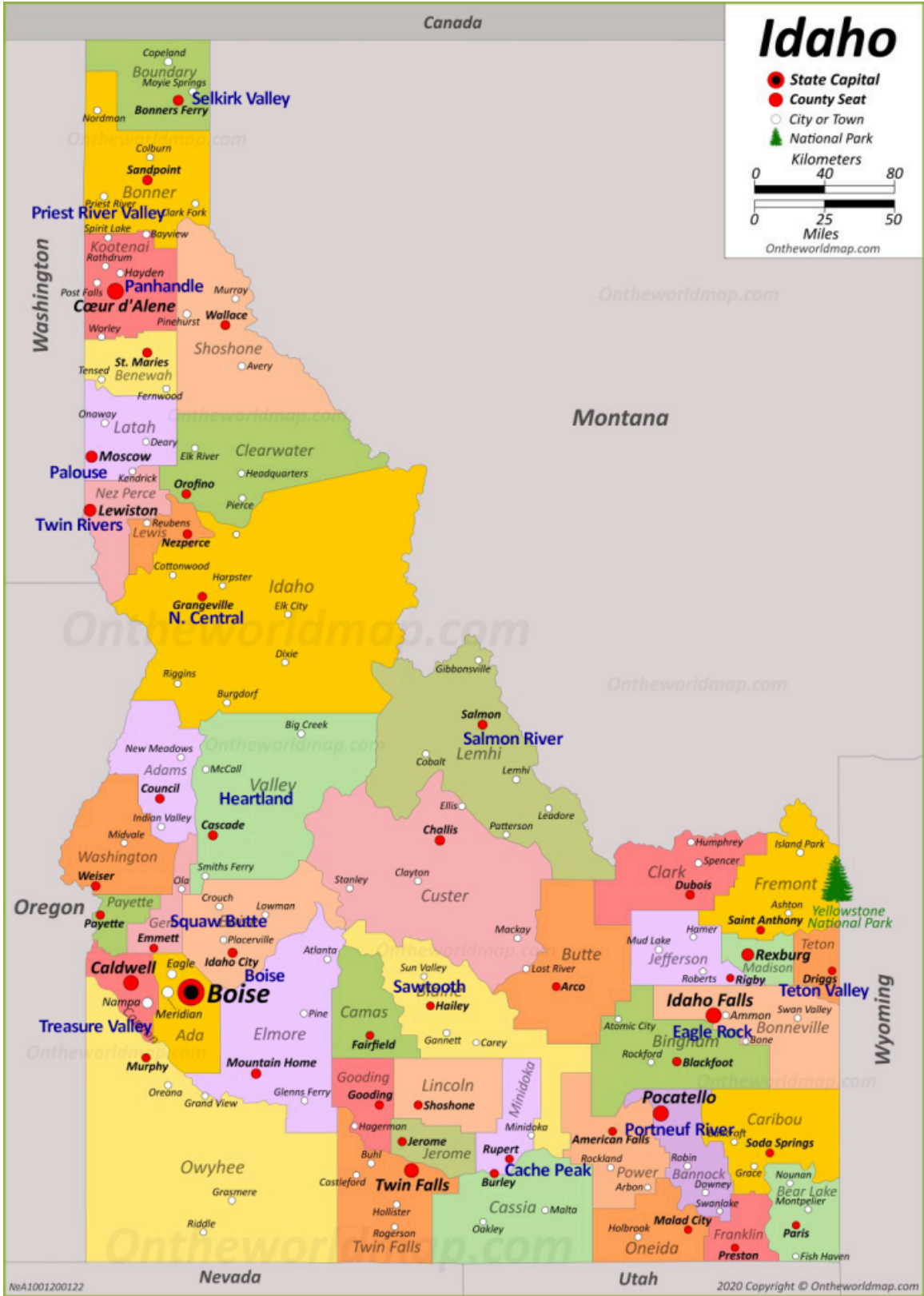


BCH of Idaho Report

Back Country Horsemen of America
National Board Meeting

Casper, WY
March 25-27, 2024





Backcountry Horsemen of America: Idaho State Chapter 2023 Year-End Summary Report

As we reflect on the year 2023, the Idaho State Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America stands as a collective of 15 chapters, with 13 chapters showcasing robust activity. Nonetheless, it's important to note a chapter whose engagement remains minimal, primarily localized, and another that is planning a merger and the allocation of its resources.

Membership dynamics have shifted slightly, with the numbers changing from 843 members in 2023 to 802 by the time of our 2024 convention. Spanning the stretch of Idaho, from Canada in the north to the Utah border in the south, our chapters navigate an expansive territory of approximately 500 miles — translating into 800-900 driving miles.

The diverse climate and topography across our state offer varied opportunities for our members. Chapters in the south engage in year-round activities, while those in mountainous regions strategically schedule projects between May and September.

This year, we bid farewell to three esteemed members: Arnie Wilkens, Paul McBride, and Alice Millington. Their recent contributions were invaluable, and their absence is profoundly felt within our Backcountry Horseman community.

Our chapters maintain a stewardship over designated trails, ensuring their upkeep annually. Emphasis on safety is paramount, with members staying current with CPR/First Aid training and participating in saw training programs — a nod to the diligent efforts of our southern trainer Rob Adams and northern trainer Todd Brown.

Youth engagement is a pivotal aspect of our mission, with many chapters incorporating youth-focused programs, including 4-H, packing clinics, and trail rides, to address the concerns of an aging membership base.

The adoption of Garmin InReach devices has been a notable enhancement to our safety protocols this year, complementing the already prevalent use of similar technology amongst our chapters.

Our presence at the Idaho Sportsman Show and support for the Idaho Horse Council Horse Expo in Nampa, now in its 38th year, remain as constants. The latter has enjoyed a commendable growth of 20%.

Our financial health remains robust, thanks largely to our calendar sales initiative that began in 2009. While our legal fund has yet to reach its target, it stands tantalizingly close, and we are actively exploring additional revenue streams to maintain our fiscal stability.

In closing, it's evident that our visibility and promotional efforts require development — a challenge we acknowledge and are poised to address.

