



Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol

Volume 5 Issue 7

August / September 2004

Website: www.bchc.com/cds

UNIT BOARD / CHAIRS

President/ Editor:

Nola Michel (858) 278 9088
trlrider@san.rr.com

Vice President

Darrah Glynn (858) 442 0789
daraglynn@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Donna Jesse (858) 679 1224
donna.jesse@morganstanley.com

Secretary / StateBoard Rep.

Tauri Cornell (858) 484 3495
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Public Liaison Chair:

Kathleen Hayden (760) 782 9053
prknride@znet.com

Education Chair / Insurance

Tauri Cornell (858) 484 3495
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Member at Large:

Sharon Haynesworth (858) 279 8518

Service / Webmaster:

Linda Eskin (619) 441 7675
linda@lindaeskin.com

Reports / Data:

Steve Randall (619) 561 6764
sdrmule@cox.net

Public Relations:

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

Service / Work Chair:

Linda Eskin (619) 441 7675
linda@lindaeskin.com

Ride Coordinator Open

Equipment Manager: President

Historian

Sharon Haynesworth (858) 279 8518

Hostess: Mary Randall 619 561 6764

sdrmule@cox.net

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Explanation of why this newsletter is so late. I broke my tailbone in a fall when a swing dropped me on cement. And then just as I could sit fairly comfortably, I smashed my (mouse) finger in my truck door. I truly am a danger to myself!

We had a Board meeting last night, Minutes will be in the next newsletter. That should be in mid October.

Our next General Meeting will be at Linda Eskin's home in November. We have set it on a Saturday, hope that many of you can make it and we can see your shining faces. There will be a potluck and the meeting should be short so we can have time to find out what we've all been up to this summer.

The Recreation Director of the City of Santee has called me and requested some help with the horse trails in Santee. I need someone to go with us to look at the situation. These trails hook into the Mission Trails Park system and are a part of the San Diego River Trail system. Need to do a survey on foot and then plan the project. Help anyone? Especially if you live near to this area.

Tauri and I will be traveling on your behalf, to mid California to the October BCHC State Board Meeting. If anyone else is interested in going please let me know. I shall be running for 2nd Vice President at the state level.

We are having Miramar Trail Trials on November 6th in conjunction with the Flying Hooves Riding Club. It will be on the Stables and trails of MCAS Miramar. Taurie Cornell is our co-chair for this event. There will be a trail trial meeting (I will email all) right after Horsefest to get started on the event planning. Any one interested in helping with this event please contact me or Tauri. (Plead) We need judges, helpers, and Computer person with a laptop with Excel on it to compute scores and lots of other help. And then of course spread the word, and/or come compete yourself. Information and registration forms will soon be on our website.

Keep the iron side down and the furry side up and keep your fingers out of truck doors!

 NOLA

Minutes of the General Meeting: July 24, 2004

Call to order, 7:07 PM

Treasurer's report given

Board actions:

\$250.00 to Kathleen Hayden to help with expenses for the Freedom 21 Conference. This was part of her Public Lands budget.

\$55.00 to pay for the ABDSP/DEIS document which will be sent to Candace Ricks to read and comment on.

These were both voted on by board members through phone calls and E-mail.

Rails to Trails: If public work is done out of public funds, workers must be paid. This is another way to prevent us from working on trails as volunteers which is what keeps most of the trails open. Linda Eskin moved and Sue Dejanovich seconded that Cab del Sol signs on the letter to California Resource Conservation Coalition and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to sign a bill overriding the law. Motion passed.

Public Lands information will be out later to membership.

Our Trail Trial has been set for November 6th at Miramar Stables. We will be doing this event in conjunction with Flying Hooves Riding Club (FHRC). Tauri Cornell is the chairperson and we will be using one of our public days on our insurance policy.

FHRC's HorseFest is scheduled for September 18th at Miramar Stables. Cab del Sol will be helping with a packing and gentle use demonstration.

Next general meeting will be at Linda Eskin's on October 23rd at 4:00 PM with a potluck to follow.

Adjournment 7:58 PM

Public Lands - Kathleen Haden

Dear Unit Members

Usually I am not at a loss for words. However there are none in my vocabulary that can adequately express the gratitude for sending me to the Freedom 21 Conference in Reno Aug 1. Your assistance made it possible to share lodgings with Candace Oathout, Jennifer Foster, and Kathy Van Tuyl all extraordinary public land advocates. Our unit got a lot of bang for our buck.

Trudy Thomas, formally policy advisor for Supervisor Bill Horn, and current District Representative for Senator Morrow sent a personal letter to introduce me to the presenters and sponsors. She has known and networked with most of them for many years. They all spoke very highly of her. Surely you must all know by now what a champion she has been for our causes. Not a day goes by without Trudy carrying our banner, full steam ahead, to her many well-placed contacts including Congressman Pombo and his staff. If Trudy is the meat and potatoes of our daily issues, Senator Morrow has been the icing on the cake. He has never been too busy to lend his support evidenced by the bills on our Wild Horses and Coyote Canyon. He has succeeded in an audit of Parks misuse of OHV funds. While we were hoping for a full audit of State Parks, the legislature would only support this one. It is however, a crack in the armor.

In this issue there is a short blurb on Agenda 21 that will give you an idea of why the Freedom 21 conference was so important to our access issues. We in fact are losing control of our sovereign lands, not just the access to them. Also in this issue are my comments on the ABDSP Draft General Plan and EIR. Candace Oathout has made a detailed and lengthy comment which you will find on our website. Our Unit has signed onto that comment, along with most of the other groups in California interested in access to our public lands in California. It is a great deal of work to read through a document of great size (over 1.5 inches thick) and comment on nearly every aspect in it. We thank Candace for her heroic efforts. Please read her work. It will give you insight as to what we are up against. Website: www.bchc.org/cds

WHAT IS AGENDA 21?

IN 1971 the Biosphere Reserve Program was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This program is organized in each country under the Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB). In the almost 30 years since its creation, MAB now has an international network of more than 335 biosphere reserves in 85 countries of the world.

1992, in Rio de Janeiro, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development brought to the attention of the world's leaders, their plan for all land management by maximizing environmental concerns to achieve their objective. Agenda 21, the Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Desertification were agreed upon to show the way towards what is now termed "sustainable development, by controlling the world's natural resources." The plan is promoted as care of the environment through clean air, clean water, wildlands habitat and corridors for species. In actuality this grand plan usurps all property rights both public and private.

UNESCO has laid claim to 47 United Nations' biosphere reserves in our nation, accounting for more than 70 million acres of U.S. soil that is locked away. Worse, UNESCO's rule over these lands extends beyond the actual boundaries - into what are called buffer zones. American taxpayers are now giving UNESCO \$60 million per year, for the privilege of having our own land locked away.

The US MAB Program created the Mojave and Colorado Desert Reserve in 1984 purportedly to conserve, monitor, manage, and study our California deserts. ABDSP was included in this reserve in 1985. Other units in this reserve include Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, the Santa Rosa Wildlife Management Area, and the Philip L. Boyd Deep Canyon Research Center, managed by the University of California at Riverside. Almost 4 million acres of the 25 million acres of California desert are included in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts Reserve. Representatives from California State Parks, the National Park Service, the BLM, the University of California, and the USFS manage the reserve. A designated representative from this committee is a representative for the reserve before the US MAB committee.

The Biosphere Reserve is the foundation of the Anza Borrego Desert Management Plan. Ca. State Parks is a member of the Desert Managers Group, which included BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS. They manipulate the California Desert and mountains, circumventing the statutory objectives of the multiple use mandates for which the lands were dedicated. Ranching, mining, and recreation **are zoned out** replaced by wilderness designations, areas of critical concern, buffers, etc. Not only is the Agenda 21 devastating to the nation's economy it will succeed in eliminating access to our historic natural and cultural resources for us and generations to come.



KATHLEEN'S COMMENTS ON THE ABDSP DRAFT GENERAL PLAN AND EIR

September 11, 2004

Ms. Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator
Southern Service Center, California Department of Parks & Recreation
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Ms Robinson;

Respectfully submitted are the following comments on the Anza Borrego Desert State Park Plan. The plan is fatally flawed and must not be implemented until issues of law have been resolved. These include CEQA violations for the closure of historic roads, trails, and routes that access our historic natural and cultural resources. The official ABDSP brochure states that all roads in the park, paved or dirt are state highways. Both Riverside and San Diego County have made RS2477 assertions in addition to prior opposition to closures in the ABDSP. The County Boards of Supervisors asserts that routes meeting the RS2477 requisites may only be closed by county abandonment procedures. Neither county has abandoned routes in the park. Most recently, the Legislative council concurred that CDPR did not have the authority to close Coyote Canyon Road for environmental reasons under state and county statutes. Despite the foregoing Parks, continue to ignore legal mandates.

In June 2004, Senator Morrow and I were invited to testify before the U. S. House of Representatives Resources Committee regarding some of these issues. I hereby incorporate these testimonies as part of my comments.

The ABDSP was established to be the Premier Park in the USA. Isn't it true that the Biosphere Reserve is the actual foundation of the Anza Borrego Desert Management Plan? Isn't it also true that Ca. State Parks is a member of the Desert Managers Group, which included BLM, NPS, USFS, and USFWS? Isn't it true that these agencies manipulate plans for the California Desert and mountains circumventing the statutory objectives of the multiple use mandates for which the lands were dedicated? Isn't it true that the Biosphere Reserve designation has replaced ranching, mining, and multiple use recreation with restrictive zoning, wilderness designations, buffers, etc.? Does this zoning tend to diminish and /or eliminate access to our historic natural and cultural resources now for us and generations to come? Please provide the data on economic impacts resulting from the diminution of access. Please provide the data on the exact location of all of the historic natural and cultural resources that the public must have access to in compliance with state, federal preservation acts. Included and incorporated in my comment is the President Bush's Executive Order applicable to this planning process. Also included and incorporated into my comments is correspondence with Alexander D. Bevil, Historian II dated July 11, 2001.

Can you provide the number of potential park visitors including children, seniors, and Americans with Disabilities that will be denied access to the historic natural and cultural resources of the entire region under Park's dominion comprising 700,000 acres? Is this the Vision our Legislature had when they approved the PARK for all generations?

The most egregious violation committed by the ABDSP management was the 2003 criminal CEQA violation resulting from the removal of the Coyote Canyon Wild Horse Herd. Has the ABDSP put themselves above the law while Civilians are prosecuted routinely for felony violations of the free roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act? Park's actions were especially premeditated and malicious considering that Backcountry Horsemen of Borrego Valley offered to adopt this herd pending resolution of the controversy. By parks own admission as stated in the 1995 CCPUP the herd was under the protection of the Wild Horse and Burro Act which states that they were to be protected on their NATIVE RANGES. The herd was historically native to this region. Lester Reed's book noted that the Los Coyotes Native American ranchers referred to the wild horses as the "ranch ramuda". Does that indicate that the herd was a cultural, historic, and natural resource existing on their native range long before the establishment of the park?

In closing I would also incorporate in my comments those comments submitted by Senator Bill Morrow, Candace Oathout, Barbara Ferguson, and David Hubbard.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Kathleen Hayden

THE PURPOSE OF INVASIVE SPECIES

On a recent raft trip down a Montana River a glimmer of reality peeked out for a moment. The riders were scientists attending a conference and the guide was a fishery graduate student from a Montana University. The guide explained about the “non-native” brook trout and rainbow trout that were “crowding out” the “native fish.” This occurred as the raft went by fisherman after fisherman fly-fishing for those very “non-native” trout. When one of the scientists asked what date was used to fix when something was “native” (and after which new arrivals were “non-native”) the guide replied “ we like to think of the date of the Lewis and Clark expedition as that date.”

Here on the East coast the date most often given as the “native ecosystem” ideal is 1492 AD. In the southwest and on the west coast, the arrival of Spanish explorers and Franciscan missionaries is the date when some sort of mystical mix of plants and animals is fixed as the “natives” of that region. Plants and animals brought from other parts of North America or from other continents after those dates are now being touted as “non-native” and somehow, mysteriously out-of-place. Based on this native worship philosophy disguised as environmental quackery, Americans are being told that thousands of plants and animals should be eradicated because they are “out of place” (i.e. “non-native”).

A partial list of the proposed environmental cleansing (brought to us by the same people who sold us Endangered Species by the way) would include:

Sika deer; brown trout; armadillos; Virginia creeper; most sparrows; pheasants; cattle egrets; wild hogs; European boars; chukars; Hungarian partridge; rainbow trout, walleyes, and muskies throughout the South; Largemouth bass in the western US; striped bass in the West; and on and on ad infinitum.

The costs of eradicating any of these would be astronomical. Many folks, like me, would think the United States a much poorer place without these species in abundance. To create a US without them would be a catastrophe. When we protest that state and local control of certifiable (i.e. provable) harmful species works well, Invasive Species advocates dismiss us and clamor for more laws and tax money like Endangered Species history has proven to be so good for their growing power and harmful to the rest of us.

But you know all this. What about those dates? You know Lewis & Clark, 1492, the Conquistadors; what do they all have in common? Right! They were the arrival dates of the Europeans. Unlike the arrival of Asians 9-10,000 years before, there is something different about the arrival of the Europeans. While the Asians (today’s American “Indians” or Native Americans) brought dogs and seeds and fire and thousands of things from hunting methods to farming practices and wars that drastically altered the environment, species mix, and distributions of species for some reason their date of arrival does not carry the import of the Europeans’ arrival dates. So what is the difference?

The Europeans brought advanced civilization. They brought Christianity. They brought different farming methods and animal husbandry. They brought science and mathematics. They brought organization and political history that gave birth to the greatest nation on earth. They brought equality and a melding of different religions, cultures, and ethnic groups unknown throughout the history of man. They brought ideas that led to a Constitution born in a fierce war of rebellion that is the envy of the world 200+ years later. They brought values and willing commitments that even today are recognized as useful to oppressed people from Nazi Germany to Iraq, Bosnia, etc. Yet, their arrival date throughout America is used as a date when environmental plunder and pillage began? The highest living standard in the world is cause for reversing one of the most pleasing and productive natural environments known to man? What is wrong with this picture?

There is nothing wrong with this picture. It is accurate in all regards. The Invasive Species advocates (politicians, bureaucrats, professors, and the radical groups partnering with them) really want to eliminate what makes this country great. From property rights to hunting, logging, farming, ranching, trapping, animal ownership and use, human recreation, rural living, and all the things that distinguish us from China and Zimbabwe to Britain and Germany they want to change our way of life and our relation to government. Government will no longer answer to us; they intend to make it the other way around. Resource use, animal use, sustainable management of resources, the use of private property, and the availability of public property held by government will all be denied Americans in the name of an all powerful government dictating what is “best” whether we like it or not. Invasive Species legislation, just like Endangered Species legislation, is intended to do just that. Remember those dates the next time a professor goes off or some politician or bureaucrat or radical outfit starts trumpeting why you need to give them more money and authority to “handle” Invasive Species. Just tell them you are proud of the US just like it is and if they want to live where there are no Invasive Species try Afghanistan or Rwanda. I’ll bet the environment there would be much more “native” and much more to their liking.

Jim Beers

1 September 2003

End near for forest fee experiment

DAVE DOWNEY - Staff Writer North County Times - 17th July 2004

With the end drawing near for the nearly decade-long experiment with recreational user fees on public lands, a battle is brewing in Congress and across the West over whether the program should be made permanent.

So far Congress is sending mixed signals.

The Senate voted unanimously in May to let the trial-run fees for visiting lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service expire at the end of 2005, while making national-park fees permanent. The legislation (S 1107) is sponsored by Sen. Craig Thomas, R-Wyo.

But in the House of Representatives, a very different bill was introduced in October to address the fate of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program.

There, U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, wrote a bill (HR 3283) to set up permanent fees for visiting lands managed by each of the four federal agencies. Were it to become law, a person would have to purchase a national "America the Beautiful Pass" for \$85 before setting foot in national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and BLM lands.

The bill is being debated by a subcommittee of the House Resources Committee, and a public hearing was held in May. Regula is in no rush to get it out of committee and onto the floor for a vote, but he is still determined to charge a fee on all federal lands. Ultimately, any differences will have to be ironed out by a House/Senate conference committee.

Regula also authored the 1996 law that launched the experiment, in a bid he said to end a huge backlog of maintenance on public lands.

There is widespread agreement that fees should continue in national parks, which generally have more elaborate facilities and more extensive programs for visitors than other federal lands. But a coalition of recreation and environmental groups opposes institutionalizing fees in the national forests.

For now, a user fee is charged in more than 100 national forests in three dozen states.

Southern Californians know it best as the "adventure pass" they are asked to purchase to hike, picnic or even pull off a highway to take in a panoramic view. The cost is \$5 for a one-day visit and \$30 for an unlimited number of annual visits.

Unlike in a national park, there are no toll booths at forest entrances and no one is required to pay to drive through on a public road such as Highway 243 in Riverside County and Highway 79 in San Diego County. However, as soon as one stops the car, the need for a pass is triggered.

Signs informing people of the need to display adventure passes in windshields of parked cars are widespread in the Cleveland, San Bernardino, Angeles and Los Padres forests.

According to a September report by the Government Accountability Office (formerly the General Accounting Office), more than \$900 million had been brought in since 1996, including \$160 million for forests. Southern California's forests had collected \$18 million.

Fee: Bargain or barrier?

But eight years after the first signs were posted, Southern Californians remain divided on whether a fee is appropriate.

"The forests are supposed to belong to all of us," said Gene Frick, a Southwest Riverside County environmentalist who sits on the executive committee of the Sierra Club's San Gorgonio Chapter, which covers Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and opposes the fee on philosophical grounds.

Frick said he also opposes the fee on grounds the Bush administration is using it as an excuse to underfund forest and wildlife programs.

Todd Rosspencer, 33, a youth pastor for a Riverside church, said after a hike near Idyllwild last week that he opposes the fee because it discourages — and effectively prevents — many children in poorer families from being inspired by the solitude of unscarred wilderness.

"They should be able to roam the trails, climb the rocks and swim in the creeks," said Rosspencer, who looks like tennis star Andre Agassi and sports a shaved cross on the back of his head. "They're the ones who really need to benefit from this."

Still, many don't mind paying the \$5.

"It seems like a reasonable price," said Kelly Merrill, 52, of Encinitas, while preparing for a rope climb up Idyllwild's Lily Rock.

And Jenghis Jarvel, 53, a real estate investor from Los Angeles, said he doesn't mind contributing to a good cause.

"I'm not opposed to it — as long as the money is being used to take care of the mountains," said Jarvel, who had just returned from a 22-mile hike in preparation for an assault this summer on 14,496-foot Mount Whitney, highest peak in the continental United States.

He dismissed the notion that the fee keeps low-income families out of the forest.

"I'm sorry, I can't buy it," Jarvel said. "You know, you go to the movies and it costs you eight or nine bucks. And the \$5 day pass, that's a popcorn."

But Rosspencer said, "That's because he can afford a \$5 popcorn at a movie." The youth pastor said he knows many families who can't.

A difference near the 'urban madhouse'

Regula, the Ohio congressman, said he is not trying to exclude the poor and his bill includes fee-free days to reach out to them.

"Due to incredible popularity, our public lands endure a lot of wear and tear," Regula said. "I think most Americans who use the trails and campgrounds and visitor facilities at these sites are not opposed to paying a nominal fee to keep them in good condition. This bill is not an effort to prevent access to public lands."

U.S. Forest Service officials say the \$5 has made the meadows and evergreen groves more pleasant for Southern Californians.

"Some of our picnic tables were in meltdown (before the program)," said Ruth Wenstrom, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino National Forest. She said many tables have been refurbished with the \$18 million in adventure-fee revenue that had been collected in the four Southern California forests, as of last September.

Managers of Southern California forests purchased 670 new picnic tables, 370 bear-proof trash containers and 427 portable restrooms, Wenstrom said. And they retrofitted 27 permanent restroom buildings for the disabled, accelerated maintenance along back country trails, and cleaned up graffiti and trash.

"The thing that the public wanted most was more and cleaner restrooms," she said.

In the Cleveland National Forest of western Riverside County and northern and eastern San Diego County, money from the fees funded removal of logs and debris from 30 miles of trails and refurbished 30 camp sites, said Joan Wynn, Forest Service spokeswoman in Rancho Bernardo.

Fee revenue also built barriers to keep off-road vehicles out of sensitive meadows and people out of fragile archaeological sites, she said.

Wynn said a specific example is the new viewing deck at a scenic desert overlook in eastern San Diego County. And, in western Riverside County, said Judy Behrens, spokeswoman for the Cleveland's Trabuco Ranger District, adventure-pass fees delivered a new parking lot and handicapped-accessible restroom for the popular San Juan Loop Trail.

Some forest visitors say they have noticed; others haven't. Forest officials say they concentrated improvements in areas nearest Southern California's spreading cities.

"The closer you are to the urban madhouse, the more of a difference it has made," Wenstrom said.

Contact staff writer Dave Downey at (909) 676-4315, Ext. 2616, or ddowney@californian.com.

COYOTE CANYON HORSES NOT FORGOTTEN

by Dick Bergeron

Still gone yet not forgotten, another effort to restore the Coyote Canyon herd to its home range was attempted by horse advocates on August 6th.

At a meeting of the State Historical Resources Commissioners held at the Ontario Convention Center, advocates made a plea to have the herd designated as a historical resource that should be restored to its home on nearly 100,000 acres at the north end of Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

The herd, which had grazed there for a century, was removed by park officials in March 2003. The herd is now split between a Bureau of Land Management holding facility in Ridgecrest, California and a sanctuary in South Dakota.

In recent actions to restore the herd, a state Senate bill sponsored by Sen. Bill Morrow (R-Oceanside) was defeated along strictly partisan lines in the Senate Natural Resources committee last April. In May 2004, Senator Morrow and Senator Dennis Hollingsworth (R-Murrieta) sent a written plea to state Resources Director Mike Chrisman asking that he make an administrative decision with regard to the herd.

At the Ontario meeting, four speakers tried to make their case for the horses. Kathleen Hayden represented Back Country Horsemen of California, Marcy Watton spoke for her Atelope Valley chapter of BCHC, Trudy Thomas represented Senator Morrow and Assemblyman Jay LaSeur (R-La Mesa) while Jim Real spoke on behalf of the California State Horseman's Association and as chairperson of the Riverside County Trails Committee. Nola Michel, also of BCHC, was prepared to speak but did not feel the need to do so.

Among the reasons for wanting the herd declared to be a historical resource are that it was the last of the free-roaming wild horses in southern California and is only one of a few desert herds known to exist.

While a few of the commissioners stated their opposition, most of the nine-member commission appeared to be sympathetic. Even the normally stoic commissioner Philip Choy sat up to pay rapt attention to the discussion.

A formal application had not yet been filed to ask the commission to take action because the requested application form was not made available to Mrs. Hayden upon her request in May 2004. A long-term employee of the Office of Historic Preservation took it upon himself to determine the horse herd could not qualify as a historical object since, in his words, the National Register of Historic Places does not recognize living animals.

In fact, as clarified by Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer, the National Register does not recognize living people.

Mrs. Hayden led the commission through each step by state and federal statute that qualified the herd as a living historic and cultural resource; however, the commissioners focused on the definition of the word "object."

Further discussion ensued with commission chairperson Dr. Anthea Hartig saying, "We have an awkward time [with this issue] because we can't designate living things." Yet she went on to say that she saw designation of the herd as a historical resource as a wonderful opportunity even though something similar had never been done before.

Commissioner Mary Maniery stated that she saw the charter of the commission as to protect man-made objects. She said it was her opinion that the herd issue was biological rather than cultural.

Ms. Watton countered that Congress implied that wild horses were a cultural heritage with the language of the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

The commission's staff counsel, Tara Lynch, offered her legal opinion that the definition of "objects" was clearly the question, and stated that the commission cannot go beyond the law in its actions.

Mrs. Thomas brought a number of points to the commission, including the facts that the state park personnel illegally removed the herd, and that it had been proven, after the horses were removed, that BLM always had jurisdiction over the herd. A former BLM official had erroneously told state park officials that BLM did not have any interest in the herd. This same official was reassigned long ago for several egregious actions not in the best interest of BLM or the public.

Despite some contentious moments such as when commissioner Dr. William Hildebrandt expressed his thought that the commission was being asked to make ecological decisions, the overall tone was one of optimism for those hoping to eventually restore the herd of wild horses to its native range.

Mr. Donaldson acknowledged that there would be a problem trying to find a path to declare the herd as a historical object, he did say he hopes the advocates can work something out. He also offered the support of his office.

Matt Fuzie, Acting Director of the Colorado Desert District, was in the Commission's hearing room when the afternoon session began, but he apparently left before the appeal to save the horses was over.

Because the Office of Historic Preservation falls under the Department of Parks and Recreation, whose director is Ruth Coleman, a staunch opponent of wild horses in state parks, it will remain to be seen if political pressure will be applied to stem support from a historical standpoint.

It had long been a stated goal of state park officials, led by ABDSP superintendent Mark Jorgensen, that the horses would be removed. At the time of the removal a study was under way by researchers from the University of California, Davis, led by Dr. Walter Boyce, to determine if there were conflicts between the endangered Peninsula bighorn sheep and the horse herd.

Horse proponents contend that Mr. Jorgensen knew the Davis report, midway in a two-year study, would conclude there was no conflict for forage or water between the herd of wild horses and bighorn sheep. It was then that he opted to take "emergency" action to "save" the horses. Indeed, months after the removal of the herd, the report stated there was no direct impact on the sheep by the horses. In the Executive Summary of the report, it states that the herd persisted for close to 100 years! That means that the herd, the sheep, the mountain lion, the habitat, everything had found a balance in order for all to persist until state parks personnel upset the balance by removing the herd.

Mr. Jorgensen used photos taken of lactating mares and foals that looked underfed to the untrained eye, along with testimony from his hand picked equine experts, all of whom had some experience with domestic horses but no expertise with wild horses, to have the herd surreptitiously removed from the park.

Just prior to the removal, members of Back Country Horsemen held discussions with wild horse experts from the Bureau of Land Management. BLM officials had agreed to work in public/private cooperation with horse advocates and state parks to help manage and protect the health of the Coyote Canyon herd. BLM is still willing to partner with State Parks and private organizations to restore and manage the herd in its native range at no cost to the state. The only hold-out is State Parks.

Photos taken during the roundup of the horses showed what appeared to be very healthy wild horses. Veterinarians who examined the horses at the roundup could determine nothing to conclude otherwise.

Mrs. Hayden summarized her conclusions of the discussions at the commission hearing as, "Not a big win or loss, but a new direction."

High Country Journal August 15, 2004 Contact Dick Bergeron at: hcjournal@aol.com

CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK TRAILS MAINTENANCE UNIT WORK PARTY LIST

SEPTEMBER:

Saturday, September 11, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Terry and Nancy Nickols at 619-588-5235 or terrystickols@mail.escapees.com

Saturday, September 18, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with John Sproule at 619-390-9737 or jsroule88@hotmail.com

Saturday, September 25, 8AM start. Meet at Mickey James Horse Camp. REI project, register with Dave and Michele Hernandez at 619-669-1697 or jerrydave@earthlink.net
We need TMU members to assist supervising the REI Volunteers!

OCTOBER:

Saturday, October 2, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Matt Jankowicz at 619-749-0254 or matthewjankowicz@ngc.com

Saturday, October 9 & Sunday, October 10, 8AM start. Volunteer and Friends work weekend. Meet at Paso Picacho. Camping available on Friday and Saturday night the 8 & 9. Register with Michael Curtis at 858-278-3280 or cmcurtis@pacbell.net.

Saturday, October 16, 8AM start. . Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Terry and Nancy Nickols at 619-588-5235 or terrystickols@mail.escapees.com

Saturday, October 23, 8:30AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho, Register with Bernie and Peggy Martin at 619-445-1289 or peggy@oakzanitaranch.com

Saturday, October 30, 8AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with John Sproule at 619-390-9737 or jsroule88@hotmail.com

NOVEMBER:

Saturday, November 6, 9AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Matt Jankowicz at 619-749-0254 or matthewjankowicz@ngc.com

Saturday, November 20, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Terry and Nancy Nickols at 619-588-5235 or terrystickols@mail.escapees.com

Saturday, November 13, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with John Sproule at 619-390-9737 or jsroule88@hotmail.com

Saturday, November 27, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Michael Curtis at 858-278-3280 or cmcurtis@pacbell.net.

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.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

October 23rd , 4:00 PM

**Linda Eskin's home
Potluck to follow.**

See page Back Page for map

CUYAMCA , ON-GOING

WEEKLY TRAIL REPAIR

The faster it is repaired the quicker it will all be open! Come out as often as you can!

See the schedule on Page 10

BCHC STATE BOARD MEETING

OCT 16th 2004

Call Nola if interested in going

TRAIL TRIALS

MIRMAR STABLES

BCHC-CdS / FHRC

NOVEMBER 6th 2004

**Info & Registration formson
the Website ater 20th Sept.**

NOVEMBER 11-14 2004

Annual BCHC-SD

**Vern Whitaker-Anza Borrego
Campout and work party.**

**Contact: Tom Marshall
760 731 044**



NEWS FROM CUYAMACA

Steve Randall emailed a report on the rebuilding and repair of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. It is quite aggressive. There are already many trails open for use now. Some of the higher single-track trails are not yet open due to downfall and erosion. It is slow work. If you wish to see a map of the open trails look on **www.cuyamaca.us** .

From the plan are these:

Los Caballos Equestrian Camp, A contract has been let for replacement for the damaged combination building. The Campground will be moved partially to the west to mitigate the cultural and natural resources that inhabit the area. The campground will be increased in size to as many as 22 spaces. Shade trees from native stock will be grown and planted to provide for the comfort of campers and add to the view-shed while the forest rejuvenates.

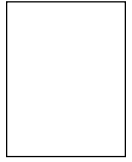
Los Vaqueros Group Camp, Rebuild as previously existed.

If you want your own copy of the complete plan with the horse camp maps, and comment form, contact Steve Randall, tel 619-561-6764, fax 619-390-6783 or sdrmmule@cox.net

Steve's comments were, "In my opinion it all looks very good and is fairly aggressive, (completion fall of 05). I do feel that the Dyar house should not be rebuilt but replaced with a modern, functional building. The Dyar house was definately a great building, but it was outdated and not functional for the visitor center, museum, and gift shop. I have heard that it will cost as much as \$500,000.00 (?), just to stabilize the remains. I see no reason that CRSP cannot have a visitor center of the caliber of the one at ABDSP."

Don't forget to check the workparty times for the park and have some fun rebuilding the trails, then report your work times and mileage to Steve!

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



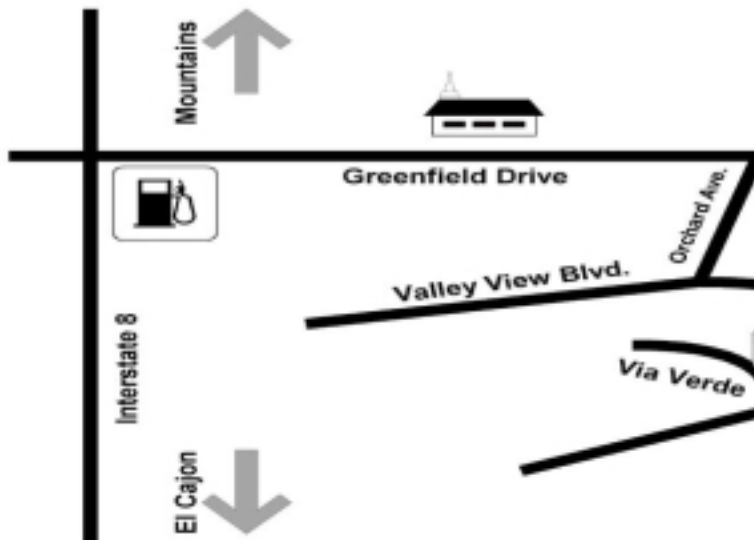
INSIDE

President's Message	Pg 1
Minutes	Pg 2
Kat's messag	Pg 2
Agenda 21	Pg 3
Kat's comments ABDSP	Pg 4
Invasive Species	Pg 5
Forest Fees	Pg 6 & 7
Coyote Canyon Horses	Pg 8 & 9
Cuyamaca workpartys	Pg 10
Calendar	Pg 11
Cuyamaca update	Pg 11

August/September 2004

Label

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23RD 4:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK
LINDA ESKIN'S 2235 VIA VERDE 619 441 7675
POTLUCK TO FOLLOW.



Mailed courtesy of Morgan Stanley, Rancho Santa Fe