



# Trail Whispers

**BCHC—Caballeros del Sol**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Darrah Glynn

First things first. Wasn't the Post-Holiday party great? I for one had a great time and I especially want to give a special thanks to the folks who introduced me to Freddie. You know who you are and just wait until next year!

The Officer Training was well attended by our unit. Linda did a terrific job with her presentation and it seemed well received. The room was a little too small and warm, but the price was right. I got a lot out of it and so did plenty of others from what I'm told.

The Equine Affair booth for BCHC in Pamona was worth it. While I was hanging around waiting to give my presentation on Gentle Use Camping with Horses, lots of people came by to talk and get literature. I thank the volunteers for manning the booth and reaching so many with the message of BCHC. Our name and what we're all about really reached a lot of the public.

I can hardly believe it is almost time for Rendezvous. It is only a month away. I procrastinated as usual and didn't get my paperwork in yet. How about you? If you're not sure you want to attend then let me tell you right now, you do!

I'm not saying it isn't a bit of trouble to attend. You have to get some time off work, make arrangements for someone to look after your animals, pack the car, and drive all the way to Turlock. Let's be honest, it's work to get there, however, the fun you'll have is well worth it.

The classes are always different, so attending one Rendezvous is not like attending all Rendezvous. This year, the classes look very interesting and I especially like the trend toward having more things for children and families to do. The food is always good and the fellowship with old friends at the dinners is like going home again. Every year I look forward to watching my friends in the packing contest. The belly laughs from that alone are worth the effort.

If you think this sounds like a travel ad you might as well know - it is. I want you to be there this year so that we can sit together at classes, have a full table at the dinners, and have a heck of a lot of fun. If you haven't been before than ask someone who has what it's like. I think they will agree with me, it's a blast and your going too can only make it better. See you there? I hope so.

## FROM YOUR PUBLIC LANDS LIAISON

Kathleen Hayden

"We Must All Hang Together or Most Assuredly We Shall All Hang Separately"

– Benjamin Franklin

At a time in history when all Americans should be supporting access to our public lands and the resources that the rest of the world covets, it is insane for any credible user group to support more wilderness designations. Reference IMBA's release at:

<http://www.mtbreview.com/hotnews/imba/ipr072.shtml>

Public land belongs to all Americans to begin with and should not be withdrawn and made available to only a privileged few under the Wilderness Act. Local governance is defeated and federal governance reigns completely negating our states rights. Theodore Roosevelt himself stated that the public lands were for the public USE and ENJOYMENT.

Preservation or "grand fathering" of preexisting uses has been largely ignored or defeated. Agencies consistently remove traces of our heritage and the routes to them so that even the chosen few have diminished access. Many roads and trails are vertically mulched by the agencies under the guise of rehabilitation following wildfires. The only proof that remains of these routes and locations are the lines on outdated old maps, which are regularly ignored and omitted from new management plans.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and its mandates for clean air, clean water, endangered species under the ESA, and areas for critical habitat have reduced public lands mandated for multiple use to de facto Wilderness. How can IMBA's apparent unholy alliance

with wilderness advocates possibly benefit the rest of us?

IMBA should take a lesson from history. Down through the centuries, quislings who sell out to the enemy find themselves the first to go when the enemy takes the land.

Kathleen Hayden,

*Vice Chair of Trails for California State Horsemen Association (CSHA)*

<http://www.californiastatehorsemen.com/>

*Public Lands Chair for the Caballos Del Sol unit of the BCHC (Back Country Horsemen of California)*

<http://www.bchc.com/units.html>

*Board Member of the Action Coalition Task Force*

*Leader for the California Riding and Hiking Trails - BCHC*

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[www.warriorssociety.org](http://www.warriorssociety.org)

NO MAN'S LIFE, LIBERTY  
OR PROPERTY ARE  
SAFE WHILE THE LEGIS-  
LATURE IS IN SESSION.  
—MARK TWAIN (1866)

### CUYAMACA STATE PARK LUCKY 5 ADDITIION

Hello, Everyone -

We were invited to attend a meeting at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park with several other volunteers, Ranger Laura Itogawa and Dave Van Cleve, District Superintendent of the Colorado Desert District.

On Feb 20, 2003 California State Parks is going to release a document containing their recommendations for public access to the Lucky 5. There will be a public comment period of 30-45 days for everyone to have a chance to look the document over and get their feedback to State Parks.

Dave explained the proposals for equestrian access, and showed us the

drawings of the equestrian areas in the document.

Briefly, here's what State Parks has in mind:

- Equestrian day use parking on Sunrise Hwy, near Hwy 79.
- Equestrian campground with 10 pull-through sites at the site of the Los Senderos camp, which is a beautiful spot.

Dave said funding is already arranged and construction can begin after the public comment period. If all goes according to plan, the new equestrian campground should be open by the summer of 2004.

This was wonderful, unexpected news for us! The only potentially negative aspect of the new campground is that it's not restricted to equestrian use. Anyone will be able to stay there whether or not they bring horses, which will make it very difficult to get a reservation. This new campground is designed for equestrian use, but not limited to equestrians like Los Caballos! There are already a lot of family campsites available to folks without horses at Cuyamaca, but only 16 sites at Los Caballos for equestrians. Not to mention the fact that non-horse people don't usually appreciate camping in close quarters with horses.

We have asked Ranger Laura Itogawa to provide all the horse groups that we can find with a copy of the document when it is released.

We encourage all members to respond to the document to let State Parks know what they think about the proposed new equestrian facilities at the Lucky 5. BCHC/CdS will send a group response as well.

Responses should be directed to:  
Pat Autrey  
California State Parks and Recreation  
Southern Service Center  
8885 Rio San Diego Dr, Suite 270  
San Diego, CA 92108

Thank you and Happy Trails!  
Suzie and Walt Kirkwood  
CRSP - MAU, BCHC - CDS, PVMR

## A MULE NAMED VERA

Interview with John Bradley,  
Grand Canyon Mule Wrangler

JB: When I was workin' at the Grand Canyon as a guide, I had a favorite mule. Her name was Vera. This damn mule saved me from gettin' bit by a rattlesnake . . . I was leadin' a one man special party, and I was ridin' up this trail that was cut out on a bluff, and there was a big overhang rock along the trail. I couldn't see there was a rattlesnake on the overhang, just above my head. The snake buzzed and in that instant Vera jumped damn near twenty feet across this trail. I looked behind me and the rattler was a'laying there in the trail. I knew he struck, and if Vera hadn't of jumped, he would have hit me on my back or neck — but she was just too darn quick for him.

The dude I was leadin', I told him to hold up, and I got off Vera and killed the rattlesnake with my quirt. After I killed it, I told him to come on up, but he didn't want to come! He was worried about that snake!

One night I was ridin' down to Bright Angel, and it was so dark you could put your hand in front of your head and you couldn't see at'all. And I don't know what I was going down for, but I was going down the Canyon and it was pitch black. I got about half way but there was a rattlesnake in the trail and there was no place to turn out. I could hear the rattlin' and Vera stopped. So after waiting a bit, I finally got off and kicked dirt around on that son of a gun to keep him rattlin'.

I felt around and found me a good size rock, took aim at around where that snake was rattling and I let go o' this rock — and I stopped the rattle! I didn't know if I chopped his tail off or his head, so I climbed back on the mule, and I sat there for purt near thirty minutes, then rode right on by. I guess that snake must've crawled off the trail or something, because Vera wouldn't have gone if he was still alive.

There is a song written by a long-tall fella by the name of Ed Steele. Ed was always talkin' about Vera, sayin' he could go down to the bottom the Canyon and back up and never feel like he'd been anywhere. He talked

about her so much, the boys said, why don't you write a song about her if you like her so much and that's what he did. He called it "Vera, the Queen of the Canyon" and it's a love song about a mule!

The ending is true too. Vera was getting' on in years, so they moved her from the Bright Angel Trail to the north rim where the trail was easier. But she kept escapin' and comin' back to Bright Angel, the place she'd known most her years. And there, there was green grass, shade and a watering hole there too. She escaped about three or four times, and finally the boss said, "Leave her be, she's earned her retirement". And on that green grass, that's where she was found one morning. Just like that.

## VERA QUEEN OF THE CANYON

Jack Lamb

The ways of affection are funny  
But I guess that there's no set rule  
About things that we find in this life to love  
I fell in love with a mule.

She's high-headed big and so pretty  
She always looks shiny and clean  
Like a teacher in school she bossed all  
the mules  
And acted the part of the queen.

It was my luck to always be gettin'  
Mules that had grown short and wide  
Till I kept on naggin' my boot heels  
were draggin'  
Then they gave me ol' Vera to ride.

That day the boss said sorta friendly  
"I know that you'll always be kind  
To Vera the queen of the Canyon,  
That trail goin' mule of mine."

Well we worked on that long trail together  
Through the dust, the heat and the rain,  
Just a one man mule and a one mule man  
Partners no matter what came.

Guiding those mules back to Pilgrim  
She grew more gentle and kind  
Till she got in the mood started packin'  
a dude  
And the boss said "boy that's fine."

One day when the thunder was poppin'  
Like hell broke loose in the skies

And the wind at our slickers a floppin'  
There wasn't a one of us dry.

Out front was me and ol' Vera  
Leadin' them mules on home,  
I swear that I couldn't help feelin'  
Like a cowboy king on a throne.

We all heard the five o'clock whistle,  
It sounded so sad and forlorn.  
A lady said "Guide, is that the river  
boat ride?"  
I said "That is Gabriel's horn."

That started the buds into laughin'  
Though the shivers they couldn't  
restrain,  
With soggy straw hats and sore where  
they sat  
Still they was glad that they came.

Now that's about all of this story,  
She learned to pack dudes to a tee.  
When she grows old I hope that she's  
sold  
To no one but my boss and me.

Somewhere there's a big grassy  
pasture  
With water and shade all the time,  
For Vera the queen of the Canyon  
That trail goin' mule of mine.

## PERSONALS

The following ad in The Atlanta Journal is reported to have received numerous calls.

SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call xxx-xxxx and ask for Daisy.

Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the local Humane Society about an 8-week old black Labrador retriever.

## THE PREDATOR CARD

Jim Beers 1-6-03

In their relentless campaign to destroy the American way of life, the environmentalists and animal rights radicals are steadily throwing new logs on the fire. One of their favorite ploys is the victimization of predators. The common sense reality that people in the United States wisely and purposely eliminated dangerous predators from large areas of human habitation is touted as not only immoral but also somehow bad for "the environment."

In the past thirty years we have seen the Federal government, at the behest of radical organizations, vote-seeking politicians, and career-enhancing bureaucrats, use laws and regulations to force wolves into the upper Midwest and the West. Likewise grizzly bears have been forcefully expanded throughout the upper Rockies. In the past week the likes of Jane (living with chimpanzees) Goodall and a hodgepodge of radicals have called for "protection" and "listing" (under the Endangered Species Act) of mountain lions. No doubt millions of urbanites, children, and Animal Planet producers will send money and ask their Federal Representative to "do something."

Mountain lions (or cougar or puma or catamount) are ubiquitous throughout the Western US and Canadian Rockies south to the tip of South America. They are historically notorious killers of livestock, pets, and people. When California stopped all management and hunting of cougars a few years ago the incidence of people (from joggers and hikers to homeowners) attacks (both deadly and gravely injurious) increased dramatically. The bighorn sheep in the Sierras were listed as "Endangered" and their Federal Endangered Species Recovery Plan cited predation by cougars as THE reason. By the way the Federal animal damage control people (whose salary all of us pay) then began "controlling" (i.e. killing) California's cougars which its' good residents had "saved" only a few short years before.

This was justified to "save" the bighorn sheep.

As more and more western urban areas and environmentalists and animal rights activists have limited cougar hunting, cougar hunting methods, and hunting areas the cougar numbers in and around towns and cities have increased. There has been a concomitant increase in deadly attacks on everyone from high school athletes to little children hiking with Church groups. Cougars kill and eat people. They severely injure women stepping out on their deck. They kill pets as well as livestock. The longer they are "protected" the more (like deer in a National Park) they become bold around people. In this instance however, they don't beg for candy as you drive by, they kill your pet and eat your child in the backyard. When they kill a person they drag them off a long way and consume most, if not all while covering up the rest. More often than not, finding the evidence of the incident is next to impossible to document (especially today when more and more cougar hunting dog packs are being put out of business by these same activist and their urban supporters.)

As a retired wildlife biologist, I will state unequivocally that a lack of cougars throughout much of the US is good for the "ecosystem" and a blessing to hundreds of millions who live near or recreate in currently occupied cougar territory WHERE THEY ARE HUNTED and managed to minimize their dangers and damage to people.

◆ The tired propaganda and nostrums to eliminate cougar management and cougar hunting are as follows:

◆ - It shocks the sensibilities of Jane Goodall and her activist friends. These same

◆ folks are no doubt equally shocked by hooked fish, trapped muskrats, logged trees, pheasant dinners, circuses, and many other etceteras.

◆ - It is conducted when

young cougars may still need their mother. The fact that cougars have done well for years under such regimes is forgotten.

◆ - It is "unfair" and not "sporting". This from folks committed to eliminating all such "sport."

◆ - We "don't know enough" about cougars. We never know enough about anything touted for "listing" or "saving."

◆ - We don't need to manage them. This from increasingly unethical biologists in Universities and natural resource agencies. These are the folks who want to feather their careers if and when these radicals succeed in changing the management of natural resources into the Animal Planet nirvana so beloved of urban children and advertisers.

◆ - No one needs to kill a cougar. Remember this one because everything you do can be characterized this way. These same radical folks, through an all-powerful central government, are ready, willing, and able to write the laws and regulations to proscribe every phase of your life and your property rights in just these terms.

There is more but you get the point. Cougars are the responsibility of state governments and should stay that way. If West Virginia wants to have some around to hunt or run with dogs, their state politicians should answer for whatever does or does not result. If Idaho wants six cougars in every Township or indeed wants no cougars in certain areas, their state government will answer to Idaho voters for such policies. In fact, if California voters want 4 or 5 people killed each year; and a hundred serious maulings each year; unlimited pet losses; constant danger to unattended children; and seriously depleted populations of whatever wild and domestic animals the cougars find tasty then so be it. Only don't expect the rest of the country to pay for it!

Cougars kill people just as do wolves, grizzly bears, and sharks. How formerly intelligent populations of Americans came to accept these silly and deadly concepts of predators is something I cannot understand. Predators such as these should be managed such that their behavior, their numbers, and their distribution pose the least threat to human beings of all stripes. The next time one of these bozos tell you about wearing bells in bear country, or puffing up or not looking into the eyes of one of these predators poke them in the eye and explain about big bore handguns and 00 buck shot as better alternatives. When they tell you about how wolves don't kill people, remind them of the 30 to 40 killed annually in India alone. When they spout those socialist droppings about you being in the animals habitat and how the government should own the area, tell them about how happy they would be in China or North Korea where government owns the people instead of the other way around. When they mention bears tell them about all the hushed up campers and hikers killed in Montana National Parks in particular. When they say Black bears aren't managed in National Parks tell them that for years Park managers live trapped black bears in Parks, drove them miles away and kicked them out on National forests while bear season was open! When they start whining about the "poor cougar" tell them to get a life and worry about the poor children endangered by such nonsense.

Finally, never forget that if this is successful, more land will be off limits to more human activities. Rural residents will have yet another reason to sell out to the government or their surrogates such as the Nature Conservancy. More land will become devoid of human activity and presence thereby furthering the agenda that would have us all living where they tell us and only doing what they permit. I don't know about you, but I think this is worth fighting for.

## DOO-DOO OCCURS

### THE PLAN

In the beginning was the Plan. And with the Plan came the Assumptions.

And the Assumptions were without form. And the Plan was without substance.

And darkness was upon the face of the Workers. And they spoke amongst themselves, saying: "It is a crock of shit and it stinks."

And the Workers went unto their Supervisors and said: "It is a pail of dung, and we can't live with the horrendous odor."

And the Supervisors went unto their Managers, saying: "It is a container of excrement, and it is very odorific, such that none may abide by it."

And the Managers went unto their Directors, saying: "It is a vessel of fertilizer and few can abide its stench."

And the Directors spoke amongst themselves, saying to one another: "It contains that which aids plant growth and it is very strong."

And the Directors went to the Vice Presidents, saying unto them: "It promotes growth and it is very powerful.."

And the Vice Presidents went to the President, saying unto him: "The plan will actively promote the growth and vigor of the company as it has powerful effects."

And the President looked upon the Plan and saw that it was good.

And the Plan became Policy.

And this is how shit happens.

### HISTORY LESSON

#### More on the same subject

Exciting Historical information you need to know about shipping Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship.

It was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common. It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas.

As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit" on them which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term "S.H.I.T," which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day. You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I. I always thought it was a golf term.

## **An Interview with an Activist**

**By Candace Oathout**

I was recently sent a copy of article written by Jim Beers, a retired US Fish and Wildlife Service employee in which he made some strong and pointed comments about how the average employee of the USFWS has changed over the last thirty years. In his article entitled "Something Old, Something New" he painted a rather broad-brush picture of the changes in philosophy and management of the Service. Some of his characterizations seemed at first reading to be, in the words of one reviewer, inflammatory, cynical and insulting to everyone.

While I, personally, could relate to this reviewer's opinion, I, also, could fully understand the points that Mr. Beers was making having worked with members of the Service for over twelve years now.

I wanted to learn more about the man behind the words so I set up an interview with him. We spent a little over an hour chatting about the issues his article laid out and I came away from the experience with a fresh resolve to follow my instincts. To speak out loudly and often when confronted by the "new Service employees" he alluded to, as the experiences he shared with me are extremely similar to my personal experiences.

As trail and public lands use advocates, we have each, in our own way, had similar experiences with land management personnel. Whether it is with USFWS employees, members of the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Fish and Game or the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

There are people in land management and wildlife biologist positions who truly believe that the world would be a better place if only we could minimize or eradicate the presence of human beings in their refuge, wildlife management area or park. They truly believe that the only way to preserve the environment is to set it completely apart from the influences of human-

kind. They want to create vast wilderness areas on public lands that the average citizen will never be able to visit or even see except perhaps in photographs and they want the average citizen to pay for this.

Think about this for a minute, why should we return to a feudal system where everything belongs to a central government that dictates who can leave the urban areas and visit the wilderness? Why should the taxpayer in Virginia pay the salaries of the land managers of Yosemite National Park to keep them from visiting the Park?

Why should the people of California pay taxes to fund the salaries of the wildlife biologists responsible for writing the biological opinions that designate critical habitat for species that are only endangered in California? Animals, such as the peninsular bighorn sheep, when the major reason they are endangered is because the people of California voted a little over ten years ago to protect the mountain lion?

The mountain lion population has rebounded in such numbers that they, not man's activities, are the major cause of the precipitous crash of the bighorn sheep population.

Why should we support legislation like Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act, passed by the voters of California in June of 1990. Many of us were swayed by that title wildlife need our protections don't they? Most of us not having the time or strong interest to read the entire legislation missed the part that requires the State Controller to transfer 10% of the unallocated funds in the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund to the Habitat Conservation Fund. The Controller is also required to transfer 30 million dollars a year to the fund. Act takes money from sources as diverse as the cigarette surtax, horse racing and vanity license plates to fund habitat protection projects that purchase private property and eliminate access.

It is difficult to write about this subject without sounding like I am dealing with a case of screaming paranoia, but I am confident from the

e-mails, newsletters and meetings I attend that I am not alone in this feeling. My discussion with Mr. Beers helped to strengthen my beliefs.

So what can we do about this situation? We can continue to share information through e-mails, newsletters and meetings. We can expand our networks to include other user groups, such as, the Blue Ribbon Coalition, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever.

We need to work with the dog breeders who raise hunting dogs, the farmers in Nebraska that are being told they can't develop an irrigation system, the ranchers in Wyoming and Montana who are paying the price of the wolf reintroduction program, the land owners who find themselves unable to build a barn or an outbuilding because some agency official has determined that their land is a wetland where one has never existed before, to name a few.

We can become actively involved in organizations like the California Equestrian Land and Trails Coalition. Why should we work with organizations whose goals and objectives are so different than ours are?

Because we must have a broad support base to gain the respect and response of elected officials who are lobbied daily by the environmental organizations.

We can point out that the cute cuddly mountain lion cub or wolf cub that is so often the poster child for funding drives is the same animal that grows up to eat livestock, domestic pets and at times even people. They are not Disney characters. They are carnivores with all the instincts necessary to consider humans a food source.

We can lend our voice and support to others who are fighting the same battles for access and indeed the basic freedoms upon which this country was founded. We can support men like Representative James V. Hansen, retiring House Resources Committee Chair, in his effort to exempt private property, military lands and all plants

from the Endangered Species Act. You can write your personal Congressional Representatives to support this measure.

Now is the time for each of us to carefully reflect on what we want for our future. Do we want to be able to take our children and grandchildren for a trail ride? Do we want to be able to keep our livestock on our property? Do we want to ride the Pacific Crest Trail? Do we want to camp and hike in any of the millions of acres of wilderness currently established?

Then we need to act now to support the reinvention of our government that will return it to a truly representational local government. We need to stop the centralizing and globalizing of our government. We need to speak up and speak out whenever and wherever we are confronted with the lies and hypocrisies that permeate the environmental movement today.

It is difficult to stand up to the "noted scientist" and question his findings, but it is necessary. We must re-interject a voice of reason into public policy regarding the control and management of public lands.

We must recognize that we are not dealing with reasonable people. We must challenge them whenever and wherever we get the opportunity.

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## **The Nature Conservancy's "outrageous contradictions and sad lies."**

Review by J. Zane Walley  
Executive Director, Paragon America

***"Twelve million acres in the U.S.,  
an area the size of Switzerland, is  
controlled by the The Nature Con-  
servancy"***

The most shocking exposé in America today is in a new publication from RANGE magazine. In "Nature's Landlord," investigative reporter Tim Findley explores "the world's most powerful environmental group, The Nature Conservancy." Findley calls

TNC "the monster we made from indifference" and shows how it has carefully and methodically achieved global power on a scale few could imagine. He traces the history of the TNC from its modest origins to its current status as a behemoth with nearly \$3 billion (tax-exempt) and worldwide control of some 90 million acres. Twelve million acres in the U.S., an area the size of Switzerland, is controlled by the TNC.

"Nature's Landlord" is not just a compendium of facts and figures. It is a masterpiece of brilliant writing that will fascinate readers. You'll meet "the shyly informed college boy in his neatly pressed blue work shirt" who insinuated his way into the heart of a small community. His real goal was to "seek weaknesses"-people who could be pressured into selling off their land.

The TNC admits that it "helps the government get around the problem of local opposition" to property acquisition. TNC, cloaked in environmental benevolence, buys "these properties when they need to be bought, so that at some point we can become willing seller" to the government. As one 75-year-old rancher and poet said, "I had no choice, really. They [the TNC] bought everything around me. I'm just tired of fighting with 'em." The "college boy" who watched her lose her home is now the head of TNC in California.

Ranches across the West have fallen into the hands of TNC "like overripe fruit dropping from a shaken tree." On Virginia's Eastern Shore there was once a sustainable system of food production and ecology, but TNC changed all that. Operating covertly under a variety of names, TNC "saved" the area, putting a largely minority labor force out of work, deepening the scourge of poverty in the area. The "saved" islands were "served with opulent showplaces built for rich clients, all unaffordable to the people of the Eastern Shore."

Findley exposes many more instances of TNC's "outrageous

contradictions and sad lies." He points to the mineral, gas and oil rights acquired by TNC under the guise of "saving" lands. For instance, TNC "saved" an endangered bird only to pump at least \$5.5 million worth of oil and gas royalties, so far, from beneath its habitat. A million acres of timberland in Maine and New Hampshire are logged by TNC. A swath of American land larger than the state of Delaware was traded to a foreign power without a word from the American press and public. Two million acres of TNC land in the United States was swapped to the government of Brazil in exchange for Amazon rainforest.

It's not just member contributions that sustain TNC. Its chairman says trolling for 25-buck members is wasted effort. Appealing to wealthy corporations is "just a greater return." Besides, between 1995 and 2000, TNC raked in more than \$32 million from the U.S. government-your tax dollars at work.

A report by professional ecologist Jeff Goodson on "The Network," describes a system of data centers with nearly 300 centers worldwide that collect and dispense biodiversity data, and include support for land-use planning, environmental impact assessment and endangered species management. Tax dollars and wealthy foundations supported TNC's program that has become "an environmental espionage and land-targeting program" that "collaborates closely" with the federal government.

It is future generations we should be concerned about, Findley writes. We need to bring "some accountability to a small group of people with grossly exaggerated power and authority over fundamental elements of a free society."

*Copies of the 24-page, 4-color report "Nature's Landlord" are available from the RANGE (1-800-726-4348) while supplies last. Copies of RANGE magazine including "Nature's Landlord" are also available.*

*Paragon America is a rural advocacy non-profit organization.*

## DOIN' IT

Shared by Bonnie Davis

Hi Everyone:

First, I really APPRECIATE all of you going and what you are doing to keep trails and horse camps open for me and my horses.

It seems to me one of the biggest things we horse owners need to do is to be MORE involved. Not only at the meeting level, but on the ground. I can only speak from experience but for over 40 years I've probably walked more trails here in the Bay Area than ridden. When one is to be closed, I usually hike it, take pictures, draw an alternate route and then with other horse owners we'll propose the alternate route.

One has to remember that a lot of these folks on committees and commissions have never SEEN the trail. They are going on what staff says. And much of staff has never SEEN the trail either. They are going on what rangers say. Some of the rangers have never SEEN the trail and have no idea what the trail is like either so they reply on the trail users who are usually hikers and bikers because they take the time to talk to rangers. Me, when I'm done riding a trail I load up the horse and go home.

It took seven years to build a new trail in Ed Levine Park. The County Commissioners never saw the trail. One member of a 10-man staff saw the trail route as proposed once. Two rangers walked the trail twice and when the meetings were held, all these officials were making recommendations about a trail they had never SEEN. But the horsemen were there with pictures and photos and route maps. If a staff person didn't have time because of budget cuts or this or that — we volunteered. We even helped write the Negative Declaration. We laid out the route and then Ohlone Riders Unit of BCHC with other folks (including hikers) did the tread work, tree cutting and rock moving in two weeks. It was only a 1-1/2 mile long trail but it connected two different sections of the park to horsemen where we had been previously banned because of 'no trail'.

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone who rode a trail, would take a few minutes

to write a report ABOUT the trail they had just ridden and then send that to the ranger? Or better yet to some group which is monitoring trails? Wouldn't it be nice if we all took time to cut a tree or dig a ditch or fix a fence instead of just riding by and saying, "Hey, that should be fixed"? Wouldn't it be nice if we all went to these meetings and instead of letters on how we thought it should be done by them — we had presentations on HOW it should be done and we'll do it!?

Ed Levine Park was fencing off a trailer parking area. They told no one. When I drove by Monday, the tractor was in there digging postholes and RR ties were being put in. The crew doing the work knew nothing about how or why. They were told to do the work. Asked 'em about horse trailer parking and an opening for horses and they didn't know. Went down and talked to the head ranger and she didn't know — hadn't given it any thought. And staff had no idea horses were using the trail. But she agreed that there should be a way for trailers and horses to get through to the trail on the other side and she'd talk to staff.

Went back and talked to the posthole diggers and tractor operator and since they were using string to measure distance between posts, asked 'em if I could help hold the string. Be glad to help you guys. You got a lot of post holes to dig and you won't have to get off your tractor all the time. They thought that was great. A couple sections of string got shorter. Three posts were missed coming off the road and three posts on the other end (so trailers could drive in and out). Two posts were closer in one spot so horses could go through to the trail. Two days later the rails were put up and since the rails wouldn't fit the posts — there are openings in the fence. The crew doing the work didn't mind, they just did a job with a volunteer who wasn't to good at measuring string between posts.

A main county road goes through the park. The county couldn't paint a crossing because it was in city limits and Milpitas couldn't do it because they hadn't talked to the county or had

staff meetings yet. After about six months of getting no where, the yellow solid lines of an 'equestrian crossing' was painted on the road in a couple spots. They just appeared one night. That was 20 years ago. Every year there after, the county road crew has repainted those markings. They're a lot straighter now than the originals. And five years ago they put up 'equestrian crossing' signs for traffic approaching the crossing.

I'm not saying go out and break the law. I'm just saying that a lot of times the crew on the ground hasn't gotten the 'correct' information from the staff or commissioners or committee or head ranger because those folks haven't had time to go come and inspect the project. Those 'inspectors' are waiting to hear from trail users. As a trail user I just help get that information correct — heck last summer a trail around a 'heritage tree' was going to be moved or closed because of danger to the tree. It seems some 'folks' went up there, pruned the tree with the help of a tree specialist, repacked dirt around the roots and the park ranger got a letter from some Save the Oaks commending him on his "wonderful job in saving that 100 years old oak. You and your staff should be commented on the timeliness and manner in which this historic tree was saved". The ranger was really happy — he wasn't even sure what tree they were talking about but the letter copy went into this folder. The oak tree people were happy. And the trail users happy.

We all have to attend meetings but sometimes before that meeting one has to make sure a lot of ground work has been done. It's sort of like locking the barn door before the horse has been stolen. In this case, it's saving a trail before the staff or commission hears about it or has even been out there to look at it.

Bonnie Davis

*Thanks loads Bonnie! With our digital Camera & GPS we also send pictures to our elected officials, county trail planners, state and federal agencies. A small explanation identifies the trail and condition, location,...other pertinent info. The visual goes a long ways. kathleen*

## LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE

January 20, 2003  
The Honorable Mark Dayton  
United States Senate  
SR-346 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Dayton,

I am writing to urge you strongly to support the Healthy Forests Initiative. Our western wildlands are in perilous danger from catastrophic fires. We must simplify and improve the methods that we use to manage our National Forests and other public lands.

The fire suppression methods used over the last twenty plus years have created dense undergrowth and debris fields in most forested areas that will inevitably lead to the kinds of explosive, catastrophic fires that we have seen over the last few years in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, California, Oregon and other states throughout the western region of the United States. When the impacts of several years of drought conditions and extremely low snow accumulations, such as we have seen this winter, are factored in, the need to expeditiously remove timber and undergrowth becomes imperative.

The proliferation of rules, guidelines and management directions that seek to maintain forest levels at a steady-state of equilibrium has proven to be ineffective at best and just plain dangerous at worst.

The management ideology that has been trust upon the National Forest Service in the name of maintaining biodiversity and wildlife habitats has failed to do either.

The tremendous amount of paperwork and the number of suits filed by groups who seek to legislate forest management by lawsuit have created a bureaucratic nightmare. It can take from six months to several years just to conduct a prescribed burn. The fact that it can take up to ten years to complete an update of a fifteen-year forest management plan is totally unacceptable. We need to simplify and streamline forest management. The Healthy Forests Initiative can accom-

plish this.

Returning Forest Service planning and management to the local level forest supervisors who have the ability and willingness to work with local citizens can and will create better opportunities for citizen interaction.

This will lead to collaborative approval much earlier in the planning process that will significantly shorten the time that needs to be spent in reviews and revisions.

The fact that Forest Service officials have estimated that planning and assessment activities consume 40% of the total workload at national forests, at a cost of more than \$250 million per year is unacceptable. Although some of this planning is and should be indispensable, improved streamlined procedures would allow forest service supervisors to more effectively manage forests and shift significant funding to ecosystem restoration work.

When I, personally, first became involved in environmental work in about 1972, I was asked to comment on an Environmental Impact Statement. It was two pages in length. When I received the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment it was six two-three inch volumes in length.

Something is wrong with the system. It is broken and desperately needs repair. The Healthy Forests Initiative is a huge step in the right direction. Again I strongly encourage you to support this initiative.

Sincerely,  
Candace Oathout  
Chair, Citizens Against Recreational  
Eviction for Minnesota  
Minnesota Representative, Warrior's  
Society  
Member, Backcountry Horsemen of  
California, Caballeros del Sol Unit  
Member, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian  
Association  
CC: N. Coleman, R. Pombo, M. Sabo,  
M. Kennedy

*EDITORS nOTE: CANDACE DOES A GREAT DEAL OF DOCUMENT READING AND COMMENTING FOR THIS UNIT. wE APPRECIATE ALL OF HEW HARD WORK!*

## NOTE ON MORE WILDERNESS AQUISITIONS

KATHLEEN HAYDEN

Kleppe vs. New Mexico must be overturned as Unconstitutional and FLPMA repealed for the same reasons. This has given the federal government the ability to take any and all lands within the states for any reason they deem appropriate by defeating states constitutions and enabling acts. However, more wilderness is not an option.

Congress instructed the Secretary of the Interior to review the public lands and identify those areas that meet the wilderness criteria contained in sec. 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1131 (c). Those areas that have wilderness characteristics were then to be studied to determine their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Secretary was required to make recommendations on their suitability or nonsuitability to the President by Oct. 21, 1991. That date has expired. Congress clearly set its deadline. Congress did not authorize a never ending wilderness inventory and review process.

Tell Senators Boxer and Feinstein How you feel about locking up more of our land from public use!



**NOTE FROM NOLA**

Please try to come to this month's meeting as we will be planning the remainder our activities for the year and we will need your input.

# Backcountry Horsemen of California

Mail application to:

BCHC Membership DataCenter  
PO BOX 40007, Bakersfield, CA 93384-0007

Application provided by the  
**Caballeros del Sol Unit**  
P.O. Box 12311, El Cajon, CA  
Unit Membership Chair, (858) 278 9088  
Email: [trlrider@san.rr.com](mailto:trlrider@san.rr.com)

## Membership Application

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Res. Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type:  Individual \$30     Family \$40     Benefactor \$100  
 Patron \$250     Mt. Whitney \$500

### Preferred Unit Affiliation (Circle only one):

Antelope Valley	Kern Sierra	Ohlone Riders Sequoia
Borrego Valley	Lake Mendocino	Redshank Riders
<b>Caballeros del Sol</b>	Los Padres	Redwood
Eastern Sierra	Mid Valley	San Diego
High Country	Mojave River	San Geronimo Pass
High Sierra	Mother Lode	San Joaquin Sierra
Kern River Valley	North Bay	Santa Ana River
		Shasta Trinity
		Sierra Freepackers
		Sutter Buttes
		Top of the State

Application for Associate Membership, mail to:  
Backcountry Horsemen of California  
PO Box 40007, Bakersfield, CA 93384-0007

[BCHCDATA@aol.com](mailto:BCHCDATA@aol.com)  
(805) 485 5997

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Membership DCTR # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up for \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Memberships at \$15 each. I understand that each Associate Membership must expire concurrently with my Parent BCHC Membership.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Associate membership unit choices: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign up a Riding Buddy!**  
**Expand your Unit's Influence**

## 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 newsletter for location and directions to the meetings

February 25  
Meeting 7 PM Randall's Home.  
**Directions on Back Page.**  
**Come help plan the year's activities.**

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.**

March 25

Meeting 7PM

April 12 -13  
California Trails Days

April 22  
Meeting

May 10  
BackCountry 101  
**Watch for further details**



### BCHC - Caballeros del Sol Unit - Volunteer Work / Education Report

Participants:

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Date(s)

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Activity

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Location

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For Educational Events - Type of Audience

Notes (for newsletter or other reports):

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Hours...

Hours spent working:

Travel time:

Vehicle mileage:

Power equipment hours:

Dollar value of materials:

Stock use...

How many riding animals?

How many pack animals?

Number of people doing...

Skilled labor\*:

Trail work:

Education:

Public meeting:

*\*Skilled labor includes equipment operators (chain saw, tractor, etc.), packers, carpenters, etc.*

Mail completed form to:

Steve Randall,  
8149 Medill Ave.,  
El Cajon, CA 92021

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

**April 22**  
**Meeting**

**May 10**  
**BackCountry 101**  
Watch for further details



**Feburary 2003**

Label

## **NEXT MEETING**

**25th Feburary 2003      Randall's Home**  
**6149 Medill, El Cajon, CA 92021, Phone: 619 561 6764**  
**Meetiing 7 PM**  
**NO POT LUCK!**

### **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)**