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Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol

Volume 5 Issue 2

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Website: www.bchc.com/cds

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well, It's time again for the Presidents message. I can't even nag anyone else to do it, so guess I'd better get busy! I have been ill (seems like forever) with this bronchial/sinus thing. I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. Your next newsletter will be after the Rendezvous. I hope you are planning on going to Rendezvous, it's such a good time. If you are going, let us know so we can save a place for you at the dining table!

We all had such a good time at the After the Holidays Party. There were 26 of us present, and what a souper Pot Luck. Pun intended, there were three great soups and loads of other great goodies. There were no formal minutes taken. There was the change of officers and a reminder of the upcoming Rendezvous and the May Ride. The game was soooo good.....and great fun.

Several of our members attended the Annual New Years Ride in Borrego. Marcy Millar won the poker hand prize of \$50. Most everyone went home with a prize of some sort. My granddaughter won a basket of fruit with a bottle of non-achol wine. She was so excited about it we had to pack it in a box to go with her luggage back to Idaho a couple of days later. What a great time we had and such good camaraderie.

We have been asked by the BLM to participate in a dedication of a section of the Anza National Trail. The new section opening is from the Yuha desert to Plaster City. It will be on the 28th of February 2004. **They have selected a small camp site off of Dunaway exit and Interstate 8. This location can accommodate a lot of vehicles and/or horse trailers and the campsite is short distance from the exit. The dedication will be from 0900am to 10:00am. They will be having the Border Patrol color guard, along with some of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and locale dignitaries. Each group represented will be given some time to speak (approximately 5 to 10 minutes). After the ceremony a short tour of the area is planned. They hope to wrap up around Noon. Please mark you calendar. We hope to ride some on the new trail. If you can participate let Nola or Kathleen know.**

Continued on next page...



The next meeting will be in April. The time and place will be announced in your next newsletter. Would you rather have it on a Saturday evening or a Tuesday evening? If you have a preference please let a board member know. We will probably have a BBQ Potluck and are trying to come up with a special something for a program, if you have nay ideas or special requests, please let a board member know. We will be having a board meeting on Sunday Afternoon (2PM) 1 Febuary, 2004, at Nola's. Any member is welcome at a board meeting. Just call me for directions.

Well, that should do it for now. Stay in the saddle and I'll see you on the trail!



Yay! The white elephant is back!
No, she didn't get to keep it.



It's a melted... what?
(You had to be there...)



The latest fashion!
It's a saddle blanket... It's a kilt...
Hey, what's he wearing under that?

REPORT ON DESERT MANAGERS GROUP MEETING

The stated reason for and charter of the Desert Managers Group (DMG) consists of representatives of government entities, with management responsibilities in the California Desert, meeting to promote interagency cooperation. We need to attend these meetings because they establish land use designations from recreation to areas for species habitat and restoration. Vertical mulching of routes is a primary tool for restoration. So far the group has allowed us to attend and offers us limited opportunity for questions and comments. One stakeholder is hoping that by establishing a track record with this group as a reasonable representative he can ultimately gain a seat as a stakeholder in the new Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan team.

Interagency cooperation should save duplication and money. Their agenda may be a bit broader than that. The contacts were beneficial for me as was the agenda information. I was primarily there to investigate the MOU on the Anza Borrego watersheds (and burro removal vs. management). After this meeting I am even more concerned that the MOU extends beyond invasive weed removal and will be used to vertical mulch the areas listed for rehab. Apparently the DMG was unaware of the MOUs Backcountry Horsemen has with NPS, BLM, and USFS for Planning and maintenance purposes which is why we need to be at this table PRIOR to the public comment process. My concern is that the Desert Managers group is another tail wagging the dog. I expect Jennifer and Candace will also report.

Kathleen

Editors Note: Candace's report is in and is an excellent 7 pages. If you wish to read it, I will forward it to you email or fax, just let me know. Nola

FOREST SERVICE PLANS

Many states have forest plans that allow for cross-country travel. There is a move, as noted in this article, for those forests to shift to a "designated route" travel plan.

The Forest Service in California is in the early stages of a complete route inventory of all forest routes. Their final goal is to create a designated route system by 2007.

Arizona forests are also working on a similar effort.

Early indications are that if a route is not on the forest inventory, it is considered closed. Routes on the forest inventory will be evaluated for benefit and either added to the designated route system or closed.

Public involvement is essential to ensure your routes of interest are included in the inventory AND documented.

It is up to you to help preserve your recreation routes of interest.

QUOTE

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

COMMENT ON THE ABDSP PLAN

BackCountry Horsemen of California

Barbara J. Ferguson
Vice President Public Lands
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Auberry, CA 93602
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December 11, 2003

SENT VIA FAX 619-220-5400

Clayton Phillips, Chief
Southern Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108

REGARDING: Your December 3, 2003 letter in response to my October 30, 2003 letter to State Park and Recreation Commission regarding the Proposed Changes to Preliminary General Plan/FEIR for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Mr. Phillips,

Thank you for your response to my above referenced letter; however, my concerns and questions have not been satisfactorily answered.

You refer to the "controversial" Crystal Cove Historic District PUP in the fourth paragraph of your letter and state "In this case the public will have an extended opportunity to review this information..." I have checked the Parks website and the Parks Commission certified this plan in February 2003. What has happened to reopen the process to public comment and further consideration by the Parks Commission?

I am requesting that you send me a copy of the document "Naming and Classification of Various Parcels Within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park" referenced in your letter. During a telephone discussion with Mr. Patterson, Project Leader for the A-BDSP General Plan, in October, he indicated to me that he would post on the Parks website more detailed maps of the proposed wilderness areas and cultural preserves. My visit to A-BDSP website confirmed that these detailed maps are still not available.

In my October letter, I specifically asked for clarification regarding the apparent discrepancy between the proposed wilderness areas depicted in Figure 7.6 of the "Preliminary General Plan" and the descriptions provided in the "Proposed Changes to Preliminary General Plan/FEIR."

As an example, I asked for clarification of the location of the 29,482 acres of the Wil-yea Wilderness in relation to Coyote Canyon Road. Figure 7.6 in the "Preliminary General Plan" document clearly indicates that the proposed Wilderness is both EAST and WEST of Coyote Canyon Road where as the "Proposed Changes to Preliminary General Plan" document states that the Wil-yea Wilderness is located "...east of Coyote Canyon Road..."

I am asking for further clarification on the eleven separate and distinct proposed wilderness areas shown on Figure 7.6 in the "Preliminary General Plan" document. The "Proposed Changes to the Preliminary General Plan" document states that only two areas (Wil-yea and Sin Nombre) of new wilderness are proposed. This is significant new information between the draft document and the proposed final document. CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 (a) states "A lead agency is required to recirculate an EIR when significant new information is added to the EIR...the term "information" includes changes in the project..." Please clarify.

CON'T NEXT PAGE

The Cultural Preserve proposed in the "Preliminary General Plan" document encompassed 2,600 acres and as depicted in the Preferred Alternative Close-ups, Figure 7.10, the Pacific Crest Trail follows Road S2 on the northern boundary of the proposed Cultural Preserve then cuts through the Cultural Preserve some distance from the proposed Focus Use Zone 2.

The "Proposed Changes to the Preliminary General Plan" describes the Wenelesch Cultural Preserve as 438 acres "Located in the western-most wedge of the intersection of County Road S-2 and State Highway 78 in the area known as Scissors Crossing in the San Felipe Valley."

It is still not clear where the proposed Cultural Preserve is located in relation to the long established PCT staging areas where overnight camping is necessary to assist those who use the PCT. You state in your letter that in Focused Use Zone 2 allows for, "Developed or Semi-Developed Individual and Group Camping, Corrals and Facilities for Equestrian Staging" and that "the Cultural Preserve does not allow camping, however the Focused Use Zone does."

I would like to refer you to the "Preliminary General Plan" document, page 3-48, Section 3.3.2.5 Sentenac Canyon, the introductory paragraph clearly states that the area is suitable for "public day use" and the Goal reiterates "day use" and as the Guideline does with "this area is meant to only provide a day-use staging area", "facilities to support day-use activities" and "No overnight use..."

The "Proposed Changes to the Preliminary General Plan" document modified the Goal by replacing "day use" with "minimal activity" and Guideline by removing "day-use" in the second sentence and deleting the third sentence. However, the purpose as stated in the first sentence of the Guideline states "...the area is meant to only provide a day-use staging area for the Pacific Crest Trail..." Please clarify the intent of the changes. Is overnight camping allowed?

The relevant information as to where the "established staging areas with overnight camping" are currently located is missing. Furthermore, the Focused Use Zone 2 implies that these facilities can be developed, not that they are currently available.

As with my concern expressed above regarding the eleven separate proposed Wilderness Zones, the Sentenac Canyon area proposed four different management zone designations, including a Wilderness Zone (see Section 3.3.2.5 and Figure 7.6 and Figure 7.10). The disposition of these wilderness zones must be clarified by amendments to the "Preliminary General Plan" document.

I apologize for the typing error in point 4 of my October letter. The reference should have been to Section 3.3.1.3. In the "Preliminary General Plan" document Section 3.3.1.3 Biotic Resources is five plus pages long. In the Proposed Changes to the Preliminary General Plan" document, page 10-9, the first bullet point under the subheading "Under Fire Management" (page 3-24 of the "Preliminary General Plan" document) is clear.

However, the second bullet point "First guideline will read:" does not refer to "Under Fire Management" (page 3-24 of the "Preliminary General Plan" document) but to "Significant and Sensitive Biota" (page 3-21 of the "Preliminary General Plan" document) and was probably intended to replace the SECOND guideline not the first.

Clearly with this Guideline, State Parks is stating that they are above the law if in their view federal and state legislation provides inadequate protection to biotic resources. If taken to the logical consequence of this guideline, State Parks can arbitrarily decide to restrict or eliminate recreation, with or without scientific support or public review, when it views recreation as a threat to resources (and in clear contradiction to State Parks' mandate to provide recreational opportunities for the public.)

I await your clarification on the above points.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Ferguson
Vice President, Public Lands
Backcountry Horsemen of California

SAND COLIC

by Traci L. Hill Hulse, D.V.M

Durango Equine Veterinary Clinic

20908 West Durango Street * Buckeye, Arizona 85326 * Phone (623)386-2928

Arizona, warm and sunny with beautiful desert geography enjoyed all year round, beckoning visitors to come and live here. The desert, beautiful as it is, presents a significant problem to horse owners in the southwest – SAND. If you are one of the lucky ones, your horses have the privilege of living on irrigated pastures. However, most owners in the Southwest have their horses on sand or dirt paddocks. The problem is that horses inadvertently eat sand as they browse the pasture, eat off the ground, or pull their food out of the feeders onto the ground. Rarely, do horses eat sand purposely.

So what happens to the sand inside the horse? The sand usually moves quickly through the stomach and small intestine. Once the sand reaches the cecum and large colon, its movement slows and it tends to settle to the ventral (lowest) portions of the large intestine due to gravity. If the horse only ingests small amounts, most will be passed through the large intestine without any side effects. If the horse ingests large amounts of sand, the sand accumulates in the large intestine. This accumulation can reach a “critical” level where the horses become symptomatic.

There are different syndromes presented by horses with an accumulation of sand in their intestines. A common presenting complaint is ADR – “Ain’t doing right, Doc”.

These are common presentations of intermittent colic:

- Down and out with depression
- Losing Weight
- Unable to gain weight (regardless of what the owner feeds them.)
- Decreased Appetite
- Watery Diarrhea

As the sand accumulates in the large intestine, it acts like sand paper and erodes the intestinal mucosa (lining of the gut). One of the large intestine’s functions is to absorb water. Due to the sand accumulation and irritation to the mucosal lining, water is not absorbed well, resulting in watery manure. This same theory explains why horses with a lot of sand lose weight or are unable to gain weight well. The horse’s intestinal lining is damaged and does not digest nutrients as well. Because of the damage sand causes, this can cause discomfort and pain leading to depression, going off feed, or colic. A horse can show one, a combination of, or all of these signs with sand in its digestive tract.

There are various methods which an owner or veterinarian can use to diagnose a horse with a sand problem. The easiest method is to take a small amount of manure (5 or 6 fecal balls) from the top of a fresh manure pile, and dilute the manure with water in a bucket, rectal sleeve, or clear bag. First, one should break the manure apart manually and sift off the top layers slowly which will result in the sand settling to the bottom due to gravity. More than one half teaspoon of sand per 5-6 fecal balls is significant. However, horses can pass varying amounts of sand at different times, so this method should be repeated. This technique can give owners and veterinarians a ballpark idea of the degree of sand a horse has inside. Another method to diagnose sand accumulation is for the veterinarian to listen to the horse’s abdomen with a stethoscope. The veterinarian will auscultate the horse at the lowest aspect of the abdomen (gravity) for sand. Sand inside a horse’s intestines sounds like waves on the beach. Again, depending on how active the intestine’s motility is, sometimes a veterinarian may not hear much sand movement although the horse could have sand. The last way to diagnose a sand problem is to take abdominal radiographs (x-rays). Because the abdomen is so large, a very powerful x-ray machine must be used, usually only available through large referral clinics.

So, how is sand accumulation treated? The best way to treat sand problems is to PREVENT them, i.e. keep the horse from ingesting it. In Arizona it’s difficult to prevent horses from ingesting any sand at all, but one can certainly reduce the bulk of ingestion. The primary time horses ingest sand is feeding time. To reduce the amount of ingested, some methods which work are: use rubber mats under feeders (where the horses pull their hay out), use large feeders which can’t be overturned (old bathtubs, large plastic feeders), feed in stall on top of shavings or straw, or the least the

expensive way – feed on old dry manure (make sure the horse is regularly dewormed).

Once a horse already has sand accumulation, PSYLLIUM is the only way to get rid of sand (short of surgery). There are many different psyllium products sold by veterinarians and feed stores, ex: Vet-Lax, Equi-Aid, etc... Psyllium looks like bran, but is not. A common misconception by owners is that bran will treat sand colic. Bran will not remove sand from a horse's digestive tract. Psyllium comes in two different forms, a powder or flavored pellets. The pelleted form is more palatable by most horses, but tends to be a little more expensive. The powder form is less expensive, but tends to blow away more easily (if it's a windy day) and is less palatable. Do not mix psyllium with water or it will turn into an undesirable gel mass. The recommended dose of psyllium for symptomatic horses is two cups per day for 1-3 months (depending on the amount of sand in the horse). After the initial high dose therapy, a maintenance dose is one cup per day for one week a month "to clean the horse out" and prevent sand build up. Sometimes when a horse with a lot of sand first starts psyllium, the horse may act a little colicky due to the irritation and resulting inflammation of the sand passing through the gut. A veterinarian may prescribe phenylbutazone when the horses are first treated for sand colic. Phenylbutazone ("bute") is an anti-inflammatory which can reduce the initial discomfort. Some horses can get some gas distention when starting psyllium. If this occurs, exercise and small amounts of bute can ease this transient side effect.

If the horse has an enormous amount of sand and its pain cannot be medically controlled by a veterinarian, surgical intervention may be needed. This usually takes place on an emergency basis, when the horse is in extreme pain or can't pass the sand with conservative treatment. The horse is sent to a referral surgical facility and the sand is "dumped" from the large intestine by a surgeon. Usually prognosis is good, but there is risk of the large intestine rupturing during surgery due to the heavy weight of the sand - a horse can have as much as 100 pounds of sand in them!

The important thing to remember about treating a sand problem is PREVENTION! Treatment will not be effective if the horse continues to ingest more sand.

ELECTRIC BEAR FENCE

Associated Press From the Billings Gazette, Jackson WY JACKSON — An instructional video and compact disc will be developed this spring for a lightweight electric fencing system with promise as a new way to keep food from bears. The Missoula Technology and Development Center said it will produce the 20-minute video and CD with instructions on how to assemble; use and field test the fence system.

The fence developed by the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander is designed to help backpackers, horse packers and other outdoor enthusiasts safely store food in the backcountry

It can be stored in a backpack and is meant to condition bears to avoid human food. Testing among both captive bears and in the Wind River and Absakora ranges and other areas has been effective. Crews are now working to make the system smaller and lighter, and are developing a field grade charger with a stronger, waterproof case.

A light will also be added to indicate when the fence voltage is low. "We've been talking about this product for some time," Bridger-Teton National Forest Deputy Supervisor Brent Larson said.

When used properly, Larson said, "the electric deterrent fences can provide forest users, outfitters and livestock operators an efficient and effective method to store food and other attractants in the backcountry."

The Missoula Technology and Development Center is a detached unit of the U.S. Forest Service engineering staff in Washington, D.C. It serves national forests and other cooperating federal and state agencies by developing equipment, information, concepts and ideas to better manage public lands

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2003/10/16/build/wyoming/75-bearvideo.inc>

Park fees set to reach new heights

BECAUSE OF BUDGET WOES, STATE SAYS, CLOSING SITES WAS ONLY OTHER OPTION

By Paul Rogers, Mercury News

Posted on Tue, Dec. 30, 2003

California's parks department, staggered by the state's budget problems and trying to avoid closing dozens of parks, announced Tuesday it will raise entrance and camping fees to their highest levels in history

Some fees will more than double at California's 277 state parks, which range from redwood forests to "Baywatch" beaches, desert ghost towns to mountain ranges, and battlefields to Lake Tahoe shoreline sites.

Getting into Hearst Castle, for example, will jump from \$12 to \$25.

Entrance fees at many Bay Area parks — including Big Basin Redwoods, Half Moon Bay State Beach, Mount Diablo and Mount Tamalpais — will increase 50 percent, to about \$6 per car, and possibly by a few dollars more on holiday weekends.

The biggest shocks to some outdoor lovers will come along the sunny Southern California beaches that receive millions of visitors each year. Visiting Huntington State Beach in Orange County, for example, will increase from \$5 to \$12 per car, and up to \$14 on busy weekends.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger described himself as an environmentalist and lover of the outdoors during the recall election. On Tuesday, his top lieutenants described the fee increases, which take effect July 1, as unavoidable and said they should negate the need to close any parks as the state struggles to eliminate its \$14 billion budget deficit.

"After repeated budget reductions, we have reached the point where there is no other choice," Parks Director Ruth Coleman said. "This is a reasonable solution to help get the state through hard budget times. The plan keeps the system open and operating while also keeping it as affordable as possible for all Californians."

Several environmental groups and Democratic lawmakers contacted Tuesday said that while they worry the cuts will lead to a drop-off in attendance, particularly among low-income residents, all choices are bleak.

"We think this is a reasonable response to the budget crisis, and much preferable to closing parks," said Sara Feldman, a spokeswoman for the California State Parks Foundation, an advocacy group in Marin County.

"Parks will still be available at reasonable rates to people. And even if they can't go to their No. 1 choice, they still will have other choices available to them," she said.

The chairman of the Assembly's Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee agreed.

"People have to face the reality that if they don't want tax increases and they want the budget balanced, they are going to face difficult choices," said Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, D-Martinez. "This is one of the easiest decisions that will be made this year."

Replacing funding

Other options, including commercial sponsorship of some parks — an idea floated by then-Gov. Pete Wilson and rejected amid public opposition a decade ago — also should be considered, Canciamilla said.

The raises, which do not require legislative approval, will raise \$18 million next year, assuming a 15 percent drop from the current 85 million visitors a year, said John Shelton, chief of state parks concessions and reservations in Sacramento.

That money will offset a proposed \$15 million cut in Schwarzenegger's 2004-05 budget to the state parks' \$272 million annual operating budget, and leave a little left over for back-logged maintenance projects.

Ron Brean, deputy state parks director, said the fee increases have been in the works for at least four months — before Schwarzenegger took office. If they are not imposed, the state will have to close up to 100 parks, he said.

The increases highlight a stunning downturn in state parks' fortunes over the past three years. On Jan. 1, 2001 then-Gov. Gray Davis cut fees in half, from \$6 to \$3 at many parks — the lowest entrance fees since 1986. He also eliminated boat launch fees and slashed entrance fees at state museums.

But only months later, as the dot-com economy soured, tax revenues fell and state lawmakers continued to spend at record levels, the state opened a massive deficit.

Last December, Davis quietly undid much of his earlier fee cut, raising entrance fees from a maximum of \$3 to a maximum of

\$5.

Under Schwarzenegger's plan, the maximum entrance fee will be \$14. Most Northern California parks will cost \$6 to \$8 to enter. Overnight camping fees will jump statewide from as much as \$13 to a high of \$25 for basic sites, and as much as \$39 for recreational-vehicle sites with hookups. Annual passes, at \$67, will increase to as much as \$125.

State parks superintendents also will be given new discretion to lower entrance fees in slower weekday or off-season times and raise them during weekends and summer.

Spending constraints

In a wider sense, the parks' basic problem is that there is a fortune to buy new land, after voters passed more than \$9 billion in parks and water bonds over the past three years, but there is no money for rangers because of the state's deficit. Bond money can pay for maintenance, repairs and land purchases — but not salaries, which make up more than two-thirds of the parks budget.

"I don't like the idea of raising fees," said Fred Keeley, executive director of the Planning and Conservation League, an environmental group in Sacramento.

"But I applaud the department for being honest about what their choices are. The real solution is to increase the size of the general fund," either through higher income taxes on the wealthy or sales tax on services, he said.

Endowment proposal

Two years ago, Keeley, then a state assemblyman from Santa Cruz, proposed that Davis create a \$2 billion state parks endowment from the budget surplus to pay for park operations with the interest. Davis declined.

"These parks are treasures," Keeley said. "All Californians inherit them. We have an obligation to pass them on intact and enhanced to the next generation. It costs money to do that. We should be willing to pay it. It is an important legacy."

From the BLM

Our office along with the National Park Service(NPS) will be dedicating the segment of the Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic trail that runs through the our resource area. from Hwy 98 through the Yuha desert North through the Plaster City open area and West mesa to Hwy 78.

The dedication will probably be held off of Hwy 98. Our office would like to extend an invitation to the Back Country Horseman Association to attend this dedication. It will be held on Saturday February 28, 2004. 9AM at a campsite near the Dunaway Exit off Highway 8.

TIME OFF

Two bone weary public servants were working their little hearts and souls out. Their department was just too busy for staff to be able take flex.

But there had to be a way..... One of the two public servants suddenly lifted his head. "I know how to get some time off work" the man whispered.

"How?" hissed the blonde at the next workstation.

Instead of answering, the man quickly looked around. No sign of his Director. He jumped up on his desk, kicked out a couple of ceilingtiles and hoisted himself up. "Look!" he hissed, then swinging his legs over a metal pipe, hung upsidedown.

Within seconds, the Director emerged from the Branch Head's office at the far end of the floor. He saw the worker hanging from the ceiling, and asked him what on earth he thought he was doing.

"I'm a light bulb," answered the public servant.

"I think you need some time off," barked the Director. "Get out of here - that's an order - and I don't want to see you back here for at least another two days! You understand me?"

"Yes sir" the public servant answered meekly, then jumped down, logged off his computer and left.

The blonde was hot on his heels.

"Where do you think you're going?" the boss asked.

"Home," she said lightly. "I can't work in the dark."

Dear Laura,

The wildfire that passed through Cuyamaca State Park has exposed the topography providing an opportunity to create or re-route trails in the Park. Without the vegetation, surveying and construction can be accomplished a great deal more easily. Removal of brush is often 75-80% of the effort in trail construction.

Many of the trails in Cuyamaca State Park just "happened". They were cow paths or existing trails that were adopted or accepted by the Park, many without regard to proper surveying or construction. Because of their poor alignment they were a challenge to maintain and many created significant erosion problems and at times were dangerous to the users. Sections or whole trails have been closed in the past for these problems.

To help future environmental conditions and user safety, re-routing these trails would greatly benefit the Park. With most of the trail upkeep being done by volunteers or hired crews, it is important to use their time efficiently. With trails properly surveyed and constructed their work would go further. A lot of money and volunteer hours are wasted trying to maintain poorly constructed trails. The cost of re-routing trails would be offset by the cost savings in the future. For instance a well-designed trailbed helps maintain itself by shedding water and doesn't impact negatively on the environment.

To facilitate trail construction I propose a trail machine be acquired. I believe the funds for a trail machine can be raised privately and I offer to head or assist in the effort to raise the funds. A trail machine would not only help construct new trails or re-routes but could be used on trails where berms have formed, an advantage over having volunteers do such work by hand. I suggest, now that the fire has taken the vegetation from the park, that we no longer have a designated wilderness area, and a trail machine ought to be used in the whole park.

The decisions that are made at this time with a vision for the future could create a positive legacy out of this fire. It is an opportunity not to be missed and will probably never be available again. Time is of the essence to take advantage of the conditions that exist today. I appreciate that there are many considerations and challenges facing Cuyamaca State Park at this time. To quote out of the last CRISPIA newsletter, the spirit of the Dyer donation was to "keep (the Park) open to the public forever". The trails are the access bringing the public into our very special park.

Thank you for the invitation to make my thoughts known to the Park. I stand ready to help in any way to rebuild our dear Cuyamaca.

Yours truly, Bernard J. Martin D.D.S.

cc. Keenen Sederquist, Mathew L. Fuzie, Marcello Mastrocola

FIRE INFO

Just a short reminder that the fire season is still with us. The Viejas fire occurred January 4, 2001 during a Santa Ana condition. Much of the same area returned again this past October.

You might also want to look at this publication by the USFS on "Living More Safely in the Chaparral-Urban Interface."

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/gtr-067/>

It is well worth the read if at least reminding us that we've been through this before. The document was written some time ago and still very relevant.

BCHC / CdS CALENDAR

**MARK THESE IMPORTANT DATES
ON YOUR PERSONAL CALENDAR !**

BCHC sponsored activities are BOLD

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

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

BCHC Caballeros del Sol General Meetings will be held quarterly with a special attraction and Potluck or BBQ. Check the back of each newsletter for location and directions to the Next meeting.

1 February
Unit Board Meeting
Sunday, 2PM
Nola's Home
Please call if you need directions

28 February 2004
Saturday

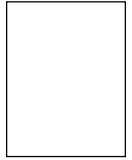
*BLM OPEING OF THA
SEGMENT OF THE
DeANZA TRAIL. Yuha
Desest to Plaster City.
Location: Dunaway exit
and Interstate 9AM*

March 11 – 14, 2004
**Rendezvous in Santa
Maria**
**SEND IN YOUR RESER-
VATIONS**

APRIL
Next Meeting
Date to be announced

22nd May, 2004
Fundraiser Ride
**Ride in Ranchita at a
beautiful private ranch.
Details coming soon...**

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



FEBRUARY 2004

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1 FEBRUARY, 2004

Unit Board Meeting

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Nola's Home - 858 278-9088

All members are welcome!

Please call if you need directions

APRIL, 2004

Date to be announced

Next General Meeting

**See President's Message
for input !**

Mailed courtesy of Morgan Stanley, Rancho Santa Fe