



Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol

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NOTES FROM NOLA

This issue is late and I apologize. I have had family problems, with my Mother still in the hospital. I had hoped to get this to you in time to peruse before voting on Nov. 5th. If you are receiving this e-mail in the PDF format please read this article before marking your ballot. But whatever you do, exercise you right to vote!

This issue is also without a President's message. I think Bill is way to busy moving to their new ranch in North County! We wish them a happy new home for themselves and their horses!

Please note the change of date for the next meeting. We felt that we did not want to meet two days before Thanksgiving. We will be BBQing the left over burgers and dogs from the Cowboy Swapmeet fundraiser. Eating at 6pm and Meeting at 7pm. Bring a side-dish or dessert to share.

The last issue of this newsletter for the year will be published after the Nov. 19th meeting at the Randalls. It will be a Nov. – Dec. Issue. There will be no general membership meeting in December. Plan on celebrating the New Year with us at our annual Post Holiday Party and installation of unit officers.

Please check out the calendar and mark the dates on your personal calendar!

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Meeting Minutes, CdSBCHC 24 September, 2002

Annual unit pool party at the home of Kandhy Franklin

If you missed this meeting you missed your big chance to watch our faithful Unit President, Mr. Bill Huston, sliding down the waterslide with Kandhy's dog! The dog jumped, chased, dove and swam for hours... and probably slept well that night.

Committee Reports

Public Lands

Trail Blazer Magazine (www.horsetrails.com) published an article by Toby Horst, BCHC State President, on The Truth About Wilderness.

The Borrego Sun published an article by our own Kathleen Hayden.

Work and Education Hours

Remember to get your work hours in to Steve Randall, and education hours to Linda Eskin. Hours spent at public meetings count. Educational demos at fairs or shows count.

Rides

Tenderfoot ride - Sweetwater Summit - Saturday, October 12th.

Ride in the Cuyamacas, at the Sweetwater River bridge - Saturday, October 26th, 10 a.m. sharp.

Backcountry 101

Marty reported that he is working on getting a location settled for the event, which will be held in Spring, 2003, possibly on May 18th.

Unit Business & Projects

Officers' Training

We will be hosting the Southern Units' Officers' Training. Linda will get the information together and report at the next meeting.

State Board Meeting, October 18-20

Tauri and Linda will attend the BCHC State Board meetings in Santa Nella, with Tauri representing our unit on the State Board, and at the Public Lands meetings (in Kathleen's place), and Linda participating in the State Education meeting.

Nola moved that we ask Tauri (who had to leave early) to support Bonnie Davis

for Public Relations. Marty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda moved, and Laureen seconded, that our unit support John Keyes for BCHC State President. The motion passed unanimously.

Unit Elections

It's that time of year again, when we elect new officers. Nominations will be held at the October meeting, with voting in November. The new and old Boards will hold a joint Board meeting in December. In January the new officers take on their responsibilities, and attend the Officers' Training.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Meeting Minutes CdS/BCHC 22 October, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

At the home of Steve and Mary Randall

It was great to see some new faces at this meeting! There was a lot happening - reports from the BCHC State Board meeting, discussion of the upcoming Officers' Training, and nominating officers for our own Board for 2003.

Minutes

Not available. Tabled until Nov., will be in newsletter

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

Donna presented the Treasure's report. The food and tack sales at the Cowboy Swap meet were a great success.

Public Lands

See the Public Lands Articles in this newsletter for details. Topics discussed included the shooting of burros in Mojave, and BCHC representation on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park issues.

Work and Education Hours Reporting

Again, please remember to get your hours in! Linda spoke with members from other units at the State Board meeting, and they reported that the hours really do make a difference. Hours for the year (to date) should be turned in to Steve Randall ASAP.

There's even an Excel spreadsheet on the web site to help you (www.bchc.com/cds).

Education Report

see Education Report for details.

Rides

The next Tenderfoot ride will be at Sweetwater Summit day use area, on Saturday, November 9th. As always, meet at 10, ride at 11, brown bag lunch at noon. Call Linda with RSVP

Ride in the mountains with Steve and Marty - Saturday, October 26th, be in the saddle at 10 a.m. sharp.

Parades

CORRECTION: The Mother Goose Parade will be the 1st Sunday BEFORE Thanksgiving - November 24th. No plans to participate as a unit. If you would like to ride as part of the FHRC group ("Multicultural Riders"), contact Sharon Haynesworth.

Unit Business & Projects

Officers' Training

We are hosting the Southern Units' Officers' Training. This is a one-day workshop for current and incoming officers, held in January. This month we will settle on a date and location, send out invitations and maps to the other units, recruit presenters, and write up an agenda. A theme throughout the state will be our presentation and public image - including public speaking.

State Board Meeting, October 18-20

Tauri and Linda attended this weekend of meetings in Santa Nella, and came back with lots of information. The meetings are summarized in articles in this newsletter. Ideas from the Unit Reports will be presented in small bunches through the year, in the newsletter.

Discussion of Recent Events

Horse Fest at Miramar Stables, Sept. 21st

This event was a tremendous success, and several of our members participated! Steve and Mary demonstrated packing with their very cute mules. Nola represented the Sheriff's Mounted Search and Rescue Team, with her smooth-gaited mount Joe. Sharon demonstrated driving. Marci, Bill, and

others were instrumental in putting Horse Fest on, and announced the presentations, and some just attended and enjoyed the show.

Cowboy Swapmeet at McClintock's, Sept. 29th

A good time was had by all, flipping burgers, selling sodas, and meeting lots of horse people. We also sold several donated items. The event was a successful fundraiser for our unit. Many thanks to everyone who did all the preparation, worked all day, and handled the clean-up and inventory afterward.

State Parks Trails Maintenance, Oct. 12-13th

Steve and Mary helped out by packing materials for trail work on Stonewall Peak. Have them tell you the story about the 10' poles and the switchbacks! They were surprised there were not more horse-people participating - only about 10 horses at Los Vaqueros campground, out of 45 corrals. Let's aim for a bigger group next time!

R.I.D.E - Ramona Information Days for Equestrians, Oct. 5-6

We had arranged to have a booth at this event, but only one member volunteered to staff it, and she had a small personal disaster, so could not make it. Keep this in mind for next year, and other fairs - more hands make light work, and it isn't fair to put the work entirely on one person. If you can help with events like this, it can be a great help to our unit, and to the equestrian community.

Discussion of Upcoming Events

Note - See the Calendar for a complete listing of events - these are just the ones that needed discussion at the meeting.

San Mateo Creek Rehabilitation

SD Flyfishers Club will be needing help from packers on this project. If anyone can lend a hand, contact Steve and Mary Randall.

Nominations for Unit Board

This was the meeting where we nominate folks for positions on our Board. Volunteers were sparse, but enough people stepped forward to fill most of the positions. There are still plenty of

opportunities to jump in as Committee Chairs, and the position of Education Chair is open. Nominations went as follows:

Sharon Haynesworth nominated **Nola Michel and Darrah Glynn for Co-Presidents**

Nola nominated **Linda Eskin for Vice President**

Linda nominated **Mary Randall for Treasurer**

Sharon nominated **Tauri Cornell for Secretary**

Nola nominated **Kathleen Hayden for Public Lands**

Steve nominated **Sharon Haynesworth for Member-at-Large.**

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 26th, at the Randalls' house. 6 pm for Burgers and Dogs (bring a side dish to share), 7 pm for Meeting. Elections will held at the November meeting - so be sure to attend! And remember, there is no meeting in December.

Upcoming Post-Holiday Party!

Mark your calendar now for our annual Post-Holiday Party - January 18th, 2003, 6:00 p.m. at the Randalls' house. As always, bring a "white elephant" for the gift exchange, and a potluck dish to share.

The meeting was adjourned

THE ROOTS OF CHARACTER

"Those who preserve their integrity remain unshaken by the storms of daily life. They do not stir like leaves on a tree or follow the herd where it runs. In their mind remains the ideal attitude and conduct of living. This is not something given to them by others. It is their roots, it is a strength that exists deep within them"
(Anonymous Native American Quote)

UNIT WEB SITE REPORT

Linda Eskin, Unit Web Wrangler
eskin@granitehillsdesign.com

Our web site has been working hard for us all year! For the period of Jan.-Oct.2002 we had 9,446 "pageviews" - that is, that many pages were looked at by visitors.

Our main page was viewed 1,216 times, but even higher than that, with 1,457 visitors, was our Resources-Riding page, where people can look for places to ride in our area. A lot of folks probably stumble on us this way, and we can make great use of that by putting info and an invitation to join or support BCHC there.

At the State Board meeting I got to speak with Donn Coon, the BCHC State Webmaster, and asked him if BCHC could make "bchc.com" addresses available to each unit - like what we've been doing the last few years with "bchc.org" (the San Joaquin Sierra Unit's domain). Donn agreed to do it, so now our site is not only at www.bchc.org/cds, but now also at www.bchc.com/cds - and he's going to do the same for all the other units.

To make the site more useful, attractive, and easier to navigate, I've completely redesigned it. (Don't worry, the entire "old" site is still available.) Check it out! There's still work to be done, and some outright incomplete pages, but I should have those put together in the next few days.

Some things that are new, or easier to find:

- The newsletter - both current, and previous issues.

- Hours forms - both as an Excel spreadsheet, generously designed by Steve Randall, or single-project form for printing and mailing.

- Membership form - so anyone can join, hassle-free.

- Bulletin Board Poster - with tear-off tabs - print and post at your barn or feed store.

YOUR VOTE AND PUBLIC LANDS ACCESS

If access to our public lands is important to you, we want you to get out and Vote on Nov. 5th! Please read and consider the following. If you have internet access look up the percentages of your representative's voting record.

GOVERNOR

Under Davis and his appointment Rusty Areas, Ca. Dept of Resources (State Parks, and Fish and Game) have purchased more lands and closed more trails than any other agency in San Diego County. State Parks refused to sign a MOU with Backcountry Horsemen or accept representation nominated by BCHC. They modified the Recreation Trail legislation in the update plan in spite of BCHC objections. Last year's Prop 40 money was touted as a Park Bond, clean air, clean water. Its major objective was to provide exclusive habitat with no mandate for public access. Anytime you see a clean air, clean water bill BEWARE....You will not see any cleaner water or air. You will buy more habitat without access.

CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE- ASSEMBLY AND SENATE

As far as the California State Assembly and Senate, it is important to remember that those sitting candidates who belong to the Democratic Party voted to support Senator Boxer's California Wilderness Bill. These Democratic representatives are also in support of the California Legacy Project, part of the Wildlands Project, which seeks to put up to 50 percent or more of the land in the United States under protection as restrictive or more restrictive than the Wilderness Act. Keep this in mind when voting for State Representatives.

CANDIDATES FOR U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE. Here are sites that show voting percentages for public access.

California candidates for U.S. House and Senate
http://www.warriorssociety.org/2002%20Elections/2002_CA_House.htm

Nation wide candidates for Senate
http://www.warriorssociety.org/2002%20Elections/2002_Senate1.htm

Nation wide candidates for House of Representatives
http://www.warriorssociety.org/2002%20Elections/house_of_representatives.htm

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 50

"Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act".

This is a land grab disguised as an effort to protect our water supplies. The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations that support this proposition have historically opposed any diversion of water for urban needs and farming.

Have you ever read about an environmental organization supporting a water project that would address our water needs, such as reservoirs or dams? I've read about them suing to stop water projects - or suing to stop historical access to water.

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 51

This is nothing but an attempt to divert fees collected from motor vehicles to fund the Sierra Club and their allies' pet projects

Summary of the... BCHC State Education Meeting Santa Nella, California

By Linda Eskin

Education Chair, Caballeros del Sol

Ruthie Heuer and her team have completed a couple of years' work on creating a resource guide for teaching packing and gentle-use backcountry horsemanship. This is a huge collection of information, from a variety of sources, and included a syllabus for teaching a 5-day packing course, information on backcountry ethics and laws, veterinary care, and other reference materials. The binder, accompanied by a CD version of the same material, will be available for order in January. Cost will be about \$50 - a tremendous value. I recommend that we buy one for the unit. Individuals may also order copies.

Educational handouts are available on the BCHC web site (www.bchc.com), under

Publications, where we can download, print, and copy them to distribute at local events.

The Wilderness Rider program is going strong, and will be accepting applications and holding interviews at Rendezvous for the 10 openings in the June 2003 training. This intensive program prepares Backcountry Horsemen to educate others - in the classroom and on the trail. Stock experience, and an interest in teaching are required. Ongoing commitments include following a code of conduct, doing 2 educational presentations, and 2 patrols with park/land agencies. The cost of the class is \$175 per person.

The planning for Rendezvous 2003 (March 14, 15, & 16, in Turlock) is going great! The registration packets are ready to be sent out. Some new things this year include a Western Art Competition (like the old photo contest, but including other forms of art), and a Gentle-Use Camp Contest, where each unit can enter a 20' x 20' "campsite" for display and judging.

Our unit is hosting the Southern Units' Officers' Training in January 2003. We need to determine a date and agenda, settle on a location, and get the word out. One focus of all the Officers' Trainings this year will be public speaking - how we present ourselves to the rest of the world.

Units state-wide are working on their Youth Programs, for the young folks in BCHC members' families. This idea was launched last year. If there are members with children in our unit, who would be interested in starting such a program, please let me know.

BCHC had a booth at Mule Days last year, and will again this year. Ladd Stokes is looking for volunteers to staff the booth in 2-hour blocks. Everything is arranged and set up - you just have to be there and talk with people.

BCHC has also had a booth at Horse Expo for the past 4 years, and may again this year. Get in touch with Corky Layne if you can help. This is a great place for BCHC to get the word out.

Same for Equine Affaire, in Pomona (late Jan., early Feb. 2003) - close by, and worth doing! Pete Spencer of Redshank is the one to talk to if you can staff the BCHC booth.

Education Hours... I know, I hate keeping track of them too. But they really do help us. If you have given any presentations, talks, demos, etc. please let me know. I can even fill out the paperwork for you. We need to have the whole year (to date) in by Dec. 1. This can earn us a Unit Education Award, too!

“EVERYBODY KNOWS THEY’RE NOT REALLY ENDANGERED: We just need them to stop mining” October 2002 By Don Fife

Don Fife is an environmental and economic geologist with more than 20 years experience in government, private practice and academia. He was the advisor to four Secretaries of the Interior over a period of 8 years for Geology, Energy and Minerals on the 25,000,000-acre California Desert Conservation Area. Don co-authored the comprehensive 699-page book, The Geology and Mineral Wealth of the California Transverse Ranges, with John Minch in 1982, and has authored several scientific and position papers on related topics. Don may be reached at 714-544-8406 or donfife@earthlink.net

San Bernardino National Forest, Southern California. A Forest Service Wildlands Conservation Botanist, a deep-ecology, rain-forest individual, refused our use of our existing RS 2477 access roads; but The Powers That Be in Washington D.C. told him that he must allow us access for drilling in Lone Valley. So he let us use the existing RS 2477 roads, right?

Wrong! He had us build NEW roads, destroying more of the forest, for our access. The existing RS 2477 roads had been planted with native vegetation (sometimes huge boulders are considered native vegetation).

When I found a Forest Service crew replanting another RS 2477 access road on my property with native vegetation, I struck up a conversation with the botanist in charge.

I introduced myself and my associate, Buster LaMoure. I asked him if it would be OK to videotape his “restoration work” on the road. He said it would be fine. I asked him where he went to college. This young botanist who had been on the job for just a few months told us he graduated from a small university in eastern Indiana. I said, “Gee, I went to the University of Dayton. We used to play you guys all the time.” His response was, “Yeah, the Flyers just kicked our rear ends last

week.”

Since he was now thoroughly disarmed, I asked him about these “endangered weeds” that the Forest Service had listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). How could they be endangered, every time you clear a firebreak or there is a wildland fire, they thrive in the newly cleared land? The response was, “Everybody knows these aren’t really endangered. We just need them to stop mining.”

Standing next to me was my associate, Buster LaMoure, former Director of Land and Minerals (Chief Geologist) for the U.S. Forest Service, Washington D.C. office, now retired and working with me as a consultant. His mouth dropped open when he heard the botanist say this! Two weeks later we were in Spokane, WA telling this story to the Deputy Chief to the Forest Service.

A former Forest Service employee signed an affidavit that the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) staff had volunteers collect the seeds from these ESA-listed plants and spread them in the forest to stop mining and recreation on up to 44,575 acres of the mineral-rich forest.

On January 24, 2002 Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA) brought this abuse of the ESA to the attention of hundreds of members of Congress on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. The SBNF is now under closer scrutiny by headquarters in Washington D.C. In fact, Under Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey and Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth would like to hear from others who have been victims of arbitrary and capricious acts by Forest Service officials.

Kathleen’s response to the above article:

There are two campgrounds on major trails in the Cleveland are closed because of the ESA listing of the arroyo frog. The data on the frog states that it is endangered by urban encroachment and its natural enemy, the bullfrog. Recreation is not stated as

a component of endangerment.

The bighorn sheep is endangered by disease and predation by cougar. They are not endangered in states where the cougar is hunted. Most of the southeastern part of Ca. has been designated as critical habitat and closed to recreation. These closures are a violation of the NEPA process. At the bighorn sheep economic impact hearing Fish and Wildlife stated the closures had no economic impact. (I testified as to the recreational economic impact.)

Vast areas of the Mojave are closed to “protect” the desert tortoise, which are threatened by disease and raven predation. Recreation has no significant impact on the tortoise. Some equestrians do not believe these closures impact them...DUH????

The National Park Service is ridding the Mojave Preserve of wildlife by eliminating water sources and attempting to hire hunters to shoot the burros. State Parks is eliminating the last herd of wild horses in southern Ca. State Fish and Game is purchasing more habitat with prop 40 and Mt. Lion conservation funds. These two agencies have closed more trails than any other agency in the state. But equestrians still believe they can negotiate with this DEVIL and their history of lies and deceit.

Raising, buying, feeding weed free feed may have no significant impact on the spreading of noxious weeds yet will have a huge economic impact on the hay and livestock industry.

What has this to do with mining? Since all resources come from the land, mostly “public.” (Water, minerals, ranching, logging, and recreation). When access to those resources are separated, segregated, and diminished, “public lands” cease to exist. We are already there but for our last feeble cries! Our salvation is political activism, true multiple use coalitions and RS2477 assertions. THE SURFACE AND MINING ACT, (that’s where RS2477 came from) remember? Or is it really just too damn late?

kat

LIONS AND WOLVES AND BEARS, OH MY!

***Candace Ricks-Oathout,
Backcountry Horsemen of California
Cabelleros del Sol Unit
Chair: Citizens Against Recreational
Eviction of Minnesota***

As I read the daily papers and scan the Internet under some of my favorite topics, I run across articles detailing conflicts with wildlife in semi-urban and urban settings more and more frequently. We even have a new employment classification that of wildlife conflict specialist. A position established by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in response to increasing interactions between grizzly bears and humans in northwest Montana. Although there are many discussions expressing fears for the on-going survival of large predators in America due to the pressures of habitat encroachment and commercial interests, the reality is that grizzly bears, black bear, wolf and mountain lion populations are alive and well and increasing in the United States and Canada.

Most Americans have grown up with the Disney ideal version of large carnivores. They are cute, funny and even cuddly. Recently a meeting place was being proposed for a World Bank committee in the Canadian Northwoods, it being determined that a secluded site far away from population centers would help prevent protest demonstrations. When a group of potential demonstrators were asked how this decision would affect their plans, the response was "We will demonstrate. We are not afraid. Grizzly bears are our friends."

I have lived in southern California about three miles inland from the ocean and a mile and a half from the International Border with Mexico. In the 5,000 acres of open space adjacent to my home there were bobcats and coyotes seen regularly. This area is surrounded on three sides by densely developed cities and on the fourth side by the Pacific Ocean. Sand mining, sewage treatment plants, truck farming and a series of environmentally in-

spired development projects to protect the Tijuana River Estuary, impacted it.

Additionally, there were, at last count, approximately 700 Border Patrol agents assigned to the area to help curb thousands of illegal immigrants from entering the country through this area. The concept that nature and wilderness can survive only in the absence of humans is simply not true. Depending on your interpretation of wilderness, I could be less than five minutes from my home and be in a wilderness. In a riparian corridor with willow thickets so dense that several people I know have gotten lost when they strayed off the main trail. This area is home to seven endangered species, at least one of which, the least Bell's vireo, is thriving due to habitat restoration. This restoration has primarily occurred due to incidental changes in the environment such as sewage flows from Mexico that have caused the Tijuana River to expand from an ephemeral river to year-round flows. Additionally, flooding and saltwater intrusion into the upper aquifer have led to land that was formerly farmed being left fallow allowing many native species to re-establish themselves along the river corridor.

Currently, I live in a first ring suburb of Minneapolis adjacent to two major state highways. In the three years I have lived in this neighborhood, I have personally seen deer, including an eight point buck, badgers, foxes, pheasants and owls in my backyard. There have recently been news reports with pictures of a large healthy mountain lion living in the Minnesota River Valley between the cities of Bloomington and Savage. Bald eagles are nesting along the Mississippi River Valley so close to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport that they pose a threat to airline traffic. If an endangered species gets sucked into a jet engine and causes a passenger plane to crash who would be liable, the airline, the federal government or the non-profit organizations who have lobbied so hard for the establishment of the adjacent wildlife refuge?

In the Southern California Mountains and Foothills Assessment published in December 1999, there is a

discussion regarding the American peregrine falcon in which it is pointed out that the delisting of this species is controversial (Pagel et al. 1996, Pagel and Bell 1997). This comment along with the difficulty of reintroduction of this species on the southern California national forests is stressed. What is not mentioned is that although this species usually nests high on cliffs near water, they are much more dependent upon an adequate food source than upon so-called appropriate nesting sites. In the south San Diego Bay region they were dining on California least tern chicks, another endangered species until they were relocated. This species is doing quite well in the Twin Cities region of Minnesota where they quite successfully nest on smokestacks and high-rise buildings and dine in the lakes and rivers that surround the downtown area.

This same document, the Southern California Mountains and Foothills Assessment, discusses the fact that black bears apparently expanded their range into the assessment area after grizzly bears were extirpated around the turn of the century. They started to appear in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties around 1937 (Grinnell et al.). The California Department of Fish and Game increased the black bears range by importing twenty-eight bears from the Sierra Nevada into the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains during the 1930's (Burgduff 1935; Vaughan 1954). Black bear populations are increasing statewide (CDFG 1998) and some recent bear sightings in the mountains of San Diego County indicate that populations are dispersing southward from the San Jacinto Mountains.

There have been reports of management problems in some recreation areas such as Forest Falls and Barton Flats in the San Bernardino Mountains. This has led to increasing bear-human encounters and several "attacks" by disoriented, cornered bears. Similar incidents, including the death of a New Mexico woman in the summer of 2001 in her own home, have been attributed to black bears. Just about a month ago, on September 27, 2002, a wildlife biologist was mauled by a black bear at the Mille Lacs Wildlife Management

Area in central Minnesota while tracking radio-tagged woodcocks. There was no apparent reason for this incident and the bear was never found. In many areas throughout the country, even with the dreaded urban sprawl and population growth, bears, wolves and mountain lions are increasing in numbers and are losing their fear of humans. I, personally, feel this is good news regarding the improving health of our environment, but I fear for a society so disconnected from its natural surroundings that it doesn't relate to the dangers we are introducing into our own backyards.

Tom France representing the National Wildlife Federation has stated "Our goal is to have wolves the length of the Rockies, from New Mexico to the Arctic. And, conceivably, in New England. Then we would really have restored wolves to North America." Today reintroduced and naturally dispersing wolves have established a range that extends from the Greater Yellowstone Region to the southern fringe of the Wind River Range in Wyoming; in Montana to the outskirts of Bozeman, Missoula and Helena; in Idaho to the outskirts of Sun Valley and within 40 miles of Boise. Local populations are increasing as much as 30% a year. In Minnesota the gray wolf population is about 2,500 animals in 300 packs including some passing through the suburbs of Minneapolis. They range over forty percent of the state, into Wisconsin and Michigan and almost to North Dakota

It amazes me that with all this evidence to the contrary we still have a significant number of scientists and policy makers ignoring it and crying "Woe, woe the species are dying! The environment is in critical distress! We must dedicate millions and millions more acres to habitat preservation and give these species a chance to survive!" It has been said that radical environmentalism seeks to survive in the face of mounting evidence it is unnecessary. So what is necessary?

It is necessary that we consider the fact that the environment is not out there somewhere in someone else's backyard. It is right outside our door. The conservation and preservation measures we already have in place are

working. It is necessary that we consider the impacts of a wholesale rush to restore ecosystems to the point that top predators are so prevalent that we must fear for our domestic animals and children when they step out the backdoor. It is necessary that we recognize honor and support organizations like Ducks Unlimited Inc. an international organization that has worked since 1937 to preserve and restore wildlife habitat. An organization that Minnesotans supported with around \$4 million dollars in donations last year alone. We must recognize and support organizations like Backcountry Horsemen of America whose mission is to "perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness. To support this mission thousands of volunteers spend thousands of hours meeting with land managers, teaching gentle use principles of stock use in the backcountry and assisting various government and private agencies in the maintenance and management of recreational and wilderness areas. We must get beyond the "gloom and doom" rhetoric of the radical environmental community.

We must realize that while there is much more work to be done, much good in the area of habitat conservation and species preservation has already been done. It will continue if we work diligently to improve communication between user and "non-use" groups. We must not support the loss of any more private property to habitat conservation. We must not support the National Forest Protection Plan as it is currently written. We must recognize and question rhetoric especially when it is being used as a substitute for sound science. We must build coalitions between user groups to keep public access available. We must diligently carry the message of gentle use principles to user groups and land managers alike.

Most importantly we must realize that extreme positions on restoration and on development are not useful. We must strike a balance between them for the good of all. No one person or organization can do it all, but each one of us can do something.

Desert Issues IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS LAWMAKERS PUSHING NORTON FOR ANSWERS ON DESERT MANAGEMENT

By LAURA MITCHELL, Staff Writer 9/02
Imperial Velly Press

Congressional representatives sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gail Norton saying recent decisions by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management are a cause for concern or "totally unacceptable."

U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Alpine, and 18 other congressmen and women sent the letter to Norton earlier this week calling for answers to hotly debated desert management plans, including the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan.

The letter states the representatives are concerned U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff may ignore recent studies that show a threatened plant is abundant in the dunes.

The threatened Peirson's milk vetch, a purple-flowered plant that grows in the Imperial Sand Dunes, was the reason for closing almost 50,000 acres of off-road recreation last year. Off-road vehicle enthusiasts want the closures rolled back and the milk-vetch removed from the Endangered Species List.

Fish and Wildlife is also in the process of evaluating a proposed listing of the flat-tailed horned lizard, which could close additional acres of Southern California desert.

The letter also states environmental studies for two BLM management plans are "totally unacceptable." The Northern and Eastern Colorado and Northern and Eastern Mojave plans also provide for closures and the recovery of the threatened desert tortoise.

Recreation groups hired a herpetologist, a zoologist who studies reptiles and amphibians, to review the information available on the flat-tailed horned lizard.

The letter states the herpetologist reported there is no scientific evidence to support the listing. But the closures are based on "minimal scientific evidence." Even BLM biologists say the plans are based on inaccurate and insufficient data, the letter states.

**Laura Mitchell can be reached at 760
337-3452 or lauramitchell9@yahoo.com**

THE ACTION COALITION

Kathleen Hayden

Much of the information you have been receiving from me may not appear to be specific to the philosophies and purposes of BCHC, California State Horsemen's Association, or CETLC. However if we as organizations do not understand the agenda, which is continuing to erode rights to keep livestock on private property and access to, our public lands we, as equestrians are doomed as dinosaurs. We can understand the roots of our organizations but our future depends on the strategy in which we deal with our opponents. Who are "they" and what is their "agenda"?

The Wildlands Project disciples... standard tactic is designating critical habitat, a first step toward ultimately locking up land and banning its use by humans. They are behind Boxer Wilderness/Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill, another tool for controlling water and watersheds. This affects both private and public property, regardless of race, religion, political or recreational affiliation. This transfers local governance to the Feds.

Additionally, SB 1828 is legislation that offers the powerful Indian tribes an expanded role in land-use decisions throughout the state. This bill passed both houses of the Legislature this week and is on its way to the governor.

The Center for Biological Diversity had filed an ESA lawsuit every 32 days for the past five years and had 32 lawsuits in progress covering more than 80 million acres including a lawsuit to prevent the use of the mosquito-killing pesticide Fenthion. The Biodiversity Legal Foundation and The Center for Biological Diversity are just two of the point-man organizations in the campaign to gain control of your property -. If you doubt that ESA-based lawsuits represent much of a threat to your constitutional rights - or your life, do a web search for articles mentioning either of these two groups. You will be inundated with article after article linking this organization to the United Nations NewWorld Order (see) <http://>

www.eco.freedom.org/ article on the World Summit on Sustainable Development which convened August 26 - September 4, 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the birth of "sustainabledevelopment."

While we continue to volunteer in the field, the battle is waged on all fronts, in the courts and political arena. While our organization leaders (BCHC, CSHA, CETLC) are writing and meeting with elected and agency officials the Action Coalition is currently funding litigation and appeals to keep public lands open.

This multiple-use coalition's sole purpose is to fund sound science and legal fees for public access. Contributions are solicited from trailer manufacturers. User group and individual contributions are welcome.

Please send a contribution, no matter how small, to Action Coalition, % Michele Cassella, 21790 John Street Perris Ca 92570. We have 140,000 members between CSHA and BCHC. If everyone just sent ONE DOLLAR!!!!

The Action Committee legal fees this month totaled \$6,132.00 for the complaint challenging 10 desert closures filed by Procopio, Cory Hargreaves & Savitch. Members of this coalition include BCHC/Borrego Unit, CSHA, High Desert Multiple Use Coalition, Blue Ribbon Coalition, AMA, CORVA, San Diego Off Road Coalition, AMA, and more.

The Action grant process is currently available. For application please contact Michele Casella: WMNRACER@aol.com

Just because
you do not take
an interest in
politics doesn't
mean politics
won't take an
interest in you.
—Pericles (430
B.C.)

WILD BURROS AND HORSES To Whom It May Concern:

It was brought to our attention in the last few days that there is a plan set in motion to exterminate the last of the Wild Burro Herd on the Mojave Preserve.

If you have access to the National Parks Master Management Plan for the Mojave Preserve, on pages 15 thru 18, you will read what appear to be three alternate methods of dealing with their Burro Herd. The last of the alternative methods is extermination to be done by contracted hunters.

One hunter has already been approached to sign a contract of which he declined to do. To date we are told that one lone hunter has signed to do the nasty deed. By contracting this they eliminate the bounty per head, so we guess in their minds it's not an open season to kill.

The hunter has been told to shoot to kill, with bullets not lethal darts, and to leave the carcasses. As far as we know neither of the other two methods have been attempted.

This action should outrage the American Public. The Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act provided protection for these animals while the land was under management by the BLM and USFS. When the Preserve came to be, all Federal Protection of these animals ceased. On the Preserve, the

Authorities want to close up water holes that all types of wildlife have become accustomed to over generations. This act of closure to water will result in the death of the very animals they claim to be protecting. Excluding the Burro. No matter if water holes are closed, the Burros seem to be the Endangered Species here at this moment.

Our National Historic Preservation Act alone should insure the lives of these creatures. Where is the Public's outcry over this injustice and cruelty to animals? Where are the Animal Activists that seem to be at every animal event such as Circuses and Rodeos that claim cruelty is going on? What could be more cruel than shoot an innocent Burro, and maybe not

make the kill but critically wound the animal and for it to run away and suffer?

We are asking for help from anyone who could make a phone call, write a letter to let your elected officials to let them know what crimes are being committed by our so called Park Officials. Or if someone has the ability to get the Press to just take a moment to listen to the people who use this land and love the wildlife on it.

The facts are in the Preserves Management Plan. The Plan is in Black and White. The dirty deeds will be done for a dollar to be made by some hunter without a conscious.

We have no problem with hunting. And we support the Second Amendment Right. This has nothing to do with the right to hunt or bear arms. This is totally cruelty to animals and a total disregard to the American Public's Historic Past, and the wishes of the American People to protect these animals.

The Mojave Desert is a vast and beautiful place with so much of the History of the West. It is a shame that we have come to this in our NATIONAL PARKS. Please take a moment to help.

Jennifer Foster
PL Chair Borrego Unit

Public Land For Public Use - - - - -

Kathleen's Comment

Something is terribly wrong with BLM management of the Wild Horse and Burro Act. In the past year State Parks gave away one third of the tiny and only herd of wild horses in Coyote Canyon because someone enticed them onto private property with hay. What if they had been Bighorn Sheep instead of wild horses? Wild is Wild and protected by law.

Recently some hunters that the NPS is soliciting to shoot burros in the Mojave Preserve contacted me. As I read the legislated mandate these wild animals were to be managed by the BLM on public lands.

The agencies interpretation is they can remove the animals if the BLM transfers land to another agency such

as State Parks, USFS, NPS or whatever. Congress didn't intend this to be the result. The USFS manages the Pacific Crest Trail and it passes through many jurisdictions. It does not cease to exist as it leaves USFS lands.

Comment from Adda Quinn
650-592-0722 phone
envirohorse@yahoo.com

As you may know, the Federal Government (BLM etc) is proposing to reduce wild horse herds in the west by half...from about 40,000 to 20,000 animals. Here are some interesting data recently sent to me. Surely there is room out west for all these horses and manage the herds to maintain the existing 40k level?

BLM's Summary for 2001: Public Lands - 10 Western States

Domestic Livestock vs. Wild Horses & Burros

Domestic Livestock: 12,776,369 Active AUM's (Animal Units per Month, which can include a cow & calf counting as one animal):

Wild Horses: 39,983

Wild Burros: 5,431

There are 12,730,955 more domestic livestock on public lands than wild horses and burros.

2001 Wild Horse & Burro Removal Totals: 13,277

Total 2001 Adoptions: 7,630

Note: The table reflects reassignments, which occur when animals are returned to the Federal government and then re-adopted.

Almost 13 million domestic livestock grazing public lands compared to almost 40,000 wild horses..... and BLM plans to remove 20,000 wild horses, because?

Domestic Livestock vs. Other Wildlife - Public Lands - 10 Western States:

Domestic Livestock:

Active AUM's (Animal Units per Month, which can include a cow & calf counting as one animal): 12,776,369

Wildlife Estimated Number by BLM - Total: 1,870,300 (big game) - grazers: Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Buffalo, Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat.

There are 10,906,069 more domestic livestock on public lands than grazing (big game) wildlife.

Understanding the Animal Unit Month (AUM) *The AUM is the amount of forage needed by an "animal unit" (AU) grazing for one month. The animal unit in turn is defined as one mature 1 000 pound cow and her suckling calf. It is assumed that such a cow nursing her calf will consume 26 pounds of dry matter (DM) per day as forage. That consumption, combined with a factor for tramping and waste of about 25%, results in an estimate of about 1000 pounds of dry matter (DM) from forage to supply one AU each month. This translates into 1108 lb of hay at 90% dry matter. Various other types of stock are assigned AUM equivalents based on size and consumption. For example, the fact sheet [Grazing Tame Pastures Effectively](#) (Agdex 130153-1) suggests a mature bull is the equivalent of 1.3 AU, a yearling steer or heifer is 0.67 AU and a weaned calf is 0.5 AU. These are the equivalents suggested by the Society for Range Management.*

Adjustments

Now come the problems. The unit and the equivalents do not allow for the change in frame size of our cattle in recent years. To start with, most of our crossbred beef cows with European breeding or some cows of the larger frame British breeding will probably weigh from 1200-1400 pounds. Cows in this weight range need from 23.0 to 25.6 pounds of DM, or 14 to 27% more than the 1000 pound cow. The larger calves would probably consume proportionately more as well. Therefore, cows in the 1200 to 1400 pound weight range would be equivalent to from 1.1 to 1.21 of the original Animal Units

**CARMEL VALLEY TRAIL
RIDERS NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2002**

SHEILA LOFTIN MEMORIAL TRAIL

The Sheila Loftin Memorial Trail has been extensively brushed, shoveled and widened to it is much safer to ride than before. The West entrance has also been improved with a riding trail through a newly planted area and signage at the tunnel entrance.

SAN DIEGO SEA TO SEA TRAIL

A Committee has been formed to create a 140 mile trail connecting the Pacific Ocean to the Salton Sea. The trail will start at Torrey Pines State Beach and proceed along Carmel Valley Road to the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) trail (that's the bridle path we ride on from Clews Horse Ranch to Carmel Country Road). It will then go up Del Ma Mesa Road (AKA Shaw Ridge Road) to Hollywood & Vine; thence eastward to the SDG&E Powerlines Trail down to Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. It will then follow the San Diego Trans-County Trail eastward through other existing open space areas to the Legunas and on to Borego Springs and the Salton Sea. For details see www.seatoseatrail.org.

WINDMILL TRAIL

The Windmill Trail has been brushed and the low-hanging willow branches cut back. You can still get to Penasquitos Canyon that way but have to ride along Carmel Mt. Road for about 200 yds.

SHAW VALLEY TRAIL

There will be a delay of 3-6 months before construction starts on this trail because of difficulties with the contractor. In the meantime, we can ride on the Sheila Loftin Memorial Trail.

Sincerely yours, Jack Northrop,
CVTRC

**Backcountry Horsemen of California
Caballeros del Sol Unit 2002 CALENDAR**

BCHC sponsored activities are BOLD

Any BCHC activity may be attended by BCHC members from any unit, unless so noted. Call a board member for a contact phone number.

Other activities of interest are in italics (not sponsored by BCHC)

BCHC Caballeros del Sol Meetings:

All regular meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Check the back of each newsletter for location and directions to the meetings

NOVEMBER

November 2nd

**BCHC / Redshank Unit
Turkey Trot & Treasure Hunt
Flyer closer to time.**

November 14th - 17th

**BCHC / SD Workparty
Lower Willows / Vern Whitaker
Horse Camp**

November 19th

BCHC / CdS Meeting

NEW DATE !

DECEMBER

December 7th-8th

*Vaquero Days
Descanso, CA*

More in next issue, mark date on your calendar!

No BCHC / CdS Mtg in December

Joint old/new Board Mtg in Dec. Date TBA next issue. Come help plan the new year!

Caballeros del Sol's Annual Post-Holiday Party will be in January

2003

January 4th 2003

Borrego Valley Unit

NEW YEARS RIDE

Contact. Les Levie: 760 767 5252

January 23rd 2003

POST HOLIDAY PARTY

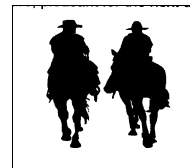
**Eats, White Elephants Gift Exchange, Installation of new Unit Officers
Randall Home 6pm Directions on Back Page**

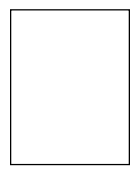
January ?? TBA

**Officer Training.
Coronado CA
Our unit is hosting.
Please Vollunteer to help!**

March 14, 15 & 16

**Turlock Ca
BCHC RENDEZVOUS
Put this fun date on your calendar now. Pactet for registration will be mailed in Jan.**





Backcountry Horsemen of California
Caballeros del Sol Unit
P.O.Box 12311, El Cajon, CA
92022

Caballeros del Sol Unit Voting instructions

*Instructions for voting.

PDF – print out this sheet and fold and mail. Must have return address to be counted (will be removed after recording that you voted and before the count).

Email – use return form email that the PDF was attached to.

US Mail – remove this sheet and fold with vote inside and address outside, stamp and mail, must have return address to be counted (will be removed after recording that you voted and before the count). Please write down the directions to the meeting before mailing.

You may turn in ballot on the meeting night, personally or brought by family member.

President

Dara Glynn & Nola Michel (Co-Presidents)

Vice President

Linda Eskin

Secretary

Tauri Cornell

Treasurer

Mary Randall

Public Liaison Chair

Kathleen Hayden

Education Chair

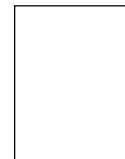
Open _____

Member at Large

Sharon Haynesworth

Single membership have one vote. Family memberships have two votes. Each member please check by their choice. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November Meeting. You may use write-ins to nominate and vote by mail.

Backcountry Horsemen of California
Caballeros del Sol Unit
P.O.Box 12311, El Cajon, CA 92022
(Return Address Requested)



Label

Oct, - Nov 2002

GET OUT AND VOTE!

Backcountry Access Issues - Where do the candidates stand? See page 4

NEXT MEETING

**19th November 2002 Randall's Home
6149 Medill, El Cajon, CA 92021, Phone: 619 561 6764
Eating 6PM, Meeting 7 PM
Third Tuesday This month because of Thanksgiving!
We will be Serving BBQ Burgers and Dogs
Bring a side dish or dessert to share!**

DIRECTIONS

**Hiway 8, Exit: Los Coches Rd.
North to Aurora Dr., Left onto Aurora
Left onto Serenity, Go to top (end)
take the cement driveway at 11 o'clock
At the top, turn left in the dirt driveway (you are there)**