



Back Country Horsemen of America

Steve Lindsey

Back Country Horsemen of Kansas
National Director

&

Don Saner, Public Liaison Chairman

Back Country Horsemen of America

Darrell Wallace, National Chairman

Back Country Horsemen of America



Keeping trails open for hikers, bikers and equestrians since 1973

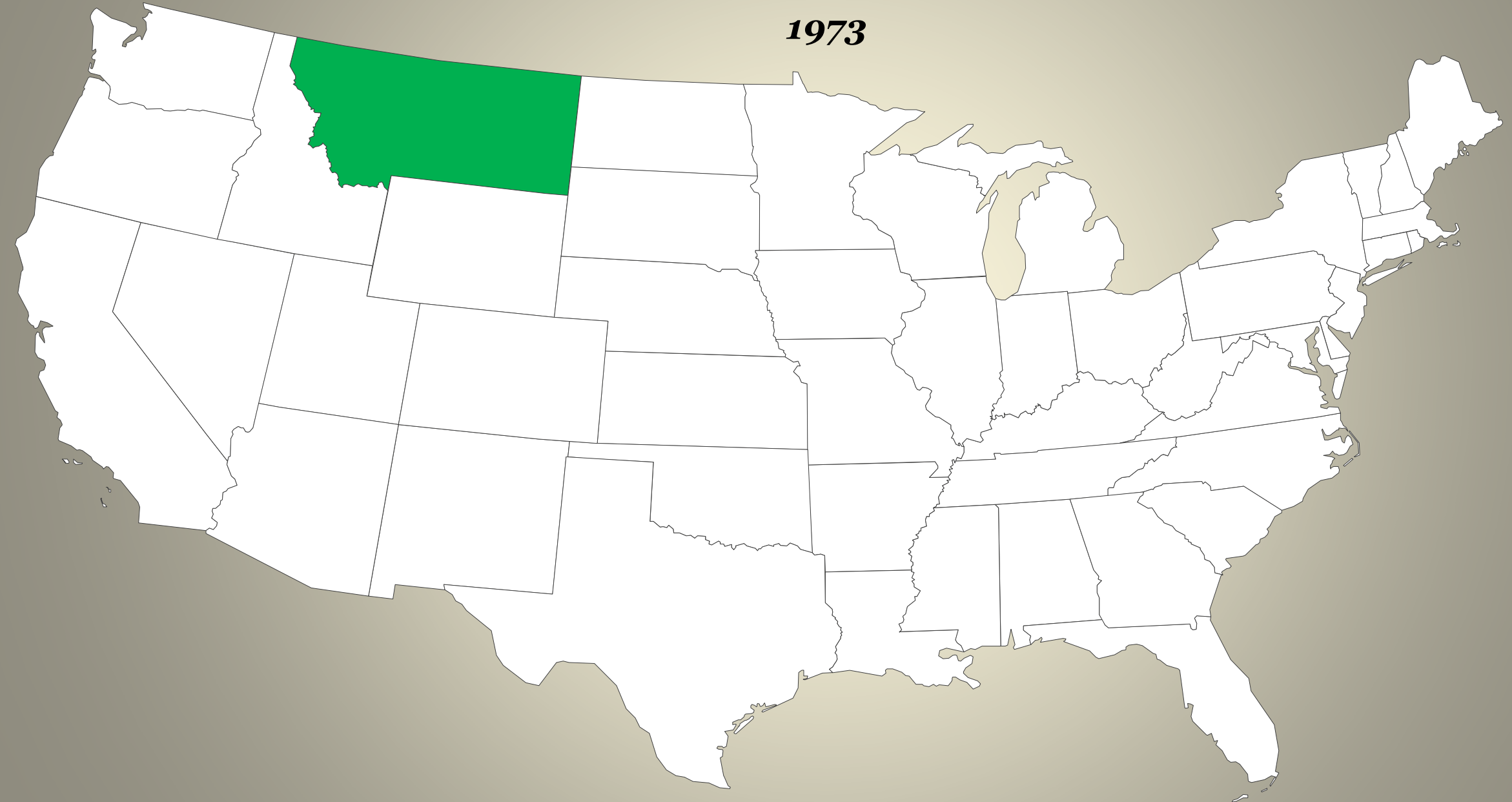
bcha.org



BCHA

How we got here...

Lone BCHA Member
1973



Our Roots

- It was the original assumption that Back Country Horsemen would be a different type of organization, not the usual special interest one, normally operating as a protest group. It was felt that a service organization, doing work, would lend credibility to the group when it became involved in criticisms of agency management.
- So, service and education joined a determination to protect our heritage of horse and stock use as composites of the “purpose” outlined in our Mission Statements. Our name was chosen because it signified an interest in much more than just wilderness. Back Country Horsemen are interested in perpetuating recreational trail use on virtually all public lands.

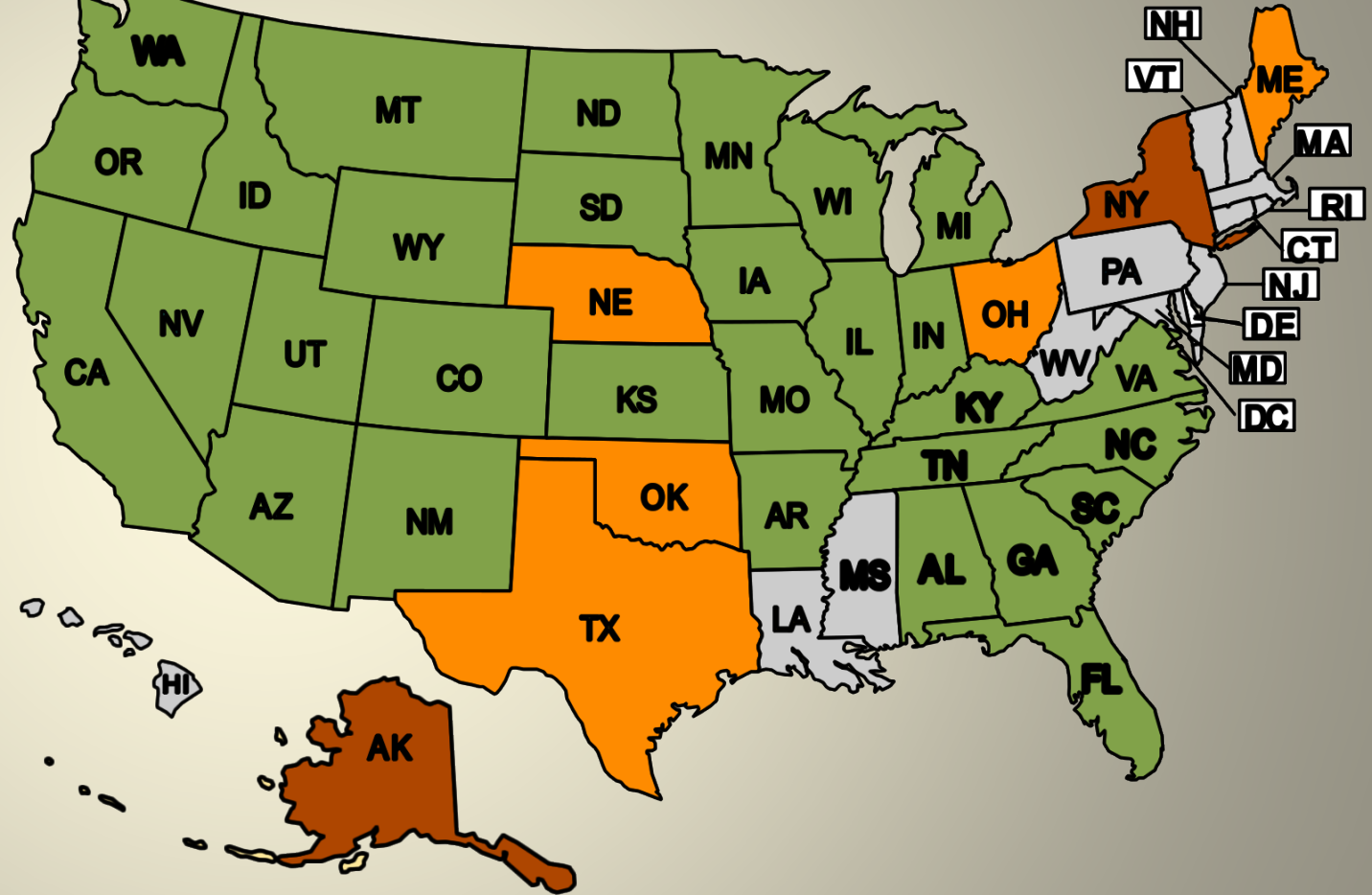
2019

BCHA **Current** and **Affiliate** Members
Potential New Member States

13,000+ members

180+ chapters

32 states



Purposes of Back Country Horsemen

- TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas. *(Use of Back Country would mean, ANY PUBLICALLY OWNED LANDS)*

Purposes of Back Country Horsemen

- TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas.
- TO WORK to insure that the public lands remain open to recreational stock use. *(Use of Back Country would mean, ANY PUBLICALLY OWNED LANDS)*

Purposes of Back Country Horsemen

- TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas.
- TO WORK to insure that the public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- TO ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

Purposes of Back Country Horsemen

- TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas.
- TO WORK to insure that the public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- TO ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- TO EDUCATE, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country... *(Use of Back Country would mean, ANY PUBLICALLY OWNED LANDS)*

Purposes of Back Country Horsemen

- TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas.
- TO WORK to insure that the public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- TO ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- TO EDUCATE, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country...
- TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations. *(Use of Back Country would mean, ANY PUBLICALLY OWNED LANDS)*

Purposes of Back Country Horsemen

- TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas.
- TO WORK to insure that the public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- TO ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- TO EDUCATE, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country...
- TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.



To more simply put it...

**We keep America's Trails
open for *Everyone***



**We keep America's Trails open for
*Everyone***

Three Ways...

1) Hooves and Boots on the Ground

- Clearing trails of deadfall, debris and erosion and more
- Trail maintenance and design, including signage
- Maintaining and developing trail heads
- Packing in equipment and supplies
- And so much more...

2) Education

- Trail maintenance safety
- Trail maintenance and design
- Chainsaw and crosscut saw certifications
- Packing with horses and mules
- Leave No Trace
- Equipment operations

3) Advocacy

- Working with federal, state and local
 - Partnering with Army Corps on recreation and trail management plans
 - Promoting Federal legislation (e.g., 2016 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act}
 - Litigation as a last resort (e.g., 2019 Tahoe National Forest Electric Bicycle Litigation)
 - Action planning
 - Grant preparation and assistance

The Results

Back Country Horsemen of America

- 322,125 service hours in 2019 (in-kind value of \$12.1 million)
- Service Agreements/MOUs:
 - US Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - **Corps of Engineers 2020**
- BCHA members on board of directors of Pacific Crest Trail Assoc and Continental Divide Trail Coalition
- Nearly **\$150 million** in-kind volunteer service donated since 1995

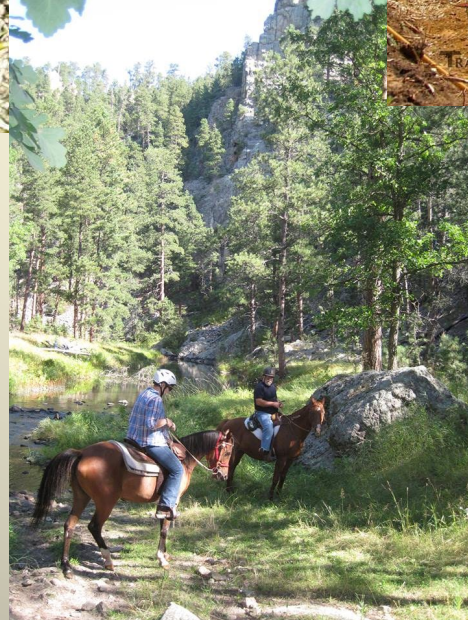




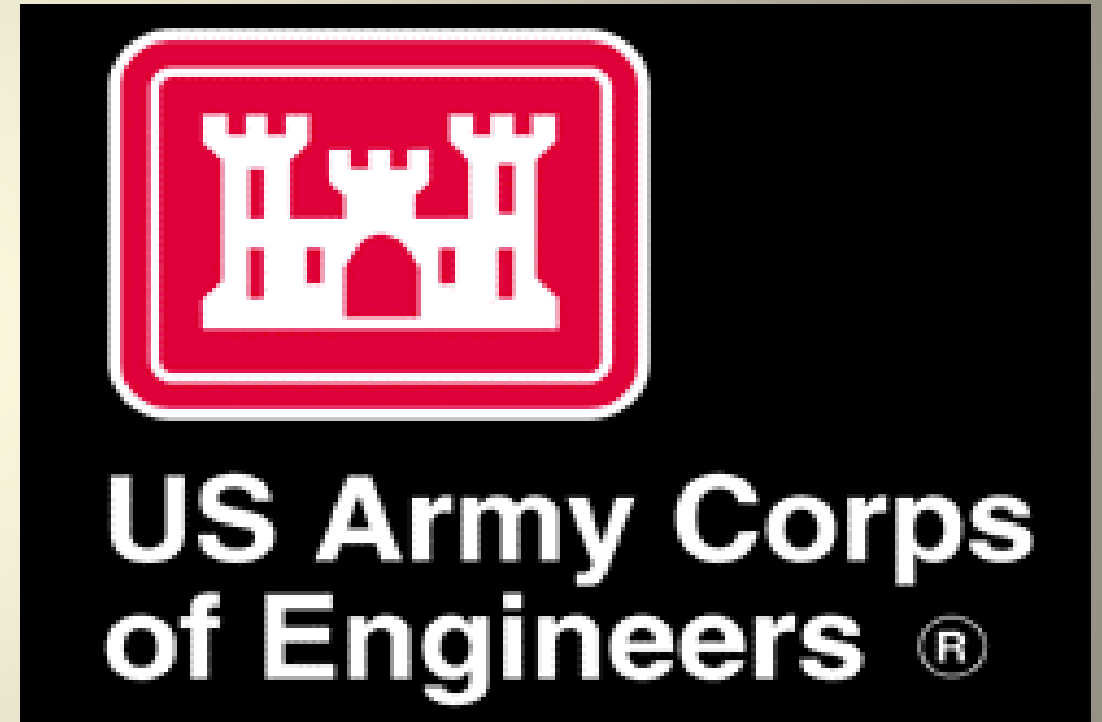
**Back Country Horsemen support
minimum and reasonable
regulations necessary to protect
land resources and values.**

**Humans and equine are both part
of the environment, not separate
from it.**

Back Country Horsemen work in a variety of ways to ensure that our opportunities for equine travel and recreation will always be available for future generations.



Partners in Maintaining Access



National MOU signed in March 2020

Purpose: Increase cooperation between USACE and BCHA to assist one another in developing equestrian related programs, projects, training, and trails.



Goals

- Work closely with equestrian groups to set up common goals/objectives
- Identify opportunities in land use, planning, and education related to trails/trail usage
- Develop/maintain equestrian trails on USACE lands
- Seek opportunities to promote trail use
- Establish contacts and communication avenues between organizations

BCHA at Mark Twain (MVS)

Partnered in 2012 and 2014 with NEMO River Valley Chapter of Show Me Missouri BCHA and FOREST Council to construct an outdoor adventure campground and barrier free access/fishing facility using Handshake Program funding.



- 4 equestrian campsites
- Asphalt parking pads
- Water/electrical service
- Steel hitching rails
- Sheltered hitching area
- Tree planting
- Aquatic landscaping
- Sidewalk and fishing pad installation

BCHA at Mark Twain (MVS)

- Worked with local chapter for 10 years
- Maintain 30+ miles of the Joanna trail
- Recreational Trails grant recipient
- Trail Maintenance Incentive grant winners (6x)



BCHA at J Strom Thurmond (SAS)

Partnered with Central Savannah River Area Equestrian Club, BCHA of Middle and South Georgia and Boy Scouts for equestrian friendly upgrades to Bussey Point trail and campground

- New access trail at Bussey Point trailhead
- Potable water well for equestrian use
- Expanded campsite driveways for horse trailers
- Horse tethering high lines at campsites
- New exit road to improve traffic flow
- Expanded day use parking lot
- Interpretive kiosk at trailhead
- Solar light at restroom facilities



BCHA at Kaweah (SPK)

- High Sierra Chapter puts up/takes down horse corrals each year
- Trains USACE staff on corral maintenance
- Annually assist with NPLD event



BCHA at Big Hill (SWT)

- Partnership started in 2015 with BCHA wanting to help out clearing trails by mowing, track hoe, mulching tool/skid loader work
- \$29k in Handshake funding received in 2017 and 2020 for trail markers, signage, horse pens, group shelters, mapping,



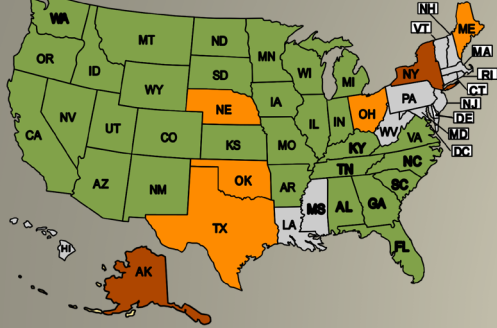
BCHA at Big Hill (SWT)



State BCHA Contacts

bcha.org (contact us) (BCHA Chapters)

BCHA Current and Affiliate Members
Potential New Member States



A screenshot of the bcha.org website. The browser address bar shows 'Not secure | bcha.org/getting-involved/'. The website header includes a search bar, the BCHA logo (Back Country Horsemen of America), and navigation links: HOME, ALERTS, ABOUT, EDUCATION, GET INVOLVED, VOLUNTEERING, PUBLIC LANDS, MEMBER RESOURCES. There are also social media icons and a 'DONATE' button. The main content area features a large image of people participating in a trail project, with the text 'Getting Involved' overlaid. Below the image, there is a call to action: 'Get involved and help us to protect our American trails for future generations. Put your skills to work and Join a Back Country Horseman Chapter, be part of a work party to clear your favorite trail, teach Leave No Trace ethics, get to know your local forest manager and complete a trail project, motivate your friend, start a state or chapter organization, learn a skill to help us, or make a donation!'.

What Can You Do?

Get involved

Find your local chapter and join! We are a group of dedicated equestrians who love to ride and explore new trails in our respective areas. We are also inter-related across the country so when you travel anywhere in the country you'll always have like-minded friends to ride with!

Help Maintain Trails

When we come across impediments in our trails, we dispatch a workgroup to clear that trail for all user groups. You can be a part of these workgroups if that appeals to you, but there is no pressure to do so. We welcome riders of all types, ages, and interests into our chapters!

We urge you to enter your zip code on the chapter locator to find the nearest chapter to you. See you on the trail.

Lead a Group Project

Want to lead a group of volunteers on a project? We provide training to help you get started and make contact with local forest management agencies.



Find a Local BCH Chapter Near You

To find a chapter in your area, enter the information below and then follow the links to contact that state/chapter.

If you are unable to find a BCH chapter in your area, you can become a member at large. Please email your request to, ExecSecretary@bcha.org. Enter your location or if you would like to search from a different location, please enter an address ('Address, city, state' or 'Address, city, Zip, or Zip).

A screenshot of the BCHA chapter locator search form and map. The search form includes fields for 'Enter Your location', 'Chapter Search radius' (set to 50 mi), 'Results' (set to 25), and a 'Search' button. Below the form is a map of the United States with numerous green location pins indicating the presence of BCHA chapters across various states. The map includes zoom controls and a 'Map/Satellite' toggle.

Resources: NRM Gateway

<https://corpslakes.erd.c.dren.mil/partners/national.cfm?Partner=back>



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®

Natural Resources Management Gateway

to the future . . .




Home Visitors Lake Discovery Recreation Env Compliance Env Stewardship Partners
News/Events People Forums Learning GETS Tools New Postings Submit Index/Search ?

Back Country Horsemen of America

Back Country Horsemen of America is a 501(c)(3) serving 194 local and state chapters across the country. BCHA chapters are active in 31 states consisting of roughly 13,000 members who are dedicated to keeping trails open for all on our public lands. Our chapters work closely with trail partners and local land management agencies to clear and maintain those trail

BCHA invests in active participation by young leaders in the wise and sustainable use of wilderness and back country resources. As youth groups work with us and our partners, they learn about themselves and about stewardship of our most treasured resources. BCHA, its youth partners, and other volunteers leverage funds many times over in delivering projects to clear and maintain trails.

- [Website](#)
- [Partner News](#)
- [Success Stories](#)
- [MOU/MOA](#)
- [Partner Contact Information](#)

● Social Media Sites:   

BCHA Direct Contacts

Steve Lindsey, BCHA of Kansas, 785-259-4712, steve.lindsey@lia-ks.com

“I will direct you to your state’s BCHA President or the specific Chapter in your District, if you need assistance” We look forward to working with YOU.

PARTNERS

