

## National Directors Meeting Notes

July 24th, 2024, at 5:00PM. PST

Zoom Video/Call

### **Welcome Introduction from the Chairman.**

Meeting began at 5:06PM Pacific

Chairman went over the Executive Committee Meeting last night.

### **Financials**

Balance sheet and Budget vs. Actual presented.

All account balances and expenditure explained and no further questions.

### **Public Lands**

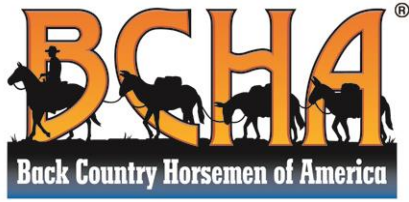
Progress on the MOU with BLM, they have sent us a draft and it looks like it only needs some small tweaks. We hope BCH states/chapters that don't currently have relations with local BLM districts can use it as a springboard for further discussions.

Working with PNTS working group on getting data from the Forest Service on their challenges on hiring and retaining recreation-related employees. Senate Appropriations Committee is aware of the problem, knows of our work and has offered to support our info requests to the agency.

Southern Appalachian Watershed Resiliency Project is a proposal that applies to multiple national forests in five states. Currently in public scoping. Worked via Randy Brown, regional BCH public lands chair, to develop recommended talking points that BCH chapters can use in their comment letters. We view this as a potential opportunity to get forest staff to dialogue with chapters about trail sustainability and to document and formalize important non-system (legacy) trails, as many of these forests have never done comprehensive trails planning.

Working with BCH Oregon on public comments for draft EA by Deschutes NF for their e-bike pilot program. Forest followed recommendations of Deschutes Trails Coalition in proposing only trails that are either paved or purpose-built for bike use (and not important to equestrians). We support this concept and will be submitting comments with questions about implementation, monitoring and enforcement, including reporting of safety conflicts.

Bikes in the Wilderness Bill is back in the Senate but it isn't going anywhere given the current makeup of the Senate and administration. AHC reached out to Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, which also does not support the bill. AHC volunteered to write a letter to Senator Lee and circulate this letter to relevant horse council(s) while BCHA will



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circulate to all Utah chapters to sign on against the bill. Other allies, including IMBA do not support this bill.

### Updates

Committee Chair meeting was held last week. Received updates from the committee chairs but nothing of significance, all are busy out on trails.

Light on the Land pack trip has fallen apart. Some expectations from guests who signed up to attend were not realized and they cancelled. Smoke is very thick in Montana as well. Next committee meeting is in September.

A National Board Meeting policy is drawn up and will be revising it and should have it done by the end of September.

Conversations with Forest Service regarding challenge cost share for BCHA. Chairman is waiting to have a talk with Brenda.

Hawaii is interested in becoming part of BCHA.

Chairman and Tif have been working on a saw training session in Colorado. If you need saw training in the area, contact Tif Rodriguez.

Chairman asked the National Directors if there were anything they would like to discuss that is of National importance. Additional Question on the Challenge Cost Share: this is a program a state or chapter can be reimbursed for work accomplished on trails or for other programs of importance to the Forest Service.

### Discussions

- Challenge Cost Share
- Forest/Parks from Illinois
- Bills from Indiana

Youth grants are open, please submit your application.

Next meeting is August 28th, 2024, at 5:00PM Pacific Time