



Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol

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Website: www.bchc.com/cds

UNIT BOARD/ CHAIRS

Co-President/ State Director
Darrah Glynn (858) 442 0789
daraglynn@2by2.net

Co-President/ Editor:
Nola Michel (858) 278 9088
trlrider@san.rr.com

Vice President/Webmaster:
Linda Eskin (619) 441 7675
lleskin@cox.net

Treasurer:
Mary Randall (619) 561 6764
sdrmule@cox.net

Secretary:
Tauri Cornell (619) 575 3355
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Member at Large:
Sharon Haynesworth (858) 279 8518

Public Liaison Chair:
Kathleen Hayden (760) 782 9053
prknride@znet.com

Education Chair - OPEN

Reports / Data:
Steve Randall (619) 561 6764
sdrmule@cox.net

Insurance / Events:
Tauri Cornell (619) 575 3355
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Public Relations:
Mike Ellison (619) 575 3355
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Service / Work Chair: Position Open

Ride Coordinator OPEN
Equipment Manager: OPEN

Historian / Parade Chair:
Sharon Haynesworth (858) 279 8518

Hostess: Mary Randall 619 561 6764

OFFICERS TRAINING WORKSHOP SOUTHERN SESSION:

This meeting is for all outgoing and incoming officers and committee members and any other member interested in the functioning of our units. It is a great opportunity to network with the other units in our Southern California area.

Another reason for you to go is that our unit is putting this function on for the state and we need your help!! Contact Linda Eskin if you can help with this function.

January 25, 2003
Hosted by the Caballeros del Sol Unit

Contact:
Linda Eskin
eskin@granitehillsdesign.com (619) 441-7675

Location:
1475 6th Avenue (just south of Beech Street, near downtown San Diego). Suite 317, on the third floor offices and conference rooms
For driving directions from your location to any of the three Training locations, please visit www.mapquest.com and type in your starting location and the address above.

COME TO THE AFTER-THE-HOLIDAYS PARTY

Note a change of date from the last publication.

18th January 2003 at the home of the Randall's. Bring a dish to share and a White elephant gift for the gift game. We will eat at about 6 PM and have a short meeting about 7 PM with the game to follow. Directions are on the back page

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OUTGOING PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Howdy,

Well this is my last Presidents message for the newsletter. I know I've managed to make some people mad, some frightened, and might of even have driven one or two away, But then the world is not a perfect place! Is it? So my apologizes to you folks, and may you start showing back up at the meetings.

My year as CdS president has been a learning experience, From trying to figure out how to get more of you to show up at meetings, to trying to get volunteers to go to other units work parties and hoping that each ride we have, will have more riders than just the trail boss and his or her significant other. Does not make for much of a ride. Some one at the last meeting said it best of all (If your not going to support the unit why even have one at all!!!!) You know what, the statement is correct. Sorry for the outburst, had to get that off my chest. For those of you, who have been showing up or have showed up sometime during the past year, thanks for the support!

Well time to get off my soapbox, and let you know what's coming down the road, there is the Borrego ride out of Les Levies place, our unit get together at the Randall's, San Mateo Creek rehab, work party at Miramar to clean up the barb wire, Officers training on the 25th of January, and numerous other functions happening all over So. Ca, sponsored by the other So.Units, dates, time and places are in the Calendar of events, So get out there and let them know your there. Last months meeting was at Steve and Mary's house, the burgers and dogs were oh so tasty. The ride at Cuyamaca was a lot of fun. Thank you to all participants. Once again rendezvous does approach and we are looking for ideas for the unit's table decoration. Should you have an idea that you would like to share with your unit on a decoration for rendezvous, feel free to present it at the next meeting. We have started the meetings for our 101 Clinic, which will be at the stables at MCAS Miramar (Date To Be Determined)

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Time to end, I wish to thank all my elected officers and committee chairs for the support that they given me throughout the past year. Whether it be from leading a ride, setting up a work party, freezing their arms off getting soda's out of the tub for the swapmeet (but someone finally got smart and got a shovel which helped a lot, who was that brain-y-ack) , or letting me know that the president needs to steer the meeting and not let it steer him. Isn't that right Steve, I kept on thinking you should have had that throat problem looked at, sounded like you were sick. Time to close; hope to see you at the next meeting. Happy riding.
Bill Huston, President, BCHC/CdS
2002

NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

New Year! Already?

Darrah Glyann daraglynn@2by2.net

Can you believe it's a new year already? I can't. This last year has been a whirlwind for me. Life seems to be getting more and more hectic these days. I thought modern conveniences are suppose to be making it easier. As many know, my Dad's health is not the greatest, so Nola and I will be splitting the Presidency this year. Since we all have the same goal of preserving trails this shouldn't be a problem. We do occasionally disagree, but as long as I get my way it should all work out!

I have heard the members request we have more rides, work parties and members. This would all be great with me. I believe we are heading in that direction. We have a couple of areas we are considering adopting. We also have regular rides scheduled and more in the works. This will lend us some fun time together. All work no play...yada yada. We can increase membership easily enough. Get applications in your hands so you can pass them out to everyone you know and invite them to join. These are some worthy goals and I believe we can accomplish them, however, I see a more important goal for us to strive for. This one will take some effort.

We as individual members can make a great contribution to the effort of keeping trails open to the public. We have a great Public Lands head, Kathleen Hayden, who has so many irons in the fire I can't keep up. I know she is making a difference in the fight because she has as many enemies in officials as she does supporters in us! So far the tactics of being the nice guy hasn't gotten us very far. Don't get me wrong, I think the work parties are great for public relations and needed to keep the trails up and useable, but we haven't earned the Brownie points we thought we would. In other words, it hasn't opened very many doors (Or should I say trails?) for us that BCHC has thought it would.

This year let us concentrate a little more on the politics. I will admit, I often skip reading Kathleen's messages or quit half way through. All that mumbo jumbo! This year I will commit to the challenge of reading what is really going on, write the letters to all the officials I can, and support Public Lands in this unit and at the state level any way I can. I invite you to join me in this challenge. I think if we were all to put forth this effort we just may make the difference we were hoping to make when we joined BCH.

Over the years, our Public Lands have become less and less public. Clearly the nice guy tactics have not done the job. The opponents to letting the citizens of this country assert their Constitutional Rights and use these Public Lands have made great gains in the political arenas. They have monies behind them we have yet to raise. They have large corporations donating money to their effort of trail closing. (i.e. Ford Motor Co. and others. Arizona Ranchers have boycotted Ford's pickups for this reason. We may want to think about doing the same.) They have used this advantage to get OUR lands closed to us.

Is it time to move? I only hope it's not too late! If your anything like me, you haven't studied the U.S. Constitution since the 4th grade. Get a copy and read it, you may be surprised to learn just how many of your toes have been stomped on, heck your feet are probably mush by now, by the environmentalist groups and your own politi-

cians that you hired to represent you. It's a great new year to let your voice be heard and demand, not ask, that the Public Lands be open to who? You the public.

We can continue to be the unit who does work parties, rides and other fun things. But we can also be the unit who won't roll over and take the closure of our trails lightly. Are you with me? E-mail Nola and I letting us know what you think. Suggestions are always taken in consideration and offered up to the unit to act on when appropriate. This is your unit We represent you. What do you want? What can you do?

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 11/19/02 Called to Order 7:15 PM

Tauri Cornell took minutes in Linda Eskin's absence Minutes accepted as printed in the newsletter.

New member, Dan Wyatt, was introduced. He has taken over many of Dave Zuber's clients. Dave has led our farrier section at the BackCountry 101 the last two years.

Vaquero Days has a new name and will be held at McClintock's

Mike Ellison is in charge of PR for BC 101. Many publications will put in an advertisement or article for free since it is a free event.

Borrego Valley unit of BCHC will be held on January 4th since New Year's Day is in the middle of the week.

Next Day Ride: Cuyamaca, Sweetwater Crossing. Ride out at 10:00 am, about 4 Hours. Bring a lunch. Trail Bosses: Steve & Mary Randall

Tauri Cornell finally made the contact to finish the hitching posts at Lake Hodges. Bill Huston will be faxing the info to the water district to get approval.

BackCountry 101's tentative date is May 17~. Nola Michel has checked with Miramar Stables for BackCountry 101 to be there instead of Granny Martin's. All we need to do is write a proposal and have it go through the powers-to-be to become official.

Officers' Training is a go and being set up by Darrah Glynn and Linda

Eskin. The date is January 25th from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m.

Bill Huston wants a work party at Miramar to clean up some barb-wired fencing out on the trails. TBA around May.

Tauri Cornell suggested that we make Lake Hodges and annual work project in April and another in the autumn.

Conejo Trail in Cuyamaca has been rerouted and the funding was lost. It needs to be completed, mostly brushing. It is about 50 feet. Maybe a joint project with Pine Valley Mountain Riders. Tentative time: March/April 2003.

Need to work on getting work parties going. It was suggested to try working with other groups on and for multi-use trails. We need a liaison.

We need to attend more functions of the other BCHC units in Southern California. Our New Year's resolution?

Newsletter deadline: as close to the first of the month as possible.

Steve Randall moved and Mary Randall seconded to have a white ballot since we only had one person running for each position.

President: Nola Michel

& Darrah Glynn

Vice President: Linda Eskin

Secretary: Tauri Cornell

Treasurer: Mary Randall

Member at large: Sharon

Haynesworth

Post-Holiday Party is on the 18th of January at 6:00 p.m., Randall's home. Adjournment at 8:33 p.

EQUINE AFFAIRE TO HAVE BCHC BOOTH AND GENTLE USE DEMO

Equine Affaire is coming up quickly. It will run from Thurs. Jan 29 thru Sun. Feb. 2, 03. We have been given enough space to set up a Gentle use camp and demo area, as well as the State Booth Info.

We have John Keyes and Tobie and Katie Horst coming down to help out on Fri. and Sat. Also Volunteers from the Eastern Sierra for Thurs. Am.

I need help setting up the Gentle Use camp on Wed. Afternoon; From 12 pm access is available. We could also use some help in manning the booth and gentle use camp over the four day run. If you could volunteer or talk this up to your members I would appreciate it. We had a great showing last year. Lets keep the ball rolling and really show our stuff. This as an important venue and opportunity to get our message out. It's also an opportunity to recruit new members and hopefully some new units started in the L.A. Basin area. In addition Wilderness riders will get credit for their public appearance time.

We're making an effort to keep the work windows at 2hrs each to avoid burnout and give folks a chance to see the show. Passes will be available with some effort involved in their procurement should you choose to use them

Thanks for your help. I can be contacted for scheduling at 760 782-3747 or petes@julianwem.com. Leave a phone number and a time you can work.

Regards, Pete Spencer

Have you heard
the one about the
fellow who
crossed a horse
and a cat in order
to get a self-
grooming horse?

The poor thing
kept getting stuck
up in the trees.

FROM YOUR PUBLIC LANDS LIAISON

Kathleen Hayden

When Congress "grants" something it is similar to a deed and can only be "undeeded" by the grantor. RS2477 was a grant to cross public lands and mine them. The court here in San Diego upheld our grant and the BLM memorandum that guaranteed the grant through 43 USC 1769a and 43 USC 1701 "takings clause".

Rancher Wayne Hage won two cases this year, right to water on public lands and right to the forage without permit. He was awarded under the "takings clause". I believe the American People have property rights on public lands and we should be suing for them. Jarbidge Road was a classic example of folks actually IMPLEMENTING their right to access. They had the legal right to self-help. (Helen Chenoweth's report to Congress) Our counties must support and DEFEND this or be sued. Commissioner Redd [Utah] tells me, "IF they (commissioners and supervisors) do not keep our routes open they have committed malfeasance of office, a cause of action." There are other civil rights and constitutional violations associated with this.

Assemblyman, now Senator Hollingsworth indicated to me that he had prevented more bad legislation than writing new legislation. I see a lot of wisdom in that. I would rather my elected officials redefine the intent of original legislation such as the National Preservation Act, Antiquities Act, and Wilderness Act to facilitate how these laws were to make natural resources and recreation available and accessible to the American Public in Perpetuity.

We should make it really clear, if we don't have access, we don't need land managers. Evolution manages the land; we pay public servants... They are living and retiring off of the taxes we pay and many times policing our lands against those they should be serving.

Utilize the Board of Supervisors public forum to appear and state your case. If you go once or twice a month representing your group's interests they will act. Take petitions, etc. That's how we pushed the RS2477 assertions and Wilderness Moratoriums. Both [CA State Senators] Hollingsworth and La Seur were VERY pleased to know the user groups are forming coalitions to work for access under our Constitutional property rights. That is a big issue for our elected officials.

I am asking for new legislation to mandate access to existing roads and trails for lands purchased with public moneys (co-mingled with conservancy funds). My legislators want to know how many diversified user groups will support this. Please let me know ASAP. If you belong to another user group and it will support this legislation, please email me a short letter of support. prknride@xnet.com

HISTORY LESSON

During the state conventions of 1788 wherein the American people were considering adoption of the proposed Constitution, much concern was expressed by them and by Anti federalists that the proposed new government would in time exceed its granted power and infringe upon or usurp the cherished prerogative of territorial sovereignty and jurisdiction. Hence, the federal Government is limited to certain enumerated objects.

Their most trusted statesmen assured the people that jurisdiction and local self-governance preserved to the States was complete and unimpaired. To despoil the states of their powers, or what may amount to the same thing, reduces the states to little more than geographical subdivision of the national domain. Had the founders thought that such danger lurked behind its plains word, the Constitution would never have been ratified. (Carter v Carter Coal 1936)

The Property Clause of the Constitution was applicable to the Northwest Territories. Upon admission of a former Territory into the Union as a

State, inappropriate Territorial land, termed "public land" become subject to the municipal jurisdiction of the State in which it is located and which have been included within the forest reserve (Wilson v Cook 1946, Pollard v. Hagan, and US v Beans)

The rights to access public lands was grand fathered and reaffirmed by Congress as RS2477 in 1976. Is it therefore incumbent upon us to hold our local supervisors responsible and liable for access to public lands?

HORSE RESCUED FROM SEPTIC TANK

10/16/2002 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEARBLOSSOM, CA
Some guys would do anything for a Bud.

A 3,000-pound Clydesdale named Budweiser got stuck in an abandoned septic tank Tuesday. It took firefighters and animal control officers more than three hours to hoist the horse out of the muddy hole. The animal wasn't injured.

Budweiser slipped hind-end first into the Mojave Desert backyard tank opening after a plywood covering and a layer of dirt gave way.

During the rescue ordeal, the horse waited calmly with his head and front legs sticking out of the hole, munching on carrots and getting cool sprays from a garden hose. Firefighters stroked his throat.

"He just decided he was going to lay down and sat down on the hole and his back end went in," horse owner Dorothy Velasco said. "He walks around here free, and he naps all the time, but he just decided to sit in the wrong place."

Los Angeles County Building and Safety Department officials were called in to check the septic tank, which officials said should have been slurry-sealed and covered with plywood.

BURROS: More - Planned Mohave Burro Shootings An e-mail conversation

From: j kalayjian
briaco_99@yahoo.com

Anyone interested in being a foster or adoptive home? Being an adoptive donkey owner myself. I just couldn't imagine anyone wanting to just shoot these wonderful, gentle, smart and loving donkeys. My little daughter gentled hers all by herself. Jona

OK, here is the latest on the wild burro situation. Please help spread the word and as soon as I have info on dates and prices I will pass that on. There are up to 500 wild burros in southern California that are in danger of being shot if rescues to not step in to assist...we are looking for assistance in hauling as well as foster and adoptive homes. We are currently working with several other rescues to spread the word and ask if you can not assist with anything else, please at least do that. Thanks in advance, Tania Bennett, President/Founder, Mustang-Spirit 888-532-4524

I received the following update from Barry Breslow while he was traveling. I'll edit and condense it for the KBR Wild Horse & Burro News but I'll give y'all a preview of his unedited report. If y'all need NPS contact information to send complaints, I'll post all the relevant information, updated as necessary, at: <http://www.kbrhorse.net/whb/whbnews.html> It will be posted as the lead story as soon as I can validate contact information, etc. Thanks, all! The National Parks Service (again) is renegeing on a previous capture and place deal that they made and we need to loudly protest this action.

Willis willis@kbrhorse.net

TAHOEBARRY@aol.com wrote:
Willis, I apologize for being so late in responding to your 12/17 info request, I've been running around like a chicken with its head cut-off! I was e-mailed information on what was going on and had some gal's name attached. Actually Jill Star found her phone number for me as she had been contacting lots of people for help with no luck.

I ran the gal down and she gave me her story that the NPS was shooting all the burros. She sent me an article from a local newspaper in the low desert that told the story. I called the paper and the owner has personally been involved with wild horse/burro saving. He supported the story and gave me the best lead; a man who works for the CA Dept of Agriculture and has hunted the Preserve for 45 years!

I called this fellow and hit pay dirt. He knows everything going on and knows the Preserve inside and out. He has been to meeting after meeting, has written the Dept of Interior many times on saving what the NPS seems determined to destroy. The problem really dates back to the mid 90's when the government made Mojave an official preserve. That's when they took it away from the BLM and gave it to the NPS and as I'm sure you know, what ever they touch becomes a disaster.

They pushed all of the ranchers out of the Preserve, as they don't like cattle either. What the ranchers had set up over the last 100 years is a watering system, which served not only their cattle, but the wildlife as well. Dug wells and water troughs are not 'natural enough' for the NPS, so they are shutting them down. The fellow I'm talking to goes in on his off days to open up springs so that the wildlife will have some water supply since the NPS doesn't think wildlife need water. The issue with the burros goes back to when the NPS took over the Preserve. As you know the NPS is the most radical anti-burro organization around so they wanted the burros out, dead or alive!!!

Enter The Fund for Animals, which has over the last 20 years rescued thousands of burros destined for NPS slaughter from Grand Canyon, Death Valley, etc. They made a deal in '97 to take 300 burros a year figuring that it would take 4 years to get the 1200 estimated burros saved. They took 300 in '97 and '98, but found they were being overwhelmed and renegotiated for the second 600 at 100 a year for six years. They took 100 in '99, '00, and '01, but the NPS never gave them the 100 in '02.

I was contacted last summer about wild burros going to slaughter. As it

appears instead of sending the burros to The Fund they were sending them to Earl Graham owner of the Chino stockyard in Chino Ca. Tania Bennett is helping on this info. I'm sure it was cheaper to renege on the Fund and give this local the burros. Now I guess its even cheaper to buy a few boxes of shells.

Oh, I almost forgot, my contact Cliff McDonald was actually offered the contract to shoot the burros!! He doesn't like to see the burros go, but found it extra obnoxious when he was told to just shoot them and leave them where they drop. I gather he hunts for meat, not the thrill of shooting something or for trophies, so he told them "NO."

He says that they have actually found someone who took the contract, which is why I am pushing so hard to get as many groups as possible to call the manager at Mojave to say they will come in to save the burros and not to shoot them. I feel [right or wrong] that the more people this 'dodo' hears from the more pressure she will feel to stop the slaughter. It could look pretty bad if 5 groups volunteered to save the animals and she had them shot anyway, although that's giving her credit for some level of intelligence.

The Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (PVDR) in Acton is lined up to go in to save them, the Wild Burro Rescue in Olancho, Ca will help and take some, and The Fund will come in to keep them from being shot and I understand LRTC has been lining up some adopters.

I have tentative plans to meet Cliff at the Preserve on the 1st or 2nd and probably Marc from PVDR will come. If the weather breaks I'm headed to the Sheldon Wildlife Preserve tomorrow. They want to get rid of most of their burros [150-200.]

They contacted the PVDR and WBR to come and take them, 50 at a time. I'll see what it looks like. There are really so few of the burros left in the wild I can't believe that there is such motivation in the gov't to get rid of them all. Maybe they can get motivated some day to do something useful.

Sorry for being so long. You asked for the chronology and now you have it!!
Barry

**THE NATIONAL FOREST
PROTECTION PLAN
A Social Construct
By Candace Oathout,**

Member BCHC/CdS,

**Chair Citizens Against Recreational
Eviction of Minnesota**

I recently ran across an interesting cartoon which, I believe, sums up the problem of eco-system planning and management very well. In "B.C." Wiley's dictionary defines the term eco-system as "an array of reverberating mantras emanating from well-meaning environmentalists".

How can we plan for and manage something we can't even define? Mark Twain once said, "the difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug".

E.O. Wilson in his book "The Diversity of Life" states that "The origin of most biological diversity, in a phrase, is a side product of evolution." He, then, writes at great length of the need to somehow achieve a "steady state eco-system" where bio-diversity can thrive without change. How can this be when the very definition of evolution is constant change?

He goes on to list reasons why species are determined to be Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable, and Rare according to the Red Data Books published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources as follows:

Destruction of physical habitat 73% of species

Displacement by introduced species 68% of species

Alteration of habitat by chemical pollutants 38% of species

Hybridization with other species & subspecies 38% of species

Overharvesting 15% of species

If the definition of evolution is constant change and the adaptation of species to changes in their environment why are changes in habitat, hybridization and displacement of such grave concern? Aren't they a part of the evolutionary process? Darwin in his seminal work "The Origin of Species" stated "Of the species living now, very few will transmit progeny to a far distant futurity." Why should we expect all species and all diversity remain frozen in a particular

state of being when the very basis for the argument of evolution and bio-diversity is continual change and adaptation?

Another word that defies precise definition is "wilderness". It is impossible from the research available today to accurately establish how large an area constitutes true wilderness or even if a true wilderness can be established.

Bill McKibbin, in his book "The End of Nature" argues that true wilderness is already lost because there is literally nowhere on the planet that is not impacted in some way by human existence. On the other hand, in theory, if a person does not see, hear or smell civilization he is in wilderness.

The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission's report of 1962 defined wilderness as areas over 100,000 acres containing no roads useable by the public. This land is also supposed to show "no significant ecological disturbance from on-site human activity".

There is a disturbing assumption that when acres of landscape are altered by human activity, or are no longer virgin, they are written off as somehow lost as if they had vanished from the earth. Based on my research most environmental groups want to restore vast expanses of the American Continent to the mythic Eden it never was. Some of the terms used to describe this are the "Buffalo Commons" and the "Re-wilding" of the American Continent and now the National Forest Protection Plan.

There is a very selective cultural memory regarding what this continent was and who inhabited it prior to the European expansion. The concept that "wilderness" can exist only if large tracts of land are placed in government ownership and locked away from public use by reducing access through the elimination of roads and the establishment of strict quotas at trail heads is simply unacceptable. It is a misconception at best.

The reality of the situation is that according to Evan Eisenberg in his book "The Ecology of Eden", America was not a wilderness when white people arrived; it was a humanized landscape, though one humanized far more subtly than Europe had been. In fact, most of the first

white settlements were on clearings the Indians had farmed for centuries.

A Tuscarora Indian named Richard Hill has observed that, for the Indian the whole universe was civilized. One of their chiefs said it best: "The West wasn't wild until the white man got here". Though the Indians had their sacred places, they felt no need to set aside vast tracts of land as wilderness preserves, for they felt themselves to be part of the wilderness.

Many Americans completely discount the concept that there were civilizations, settlements and cultures across the American Continent prior to the European Expansion on to it in the late 1700's and early 1800's.

Both the terms "Buffalo Commons" and "re-wilding" propose to return a major portion of the United States to what it is perceived to have been prior to the establishment of the United States and the Western Expansion. The conventional wisdom is that These lands were untouched by human influence until they were "discovered" by European explorers and settlers. In fact

I have had long, heated discussions with a wildlife biologist at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in Southern California regarding whether horses are native to the American Continent. Since the existence of a small band of wild horses does not fit into his agenda for the use of park resources, he has determined that they are not a native species and must be removed from the park.

My argument is that if this band of approximately 30 horses has lived in the Coyote Canyon area of the park for at least fifty years and possibly as long as fifteen hundred years, they are in equilibrium with their habitat and are Therefore, a native species.

My research has shown that horses (the species equus) had inhabited the American Continent and, then, disappeared approximately 10,000 years ago. Skeletal remains have been found in the Northern Plains and Canada. So, if they don't fit under the term "native" they are, at a minimum, a reintroduced species and should be supported as such. Needless to say, this is not a popular concept.

Another interesting term that fails reasonable definition is "old growth". If we look

at the evidence provided by historical record, research on lake and pond bottoms and aerial or satellite imagery we learn that forestation is successional and is linked to climate change, development, insect infestation and a number of other causes.

The fierce wild land fires we have suffered in the last few years in the western United States are proof that deforestation can and will occur through natural causes, such as, lightning strikes. They are proof that "old growth" stands of forest are a part of the evolution of natural acreage, in fact, they are a successional part of the evolution of forestlands. They appear to be the end-stage product of the evolution of forests and, as such, may not be the best and most productive stands. Lightning strikes are much more apt to cause widespread fires in older, mature trees that are drier.

Discussions of deforestation always appear to assume that reforestation either cannot happen or will not be acceptable to the species that inhabit the pristine forest. This is simply not true. In fact, many species adapt quite well.

Reforestation is alive and well in the Upper Peninsula Region of Michigan and along the Eastern Seaboard with literally thousands of acres that had been logged off by the early settlers for fuel, building, agriculture and pasture lands significantly reforested. In 1920 the United States had about 600 million acres of forest. In 1994 it had approximately 728 million acres and this number continues to increase annually. Ancient forests are renewable too! Most, if not all, of the irreplaceable "old growth" forests found in the United States today have been destroyed by glaciers, fire, insect infestation, and many other "natural" factors that just happened to occur before we began keeping written records of these events.

If we accept the concept of evolution and diversity of species, we must accept that all species flourish on the earth for a finite period of time and will vanish from the earth in time with or without exposure to human activity.

As Greg Easterbrook put it in his book "A Moment on the Earth", "It is incumbent upon mankind to stop shortening the moments that other

creatures survive on earth".

As I have studied the Environmental Impact Statements and Reports for the implementation of the Four Forest Management Plan Update and the Yosemite National Forest Management Plan Update, I have followed threads of a bio-centric rationale that frankly display a trend that, I believe, does not bode well for future generations.

This same rationale appears in the Anza-Borrego State Park Management Plan Update, the Southern California Mountains and Foothills Assessment and a number of other EIR/EIS documents that I have had the dubious pleasure of reading and studying.

This concept is the "coarse filter model" which posits that we can and, indeed, must return a wilderness area or eco-system to the way it would have developed had there been no human influence in a given area. This concept is extremely biased and cannot be used in the policy and decision making process.

It is not possible to establish a reference model. There is simply no way to determine when a given area has not been exposed to human influence. It is impossible to definitively determine reference model conditions; therefore, it is not possible to determine if or how closely current conditions mirror them.

The underlying concept that the conditions of wilderness areas and eco-systems pre-human influences are superior to current conditions is based on an extremely biased worldview that is seriously flawed.

The hypothesis that all Endangered Species need vast tracts of wilderness survive has simply not been proved out by species recovery. The least Bell's vireo, while seriously endangered due to habitat loss in Southern California, has quite successfully rebounded when it can find the particular riparian corridor habitat niche it prefers. Trails systems and flooding in The Tijuana River Valley and Coyote Canyon in Anza-Borrego State Park have proven beneficial to nesting and population growth. T

The peregrine falcon, which has been delisted and the bald eagle, which is being considered for delisting, have rebounded and are thriving in the Midwest. Both these species are regularly

seen foraging and nesting adjacent to heavily populated areas along the Mississippi River near Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Human impact is much less a factor on species survival than adequate food and shelter sources that are affected by topography and water sources.

Peregrine falcons regularly nest on high-rise buildings and smoke stacks in metropolitan areas. White tailed deer are so prevalent on the eastern seaboard and along the Mississippi River corridor that many suburbs and towns have ordinances prohibiting the feeding of them due to the danger they present to motorists. Mountain lion populations are increasing throughout the Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and Canada. The Minnesota River corridor in southwestern suburbs of Minneapolis is home to at least one mountain lion who has been photographed several times.

Many species, both predator and prey, now thrive in semi-rural and even urban settings, we have come to an age of coexistence in which we must accept that humanscapes are not exempt from other species' searches for usable habitats.

Although it is, or should be, obvious that the large predator-human interface should be minimized, it exists and will continue to grow. Bears and mountain lions are proving that they are more and more a danger to humans as the interface between these species expands. Wolves, at present, are primarily a danger to livestock, but if existing packs continue to grow and spread they can rapidly become a danger to humans as well.

If we truly value wilderness we must find ways to reconnect with it on every level. To quote Baba Dioum, an African biologist; "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught." We cannot possibly learn to love that which we cannot experience because we are shut out of every opportunity to live in it or visit it. My greatest fear is that we will find ourselves unwilling participants living a Sierra Club commercial, camping on the center of a highway median because that is the only place left open to the average citizen. Candace

**LETTER TO CA STATE PARKS
From California Equestrian Trails &
Lands Coalition**

Charles (Toby) Horst, Chairman
36281 Lodge Road
Tollhouse, CA 93667

Sept. 24, 2003

Ken McKowen
Statewide Trails Manager
California State Parks
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, Ca. 94296-0001

Dear Mr. McKowen,

When Earl Warren was Governor the California Riding and Hiking Trails Program was initiated. This great plan was to be the model for the other states to begin a Recreational Trails Program. The Riding and Hiking Trail got off to a good start but it is now necessary to review the performance of State Parks in managing this program.

After an auspicious start it appears that it has since been less than stellar. Parts were never developed and totally ignored. Much of what had been developed was later abandoned. Some segments were turned over to other agencies with no requirement to continue their use as planned. For example, part of the original trail on Mt. Tamalpais now excludes horses, taking the Riding out of the Riding and Hiking Trail. State Parks even went so far as to eliminate the trail from its maps. This is a serious breach of good faith considering the original intent.

State Parks has excluded horses from Will Rogers State Park and has closed many public areas for recreational riding. An even more serious problem has been the total lack of objections by State Parks when other State agencies have closed public lands from the public.

The Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail has received significant support from the U. S. Forest Service, BLM, East Bay Regional Parks, and East Bay Municipal Utility District, but only the slightest response from State Parks. Requests for grants have been denied for this trail.

As a result of the lack of constructive input from State Parks and other agencies, the California Equestrian

Trails and Land Coalition (CET&LC) has been formed by the Backcountry Horsemen of California, the California State Horsemen's Association, the Marin Horse Council, and 11 other groups representing more than 43,000 equestrian users. It is our purpose to speak with a single voice on trails and land use issues. A study of the economies of the horse industry conducted in 2001 shows that in California recreational trail riding involves 278,000 horses, has a \$2.8 billion dollar economic impact and supports 23,000 full time jobs. An industry of this size, and one that is almost recession proof should certainly gain significant consideration in decisions.

To complicate the relationship further, we had been invited to participate in the annual State Parks Trails and Greenways Conference in Tahoe City. Surely you know that active horse people are not on expense accounts, are not supported by major manufacturers, have full time jobs, or are retired. A conference where user input is requested should not be in a remote resort area with all of its inconvenience of remote traveling and the expenses thereof. Many were told that residence at the resort was necessary or pay a user fee. This is the extra expense we are referring to and some chose not to attend.

A conference of this type could be held in many public facilities to lessen the above problems and a better conference would occur. If the State is really trying to gain input from the public and the equestrian community, it will be necessary to have better State planning communications with the equestrian trail using organizations.

There appears to be a serious need of confidence building between State Parks and the horse community that needs constructive resolutions. We welcome open dialogue with the Department of State Parks & Recreation and want to be a working part of developing the California trails system.

Sincerely,
Charles (Toby) Horst, Chairman
California Equestrian Trails & Lands
Coalition
Cc: Governor Gray Davis

For Sale: **F250, 1983 Ford 4x4, 4 speed** (with super low granny 1st gear), P/U w/ utility body. Sold as is (needs transmission bearing). The truck has under 100,000 miles. This truck has hauled my ass (mule) everywhere I asked it to & I am the original owner. Free older camper w/tripod jacks. All for only \$2,700 or best offer. Call Mule Mary 760/378-4646.

For Sale: 19'
MobleTraveler '82 Chev 1 ton van body, class 'c' RV. Cosmically challenged with good running engine and transmission. Hauls a 2horse trailer with ease. Parks in the space of a pickup. \$5,000.00 OBO. Call Nola 858 2378 9088 or email at trlrider@san.rr.com .

For Sale: **'97 GMC Safari Van.** Rigged for handicapped motorized wheel chair. Auto, Air, Privacy Glass, Includes Quickie p100 motorized wheelchair, charger & Bruno Curbsider lift. (will remove if you only want van or will sell separately. \$10,000 for all. \$9,000.00 Van only, \$1,400.00 Chair and lift only. Call Nola 858 2378 9088 or email at trlrider@san.rr.com

RESPONSE TO SACRAMENTO BEE ARTICLE

“Boxer’s save-the-wilderness bill pits bikers vs. hikers”

As I read the article entitled “Boxer’s save-the-wilderness bill pits biker vs. hikers” I realized that this so-called battle is not the issue at all. It is not an issue of who can use trails and what trails can be used. It is an issue of what really constitutes “wilderness” and what constitutes “protection” of it.

First let’s look at the term “wilderness” according to Rich Kentz an activist with the California Wilderness Coalition, “wilderness is a recognition there are landscapes that have an intrinsic value. They are landscapes that are essentially unchanged, where everything else has been manipulated drastically.” I’d like to know just where this wilderness is. We do often hear that it was the Pre-Columbian North America, but that totally discounts all the folks that met the boats as they arrived. In fact most European settlements were made on clearings maintained by the indigenous people. The whole concept of a pristine wilderness untouched by human beings is in reality only a powerful social construct.

I doubt there are many people who seek out a wilderness experience, not matter what their preferred method of transportation, that do not have a sense of it’s intrinsic value. Each of us who, in our own way, seek a wilderness experience does so for precisely that value. However wilderness activists admit that their goal isn’t about recreation, it is about protecting so-called intact wildlands. (Emphasis added) I submit that if a person cannot see, hear or smell the sights and sounds of active civilization they are in wilderness.

Mr. Kentz found this experience ten miles from the core of the Lake Tahoe casino district. I have found this experience in a mile wide river corridor on the border between the United States and Mexico as I traveled through willow thickets so dense that people who strayed off the main trail often felt they were lost. I have also found a wilderness experience sitting in my backyard located less than four miles from downtown Minneapolis under the 100 year old oak trees surrounded by cardinals, robins, pheasants, deer, foxes and badgers.

In response to Gary Sprung’s comment that mountain bikers feel they “are a constituency that is increasingly alienated from the environmental movement”. They are not alone. Anyone who wants to spend time in wilderness is considered the enemy. Remember it is not about recreation it is about protecting intact wildlands. There is another social construct that deems any wilderness to be distressed and no longer intact if anyone dares to enter it. It would seem reasonable that if trails are becoming more congested due to the pressures placed upon them by California’s population boom, we should be looking at maintaining at least the current number and miles of trails available. Perhaps we should even be looking at increasing them. But wait; remember it is not about recreation it is about protecting wildlands.

What is the meaning of the phrase “untrammelled by man”? According to the American Heritage Dictionary 2000 Edition, untrammelled means not limited or restricted; unrestrained. So if an area is untrammelled by man it is not limited or restricted. It is unrestrained to evolve as it will. The second part of the Wilderness Act of 1964 definition is that wilderness

is a place where man is a visitor that does not stay. What better definition of a trail user could there be?

The next question is how do we define “protection” and more importantly why does a wilderness where man is only a visitor who does not stay require “protection”? If protection is defined as shielding from injury, danger or losses why do we insist on only protecting wilderness from man? In fact, why do we in our puny arrogance assume we can “protect” millions of acres of open space at all? Protection of wilderness can be defined as diminishing the risk of catastrophic wildfires by engaging in sustainable logging. Protection of wilderness can also be defined as giving our children the kind of high-quality wilderness experience that produced the writings of Aldo Leopold, John Muir and Thoreau.

I found it most interesting that the spokesman for the California Wilderness Coalition referred to a study that he says determined we had lost 675,000 acre of roadless areas in national forests. How can you lose landmass? Where did it go? Did it somehow disappear from the face of the earth because it is “trammelled by man”?

The rift between the bikers and the hik

ers is not about how many trails we have and who can use them. It is about what a wilderness is and what should constitute protection of it. I applaud the visionary folks who are putting aside their differences regarding their preferred method of transportation for the greater good of enabling all user groups access to trails and the backcountry.

Candace Ricks-Oathout, Chair
Citizens Against Recreational
Eviction of Minnesota, Member
BCHC/CdS

NOTES FROM NOLA

Well, this has been an experience. We had a power failure late last night and I hadn't turned the computer off thinking I would go back and finish the last little thing on the newsletter and email it. This morning it was gone and not retrievable. So.....back to work and put it all back together. At least I hadn't lost all the stories, I just had to do the work over again, And just when I had vowed to try not to be late with it again. Best laid plans.....!

When you have items for the newsletter I would like to have them before the 10th of the month. That way I have a chance of getting it out and to you a week before the meeting. And I do want your articles. This is your newsletter. If you find an interesting poem or humor let's pass it on. You are welcome to write an educational or comment article. Waiting to hear from you...

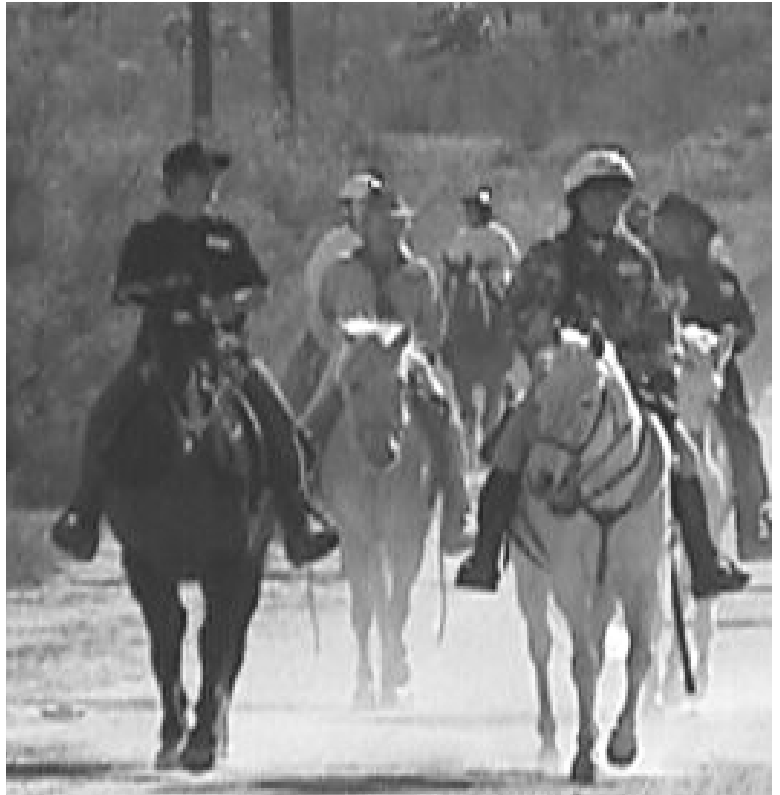
As most of you know my life has changed with the passing of my mother. I thought I would have more time to get things done (like the newsletter) But now there are things like painting and cleaning and selling vehicles. I suppose it might slow down some day but right now it seems I am always behind, although I am getting more riding done, which make both Joe and myself happier.

The barbwire has been removed from the problem spot at Miramar. There are still many opportunities for all kinds of service work in many places. If you have a project to do please let us know. We do have a couple projects in the planning stages and as soon as dates are set we will let you know. If you want to lead a ride we will put it on the calendar. This is YOUR club and we need your participation! Hope to see you all at more meetings, rides and service projects this year.

Rendezvous is coming up. I hope you have it marked on your calendar. If you have not received the registration packet in the mail please let me know and we will get one for you. Rendezvous is such a great lot of fun with seminars, vendors, good food and dancing, auction and etc. Come join the group of us that attend each year and you will want to come back again too!

About a dozen of our members went to the Borrego Valley Unit New Years fund-raiser ride on January 4th. It is held at the Levie's Ranch in the valley and there were two different rides. The food is extraordinary and the raffle great. To top everything else off the weather was perfect. The event is a great success due in great part to BV President and his wife who open their home and ranch and to Robert Hayden who works hard to procure the food and gifts for the raffle. The event it one to mark for next year on your calendar!

See you at the Party!!, Nola



Your co-presidents coming in from the long ride

Jennifer (BV's Public Lands Chair) and husband Ken Foster Frying the turkey!



Photos taken by Donna Jesse

**Poem by Lonnie Faubion
from BCHW Mt. St. Helens Newsletter
Printed in Loving Memory
of all the Trail Buddies we lost in 2002**

The old mule stands in the pre-dawn light,
under the tree where she spent the night.
Looking up at the cabin that sits on the hill,
waiting for the cold winter sun to drive away the chill.

The door of the cabin slowly swings back,
and the old man hobbles out to toss some hay in her rack.
She walks slowly up and stands by his side,
he reaches out and scratches her old graying hide.

They stand in the silence as the frost turns to dew,
he reaches in his vest for his first morning chew.
As they stood there together and the mule chewed her
hay,
they were both dreaming of a long ago day.

At the edge of the pasture stood an old lean-to shed,
where three saddles hung, their leather lifeless and dead.
The old man moved towards them, moving real slow,
flinching at old pains from a forgotten rodeo.

He picked up an old McClellan and the rest of the tack,
and slowly adjusted it to the old mule's back.
As he swung aboard she set herself for the load,
and in no hurry they went down the road.

Though both were nearly blind you couldn't really tell,
for they traveled in country they both knew well.
They stopped on a hill now desolate and bare,
where not long ago timber stood thicker than hair.

As they started for home they both knew inside,
this cold winters day would be their last ride.
It's been several years since they both passed away,
and the rack has fell down where the mule ate her hay.

But when the moon is full on a cold winters nite,
and the wind is blowing from the west just right.
Whether it's true or not I've heard people say,
you can hear the old man singing and the old mule bray.

**BCHC/CdS
CALENDAR 2003**

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 news-
letter for location and direc-
tions to the meetings

2003

January 18th 2003

POST HOLIDAY PARTY

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

January 25th 2003

Officer Training.

**Our unit is hosting.
Please Volunteer to help!**

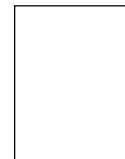
March 14, 15 & 16

Turlock Ca

BCHC RENDEZVOUS

Put this fun date on your
calendar now, Packet for
registration has been mailed
if you have not recieved one
contact Nola 858278 9088.

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



January 2003

Label

NEXT MEETING

AFTER-THE-HOLIDAYS PARTY

Pot Luck and Gift Game Exchange

18th January 2003 Randall's Home

6149 Medill, El Cajon, CA 92021, Phone: 619 561 6764

Eating 6PM, Meeting 7 PM

Bring a dish to share and White Elephant gift

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)