



# Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol

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## President's Message

My message this month is to have a great time at Rendezvous! Unfortunately, my father's health is not very good right now and I am finding myself at the doctor's office more than anywhere else. I am going to have to miss the big event. I am really disappointed, but I have priorities and my Dad is one of them. Hence the reason we have a co-president and Nola will be there to cover the meetings.

I know the meetings are not always FUN and hey, isn't that why we go to Rendezvous? To have FUN? I'm sure you will, but while there try to hit a meeting or two. I know Kathleen could really use some moral support at the Public Lands Meeting on Friday. There is so much going on right now. State Parks closing left and right and that's just the tip of the iceberg. We are so inundated with closures we can't keep up with them all. Of course that is probably the plan, to keep our heads swimming so hard upstream that we have to ignore most of the closures to save a few. Let's hope there is time to save the few.

So in keeping with our agreement for the new year I will have to settle with reading all the Public Lands info and commenting on what I can. With the deadlines that are being given on these closures being such quick turnarounds our Public Lands people barely have time to respond. Certainly we are not being given enough time to

even get the word out to our members so they can have a chance to respond intelligently. Is this fair? Is it an accident? You decide and let me know what you think and what you think can be done about it at the next meeting.

Sorry if this sounds discouraging, but frankly it can be. Despite that, you should get to Rendezvous and have a great time. Take advantage of the classes and the socialization. I've been to enough of them to know a good time is had by all. And if your stuck home like me, be sure to find the time to enjoy what you love, trail riding your horse! By Darrah Glynn

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## MINUTES February 25, 2003

Called to order 7:20 pm  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Minutes of last meeting were not able to be read  
Treasurer's Report: Accepted as read

Committee Reports:  
Public Lands- Article in the Borrego Sun about purchase of land.  
Candy Ricks comments & letters to the ABDSP, Forest camping fees have been raised

Paragon Conference: concerned Public lands and the Constitution & RS2477. Grants are being applied for to have a similar conference in Southern California. It is an educational event mostly for county land representatives and invited guests. Kathleen is involved in this effort.

Sharon Haynesworth moved and Mike Ellison Seconded to reimburse Kathleen Hayden \$253.00 for part of her expenses from attending the Paragon Conference. Motion passed.

Interjected a discussion on reimbursement policy or procedure. It was suggested that a request for funds needs to be before the event and not given after as a reimbursement. This policy will be discussed at the next meeting (3/25/2003).

Insurance: Our new policy is a little more expensive but it has some great advantages. Each unit has its own policy which is a "third party" policy. That means that it covers the other guy if you or your horse causes damage or bodily harm. It does not cover the member or the member's animal. You need to carry your own insurance for that. The new policy allows three free events where we can invite the public and they may be involved with livestock. After the third event, each is \$51 - \$100 depending on the event. This includes parades, rides, clinics, educational events that involve livestock, etc. This policy

went into effect on February 1st, 2003.

Policy on a child at a BCHC event: The child needs to be between ages 6 and 17 and must be the legal dependant of the adult family member registered. That adult needs to be in attendance at the event for the child to attend. This will be becoming a BCHC State by-law change. Once a child is 18, they need to become a member on their own.

Discussion was held on the frequency of meetings. The suggestions were to have a quarterly meeting for the general membership with a special event (ride, educational, etc). Not sure if it would still be on the fourth Tuesday but may be on a weekend. The board would meet every month on the usual day and of course the general membership is always invited to the board meetings.

The BC 101 clinic has been postponed until fall and we are considering it to be part of HorseFest at Miramar. Tentative date is November 15th, 2003.

Ride Calender: May 31st-Penasquitos for a membership drive and Poker ride. This will be our first insurance-free event, which means we can invite the public and our insurance will cover. Steve and Mary Randall will be in charge.

August 23rd: Borderfield Beach Ride and BBQ. This event will be hosted by Mike and Tauri Ellison. We will be inviting the public to join us.

The next meeting is at the Randall's home and will be a board meeting. All members are welcome.

April Board Meeting location is to be announced. Check the Calendar in the Newsletter. All are welcome.

The May meeting will be a General Meeting at the Montijo Ranch and will include a BBQ/Potluck and a special event. Plan to attend.

Meeting adjourned 8:43 pm

## No Horse Is Perfect!

By Darrah Glynn

*(based on the teachings of John Lyons)*

Have you ever been riding your horse on the trail and come upon something that is scary to him and he refuses to go forward, backward, over, under, or any way near it? If your answer is yes then you are the member of the Not Always The Perfect Horse Club! Welcome to the real world. Many people run into problems on the trail such as a horse that is upset and doesn't want to go where we ask it to. A lot of people think their horse must obey and they get in a big fight over it with them. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Of course there are times we can make our horse do what we want, but is that really proving anything? I mean the horse may cross the scary spot, but the only thing he learns is that he was right in getting all upset about it in the first place. Showing the horse who's boss only interferes with really training the horse.

Here's a fact; You are the only one responsible for your safety. If you don't feel good about crossing it, don't do it. Sure we have well meaning friends pressuring us and trying to force us to do something we feel is unsafe, but resisting peer pressure is the right thing to do. Don't we tell that to our own children? Getting your horse home safely today leaves you the opportunity to train your horse so you can have a better ride another day.

The important lessons to teach our horse are the basic ones. You have to be able to tell your horse to go, stop and turn even when he doesn't want to. These are your fail safe methods. Your horse can't run off with you if he is stopped. He can't go forward and backward at the same time. He can't rear and do a series of right turns at the same time. Here is the key, if you focus on what you want him to do, what you don't want often goes away on it's own. So start at home with the basics, point the horse's nose in the direction of the boogie man (not on the boogie man!), and happy trail riding will be yours!

# **N**OTES FROM NOLA

There are three important items that I want to cover today.

ONE: The most important. The Anza Borrego Desert State Park have plans to immediately remove the wild horses from Coyote Canyon. Their intention is to move them to North Dakota! Please send letters, emails, phone calls or whatever to not only the parks land managers, but to your state and national politicians and let them know that you think this is an outrage and a waste of your taxpayer monies! (Prop 40)

TWO: As noted in the minutes we are moving our meeting format. The monthly meeting will be a board meeting to conduct mostly business. All members are always welcome at board meetings! Once every three months we will have a general meeting. This will be a fun and mostly social meeting. (BBQ'S, Potlucks., Pool Party, Etc.) At these meetings we will try to schedule a speaker or something very interesting. So watch the calendar in the newsletter for what is happening and put the date on your personal calendar. We don't want to miss you at our next gathering. When you contact me for the next item I will talk about let us know if you would prefer to have this General Meeting on a Saturday or on the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday!!

THREE: Your newsletter. How do you want it delivered? Would you prefer email? Is it easier to print it out from our Webpage? Or would you like it in your home mailbox via snail mail (USPS) Please answer the questions on the inside last page and either mail them to me or email me your answers. We want you to read your newsletter and want to make it the easiest for you. You may have it both ways! I will email you and snail mail it, if that is what you want, just let us know!

NOTE. I want to thank Donna Jesse and her boss at Morgan Stanley in Rancho Santa Fe for sponsoring our newsletter printing and mailing. This makes it possible to put our funds into keeping our public lands and trails open and educating ourselves and others about gentle use of our lands and animals. .THANK YOU !



## TO THE EDITOR

The following is just my opinion. I am not a horse-person or animal expert, but love all wildlife equally. There is a major threat to wildlife right now in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the threat comes from our local park superintendent.

For anyone reading the 02/27/03 issue of the Borrego Sun and aware of the issues it was obvious that the Superintendent of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is intent on removing the wild horses from Coyote Canyon again. The news article showed photos of the horses taken last summer at the peak of one of the driest seasons on record in order to present them in an emaciated and poor-looking condition. This was an obvious attempt to sway public opinion in his favor to remove them.

In November, myself and two friends (a field biologist and a doctor from USCD) photographed a much different looking group of horses in Coyote Canyon. As a matter of fact I have observed the feral horses on several occasions and each time they appeared very healthy to me and the guests who were with me. After all ... they have existed successfully in this area for many generations and are beautiful and impressive "wild" animals and a major asset to the park. In fact, it is quite a credit to these animals to have withstood extreme temperatures, an ever-changing climate, predation by mountain lions and more. I wonder if this same park

superintendent would want to remove all the Bighorn Sheep if they appeared stressed or unhealthy? Maybe we should consider listing the feral horses as an "endangered subspecies" as they were able to do with the Bighorn Sheep so they would get equal protection by the park.

The horses do not compete with any other animal life in the canyon as far as I know (including Bighorn Sheep) and this particular unit of parks has a record of not being very forthcoming with factual information. I believe that unless good information can show they should be removed, the park should work to help them survive every bit as much as they have assisted the Bighorn Sheep so they will exist here for future generations as well. At the very least they should just leave all these "wild" and natural animals alone.

Borrego Paul  
San Diego Outback Tours  
Pictures are provided by Paul





Route closed to old rancher water source On Anza Borrego State Park. Hayden's have been maintaining the spring to this old cattle tub for many years. Last year state parks posted the "no horse" sign. Originally the wash pictured in the background picture was the road to the spring. Hope you are getting the BIG PICTURE.

## Nola's Comment on ABDSP General Plan and EIR

10 March 2003  
 Environmental Coordinator  
 C/O Southern Service Center  
 California Department of Parks &  
 Recreation  
 8885 Rio San Diego Drive Suite 270  
 San Diego, CA 92108

Concerning Comment on the ABDSP  
 Plan and EIR

Dear Sir or Madam

My Comments are not late. I am filing under the extension granted by Acting Director Coleman at the request of CA Sen. Morrow.

The only choice, in my opinion, would be alternative five from the table on page 220, NO PROJECT.

There are already enough laws to protect the environment in place. "No Project" is the only choice that is in agreement with the California State Trail Plan, the National Trails Act and the National Preservation Act. "No Project" is compatible with

responsible conservation and habitat management, while leaving access to this beautiful park to the public.

The public must have access to their park. To restrict places such as the Scissors Crossing area to day use is reprehensible. This was a working ranch. This is now the location of two through trails, the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and the Mormon Battalion Trail (MBT). Through riders and hikers must be able to camp in this beautiful location.

None of the options resolve the four trail closures that were addressed over four years ago by the Caballeros del Sol and Borrego BackCountry Horsemen units and by two members from San Diego Off Road Coalition, in meetings / letters, with both the ABDSP personnel and Sacramento.

In addition, there are also no provisions for The California Riding & Hiking Trail trailheads, essential to accessing and camping along the trail

as indicated in the CRHT brochure from State Park Archives. This states " A system of overnight camps has been started: units are to be spaced 15-20 miles apart: with facilities consisting of stove, tables, water, sanitation and corral. It is the responsibility of the rider to provide fodder for his stock. In the 1955 legislative session, the Riding and Hiking Trails Act was amended to permit the establishment and the construction of secondary trails. These will provide better access to and greater local use of, the State Riding and hiking Trails." In blatant disregard for these directives in 2001 the California Dept of Resources moved to repeal the Collier Keene Act in an attempt to diminish trail access and facilities.

Another point, the Great Overland Trail / Mormon Battalion Trail, (MBT) a Millennium Trail, and RS2477 route, is not adequately addressed in the plan. It is a major issue. This corridor is vital. It traverses the Vallecitos wash through 5 miles of the Impact area in Imperial County, (an old county road, to boot) where it intersects S2 and San Diego County parklands. BackCountry Horsemen have recently received approval for equestrian camping at the Vallecitos S.D County Park. A new State Parks purchase is contiguous to this county park. The State Parks purchased the land without a contingency for public access. This land-locks us from BLM's Portrero Valley (about 35 square miles) leaving no access for loop trails to and from the County campground at Vallecitos. Currently, cattle are grazing on these lands and there is a lot of water that will NOT be accessible for recreational stock use.

From Vallecitos County Park the MBT continues to parallel S2 to Scissors Crossing where it intersects the Pacific Crest Trail and a major water source. A mile from the intersection, on the new park purchase, is the MBT site of the San Felipe old stage station. The MBT continues to parallel S2 and coincides (again) with the main CRHT where it departs from State Parks. The MBT is severed and rendered impassable by State Parks exclusion of equestrian trail users. Again, historic uses were cattle

ranches, water sources and Stage Stations. The MBT connects BLM, CRHT, PTC, Pepperwood Trail, etc. and includes Carrizo, Vallecito, and San Felipe Stage Stations. The MBT needs to be open to equestrian use for its entire length. This is consistent with the CRHT history of connecting trails.

In summary, the desert environment is well protected by existing law, and is not threatened by public recreation, but the options presented in the Plan do pose a significant threat to the public's access to and enjoyment of our Parklands. Again, "No Project" is the only choice that supports the California State Trail Plan, the National Trails Act and the National Preservation Act.

I suggest that you adopt alternative 5, "No Project", to preserve citizens ability to enjoy and appreciate Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Nola Michel, trlrider@san.rr.com

Citizen and equestrian  
Co-President Caballeros del Sol Unit,  
BackCountry Horsemen of California

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## COMMENTS ON THE LUCKY FIVE CAMPGROUND

Pat Autrey  
Environmental Coordinator  
619-278-3769  
pautr@parks.ca.gov

Re: Comments on ABDSP Lucky Five campsites

Dear Pat,

The original intent of the 1945 Recreational trail plan was to provide equestrian facilities every 15-20 miles and near or adjacent to campgrounds. This separation is just plain commonsense. Campgrounds at Boulder Oaks on the PCT and at Cottonwood (BLM); both in southeast San Diego County, are examples of this. The lack of Campground Equestrian Facilities throughout the State Park system should dictate that equestrians will always have priority over the corrals at Lucky Five. Equestrians are so far down on the Park Priority that we need some way to insure availability of our designated camp areas. This

should be done by allowing others into the campsites only when the other sites are completely full and horse areas are not being utilized. If Equestrians show up they must be given preference and non Equestrians asked to move. Additionally State parks should consistently be working with equestrians to facilitate linkage to other campgrounds.

Attachments are from State Parks Archives. Thank you for reviewing these comments and documents.

Kathleen Hayden

CSHA STATE VICE TRAILS CHAIR

BCHC/Caballeros del Sol Unit

BCHC Task Force Leader for CRHT

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### Montana De Oro State Park Beach Closure Information

*This is an e-mail written by John Krueger from Montana de Oro Coast Mounted Assistance regarding the potential closure of the beach areas at MdO state Park. A non-horse loving new district Supervisor, Greg Smith, is proposing to close the beach to equestrians. Please read it carefully and take any action you think is appropriate. This man also has power and jurisdiction over Pismo State Beach. Personal letters (snail mail) really gets attention over e-mails, however e-mails are better than no mail. It will take all of us to turn this potential closure around!*

Hello everyone!

I have received numerous calls and e-mails over the past several weeks regarding the potential beach closure at Montana De Oro State Park. All of you have voiced support for our effort to keep the beach open to equestrians.

Below, I have put together a partial list of persons that should be contacted regarding this potential closure of the sand spit area of Montana De Oro State Park. Officially, this area is referred to as the Morro Dunes Nature Preserve, as established in the Montana De Oro General Plan established in 1988.

At the beginning of February, the Coast Mounted Assistance chapter for Montana De Oro State Park received a

personal overview of the situation by Greg Smith, our district supervisor for MDO. He confirmed that a potential closure of the nature preserve at the beach is being considered. This would effect all non-pedestrian users of this expanse of beach.

Please let your feelings be known to all of the following individuals. I apologize that the list is not complete. I am traveling at the present time and do not have access to all of the information. However, you should be able to obtain an e-mail address for State Legislators from the State Government section of your phone book.

Ruth Coleman, Acting Director of State Parks

rcole@park.ca.gov

Ruth is the top of the food chain on all issues regarding state parks. I sent an e-mail to Ruth at the beginning of this month, and I am 100% confident that she is in receipt of my message.

Ken McKowen, State Trails Administrator

Ken works for Ruth. I do not have his e-mail address in Sacramento at this time.

Abel Maldonado

State Assemblyman for our district. Abel is a good contact and would probably be sympathetic to our cause. State Capitol, Room 4015 Sacramento, Ca. 95814 Tel: 916-3192033

Kirk Sturm, District Superintendent for State Parks, ksturm@parks.ca.gov

Greg Smith, District Supervisor for MDO. gsmith@hearst-castle.org  
Greg is spearheading the potential beach closure

Hanabeth Jackson, State Assembly.

*She is a member of Natural Resources Commission*  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, Ca. 94249  
Tel: 916-3192035

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks and best regards,  
John Krueger  
Coast Mounted Assistance  
Montana De Oro State Park  
Tel: 805-5284522

E: [johnkrue@aol.com](mailto:johnkrue@aol.com)

# STATE DECLARES EMERGENCY IN THREE BEETLERAVAGED CALIF. COUNTIES

The Associated Press - (*Published  
March 7, 2003*)

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Gov. Gray Davis declared an emergency Friday in three Southern California counties whose forests have been left prone to fire by the ravages of beetles preying on drought-weakened trees.

The move smooths the way for residents in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties to clear trees lost to the bark beetle epidemic, Davis said. Normally, residents face permit requirements as well as limits in clearing dead, dying or diseased trees.

"My action cuts the red tape and provides landowners with the regulatory relief necessary to quickly remove dead and dying trees from their property," David said. The state is also seeking \$3.3 million in federal aid for the region.

A handful of species of bark beetle have killed millions of trees in the San Bernardino and Cleveland national forests alone.

More trees continue to die, leaving tens of thousands of acres of forest laden with deadwood as fire season approaches. Much of that forest has not burned in more than a century.

"Fire is of huge concern to us because of all the huge amounts of dead wood out there," U.S. Forest Service entomologist Laura Merrill said.

Bark beetles are native to California. They typically drill into trees seeking the moist inner bark they feast upon. In healthy pines, the trees flood the holes with resin, drowning and expelling the beetles.

However, drought-stressed trees

are unable to repel the 1/8-inch pests and quickly succumb to their advances. Once attacked by bark beetles, trees left starved of water and nutrients can die in days or weeks.

Across the Southwest, a protracted drought has left huge swaths of forest vulnerable to the beetles. They have made steady inroads in recent months.

"We're watching it grow with growing horror," Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes said.

In a healthy forest, about one in a 100 trees is dead. Across 114,000 acres of the 670,000-acre San Bernardino National Forest, 10 percent of the trees are dead, Merrill said, citing recent surveys.

In the 430,000-acre Cleveland National Forest, the situation is less extensive but just as grim: about 15 percent of the trees are dead in an 8,000-acre area, she said.

Three species of bark beetle are particularly aggressive in Southern California at present. The largest, in sheer numbers, is the western pine beetle, which attacks Coulter and ponderosa pines.

Also on Friday, the South Coast Air Quality Management District approved the burning of an estimated 500,000 tons of wood from trees killed by the drought and beetle infestation.

The move will allow the Forest Service to burn waste wood not trucked to sawmills, composted or sold as firewood. The wood will be burned in special incinerators to reduce the danger of wildfires.

The agency is the air pollution control agency for much of the greater Los Angeles region, including much of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. It normally prohibits most open burning.

The Forest Service is considering logging beetle-ravaged trees to thin out afflicted forests across Southern California.

## FEE DEMO National Pass???

March 7, 2003  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contacts: Robert Funkhouser, 970-327-4347, [rfunk9999@earthlink.net](mailto:rfunk9999@earthlink.net)  
**Kitty Benzar, 970/259-4616**

The U.S. Forest Service has moved to pre-empt Congress by implementing a national pass for access to all National Forests beginning in April 2003.

Fearing that the Fee Demo program will be allowed to expire as scheduled in September 2004, the Forest Service is bypassing Congress and implementing a National Pass administratively. Teri Cleeland, USFS Recreation Fee Demonstration Program Leader, stated in a February 11 internal memo that "legislation may force action that is unfavorable for all agencies. This step forward could alter that possibility." She goes on to state that "This action broadens the concept of 'entrance' fees to include those fee sites that provide a basic recreation experience, as opposed to more specialized sites like campgrounds."

Mounting congressional opposition to the Fee Demo program has thrown its future into doubt. With the demonstration program's expiration date looming, the Forest Service has become increasingly desperate for legislation to make it permanent. But last session, one permanent authorization bill failed to make it out of committee and another never even got introduced. So far this session the idea of permanent fees has failed to find congressional support, and no bill has so far been introduced.

Key elements that the Forest Service plans to implement administratively in April are Basic Fees for sites such as picnic areas, trailheads, and unimproved areas.

Expanded Fees will be charged on top of and in addition to Basic Fees. These will cover campground use, interpretive programs, and backcountry uses such as mountain climbing. A National Pass will be required for entrance to both National Forests and National Parks.

When Congress authorized Fee Demo as an appropriations rider in 1996, fees were allowed in a limited number of sites for a two year test period, which has since been extended twice. The Forest Service has subsequently succeeded in getting the program allowed on all land under their management, and is lobbying for Congress to make it permanent.

Robert Funkhouser, President of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition, which actively opposes permanence for Fee Demo, said "These changes by the Forest Service are meant not just to influence Congress, but to tie Congress's hands in dealing with this unpopular program. With congressional opposition building in both the House and Senate, selling National Passes in April for a program that may be cancelled next year is unethical and unwarranted. The Forest Service knows that it's harder to kill a program after it is in place."

Coalition Co-Founder Kitty Benzar added "There has never been congressional debate or public hearings on Fee Demo. This move shows that the Forest Service fears they will lose the program if public input is taken into consideration. It's a desperate move to make fees permanent and universal by administrative action since they know they're losing in Congress. This is nothing more than a new tax on Americans who already pay to manage their National Forests. It should not be allowed to go forward."



## **NATIONAL PARKS TO INCREASE CAMPING FEES AND INITIATE NEW FEE FOR BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING**

The fees for camping in Sequoia and Kings Canyon Parks' vehicle-accessible campgrounds will increase \$4 per site effective March 1, 2003. The new rates will range from \$12 at sites with pit toilets such as Atwell Mill and Cold Springs in Mineral King to \$20 per night for the two campgrounds on reservations, Lodgepole and Dorst. The fees for most campsites in the parks will go up to \$18 a night (from \$14). Group campsite fees will remain unchanged.

Fees for backcountry camping reservations will increase from the current \$10 to \$15 for a party traveling by foot and \$30 for a stock group on March 1, the first day that reservations for the 2003 season can be made. The higher fee for stock parties is due to the additional support required to monitor meadow usage and maintain trails to higher standards for these groups. The reservation system provides all visitors an opportunity to prearrange an entry date during the busy summer season, when permits for the more popular trails are sometimes not

available.

Plans are being made to initiate a new backcountry camping fee for all overnight camping parties, with this year as a phase-in period. The cost for camping will be \$15 per party for foot travelers, and \$30 per party for a stock group. There will be no fee for day hikers and no additional cost to parties with a reservation. This new funding is expected to generate in excess of \$50,000 per year (based on the number of permits issued annually) and will be used to address a backlog of wilderness-related projects currently not funded through the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. These proposed projects include: assessments of campsites and meadows on site conditions to provide data for management decisions; wilderness education services; improvements to the parks' website to include additional and updated backcountry information and the inventory, mapping and rehabilitation of backcountry campsites.

The new camping fee will be implemented on a voluntary basis this year for those not obtaining wilderness permit reservations. Backcountry users will be given envelopes when registering for their permits and asked to return it with the fee at their earliest convenience. Park managers are welcoming comments on the new fee during this phase-in period. The program will be fully implemented in 2004.

All of the above fees are being collected as part of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program authorized by Congress in 1996. Approximately 80% of the money received remains within the parks to support maintenance backlog issues, including wilderness projects such as trail repair.

NPS-

**ALERT  
HR 652  
NEEDS TO BE KILLED!**

This report is also available on the United website at:  
<<http://www.ufwda.org>><http://www.ufwda.org>

WHAT: H.R. 652, the National Forest Ecosystem Protection Act, was introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ).

WHAT IT IS: H.R. 652 would:

- 1) Eliminate all commercial grazing on National Forests
- 2) Eliminate all recreation (except primitive recreation ie. hiking) in areas adjacent to Wilderness Areas
- 3) Require the Forest Service to prepare an Environmental Assessment
  - a) for study for wilderness suitability for all primitive lands extending from existing designated Wilderness Areas
  - b) to discuss ecological advantage of closing all "unimproved roads" in the study area
- 4) Authorize appropriations to:
  - a) spend \$5 million to purchase private property within designated Wilderness Areas in the West
  - b) spend \$100 million to purchase private property within primitive areas extending from existing designated Wilderness areas in the East
- 5) Close all unimproved, unmapped, and non-system roads in primitive areas extending from existing designated Wilderness areas.
- 6) A list of all the areas affected by the bill appear below

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT:  
Write to both of the two Committees to whom the bill has been referred and ask them to take no action on the bill (this kills the bill).

House Committee on Agriculture  
Chairman Bob Goodlatte  
1301 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2171  
<[rbagulare@mahouse.gov](mailto:rbagulare@mahouse.gov)>[rbagulare@mahouse.gov](mailto:rbagulare@mahouse.gov)  
House Committee on Resources

Chairman Richard Pombo  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515-6201  
(202) 225-2761  
<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>

The Ecosystem Protection Areas, and the wilderness area forming the their core in California are:

- (A) High Sierra, including John Muir, Ansel Adams, Golden Trout, Monarch, Dinkey Lakes, South Sierra, Dome Land, Hoover and Emigrant.
- (B) Trinity Alps.

Also cc: your US Congressman and US Senators (addresses may be found in your phone book in the Gov. section.)

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## INVASIVE SPECIES

What are invasive species? Go to websight:

<http://www.eco.freedom.org/el>  
to read BCHC/Borrego Unit member Jim Beers article.

This five-part series, "Invasive Species - the new ESA", will open your eyes to something that has the potential to close more lands and spend more Federal monies than the Endangered Species Act!

It is too lengthy to print here. If you cannot access the Web and want to read it call the editor and request a fax copy.

The following is an answer to a question on the article and explains some of the problem.

## TWO QUESTIONS

Several readers have asked me for bill numbers for introduced legislation regarding Invasive Species. The two bills that were introduced last week have not yet gotten a number so far as I can tell. As soon as I obtain those numbers I will send them out. It is much more efficient if you can tell your Congressman, your Senators, and your organizations that they should oppose H.R. # and S.B. #.

Several others have challenged

me that since the Federal government can and does do a better job (because they are bigger?, because they are richer?, because they are smarter?), the states should get out of the way and let the Federal government deal with Invasive Species.

I was thinking about this as I drove through the Bull Run National Park and saw a flock of Canada geese fly overhead. The four big land managing agencies (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management) each "manage" millions of acres. They and their political bosses, the Secretary's of Interior and Agriculture are the biggest bureaucratic supporters of Federalizing Invasive Species and coincidentally are the ones who will get the lions (pardon my use of a non-native species analogy) share of the money and power that such legislation will generate. So, let's look at their record for "managing" natural resources like plants and animals.

The National Parks here in the East have had chronic and disgraceful overpopulations of deer for decades. This has caused increased fatal car accidents and an elimination of nearly all vegetation up to 5 feet in the woodlands. This latter decimates biodiversity and eliminates habitat for songbirds, small mammals, and reptiles. Would the Park Service allow reductions of deer? Not on your life while they babble about contraception they are rabid about forbidding active wildlife management or hunting. They even lied to the New Jersey government when they wanted to purchase the Delaware Water Gap. They promised that they would allow trapping and after saying they were too busy to do "studies" for 4 years, they said it was illegal and would never be allowed. Today coyote and raccoon depredations in and around the Water Gap are serious and numerous but the Park employees look the other way and shrug their shoulders.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service also lied about permitting trapping on the Ohio Islands National Wildlife Refuge before buying it and then set about stopping it and other uses like tying a boat up to downed trees along the bank. Trapping of predators on Refuges was being eliminated under the last Administration while nest depredation on waterfowl seriously reduced nesting success. This was OK however because they wanted to shift from marsh management to “Pre-Columbian Ecosystems” and producing ducks for hunting was passé. Also, those Canada geese that are all over the East year around and in almost every city park and golf course were “introduced” by and with the consent of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Today as the geese create health hazards, make many parks unusable, and foul water ponds; the US Fish and Wildlife Service is nowhere to be seen. The same will happen when the wolves are numerous enough that all of the unnecessarily restricted control methods will no longer be sufficient to control them. It is the US Fish and Wildlife Service that makes possible this nonsense verging on treason that the extraction of vast oil resources on the north slope of Alaska would do serious and irreparable harm to caribou. They, like their sister agencies no longer envision “managing” anything; only “saving” things from use.

The US Forest Service has been a lady of the evening to the environmental radicals who are stopping any active timber management; closing down access and roads; and eliminating logging of renewable forest resources, grazing by ranchers on renewable grasses, and recreation from hunting to mountain biking and horseback riding. The big recent fires alone and the analysis of how all this non-management “management” causes and sustains them should be ample proof of the overhaul needed in this agency. Any similarity between Forest Service policies and the management and use of the

renewable and durable resources for the benefit of the nation is purely coincidental.

Last but not least, the vast lands of the Bureau of Land Management throughout the West. They too have lost any goal of “managing” the grazing lands and timberlands they administer. Where they used to work with ranchers and loggers, today they strive to close access roads and eliminate grazing and logging. Their answer is to clear the uses and people from large swaths of the West so that their new supporters in the environmental movement can insert “Wildlands” of government controlled lands where people and human uses from mining and logging to recreation and homes are forbidden except for the few influential folks and government “managers.”

Some other readers said that the states always mess things up. That is too often true. California voters forbade any management of mountain lions many years ago. Many people have been killed and maimed needlessly by lions since that time. The formerly abundant bighorn sheep in the Sierras have been listed as Endangered “because of lion predation” (per the Recovery Plan), and still the state looks the other way. The state of New Jersey politically kills any bear hunt in spite of bear predations (called house break-ins) escalating each year. For years, Indiana forbade any deer hunting in their State Parks but when the Parks began to be biological deserts that you could see through from a mile away, enlightened citizens forced a change and since renewing deer hunting, the Parks are slowly recovering. You will see cougar hunting in California and bear hunting in New Jersey long before you see the Park Service control their deer or the Fish and Wildlife Service help to reduce goose depredations or the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management return to active management of the natural resources within those lands. The Founding Fathers understood that State governments are

more responsive than any central government, and that’s why the Constitution spells it out like it does.

Speaking of deserts, does anyone remember Desertification? This was the budget-getter “du jour” for these same agencies and Departments during the Carter Administration. Like the Invasive Species supporters, desertification supporters descended on Washington with all sorts of glossy pictures and tales of doomsday on “millions of acres.” Like Invasive Species all this was embraced and supported by the same four agencies in the same two Departments. By now, the entire US was going to look like Saudi Arabia if money wasn’t made available. Well, for over ten years desertification was a sacred cow. Anyone who wanted to cut it obviously pulled the wings off flies as a child and would destroy an orphanage to drill for oil. The Office and all the annually appropriated money for the land management agencies and all the research grants finally died of old age. Nothing ever happened on the ground. However, the program is still touted as a success. If you measure success as bureaucratic careers, more pay, more bonuses, more political influence for politicians who supported it and larger budgets for the land management agencies – then by golly it was hugely successful.

Since the Desertification Office blew away, the bureaucrats and environmental/animal rights radicals have learned how to manipulate the Endangered Species Act to put people out of business, to buy more land, to clear areas of all humans, to reduce access on Federal lands, to eliminate everything from hunting to pet ownership, and on and on. We can hope that if Federalizing Invasive Species succeeds it will eventually blow away but only a fool would count on that.

Jim Beers, 9 March 03

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

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**

## TRAIL WHISPERS

## NEWSLETTER SURVEY

I WANT MY NEWSLETTER.....

- Mailed US Postal Service
- Emailed in pdf format
- Email notice that it is on the website
- All of the above

Please email your answer [trlrider@san.rr.com](mailto:trlrider@san.rr.com) to me.

Or use this page and mail it (USPS) to 4758 Mt. Cervin Dr. San Diego, CA 92117.

Do not call on the phone, as I will be out of town for a while.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month.,

General Meeting will be held quarterly with a special attraction and Potluck or BBQ

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

### **BCHC/CdS CALENDAR 2003**

#### **March 25th Board Meeting**

At the Randall's home All members are welcome. Direction on the Back Page.

#### **April 12 -13 California Trails Days**

May 10

BackCountry 101

It was decided that we would have our Education outreach in November at Miramar Stables Horse Fest.

#### **April 22nd Board Meeting**

Location is to be announced.

Check the Calendar in the Newsletter. All are welcome.

May 31st Penasquitos Membership drive and Poker ride. This

will be our first insurance-free event, which means you can invite your guest to ride with us

Trail Bosses: Steve and Mary Randall. Call to let them know how many are coming and if you can help!

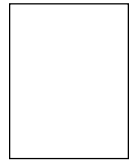
#### **May General Membership Meeting BBQ & potluck with program**

Will be Montijo Ranch and will be a special event. Watch this column for date and time! Plan to attend.

#### **August 23rd: Borderfield Beach Ride and BBQ.**

Hosts: Mike and Tauri Ellison. We will be inviting the public and other units to join us to get away from the heat for a fun day!

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



March 2003

Label

## **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**All Members Welcome**

**25th March 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)**