



# Trail Whispers

**BCHC—Caballeros del Sol**      **Volume 5 Issue 9**  
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**Website:** [www.bchc.com/cds](http://www.bchc.com/cds)

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The year is rapidly winding up (or down, not sure which). Here's wishing you all a great New Year.

Sorry I am so late with this newsletter. I am pleading a winter cold, an ailing horse, scanner not working, (no pictures) and too much procrastination. Guilty.

I hope that you will support the Borrego Unit New Year's Ride. (See Page 12) Not only is it a great one, much of the proceeds will be going to support the wild horses. They are adopting four of the Coyote Canyon Stallions, to preserve the gene pool. They will be kept on donated property. The property is fenced 40 acres, close to their range. We are in need of four stallion pens to be donated before we can bring them in. When they are released onto the property it will be possible to return them. Or you may donate them outright. Let Kathleen know if you know of any.

The next fun happening will be the 'After the Holidays Party'. It will be held at the Eskin home, directions are on the Back Page. Bring a dish to share and a gift (white elephant or other wise) for the fun gift game. If you have not participated in this event before, you are in for a great time. Hope to see you all there.

You may or may not notice that in the State Board Report there is a dues increase for next year. \$30 - \$40 for Individual membership and \$40 - \$50 for Family dues. If you pay before the end of this year, pay the 2004 rate. The \$10 increase will be divided, \$5 goes to BCHA, \$5 to be divided between BCHC and your local unit. Remember that you get not only local newsletter (this) plus a quarterly newsletter both from BCHA and BCHC. Incidentally the BCHC voted against the BCHA raise but our votes were in the minority, being as each state has only 2 votes. However our membership is a majority of the members in BCHA.

Soon, in you mailboxes, will be your newsletter from the BCHC. Your information and application for Rendezvous will be in it. It will be the only one you will get, as they are trying to cut down on the expense in mailing the packet. I hope you are planning on going to Rendezvous; it's always a great gathering.

In next months newsletter will be a report on the Purity Concept (if it is not covered in the State Newsletter). There was a great deal about it at the State Board Meeting and you all need to know what it going on with the Forest Service policies. Also in the next newsletter will be the report in the Trail Trials, with pictures

Keep your chin up and your seat in the saddle! (Think I'm talking to myself but you can listen too!)

**N**ola

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## Minutes: BCHC/CdS Board Meeting

September 14th 2004

Call to order 6:15 pm

Treasurer's report given.

Tauri Cornell moved and Donna Jesse seconded to help with State Board Meeting expenses up to \$200.00. Motion passed.

Nola Michel will be running for 2nd Vice President of BCHC, nominated by this CdS unit board by Email poll.

Candace' Ricks/Oathout's EIR report will be on our website. Some shorter ones will be printed in our newsletters. comments.

Donna Jesse moved and Tauri Cornell seconded to send Candace Ricks \$100.00 for a consulting fee for the EIR report. Motion passed.

We need volunteers for the clean-up of Santee Trails headed by Susan Richardson.

Joint trail trial with Flying Hooves Riding Club is a go for November 6th.

We need volunteers in many capacities. Contact Tauri to offer your time and talents.

Nomination Committee has reported that following persons will accept the nominations for the year 2005:

President: Nola Michel

Vice President: Darrah Glynn

Secretary: Tauri Cornell:

Tresuraer: Donna Jesse

Public Liaision: Kathleen Hayden

Education Chair: Linda Eskin

Member at Large: Sharon Haysworth

Any further Nominations can be taken fro the floor at the next meeting, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will be voted on at that meeting. Installation of Officers will be held at our Annual 'After the Holidays Party in January

Adjourned 7:00pm

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## State Board Report October 16, 2004

Financial reports need to get to Lynn Joiner ASAP

Insurance: Policy is from February to February. Each unit has 3 free days. \$51.00 for each extra public day

Parades are \$4.25 per animal, Additional insured days are \$45.00 per event

Public Lands: Committee checking into changing our status to 501c3

Public Service: BLM proposal of adoptees into BackCountry, needs criteria

BCHC needs a new newsletter editor. C.J. Hargraves is applying for the newsletter editor job and has nominated Debra Greenfield for State Board secretary

\$10.00 increase in dues starts January 1st. 2005. \$5.00 Goes to BCHA,\$5.00 to be stlit between BCHC and local units.

2005 New Officers elected for BCHC

President	Chip Herzig
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Juanita Kirkpatrick
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Nola Michel
Public Lands Vice President	Barbara Ferguson
Education Vice President	Pete Kriger
Secretary	Debra Greenfield
Treasurer	Lynn Joiner
BCHA Representative	Jerry Ledbetter

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## REPORT ON EFFORTS FOR THE WILD HORSES

In 2004, in reaction to the removal of the last wild horse herd in Southern California, Backcountry Horsemen of California and California State Horse Association Wild Horse advocates determined that designation of our Coyote Canyon Herd as a State Historical Resource would provide further protection of the herd when they are returned to their home range. A delegation of the advocates attended the State Historic Preservation Meeting in Ontario California in August 2004. The Preservation Officer recommended that we nominate a Wild Horse Historic District instead of the herd itself. This would more easily meet the requirements of the National Registry Listing. The nominations are usually done by professionals who are hired to file the papers and follow through. This is often a lengthy and complicated process. The first attorney we consulted was an exercise in futility. The good news, however, was that she didn't charge us and we got a better idea of the hurdles we would have to overcome.

Last week we received an interesting article by Dr. Thomas F King who recently published: Cultural Resource Laws and Practice: an Introductory Guide and Places That Count: Traditional Cultural Properties in Cultural Resource Management from Tom Pogacnik, Wild Horse and Burro Director for the California Region of the Bureau of Land Management.. Dr. King own and operates a consultation, training, and dispute resolution in cultural resource management firm in Silver Springs, Maryland. Barbara Ferguson, Backcountry Horsemen of California Public Lands Chair, remembers working with him on the Sierra and Inyo National Forests to develop an approach to historic property management in the wilderness areas. We have contacted Dr. King and he is reviewing our files concerning the Coyote Canyon horses. We hope he will be able to assist us in our quest to nominate a Wild Horse Historic District.

Tom Pogacnik has been working with us since the horses were removed from Coyote Canyon. Although he is supportive of our efforts, the current controversy with the Burns amendment means that Bureau of Land Management will not be likely to take on another Wild Horse & Burro proposal...HOWEVER neither would they oppose our efforts. We have been able, with Tom Pagacnik and others, to draw attention to the plight of the Coyote Canyon Horses from Wild Horse advocates across the nation. Several organizations in California have come forward to offer their support and some financial assistance. The designation of a Herd Management Area as a Historic District would be the first step in restoring and protecting our herd.

The Borrego Unit is in the process of adopting four of the Coyote Canyon stallions. We have 40 acres in Anza that have been donated for their pasture. We are in immediate need of a donation of 4 pipe corrals w/shelters until the horses can be released to pasture in a few months. Funds raised through the annual New Years ride and dinner will go toward supporting the stallions.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Hayden

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## COMMENT LETTERS ON LOS CABALLOS EQUESTRIAN CAMP

December 6, 2004  
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We are writing to you to express concerns regarding the Los Caballos Equestrian Camp in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. In the aftermath of the Cedar Fire, the California Department of Parks and Recreation has announced plans to move the campground due to archeological concerns in and around its current location. This "compromise plan" announced by Colorado Desert District Superintendent Mat Fuzie, involves the construction of 22 campsites in an undeveloped meadow area adjacent to the current campground. The Department's proposed plan, developed without public input, will have significant environmental impact, is costly, and is inferior to the existing campground.

While members of the equestrian community respect the Kumeyaay heritage, it is also important to realize Cuyamaca Rancho State Park provides important recreational opportunities for today's complex society. The campground has existed near the archeological sites for 50 years; the sites have no greater exposure due to the fire. The impact of Los Caballos has already been made, environmentally and culturally.

All of the facilities in the park were approved under the cultural review criteria in place at the time of their development. If archeological protection is truly the overriding interest in decision making since the fire, then all existing facilities, including the School Camp, Paso Picacho and Green Valley Campgrounds, the Group Camps and others should be subject to the same review as Los Caballos, as they were also impacted by the fire.

The proposed location is inferior to the existing location in the following ways: The proposed layout is in close proximity to Highway 79, a scenic highway and the access road to Stonewall Mine, it is less private and has a visual impact. The area has less tree cover resulting in more exposure to wind and less shade. The proposal requires the grading of a significant amount of soil in a meadow environment.

We are not asking for an expansion of the horse camp. We are asking the campground be restored to its pre-fire condition. The campground remains relatively intact. The bathroom/shower facility was burned, but due to be replaced, and the camp host site burned. All that would be required to re-open the camp would be to remove damaged trees, re-establish water, clean up the camp area, and develop the destroyed facilities in the pre-fire locations. Chemical toilets could be brought in until the bathroom and shower facilities are rebuilt. These same tasks were done to re-open Green Valley and Paso Picacho Campgrounds last year. Equestrian groups would gladly participate in helping to re-open Los Caballos.

Additionally, signs stating the archeological sites are closed for restoration and fencing can be installed to protect the sites. This same approach has been taken in other areas of the park. An interpretive area should be developed to discuss the area's cultural significance, with the camp hosts providing a presence to further protect the area. There would be no need for the environmental impact review process. Rebuilding Los Caballos in its pre-fire location would save precious tax dollars, it is the responsible and prudent thing to do.

The Dyars donated the land which is now Cuyamaca Rancho State Park for the use of the people, specifically equestrians. Los Caballos Equestrian Camp has been a well-loved, much-used facility for generations of Californians. We implore you to assist us in restoring the existing Los Caballos campground

Sincerely,

Bernard J. Martin DDS, Marcello Mastrocola, Rosemary Monijo Bush

cc. Ruth Coleman, Matt Fuzie, Laura Itogawa, assembly & senate officials, Cuyamaca Equestrian Association, Backcountry Horseman of California

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Howdy Arnold !

I am writing to you in regards to the policies being suggested by some of your employees. They are trying to spend more money unnecessarily.

I know you are aware of the fires that burnt through San Diego county in October of 2003. The fires did extensive damage to the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The park is recovering quickly thanks to nature and the volunteers.

The Los Caballos Horse Camp was burnt, exposing much of the surrounding ancient Indian camp. Meaning that you could see the grinding holes left in the mortar bedrock. The brush has grown back and covered much of what was exposed. Your archaeologists are suggesting to move part of the campsites into an undisturbed meadow area below the current site. The campground has been in the same spot for 50 years resulting in no damage to the site as examined by previous archaeologists.

This letter is to refer you to the General Plan of 1986 that currently mandates the policies for the park. Enclosed are appropriate excerpts from the plan. Your state park representatives can provide you with a current issue if you wish.

The plan thoroughly covers the Native American Cultural aspect of park policy, developed by a competent team of archaeologists serving the state at the time.

On page 32 the horse camps as they are, have been compatible with the policies for 50 years. They are a serious source of revenue as page 39 describes the growth. Page 45 recommends expansion of the Los Caballos Campground. Not moving it, but expanding for more use. Page 50 gives the project number 1 priority.

It is quite clear that the Los Caballos Campground does indeed coexist with the mortar bedrock evidence of the ancient Indian camps. The brush has again hid most of it.

The relocation is the brainchild of some ambitious archaeologists seeking to make a name for themselves at the expense of us all and neglecting the General Plan that was created to mandate their policies.

The "Quesos Grandes " are unable to make a decision. Please make it for them. Allow Los Caballos Horse Camps to stand as is and rise from the ashes to it's prefire condition, rebuilt by the many volunteers who are anxious to get started. Please don't be a girly governor and take action.

Sincerely, Garry Mc Clintock

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## Unfair recreation fees now law

Sunday, November 28, 2004 [www.denverpost.com](http://www.denverpost.com)

Get ready to pay through the nose to use your national forests and other public lands. A last-minute plan to charge recreation fees on some federal lands for the next decade was tucked into the 3,000-page appropriations bill that passed Congress last Saturday.

The proposal never received even one public hearing and was rammed into law by a congressman who has no public lands in his district. It was lawmaking at its worst.

On paper, the recreation fee program sounded reasonable when it started as a demonstration project in the 1990s. Congress has underfunded federal land agencies, leaving them unable to handle soaring recreation use. As an experiment, Congress let the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service collect fees on a few heavily-used areas. The program then was expanded.

But the program was badly managed and ignited a backlash. The Government Accountability Office found the Forest Service using appropriated funds to shore up the recreation fee program, just opposite of what Congress intended.

The "rider" slipped into the appropriations bill last week by U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, an Ohio Republican, doesn't fix the program's flaws. In fact, it ignores evidence that how the agencies have really run the fee program is very different from what they've told Congress they've done. For example, Regula's amendment says that except for the National Parks, the agencies shouldn't use the recreation fees as de facto access fees. Yet that's exactly what the recreation fees have become - in Colorado for example, there's no way to legally access Mount Evans without paying the fee.

Moreover, the penalties for not paying a recreation fee - a \$5,000 fine and six months in jail - are wildly out of proportion to the offense. By comparison, damaging a fragile wetland with an all-terrain vehicle nets just a \$75 fine.

A more sensible approach was championed by U.S. Sen. Craig Thomas, a Wyoming Republican who knows the problems facing public lands. His bill, unanimously approved by the Senate, would have kept the fee program just for the Park Service, which has been the only federal agency that could prove it has used the extra money wisely. House Speaker Dennis Hastert figuratively slapped the Senate, because he never let Thomas' bill see the light of day yet let Regula slip his rider into the budget bill.

Thomas says he'll likely introduce his bill next year. Colorado's congressional delegation should help undo Regula's maneuver and support Thomas' plan.

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# LEGISLATING COWBOY HATS AUSSIE LAWMAKERS SAY THEY ARE DANGEROUS

By Julie Carter

Headlining agriculture news this week is a story about the felt hats worn by the Australian cowboys (stockmen) not meeting modern industrial safety standards.

With this hitting international news, will American cowboy hat legislation be far behind?

It all began in 2001 with the death of an Australian cowboy. Daniel Croker, 23, suffered massive head injuries after being trampled by the bulls he was gathering when he fell from his horse.

The New South Wales state government brought charges against the ranch owner and last month fined him \$72,000 for breaches of safety, including failure to provide the horseman with an equestrian helmet.

Since then helmets have become compulsory for Aussie ranch cowboys while ranchers are calling for industrial laws to be changed to delineate between Outback and city factory work.

It is a given that the United States is notorious for its attempts to legislate intelligence or the lack of it, in the name of protecting us from ourselves. Making rules for what kind of "lid" the cowboy should wear to work seems not far away.

We in the west will give the same arguments they are currently presenting in Australia.

A helmet in 100 plus degree temperatures is a recipe for a heat stroke. Additionally, here in the southwest we set records for skin cancer rates. Substituting helmets for broad brimmed hats would increase the hazards for that lethal disease.

Somewhere along the line the cowboy hat got passed off as something of a romantic Wild West icon with no real function except to identify a cowboy in a crowd.

While indeed an identity to the cowboy, the hat functions well as protection from the elements. The sun is shaded off the head and the face, ears and neck. The rain runs off the brim and down the back of your slicker instead of down your neck into the inside of your clothes.

Tipped against the wind it can protect your face from the blowing dust and wind in general. Head ducked to your chest, traveling into a snowstorm, the brim will protect against a slush plastered face.

Other uses include watering your horse, fanning a fire, signaling for help and sometimes most important, providing shade over the face at siesta time.

The son of a Philadelphia hat maker created the first cowboy hat in 1865. His name was John B. Stetson, now known as the inventor of the cowboy hat.

As the story goes, John B. Stetson and some buddies went west to seek the benefits of a drier climate. During a hunting trip, Stetson amused his friends by showing them how he could make cloth out of fur without weaving. Stetson used the fur from hides collected on the hunting trip.

Stetson made an unusually large hat out of this fur-felt. He then wore the hat for the remainder of his hunting trip, at first as a joke, but then grew fond of the hat for its protection from the weather. He and other cowboys of the west ended up liking the idea so well that Stetson soon manufactured and sold a hat true to his original idea.

Perhaps we need to get the cowboy hat designated with some sort of national historical significance like a landmark so legislatures have to leave it alone.

As a cowboy hat advocate in Australia is saying, "The stockman's hat is an icon. You can't replace it with an ice-cream container on the head."

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## Recreation fees surpass grazing for first time in BLM history

By Brett French, Gazette Outdoor Writer

Recreation receipts brought in more money than grazing this year for the first time in the history of the Bureau of Land Management.

For fiscal year 2004, the BLM collected \$13.5 million in recreation receipts compared to \$10 million for grazing. What's more, the agency estimates that 93 percent of its contacts with the public are now related to recreation. "We used to do recreation on the side," said Bob Ratcliffe, deputy manager of recreation and visitor services for the agency. In fact, the public would sometimes derisively refer to the BLM as the Bureau of Livestock and Mining. That's changing. With recreation gaining a higher profile, the agency has earned a new nickname - the Bureau of Leisure and Motorhomes.

"Recreation is now on the same playing field as grazing and forestry," Ratcliffe said. Although that's partly because timber and grazing revenues have fallen in the past four years. "It will never bring in the kinds of receipts we see from oil and gas. But it's big, big, big."

### View from the hill

Ratcliffe, 48, was in Billings Sept. 29 to tour some of the state's sites and talk to BLM leaders in the region. He's been with the agency 15 years, the last four in Washington, D.C., so he's been positioned to see the startling growth in public play on BLM lands and the resulting problems that have arisen. Recreation on BLM lands has grown about 65 percent in the last 15 to 20 years, Ratcliffe said. Close to large urban areas, some BLM lands have seen use jump tenfold or more.

"Recreation is not an activity anymore - it's a passion, a religion, a core value," Ratcliffe said. And while the public may like to visit national parks or forests, they bring their "toys" to BLM lands - everything from ATVs to dune buggies, mountain bikes to guns for target practice.

Consequently, when federal land managers make changes or restrict access to lands that may have been used by the public for a number of years, they fight back.

### Management guide

The BLM faces a tough balancing act, Ratcliffe said, of providing access to public lands but to also preserve the quality of the experience without degrading the resource. "The question is: How can we keep these places at the level where we can all enjoy them for a long, long time?" Ratcliffe said.

To help make such resource decisions, the BLM has produced a pamphlet to guide management of recreation and visitor services through 2007. The guide states three main goals for BLM's recreation services: to improve access, ensure a quality experience and provide fair value in recreation.

Ratcliffe said BLM's mission is complicated by the fact that the bureau allows activities other land management agencies wouldn't dream of permitting. He pointed to the annual Burning Man festival in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada as an example. Over the course of a week, a community of 25,000 springs up on BLM land. "It's as legitimate a use of public lands as everyone else," Ratcliffe said.

Technology also is constantly forcing the agency to retool how it addresses use, an example being the surge in sales and use of all-terrain vehicles.

"It used to be that we were always the agency that managed lands that everybody else didn't want," Ratcliffe said. "And now the land that nobody wanted, everybody wants."

Although fees collected from recreation may be increasing - due to the meteoric rise in the use of federal lands - BLM still has a hard time finding funding. Coming up with more money for signs, rangers or to purchase access is difficult. To help make up the discrepancy, the agency is leveraging what it gets by working with other federal, state and volunteer organizations.

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The BLM is also now charging fees for events, such as Eco Challenge or Jeep Safari. The Burning Man festival alone brought in \$600,000. Another new way BLM is raising money in Nevada is by selling urban-interface lands to developers with the money collected going to purchase public access, easements or for watershed improvements elsewhere.

Ratcliffe said, however, that the BLM does not and will not charge fees for access to trails - a fund-raising technique the Forest Service has experimented with much to the dissatisfaction of many users.

"We will only charge a fee where there is a facility," Ratcliffe said. "We will never charge where people just want to go out and visit public lands."

Brett French can be reached at [french@billingsgazette.com](mailto:french@billingsgazette.com)

A copy of "The BLM's Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services" can be found on the Internet at [www.id.blm.gov/publications/data/recvisit.pdf](http://www.id.blm.gov/publications/data/recvisit.pdf)

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## **Forest should never close**

### **Pasadena Star News, Oct 20, 2004**

Now that rain has soaked the forest plain, the U.S. Forest Service has magnanimously reopened three regional forests to recreational uses. Especially gratifying is to see most of the heavily traversed Angeles reopened along with the Cleveland and San Bernardino forests.

Well, not all of the Angeles will welcome back visitors. Chantry Flat Road and Crystal Lake will remain closed. These areas have been off limits for two years. It's past time they are reopened.

If the roadways need repair, do it. It's the kind of job the service should be engaged in, not citing folks without Adventure Passes, or consulting with the weatherman over which seasons the public can use the land it has purchased and maintains through taxes.

Sure, when rain is falling, the chance of fire danger is nil, so is anyone hiking or camping? But when the Santa Ana winds blow, or the temperature rises, they say "You must stay out."

This is wrong. Even with the rain and more on its way, the Forest Service is harrumping about those winds and not enough moisture to reduce fire danger! Here's a thought: Why not get to work clearing out the brush to further reduce the chance of a conflagration now that the weather is cool and damp?

Dangerous conditions are inherent in wilderness areas, so no season is prime for visitation. Rock and earth likely are sloughing off hillsides right now, a usual occurrence when man attempts to hold back nature to make his way easier. It's an irony that the 1.4-plus inches of rain that reduced fire danger increases the chances of those slides.

That's the point. Rock and mud slides, blocked roadways, fire, avalanche, false snow bridges, et al, are the ebb and flow of the forest floor, if you will. Most visitors are well aware that Mother Nature is fickle and ought to be given due respect. Caution should always be the watchword in the forest.

It's not the job of the forest service to protect visitors from what might someday, somehow occur in the wildlands that make up much of our national forests. The forest isn't Disneyland and if some don't know that, they should stick to the paved roads and monitored campgrounds.

The forest should stay open and the managers must manage it. Only as a last resort should they close off sections that pose imminent danger, either from mudslide, flooding or avalanche. Fire? Prohibitions against open fires, smoking and candles ought to be sufficient, combined with patrols.

Closing the entire forest should never be an option. It's a ludicrous way to manage the public's land.

Clearing brush, keeping roads free of rocks and mud, maintaining trails to allow the people access, not marshaling forces to lock them out is the job of those managers, regardless of weather conditions. In the end, such necessary work will do more good than praying for rain.

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## Roadless forever?

*By Candice Oathout*

I just finished reading former President Clinton's commentary defending the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. I can't help but wonder how many of the 1.5 million people who supported this legislation have been victims of its impacts.

How many of these people have seen the American Dream of owning your own home become further and further out of reach?

How many of these people connect the dots from implementation of the "roadless rule" to the increasing cost of housing?

How many of them realize that the United States now imports lumber from countries that do not maintain the same environmental protection standards as this country?

How many of them realize that loss of access to forested wild lands has destroyed the timber industry, closed sawmills, and devastated the local economy of countless small towns?

How many of the people who supported the "roadless rule" are experiencing increased energy costs for heating and cooking, because energy exploration and mining opportunities are no longer available, due to the "roadless rule?"

How many of them realize that national timber sales have plummeted by 80 percent - from eleven billion board feet a year, to less than 2 billion board feet today?

How many people who supported the "roadless rule" realize that 92 percent of the landmass in the United State is still rural wildland?

When the politicians talk about the outsourcing of jobs overseas, why don't they talk about the logging jobs and mining jobs that have been pushed to other countries by wilderness and roadless designations?

When politicians talk about how our economy is failing to provide high paying manufacturing jobs, why don't they point out the true costs of environmental regulations on United States businesses? Costs that make it impossible for these companies to compete with overseas companies - that are not held to the same environmental standards, enabling them to manufacture goods at much less cost, while they continue to spew the same pollutants that U.S. companies must capture and treat. This does not mean that we should abandon technological improvements that have reduced pollution levels in this country. It means we must share these technological improvements with other countries, and help reduce their contribution to world-wide pollution and leveling the playing field between countries.

While we must be good stewards of our land, the rhetoric about "saving the last wild places" is, quite simply, a lie. It is just one part of the scare campaign that pervades our culture today. President Clinton stated that the federal government is much more able to care for our public lands than the Governors of the states who are directly accountable for, and to, the people of the state they serve. He would take the responsibility for the economic stability of our economy from local elected officials, and give it to nameless, faceless bureaucrats who often have not even seen the lands they are managing.

"Influenced by early wise-use advocates such as Gifford Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt believed that nature existed to benefit mankind. In a conserved wilderness, timber could be harvested, sport could be had, water could be taken to irrigate farmland. All of these benefits would be lost if the wilderness were destroyed." All of these benefits will be unavailable to this and future generations, in wilderness as it is defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964, and under the "roadless rule." The Wilderness Act (1964) that defines "wilderness as ... land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable... a place where man is a visitor who does not remain." This has been consistently interpreted to mean that Wilderness Areas must have no roads, few trails, very small numbers of visitors, and only be maintained without mechanical means. Without mechanical means has been defined as the use of hand-tools-only and no motorized transportation into the area to be maintained. This severely limits land managers' abilities to manage the lands under their control for multiple uses.

We have only to look at the fire history in the West over the last few years to recognize that Foresters must be given the

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control to manage our forests with their expertise, training, modern technology, and local knowledge. As Gifford Pinchot, the father of the conservation movement, stated in the forest management objective in the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, “Our responsibility to the Nation is to be more than careful stewards of the land, we must be constant catalysts for positive change.” Our wildlands are suffering from the not-so-benign neglect of land managers who are unable to use their expertise, training, and modern technology to actively manage our forests for the good of all the people. In the last few years, over 19 million acres have burned in catastrophic wild land fires that have destroyed thousands of homes and caused loss of lives, wildlife habitat, and valuable natural resources.

Former President Clinton refers to the loss of wildlands forever. This, too, is simply not true. There are more forested acres along the Eastern Seaboard now than when the colonies were formed. From soft-wood forests in the Southeast to so called old-growth forests in the Northwest, the dynamic systems that make up our world have a remarkable ability to adapt, regrow, and respond to changes that occur so subtly and slowly that many people are not aware of them.

To those who dispute that wildland can be restored, I suggest that they study the recent history of Mount St. Helens in Washington. The dramatic rebirth of this area since the volcanic eruption in 1980 is tremendous. The average visitor would not realize that this beautiful wooded mountain literally blew up, scattering mud, debris, and ash more than 200 square miles, and leaving a barren wasteland behind on May 18, 1980. “The largest landslide in recorded history swept down the mountain at speeds of 70 to 150 miles per hour, and buried the North Fork of the Toutle River under an average of 150 feet of debris. Some areas are covered by as much as 600 feet. In all, approximately 23 square miles of material was removed from the mountain.” (courtesy of Valerie A. Smith)

I recommend that they study the changes in the Cuyuna State Recreation Area in Minnesota. This 5,000 acre area was a series of active iron mines until the 1950’s. Over the last 20 years, the landscape that was dotted with mining pits and stockpiles has changed. The deep pits are now filled with crystal clear water, and a variety of vegetation now covers the area. The result is 25 miles of undeveloped shoreline with a considerable area of forested land containing trembling aspen, paper birch, basswood, red oak, ironwood, and bit-tooth aspen. The marsh areas contain bulrush, cattail, and sedge. These communities provide a home for a wide variety of wildlife. The area contains six natural lakes, plus an additional 15 deep lakes that were former mine pits. Trout, northern bass, crappies, sunfish, and walleyes inhabit the area’s lakes.

Former President Clinton quotes Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president in his commentary. I would also like to quote President Roosevelt as follows;

“The object of government is the welfare of the people. Conservation means development, as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.” (“The New Nationalism” speech, Osawatomie, Kansas, August 31, 1910)

I believe, we must take this message to heart. We must support our neighbors by restoring principled timber harvesting and mining in our rural areas. We must depend on trained foresters and local representatives with knowledge of current conditions on the ground to make these decisions. Saving wilderness and roadless areas for future generations must not cause insufferable poverty and misery for this generation.

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## **No roadless rule to weaken Aug 04**

**Laura Skaer, Executive Director, Northwest Mining Association, Spokane**

Dena Marchant’s letter accusing the Bush administration of weakening the “roadless rule” is missing an important fact: there is no “roadless rule” to weaken. In July 2003, a federal district court judge ruled that the Clinton administration’s “roadless rule” was illegal and issued a permanent injunction against it. Judge Brimmer found that the rule violated the Wilderness Act of 1964, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Administrative Procedures Act. The Bush administration’s proposal will have roadless protection determined at the state and local level and crafted to meet the unique and diverse needs of each national forest, not with a command and control, one-size-fits-all approach from Washington D.C. The new rule will establish a collaborative process in which governors will work with the U.S. Forest Service and all interested local parties to make state-specific rulemakings for both conservation and management of roadless areas. The approach will give local communities the ability to identify areas for inclusion, set up local management plans, protect local resources and assure citizens access to private property. The Bush administration recognizes that our national forests belong to all, not to an elite few, and the law requires they be managed for multiple-use and sustained yield.

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Here's some good news  
This decision could have ripples in many other areas.  
From the Pasadena Star-News

## TRAIL GROUP VICTORIOUS IN COURT CASE

By Kimm Groshong

Staff Writer Pasadena Star News PASADENA

In what could be a precedent-setting decision for court cases dealing with trails in the San Gabriel Mountains, a judge ruled Tuesday that a portion of the El Prieto Fire Road in Altadena must be reopened for public use. Judge C. Edward Simpson of the Los Angeles Superior Court in Pasadena reached a decision in favor of the plaintiff, an unincorporated association called Save the Altadena Trails, which sought access to about 200 feet of a common driveway at the north end of El Prieto Road in Altadena that leads to the Angeles National Forest. The property owners who share the driveway erected a wrought iron fence across the path in 1999.

Simpson reached his decision based on historic evidence presented by the plaintiff's attorney, Paul Ayers, including first-hand testimonials, which established the road's uninterrupted use by the public dating back to the late 1880s. Simpson's written decision explains that what was needed to establish continuous public use was proof "that the public's use was substantial, diverse and sufficient to convey to the owner notice that the public was using the passage as if it had a right so to do. The court does make that finding in this case ...' Establishing historical public use in this kind of case requires evidence of public use for five years dating prior to March 4, 1972, based on the Supreme Court's ruling in what is called the Gion-Dietz decision.

"This is a very, very important victory in terms of public access,' Ayers said. "There is substantial historical record, similar to the kind I used to win this case,' in other areas in the foothills above Altadena where property owners are trying to keep the public from using trails, he added.

Local trail advocates said they were relieved by the decision. "It is a fantastic win and the judge clearly read the black and white letter of the law and made a good decision,' said Steve Lamb, a trail user from Altadena.

The defendants' attorney, Michaeline Re, could not be reached for comment.

Kimm Groshong can be reached at (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4451, or by e-mail at [kimm.groshong@sgvn.com](mailto:kimm.groshong@sgvn.com)



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**Date: New years Day 2005**  
**Time: Ride leaves 10am**  
**Dinner 2pm**  
**reservations recommended**  
**Double I. Farms**  
**Borrego Springs**  
**760-767-5252**

**help support our Coyote Canyon adopted wild horses**  
**Backcountry Horsemen of Borrego Valley**  
**New Years Day Barbeque and Poker Ride**  
**\$20 Ride & Poker Hand-\$15 Eat only-\$5 Extra Poker**  
**Camp free New years Eve and watch fireworks**

# YOU'RE INVITED!

# 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.

## **UNIT BOARD PLANNING MEETING**

**Wed. Dec 29th  
Nola Michel's  
858 278 9088**

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## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**CDS Unit**

**"AFTER THE HOLIDAYS"  
party**

**Jan 8th 2005  
4 PM**

**Bring a dish to share and a  
gift for the game**

**See back page for  
diretions**

Meeting on Loc Caballos  
Campgrouind  
11 Jan 2005

Descanso Town Hall  
\*\*\*\*\*

**CRSP 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 schedual below  
\*\*\*\*\*

**MARCH 2005**

**RENDEZVOUS**

**Watch for you registrations in  
your Jan BCHC Newsletter !**

## **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Trails Maintenance Unit**

### **JANUARY**

Saturday, January 8, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Michael Curtis at 858-278-3280 or [cmcurtis@pacbell.net](mailto:cmcurtis@pacbell.net)

Saturday, January 15, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Steve or Mary Randall at 619-561-6764 or [sdmule@cox.net](mailto:sdmule@cox.net)

Saturday, January 22, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Terry and Nancy Nickols at 619-588-5235 or [terrystickols@mail.escapees.com](mailto:terrystickols@mail.escapees.com)

Saturday, January 29, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Dave or Michele Hernandez at 619-669-1697 or [jerrydave@earthlink.net](mailto:jerrydave@earthlink.net)

### **FEBRUARY**

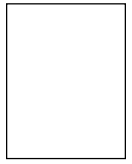
Saturday, February 5, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Terry and Nancy Nickols at 619-588-5235 or [terrystickols@mail.escapees.com](mailto:terrystickols@mail.escapees.com)

Saturday, February 12, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Michael Curtis at 858-278-3280 or [cmcurtis@pacbell.net](mailto:cmcurtis@pacbell.net)

**Saturday, February 19, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Steve or Mary Randall at 619-561-6764 or [sdmule@cox.net](mailto:sdmule@cox.net)**

**Saturday, February 26, 9AM. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Dave or Michele Hernandez at 619-669-1697 or [jerrydave@earthlink.net](mailto:jerrydave@earthlink.net)**

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



**Nov - Dec 2004**

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Label

**SATURDAY JANUARY 8TH 2005  
5:00PM**

**POTLUCK AND PARTY (SHORT MEETING)  
LINDA ESKIN'S 2235 VIA VERDE 619 441 7675**

**DIRECTIONS  
HIWAY 8 TO GREENFIELD EXIT SOUTH  
TO END AND HARD RIGHT ONTO ORCHARD AVE.  
LEFT ONTO VALLEY VIEW  
RIGHT ONTO EUCLID AVE.  
RIGHT ONTO VIA VERDE  
SECOND DRIVE ON RIGHT.  
PHONE 619 441 7675**

**Mailed courtesy of Morgan Stanley, Rancho Santa Fe**