

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon State report for 2023-2024

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BCHO contributed over \$573,083.40 value in Volunteer Hours

9 chapters -8 Functioning Chapters Memberships down over the last 5 years

Our state memberships are holding at about 329

Public Lands issues:

- We continue not to be able to have a Volunteer Saw program and are depending on other Volunteer Organizations to get our members saw certified, and with a decrease in available Certification programs we are having more trouble getting our sawyers certified.
- We have had to mount an aggressive campaign against a state park that was going to allow a E-Vehicle race in an Equestrian Park did not allow E-Vehicles. We were able to get it cancelled.
- We continue to have horse camps that are occupied by non-equestrians
- We have a region 6 wide FS volunteer agreement that seems to be working.
- We are three years into a limited entry permits in three of our central wildernesses. Some of our members have found it hard to get these permits, some are using horse camps for access. Some chapters are finding increased membership trail maintenance activity due the desire to get a go anywhere any time award permit.
- We are doing monthly state officer and public land phone calls.
- Coordinating with another Oregon state equestrian trails organization, sharing information, advocacy efforts, trail activities.
- Have been losing some trailheads and horse camps due to severe forest fires damage.
- Some success working with multi-recreational groups working together to build mutual trail systems sometimes sharing the same system, sometimes building side by side trails systems.

Education:

- Chapters holding more trail skills activities at the chapter level.
- BCHO holding state wide packing/wilderness training We will move forward focusing on BCHO and BCHA Mission Statements

We will prioritize sharing information with other equestrian groups to get their involvement in our efforts to keep trails open and available to all equestrians in our wilderness areas.