



Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol

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NOTES FROM NOLA

Hello, this is your co-president speaking. Hope you are having a great summer. Darrah is off in the high back country and guess it's up to me to see you get all the information this month. Darrah will be back in Sept and then I will leave to go to ride with the Haydens at their place in Nevada.

Come out to the Beach ride! Saturday, 23rd of August. (Flyer page 11) Bring the family and friends to enjoy the weather at the beach. It is an open ride and you may bring guests that are not BCHC members. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the trail and we will have Ice Cream and fixin's for the end of the ride. That is also the time we will have our poker playing, played like we did at the last ride in Penasquitos. It was so much fun. All poker hands are \$5.00 each. Sit in more than once if you feel luck! Winner takes home 50% of the pot! The rest will pay for the Ice Cream (probably).

Next thing we are doing is having a Pool Party at the Franklin-Collins home. If you have not been in this marvelous pool you should really give it a try. Pool opens at 3 pm and you may come anytime. It is a salt water pool and there is no burning chlorine in it! The ph of the pool is the same as your tears. Come bring or wear your suit. Bring a little something to broil on the BBQ and a dish to share. Fire will be ready about 6 pm. We will have a very short meeting around 7 pm. (we may finish up any left over Ice Cream! We would love to get to know you all better.

As you read this newsletter you will realize that public lands does not take a vacation. I hope you can make some time to call or fax your elected representatives and tell them how you fell on the issues before them (email works too, just write in your own heartfelt words!)

We need you to think about a project you would like to do (head up or help on) We need to fill out our calendar with some service projects. We have our fund raiser going on, cooking food for the hungry shoppers at the Cowboy swapmeet again this year. We need your help to shop, cook or cleanup. Come on by and give us an hour or two. First Sunday in October as usual. Call me if you can help! 858 278 9088 or trlrider@san.rr.com

In Nov we will be helping to put on a BCHC Benefit for the Lost Coyote band of wild horses.

It will be at the Cano Ranch in Ranchita. Joe Cano and Sandy Hall are Borrego Unit members. There will be overnight camping available and a big feed on the day of the Ride. It will be either Sat 1 Nov or Sun 2 Nov. Mark that weekend for special!

Also in November the San Diego Unit is having their annual workparty at the Vern Whitaker Horse camp. Consider marking of some time the 13th to the 16th of November. There will be more info in coming edition. Mark the dates on your calendar now! It is always a fun time.

So 'til next time, stay on the upside of your horse! See ya on the trail. Nola

MINUTES

BCHC-CdS: June 24, 2003

Call to Order: 7:41 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Tauri Cornell read the minutes. Marty Jorgensen moved and Mary Randall seconded to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report was given.

Public Lands reported on the Wild Horse update. Cannot afford to continue the lawsuit. We have a \$5000 outstanding bill. One mare has died and the others have been turned out. Two of the stallions will be kept and the others will be gelded. BLM has said they will take the 2 stallions and 10 mares. Even though the park denies it, 5-7 horses have been spotted in the park.

Vaqueros Days (Fiestas de la Californias) will be held October 17-19, 2003. Swap meet is on the 5th of October. Marty is checking on these dates. We will once again be cooking at the Swap meet.

We have decided to add Poker to the beach ride. It will be done the same way as we did it at Penasquitos. Remember to bring a sack lunch to eat out on the ride. The ice cream social will be after the ride at the staging area. Tauri and Mike Ellison will be Trail bosses.

Next meeting is at Montijo's. August meeting will be a pool party at Kandhy's in Crest.

Adjournment: 8:20 PM

Meeting Minutes Caballeros del Sol unit Backcountry Horsemen of California

22 July, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

At the home of Steve and Mary Randall

Minutes from Past Meetings

Linda Eskin (substituting as Secretary) read the minutes from the June meeting. Steve moved that the minutes be approved, Mary seconded. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Mary presented the Treasure's report.

Nola presented the Public Lands report. See article in this newsletter for details. Topics discussed included:

- The continuing work toward the return of the wild horses to Coyote Canyon.
- The possibility of acquiring Mack Ranch in Descanso (80 acres, about 60 untouched). Plans include a year-round campground, to include equestrian sites.
- The pros and cons of State Parks acquiring land in the Sutter Buttes area for a park.
- The situation with the "Coyote Fire", still burning at this time (22 July).

Upcoming Events

Tired of the heat? We have the perfect ride coming up - a **Poker Ride at the Beach, with Ice Cream Social**, on August 23rd. Look for the complete info in this newsletter.

The annual **Cowboy Swap Meet** will be held at McClintock's, in Descanso, on October 5th. As before, we will be cooking breakfast and lunch as a unit fundraiser (about 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.). *Here is*

an opportunity to volunteer, and have a fun day hanging out with lots of cool people! We need people to shop for supplies, transport equipment, cook, serve food, and clean up afterward.

Vaqueros Days / Fiesta de los Californios will also be at McClintock's, October 17th-19th. Nola will contact Pete Spencer to see if the Redshank Riders unit will have a booth again this year. *If so, our unit will offer to help out, so here's a great place to pitch in and share BCHC's work with the public.*

Nola is working to organize a **Campout and Ride in Ranchita**, possibly the first weekend in November. Possibly a fund-raiser for the Wild Horse fund. We need to be sure that it doesn't interfere with the San Diego Unit's workparty in Borrego.

Also coming up soon is the Flying Hooves Riding Club's **Horse Fest at Miramar, with Backcountry 101**, on November 15th

State Board Meeting, October 17-19

Darrah and Nola will represent our unit at this weekend of BCHC meetings in Santa Nella. As was done last year, the unit will support their costs up to \$150. (Linda moved, Mary seconded, motion passed with Mary's reminder to "Keep the receipts!")

Next Meeting

Our August meeting will be a **Pool Party at Kandhy Franklin's house!** If you're one of those members who rarely attends a meeting, please make it to this one. This is a great time to bring new members, too. See the back of this newsletter for details. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

COMMENT
COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN
31 July 22003

County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
5201 Ruffin Road Suite P
San Diego, CA 92123-1699

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Draft Community Master Trails Plan. I am excited about the positive opportunities that this Draft represents. I strongly support the direction the County is taking in developing this Plan.

After a careful review of the Draft Document I find I have the following concerns. The document states that the scope of the CMTP includes the entire unincorporated portion of the County of San Diego. It also states that the Trails Program vision is for the County of San Diego to realize a system of interconnected and contiguous regional and community trails. These statements cause me to question the lack of recognition of the trails system in the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. On the one hand the County Department of Parks and Recreation has been involved and informed about the trail network that exists in the Tijuana River Valley. On the other hand, there appears to be no official recognition of the trails system that has been documented and maintained primarily by the Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association/Border Field State Park Mounted Assistance Unit for many years. I find this lack of recognition alarming. If the thrust of the Program is to build the trails system from the bottom-up at the grassroots level, how was this significant trail network missed? There was, at one time, a proposed bicycle trail link from the Bayshore Bikeway to Monument Road via Saturn Boulevard and the "Effie Mae" Farm Road. Has this linkage

been abandoned? The County DPR has participated in numerous discussions regarding trail alignments in the Valley and has even installed equestrian staging areas. Why was this trail network not included in the Draft Document?

A second area of concern is how the County has coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game and other land managing agencies to encourage and support the retention of existing trails. There have been consistent strong pressures to limit access and even close historic trails when acreage is acquired for open space preserves. I fear there will be major conflicts with regard to the development of new trails in open space preserves or on lands within the boundaries of the Multiple Species Conservation Plan. What assurances does the public have that these conflicts will not continue under the CTMP? How will the CTMP planners balance the differing agendas and mission statements of land managing agencies in order to maintain the consistency of the Trails Program throughout the County? Since the primary stated reasons, in most cases, for limiting access and closing trails in open space preserves have been environmental impacts, how will these perceived impacts be monitored and mitigated? What criteria that will be used to determine impacts to environmental resources and how will the criteria be developed? What guidelines are will be developed to ensure the consistency of the criteria used across all jurisdictions? I strongly encourage that the criteria must be based on scientific data reviewed by the National Academy of Science. It cannot be left to the perceptions and conjecture of land managing agencies without independent scientific review.

In East County there have been on-going problems with keeping the California Riding and Hiking Trail and the historic Mormon Battalion Trail alignment and the historic

Juan Bautista De Anza Trail through Coyote Canyon open to public use. Although most of these issues have involved trail routes on State Park land, they directly affect the goal of a system of interconnected and contiguous trails. How will the CTMP affect on-going efforts to restore and complete the California Riding and Hiking Trail? The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Management Plan that is currently being developed contains elements that will directly affect access to the Pacific Crest Trail in addition to the above mentioned trails. How will the County reconcile the goal of connectivity and contiguous regional trails with the emphasis that the California Park Service is placing on preservation which has resulted in the reduction of trails and the restriction of public access to existing trails?

The Draft Document bases the current and projected desired trail mileage on the population in a given area. The base population numbers used for Borrego Springs and the Desert Subregion do not reflect the fact that this area draws a large number of destination recreational trail users, so this Document does not accurately depict current and projected trail mileage needs in this area.

I strongly support the Board of Supervisors in their resolution that "recreational trails are a legitimate form of public recreation that the County should provide". It is a policy direction that is long overdue. San Diego County is unique in its topography and climate. It is ideally suited for a regional trails system. I commend the Board for making this trails system a possibility. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on this Draft Community Trails Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Candace Ricks-Oathout

Chair, Citizens Against Recreational Eviction-USA

News From the Committee on Resources
**CUTTING THROUGH SMOKE
ON HEALTHY FORESTS BILL**
July 28, 2003

Washington, DC - Opponents of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act have consistently hung the basis of their objections on the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) forest thinning provision.

These opponents, including radical environmental fundraising organizations, claim that a 200-yard to half-mile thinning radius (WUI) around communities would suffice to protect homes and families from catastrophic wildfire. Many of these groups demagogue the issue of forest maintenance as unnecessary and a boon to big business.

Here's why these claims are dangerously disingenuous and environmentally confused:
I. Catastrophic Forest Fires can jump over miles of land and ignite new fires.

It's called "spotting" and it is part of what makes catastrophic forest fires so dangerous. Walls of flame stretch across miles of forest and reach 400 feet into the sky, shooting fireballs into furious winds.

Last year, Colorado's Coal Seam fire jumped the Colorado River, a multi-tiered stretch of Interstate 70, and a railroad track — all in one fiery leap. With winds reaching 60 mph, Colorado's Hayman Fire raced one-half mile in just four minutes 17 miles in one day.

This year, The Aspen Fire in Arizona raced out of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness into the town of Summerhaven. The small-scale treatments in close proximity to town, like those embraced by radical environmental groups, were no match for the fire after it had built up a head of steam and roared out of the wilderness. 250 homes and

businesses were destroyed in less than an hour.

Massive infernos in remote areas eventually reach urban areas. If your home were in Summerhaven, would one-half mile suffice for you?

I. Catastrophic Forest Fires devastate the environment, regardless of radius.

At 2000 degrees or more, forest infernos turn fertile soils into glass, pump dangerous particulates into the air, and contaminate drinking water. In recent years, they have also destroyed millions of acres of wildlife and endangered species habitat.

Studies show that last summer's 137,000 acre Hayman Fire pumped more carbon-dioxide into the atmosphere than did all of the cars, trucks and SUV's in the State of Colorado combined during the same year. And, eight endangered species may completely disappear from the area because of the massive habitat loss.

Last summer's Rodeo-Chediski Fire destroyed over 100,000 acres of the endangered Mexican Spotted Owl habitat, as well as an enormous number of nesting sites for this imperiled federal species.

Are these environmental disasters not worthy of prevention? To protect America's communities from the devastation of catastrophic forest fires, common sense dictates that we maintain more forestland, not less.

To protect our environment from the devastating effects of catastrophic forest fires, common sense dictates that we maintain more forestland, not less.

A massive bipartisan majority in the House recognized these facts and passed the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003. It's time the so-called environmental community recognized them too.

**THE ENDANGERED SPECIES
ACT REFORM PROJECT**

a nationwide project of
Pacific Legal Foundation

<http://www.pacificlegal.org>

July 2, 2003

PLF has been hard at work improving our Endangered Species Act Reform Project (ESARP), which is why you haven't heard from us over the past few months. In light of the significant progress we have made in our efforts, we have developed a tighter litigation approach in taking on the ESA. We are pleased to provide you with the following update on the ESARP, recent PLF victories, and proposed legislative reforms.

THE NEW AND IMPROVED ESARP

As you know, our strategy in the courts aims to reign in both the overreaching language and implementation of the ESA. Our litigation program originally focused on three general categories of court challenges to the ESA: 1) Junk Science — where the listing agency utilized "junk science" to support its listing; 2) the Commerce Clause — where the listed species has no significant relationship to interstate commerce, i.e., no direct commercial value and no interstate mobility; and 3) Economic Impact — where the listing agency declines to conduct the required economic impact analysis of a species' critical habitat designation.

The revised program retains these critical targets, but we have refined our objectives. Now, PLF seeks to emphasize our efforts to establish a U.S. Supreme Court decision determining the validity of the ESA under the Commerce Clause. At the same time, we will seek to establish a U.S. Supreme Court decision, or lower court decisions that are followed by agencies, declaring the proper statutory

standards for listing, delisting, permitting, and critical habitat designation of threatened and endangered species, including a determination that:

a. Genetically identical species (wild or bred) are to be treated the same under the Act (e.g. *Alsea Valley Alliance v. Daley*).

b. Listing is limited to “species,” “subspecies,” or “distinct population segments.”

c. Delisting must be considered every five years.

d. “Critical habitat” must be limited to “essential” and “occupied areas.”

e. The economic analysis is cumulative and includes impacts from listing (e.g., *New Mexico Cattle Growers v. USFWS*).

f. Actions taken under the Act may not be based on speculative science (e.g., *Arizona Cattle Growers v. USFWS*).

g. “Reasonable and prudent alternatives” must be economically feasible for the applicant and meet the state project objectives.

h. A requirement that property be kept essentially in its natural state must be compensated.

Finally, through the public education component of the ESARP, we will continue to pursue every opportunity to raise public awareness about the problems with the ESA and its real human effects. As we’ve noted before, changing the entrenched public misconception that the ESA is “good law” will take many years of hard work.

To read PLF’s article “Challenging the ESA’s Expansive Application in the Courts,” please copy and paste the following URL into your web browser:

http://www.pacificlegal.org/view_SearchDetail.asp?tid=CommentaryField=CommentaryID&iID=92.



THE WEATHERED OLD BARN

~Author Unknown

A stranger came by the other day with an offer that set me to thinking. He wanted to buy the old barn that sits out by the highway. I told him right off he was crazy. He was a city type, you could tell by his clothes, his car, his hands, and the way he talked. He said he was driving by and saw that beautiful barn sitting out in the tall grass and wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him he had a funny idea of beauty.

Sure, it was a handsome building in its day. But then, there’s been a lot of winters pass with their snow and ice and howling wind. The summer sun’s beat down on that old barn till all the paint’s gone, and the wood has turned silver gray. Now the old building leans a good deal, looking kind of tired. Yet, that fellow called it beautiful.

That set me to thinking. I walked out to the field and just stood there, gazing at that old barn. The stranger said he planned to use the lumber to line the walls of his den in a new country home he’s building down the road. He said you couldn’t get paint that beautiful. Only years of standing in the weather,

bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

It came to me then. We’re a lot like that, you and I. Only it’s on the inside that the beauty grows with us. Sure we turn silver gray too... and lean a bit more than we did when we were young and full of sap. But the Good Lord knows what He’s doing. And as the years pass He’s busy using the hard wealth of our lives, the dry spells and the stormy seasons, to do a job of beautifying our souls that nothing else can produce. And to think how often folks holler because they want life easy!

They took the old barn down today and hauled it away to beautify a rich man’s house. And I reckon someday you and I’ll be hauled off to Heaven to take on whatever chores the Good Lord has for us on the Great Sky Ranch.

And I suspect we’ll be more beautiful then for the seasons we’ve been through here... and just maybe even add a bit of beauty to our Father’s house.



BOXERS NEW WILDLANDS PROJECT

By Melinda Burns

News-Press senior writer
Santa Barbara News Press

<http://news.newspress.com>

In a move that would restrict new oil drilling in Los Padres National Forest, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer on Friday introduced a bill to designate 2.5 million acres of public lands in California as wilderness.

It is the second time that Ms. Boxer has introduced the bill, called the California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act.

During the past 20 years, Ms. Boxer said, nearly 700,000 acres of public land have been lost to road building, logging, mining and oil and gas extraction.

"The beauty of California is an integral part of our state identity," she said. "This wilderness bill preserves our most important lands. It prevents pollution and it protects our most endangered wildlife."

Mining, oil development, logging, cattle grazing, mountain biking and off-road vehicles are prohibited in wilderness areas. Under Ms. Boxer's bill, however, existing grazing operations would be allowed to continue [for now, until she hangs a 'Closed' sign out for grazing, too]. Hundreds of miles of Forest Service roads outside the new wilderness areas would remain open. The bill would not affect 170 producing oil and gas wells in Los Padres.

Thirteen percent of the state receives wilderness protections.

In addition to land, Ms. Boxer's bill would 'protect' 400 miles of 'untamed' rivers from dam building and motor boats, including 44 miles on the Sespe, Buckhorn, Matilija and Piru creeks in Los Padres.

Opponents of the bill, including trade groups such as the California Forestry Association, argue that the state does not need new wilderness areas. And what about thinning out trees and removing brush for fire control? asks Phil Aune, an association vice president.

"We're adamantly opposed to Boxer's bill," he said. "Senator Boxer is trying to set aside areas that should be left open for multiple use and protection

from catastrophic wildfires."

But supporters of the bill warn that the wilderness will be lost forever if the federal government does not act now.

"I don't want to see my home state eaten up by ever-expanding population," said Michael Williams, a spokesman for the campaign to pass the bill and director of UCSB's Sedgwick Reserve in the Santa Ynez Valley. "We're blind if we don't realize how quickly the state is growing. Give it another 50 years and we'll have tremendous pressures on these areas. This is the time to grab them."

Under the bill, an additional 246,000 acres of Los Padres would be designated as wilderness, bringing the total wilderness to nearly two-thirds of the forest.

Los Padres spans six counties from Monterey to Ventura and covers 1.7 million acres. The rough chaparral of Los Padres makes it unsuitable for logging.

The Forest Service is expected to decide later this year whether to open up more of Los Padres for drilling — but the wilderness bill would take off the table any consideration of oil drilling on nearly 140,000 acres of the forest that contain oil and gas deposits.

Most of this land is roadless and lies in the foothills of the Sierra Madre, south of Cuyama.

About 170 wells are producing oil and gas on about 15,000 acres in Los Padres, mostly north of Santa Clara and Fillmore, near the Sespe Condor Sanctuary.

Ms. Boxer introduced her wilderness bill last year and withdrew it for lack of support.

But one piece of the legislation survived — the designation of 54,000 acres of Big Sur as new wilderness. Boxer's bill seeks to limit drilling in Los Padres (Note that a HUGE 13 percent of California is ALREADY 'wilderness,' which means that everyone's taxpayer dollars are being used to implement The Wildlands Project. Please notice the mention that "Most of this land is roadless ... "

This is a huge reason to document all roads, NOW, while you can, before more is locked up. This does not count

the millions of acres in other states and countries where normal people are not 'permitted' to go — or to utilize the natural resources for economic health and vitality. No matter where you live, a LOT of Heck needs to be raised, and Continue to be raised, until this many-headed Medusa 'TWP' is dead and buried. No matter what the slickly worded Boxer and her entourage may say, shutting off all access to multiple use denies our ability to be independent and Increases our dependence on foreign countries for the things that we have and should be able to use, here in America. The verbiage 'preserve' and 'protect' mean simply: Control. This control includes WATER, folks, just read! A few seek to steal the freedom and heritage of our population — as they have done in other countries around the world. (Don't let them get away with it!)

COMMENT ON THE ABOVE ARTICLE

John Stewart

Note that a HUGE 13 percent of California is ALREADY 'wilderness,' which means that everyone's taxpayer dollars are being used to implement The Wildlands Project.

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This does not count the millions of acres in other states and countries where normal people are not 'permitted' to go — or to utilize the natural resources for economic health and vitality.

No matter where headed Medusa 'TWP' is dead and buried. Shutting off all access to multiple use denies our ability to be independent and Increases our dependence on foreign countries for the things that we have and should be able to use, here in America.

The verbiage 'preserve' and 'protect' mean simply: Control. This control includes WATER, folks, just read! A few seek to steal the freedom and heritage of our population — as they have done in other countries around the world. (Don't let them get away with it!)

DESIGNATION OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

Part of the bill is Section 105

Section 105 describes 2 units that have a combined area of 16,566 acres. Both are BLM land in North West California (Ukiah & Arcata BLM Field Offices). We are not sure if these areas have existing or potential MTB trail opportunities.

These "potential" Wilderness Areas apparently have features that disqualify them as Wilderness, so S1555 asks for an appropriation of \$5M a year for 5 years to "restore" them (\$25M for restoration of 16,566 acres!) by removing roads, skid trails, etc. after which S1555 mandates the areas become designated Wilderness. The restoration doesn't even need to happen, if restoration doesn't occur within 5 years, the areas become Wilderness anyway.

The danger of this section is it sets a precedent for any area to be "rehabilitated" back to "wilderness condition" so that it would qualify for the wilderness designation and could spell doom in the future for mountain biking. The wilderness designation was intended for areas "untouched by man," but as has been the case wilderness is whatever the wilderness proponents determine to designate as such.

As was the case here in the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County, areas that do not meet the qualifications for wilderness were proposed for wilderness status in the hope no opposition would occur, or as was the case in on proposed wilderness area in the Sierra's, the existence of designated numbered Forest Service roads used by recreationists were denied to exist to qualify an the for the wilderness designation.

Ironically, it seems that motorized equipment and vehicles will be needed to *convert* these areas to "pristine Wilderness". Sort of blows a hole in that oft-used emotion/urgency laden slogan that "once they're gone, they're gone forever".

John Borg

HOW TO

view the legislation, status, etc., go to;

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

and enter "S1555" (without quotes) in the "Bill Number" field under "Search Bill Text 108th Congress (2003-2004)".

This will work with any U.S. Congressional or Senate legislation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TAKE ACTION !

If you haven't acted already, pleasewrite Senator Feinstein and Rep. Pombo and voice your opposition to Senator Boxer's California Wilderness Bill, called the California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act S1555.

When contacting these representatives it is important to state the following talking points.

1. Wilderness designation prohibits mountain bikes and other recreational activities, which would have an adverse affect on the local communities that rely on recreation to support their economies. If you are familiar with or have ridden on the trails in the proposed bill, state that in your letter to show a personal connection with the area.

2. Mention that there are existing laws and policies such as the Endangered Species Act, the NEPA process, Forest Plans, etc. that offer existing protection to these areas to prevent exploitation and unsustainable activities.

3. Wilderness designations prevent the use of management techniques needed to address the catastrophic fires we have been experiencing in the west. Wilderness designations tie the hands of Forest Service, BLM and other agencies in the use of preventative measures to address the overgrowth of fuels in our forests and in fighting fires once they start. Billions of dollars of damage and wasted tax dollars are the result of abandoning the management of our forests.

CONTACT INFO:

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN
Attn: John Watts
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3841
Fax: (619) 231-1108
Fax: (310) 914-7318
Fax: (415) 989-3242
Fax: (559) 485-9689

HONORABLE RICHARD POMBO
2411 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C., 20515
Tel: (202) 225-1947
Fax: (202) 226-0861

Contact your own senators and congressperson asking that they not support these proposals. You can locate your congressional representative by going to: <http://www.congress.com> and entering your postal Zip Code. (You will need the full Zip +4 number, which you can get at the <http://www.usps.com> United States Postal Service Website.)

For those of you not on the Web, check your phone book for your elected officials addresses numbers.

The pro-wilderness supporter's agenda shows a pattern of locking out the public from their public lands - to deny historical access by the use of policy or legislation.

They have also abused the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to lock up areas, most notably the lynx hoax that has been written about in the press and other incidents.

We are not asking for more roads, trails or access - we just want to protect the historical access of the public to their public lands, which is under attack by a fanatical agenda based more on ideology than science.

We must all stand untied to protect our historical access and prevent the pro-wilderness advocates from denying us access, or denying that our access ever existed.

COMMENTS TO CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

The Honorable Richard W. Pombo
Rayburn Building #2411
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pombo:

I understand you will be in San Diego to take testimony regarding the California Desert District. Although the California Desert District and the Colorado Desert District may not be one and the same, the issues are related and abut each other geographically, philosophically and politically.

In addition, the Department of the Interior (DOI) retains jurisdiction over Preservation Law and Section 106 Compliance (Historic Properties) when BLM land has been transferred to another agency as in the case of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. This means Historic Resources such as RS 2477 roads, trails, and wild horses cannot be removed by biofraud/ecofraud management practices and policies that are practiced by State Parks. We are depending on your success for ESA reform and pledge our support.

Some of us heard the expert testimony of Dr. Burkhart refuting the desert tortoise "science" at the cattlemen's hearing in Barstow. The same biofraud has been used to close routes in the San Jacinto Monument and the Anza Borrego Desert State Parks. We have recently acquired the data to prove that DOI Fish and Wildlife were in concert with State Parks when they closed the San Juan Bautista National Jeep Trail in Coyote Canyon and reduced the historic wild horse herd to zero population utilizing what has been found to be bogus Peninsular Bighorn sheep data. Their politically motivated and technically flawed agenda was funded by Park Bond monies.

I am recently informed by Cliff McDonald of Needles, California, that the National Park Service (NPS) plans to close the Mojave Preserve to hunting

for seven months out of the year. This is almost identical to the 1995 Coyote Canyon closure by past State Parks Director Donald Murphy, currently a NPS Deputy Director. It is no surprise to us that the same policy to eradicate the historic wild horses from State Parks is occurring with the wild burros on the Mojave Preserve. Except contracts were solicited by NPS to shoot burros. Yup, it's open season on these little guys!

We are requesting your assistance to review violations of the National Preservation Act, which removed historic resources and symbols of our pioneering past from southern California Deserts.

Public land closures affect our children, grandchildren, OHVs, equestrians, hunters, prospectors, veterans, and Americans with disabilities from the Mojave, San Jacinto Monument, Anza Borrego, and Imperial (for that matter, across the state and across the west.) The combined economic impact and loss of historic resources is in the BILLIONS.

We have made giant strides in bringing multiple use interests together as evidenced by 5 counties in Southern California making RS2477 assertions in less than two years. Incredible! I hope you will have the opportunity to hear the report on this by San Bernardino's Supervisor Postmus and his constituent, Jennifer Foster, who led the RS 2477 battle.

We, the multiple user groups, stand united on Access and ESA reform. We are very honored and pleased that you are coming to San Diego and look forward to working with you on these issues.

Yours very truly,
Kathleen Hayden
P.O. Box 236
Santa Ysabel, CA 90270

California State Horsemen's Association,
State Trails Director, Vice Chair
Backcountry Horsemen of California -
Task Force Leader for California Riding
and Hiking Trail
CORVA, member

YOUR FARRIER YOUR HORSE AND YOU

When a farrier shoes a horse they will usually discuss the procedure with the client. Have your horse scheduled for shoeing at regular intervals, recommended by your shoer and the use of the animal.

Daily care of the horse is crucial to the success of your farrier's efforts to keep the horse performing to its highest potential. Here are some daily care procedures to help get the most from shoeing efforts.

Make sure the horse's shoeing is explained in full detail so any special considerations can be addressed during the interval between shoeings. This could be anything from taking care of a case of thrush to making sure the horse shod with egg bar shoes wears bell boots when turned out.

Establish a regular schedule of hoof cleaning and inspection. Daily hoof cleaning will serve two functions. It is a necessary step in keeping hooves free of thrush and other infections. It provides and opportunity for daily inspection to be sure the shoes are still properly in place, as well as to take note of hoof and leg conditions.

Regular application of a hoof dressing to the coronary band area will help keep the hoof wall healthy. It is generally not necessary to apply hoof dressing to the entire wall.

A regular flushing of the sole and frog areas with a mild bactericide or diluted thrush treatment will greatly lessen the possibility of thrush.

The importance of proper hoof care between shoeings will enhance the value of the services of your farrier by keeping your horse's feet as healthy as possible.

(Information from
American Farriers Journal)

F Y I

Chula Vista Mounted Unit is putting on a FUND RAISER "Obstacle Clinic" Sept. 14th at Pillsbury Ranch in Lakeside. OPEN TO PUBLIC..... We are limiting it to 20 riders at \$25.00 each and they can bring two horses (one rider). That way we can spend a lot of quality time with each rider. We will teach them the proper way to open gates of several types, water crossings, walk over, pulls, side passes etc.

ALSO, our Third Annual 2003 Chula Vista "So you want to be a Mountie" trail trial fundraiser will happen on Nov. 22, 2003 in Lakeside at Herring Ranch Polo /Team penning arena same as before. BBQ will go all—day.

More information will be forthcoming. Any immediate questions, please contact Mo Parga at mmekenasparga@pd.sandiego.gov



RECOGNIZING COLIC

(from Riding! magazine

A major problem for you as a horse owner is identifying the signs of colic. That's because signs can vary greatly between individuals and may also depend on the severity of the pain. However among the more common signs are:

Turning head toward the flank

Pawing..

Kicking or biting at the abdomen

Stretching out as if to urinate without doing so

Rolling, especially violent rolling

Sitting in a dog like position, or lying on the back

Lack of appetite

Putting head down to water without drinking

Lack of bowel movements, as evidenced by the small number of manure piles

Absence of, or reduced, digestive sounds

Sweating

Rapid respiration and or flared nostrils

Elevated pulse rate (greater than 52 beats per minute)

Depression

Lip curling

Cool extremities.

Colic is not a disease but rather a combination of signs that alert us to abdominal pain in the horse. It can range from mild to severe, but it should never be ignored....because many of the conditions that cause colic can become life threatening in a relatively short period of time.

While a number of cases resolve without medical intervention, a significant percentage does require prompt medical care, including emergency surgery. If you suspect your horse is suffering from colic, the following action plan is suggested:

Remove all food and water If the horse is rolling or behaving violently, attempt to walk the horse slowly.

Do not administer drugs unless specifically directed to do so be your equine practitioner. Drugs may camouflage problems and interfere with accurate diagnosis.

Follow your veterinarian's advice exactly and wait his or her arrival.

F Y I

Date: July 30, 2003

Tularemia-Positive Ticks in San Diego County

A tick removed from a domestic dog in the Mount Helix/La Mesa area recently tested positive by PCR for Francisella tularensis (tularemia or rabbit fever) at the County Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

This is the second tick recovered from a domestic animal recently to test positive for tularemia in San Diego County; the first positive tick was recovered from a domestic dog in University City in June of this year.

Clinicians in San Diego County are requested to promptly report suspect cases of tularemia to the Community Epidemiology Division. The County Public

Health Laboratory can perform culture on a swab of lesion exudate, as well as arrange testing of acute and convalescent sera.

For more information on tularemia, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/health/tularemia.htm>.

Interesting facts

122nd edition of the Statistical Abstract of the United States

36% of homes have dogs, 32% have cats according to this new issue.

One out of 20 pet owning homes in the United States has a bird and that one out of fifty owns a horse

Hummm that is higher than I thought, it was however still makes us low on the totem pole! We just need to holler louder!

Dogs	36 %
Cats	32%
Birds	5%
Horses	2%

)

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 and FYI)

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

**August 23rd:
Borderfield
BEACH RIDE
and ICE CREAM FEST**
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!

**AUGUST 26TH
General Meeting
SWIM PARTY
BRING THE FAMILY
AND GUESTS. FROM 3
PM ON
Meetiing 7 PM
Potluck & BYOM BBQ
6PM bring your own
meat and a dish to
share. See info in-
side.**

**Aug 29th - Sept 1st
BCHC Southern Units
Jamboree
near Garner Valley
Contact: Chip Herzog
909 769 3781
chiph@pe.net**

*Sept. 14th
"Obstacle Clinic"*

Chula Vista Mounted Unit is putting on a FUND RAISER at Pillsbury Ranch in Lakeside. OPEN TO PUBLIC....contact Mo Parga at:
mmekenasparga@pd.sandiego.gov

**23 Sept, 2003
CdS Meeting
Swimming at Khandy's
again! Same schedule
as August!**

Oct 5t, 2003
COWBOY SWAPMEET
DESCANSO
McClintocks Saddle Shop
Our unit will be running the cooking booth. We need vollunteers! Call Nola 858 278 9088

**Oct 17 - 19, 2003
State Board Meeting
Santa Nella
Contact someone on the
Board if you wish to
attend. Any member
welcome.**

*October 17th-19th
Vaqueros Days / Fiesta de*

los Californios

will also be at McClintock's in Merrigan's Meadow. There will be a BLM Auction.

**Oct 21, 2003
Meeting, CdS
Place TBA**

**1st Nov, 2003
BCHC BENIFIT RIDE
FOR LOST COYOTE
WILD HORSES
IN RANCHITA, WATCH
THIS SPAC FOR MORE
DETAILS.**

**Nov 13 - 16th, 2003
WORKPARTY
Vern Whitaker
Horsecamp
Sponsered by SD Unt
Contact: Tom
Marshall 760 731 0444**

*Nov. 22, 2003
TRAIL TRIALS*
Third Annual 2003 Chula Vista Mounted fundraiser "So you want to be a Mountie" will happen on in Lakeside at Herring Ranch Polo /Team penning arena contact Mo Parga at
mmekenasparga@pd.sandiego.gov

**March 11 - 14, 2004
Rendezvous Santa
Maria**

Beach Ride Poker, & Ice Cream!

What: Ride your horse on the beach
When: August 23rd, 2003, 9:00 a.m.
Where: Tijuana River Park
Who: Everyone is welcome! (RSVP!)
Cost: \$5 per poker hand

Meet at the Central Staging Area of the Tijuana River Park for cool day of riding and fun at the beach.

Bring a lunch to eat on the trail. We'll have free ice cream and fixin's waiting for us when we return from riding.

Poker hands will be \$5 each, and we'll play while we enjoy our ice cream. Winner gets half the pot.



Directions to Staging Area:

Take I-5 or I-805 south to 905

Go west on 905

Exit Oro Vista it becomes Tocayo, then turn south (left) at the second signal - Hollister.

Immediately after crossing a bridge, turn right (west) - there should be a sign for the staging area.

Follow that road about half a mile. The Staging Area will be on your right.

For more information, and to RSVP, call Tauri Cornell or Mike Ellison at 619 575-3355 or 619 301-4531 (Tauri's cell), or 619 888-0309 (Mike's cell).

Please let us know if you will be joining us, so we can have enough ice cream for everyone!

We will hit the trail at 9 o'clock sharp, so get there early

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



AUGUST 2003

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POOL PARTY / GENERAL MEETING & BBQ

POOL OPEN AT 3 pm Bring your own meat and a dish to share!

Directions

Take 8 East to the Greenfield Exit

TR at bottom of the ramp -onto Greenfield

TL at La Cresta Road

Go to the top of the hill

Stay to the far right-

Follow the double yellow line in the road through Crest

Pass the fire department, pass the school

TR on West Drive

TL onto Paloma lane- dead ends into property

384 Paloma Lane

619-444-4996

POOL FROM 3PM ON

EATING 6 PM

MEETING 7 PM

SEE MORE INSIDE

Mailed courtesy of Morgan Stanley, Rancho Santa Fe