



BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS

The voice for our wild public lands,
waters, and wildlife

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ABOUT BHA

The mission of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers is to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting, through education and work on behalf of wild public lands and waters.

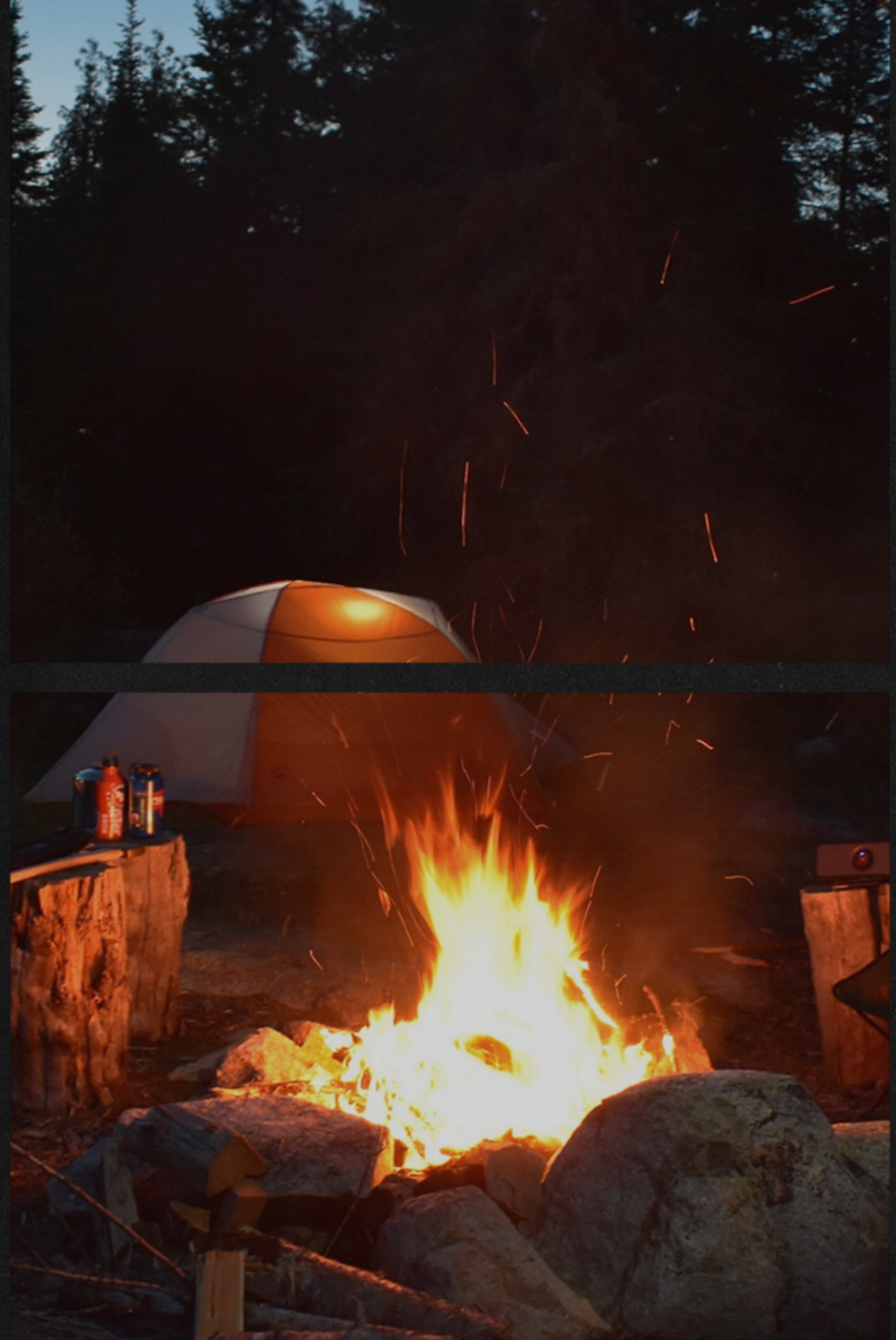
OUR START

BHA was formed around an Oregon campfire in 2004 in recognition of problems with the management of our wild places and public lands.

Other hunter-angler conservation organizations are species specific - our focus is on public lands, waters and wildlife.

BHA cares that everyone has access to public lands and waters and quality fish and wildlife habitat once you get there.

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BHA DEMOGRAPHICS



CHAPTERS

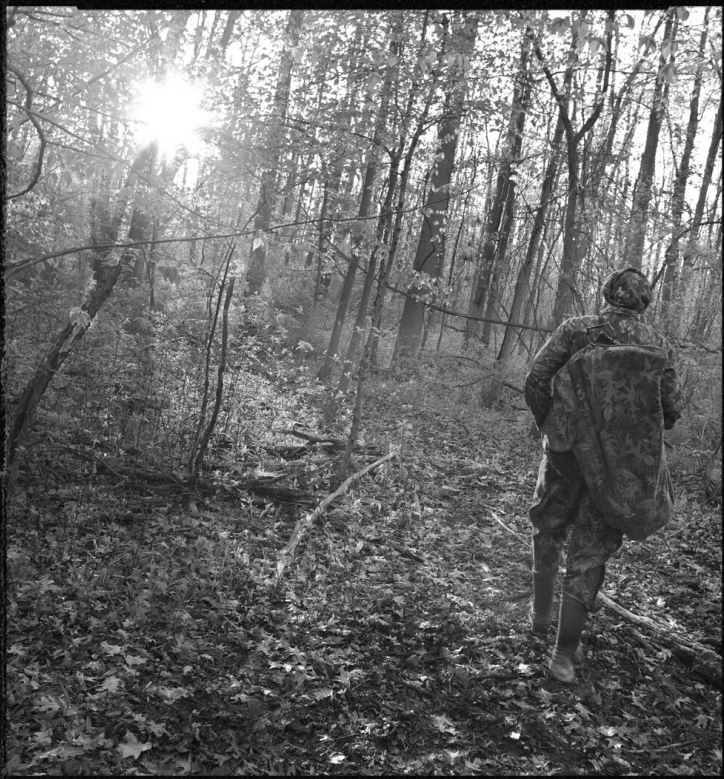
BHA has chapters in 48 states, Washington D.C., 2 Canadian provinces, and 1 Canadian territory

MEMBERS

30,000+ members across North America advocating for public land issues

YOUNG, DIVERSE, and BIPARTISAN

76% of our membership is 54 or younger. 32% identify as independent, 21% as republican, 19% as democrat, and 5% as libertarian.



BACKCOUNTRY IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH WILDERNESS

Backcountry is a state of mind. Whether you're 13 miles back in the British Columbia Crown land, in a tree stand on your families back 40, or on a beach in North Carolina - BHA defines backcountry by simple guidelines: A place to find solace and derive a deeper connection to the natural world.

OUR FOCUS AREAS



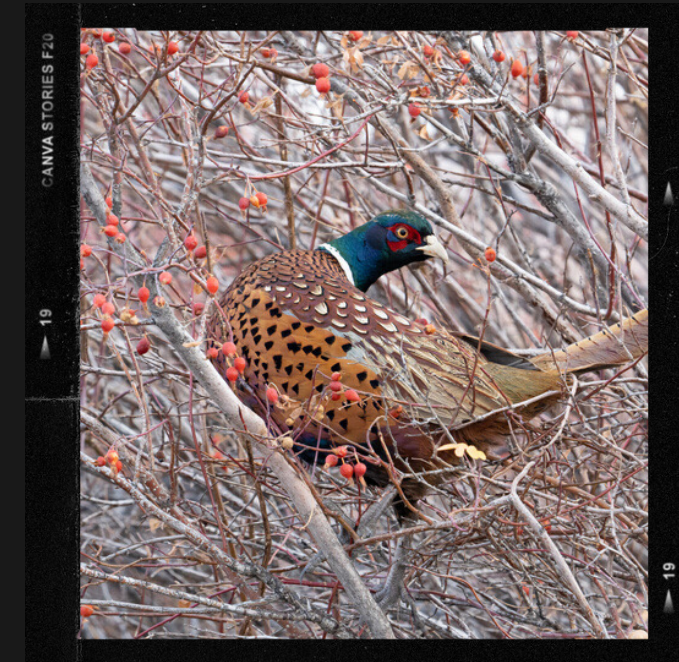
Access & Opportunity

Access has emerged as a priority issue for American hunters and anglers, and lack of access is cited by sportsmen and women as the No. 1 reason why we stop pursuing our passions.



Public Lands & Waters

Every citizen owns a share of public lands and waters in the United States. It is up to us to defend this heritage and ensure that our legacy of stewardship is handed down to future generations intact.



Fair Chase

BHA maintains that hunting should involve an element of skill, woodsmanship and challenge. Consequently, BHA state chapters have initiated and led a national grassroots movement to uphold the principles of fair chase.



ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

- Defending Stream Access
- Advocating for Access to Landlocked Public Lands
- Working to Enhance Access to Public Lands and waters

Defending Stream Access

We believe the right to access flowing and frozen water shouldn't be determined by the size of your bank account or the deed you hold to a piece of trophy property. After all, the fish that live within and the waterfowl that thrive on our public water belongs to all of us - and in most cases, the water does too.

NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT RULES IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC WATERS

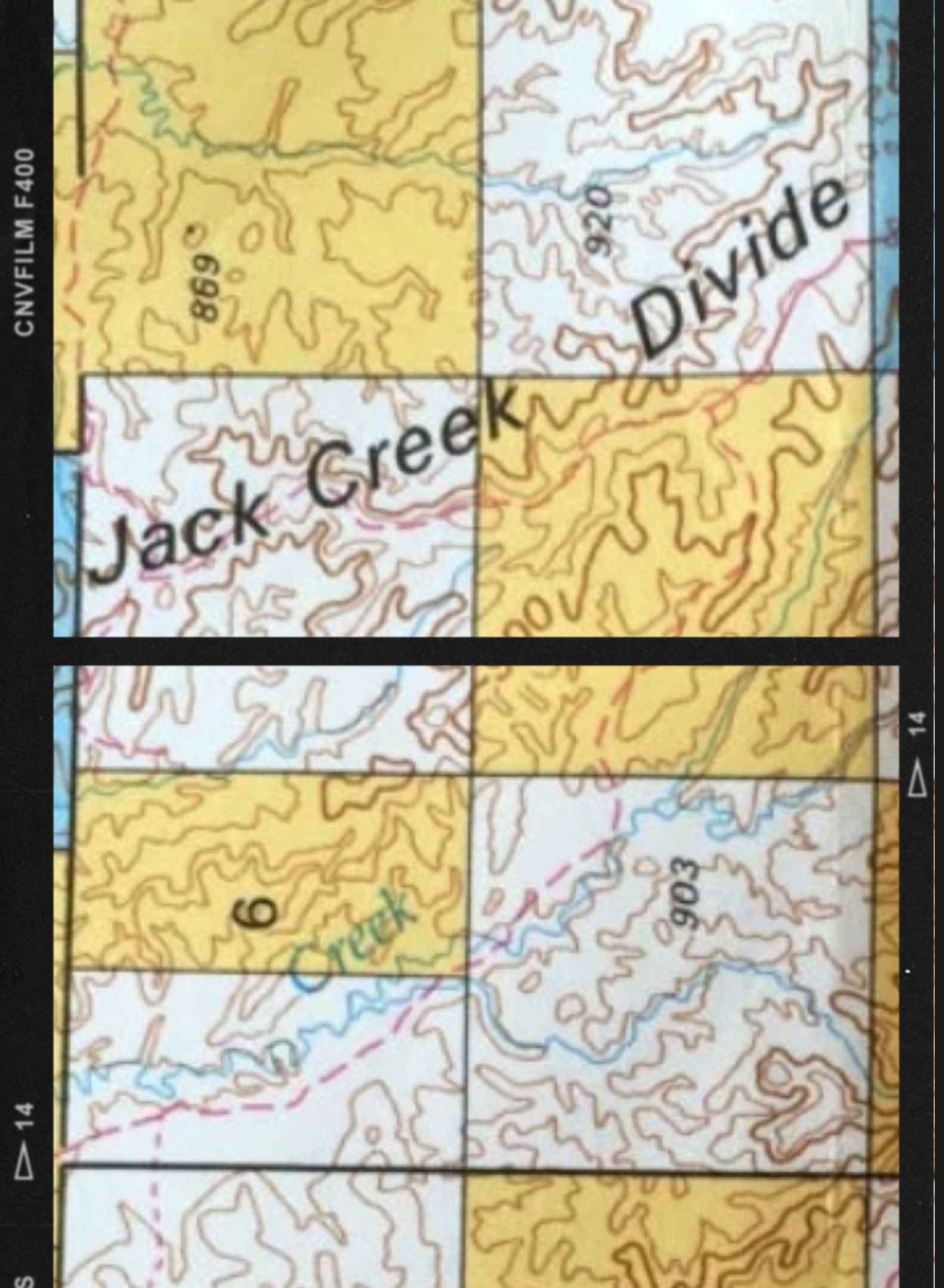
Decision confirms the public's right to walk or wade streambeds that cross privately owned lands

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Supreme Court has ruled again in support of public access to public waters in a Thursday decision that confirms the public's right to walk or wade streambeds crossing privately owned lands.

The opinion ruling by the court follows **its unanimous decision in March to strike down a regulation that allowed landowners to close access to streams flowing through their properties.** The New Mexico Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, along with the New Mexico Wildlife Federation and the Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico, had filed suit in 2020 asking the court to nullify the regulation as unconstitutional. That decision overturned the so-called Non-Navigability Rule and also voided closures adopted previously on several New Mexico streams.

Advocating for Access to Landlocked Public Lands

Across the nation ambiguities around the legality of [accessing public lands at adjoining corners](#) (popularly known as 'corner crossing') prevent sportsmen and women from setting foot on significant portions of our public estate. Access to quality habitat on public lands is critical to sustaining our North American heritage to recreate on public lands. As such, it's imperative that hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts fight for access and defend our public trust when necessary.



PUBLIC LANDS & WATERS

- Habitat Conservation
- Conserving Priority Landscapes
- Responsible OHV Use and Management
- Defending Our Public Lands Legacy

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Habitat Conservation

We have an obligation to provide clean water and healthy habitats for fish and wildlife – BHA works to build partnerships with state, federal and tribal management agencies to ensure that decisions are being guided by current, peer-reviewed science rather than emotion, opinion or conjecture.

Conserving Priority Landscapes

Our multi-stakeholder approach - engaging user groups such as ranchers, resource management agencies, hunters, anglers and other outdoor recreationists - achieves success via collaboration and consensus, all while ensuring that fish and wildlife populations have access to the clean water and intact landscapes they need to thrive.

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Responsible OHV Use and Management

BHA supports reasonable regulations - and swift enforcement - that encourages responsible OHV use while addressing the needs of fish and wildlife, the security of their habitat and quality hunting and fishing experiences for the general public.

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FAIR CHASE

- Upholding and promoting ethical values in hunting and fishing

Fair Chase

Emerging technology like drones and live-action cameras give sportsmen and women an unfair advantage in scouting, hunting and angling. Overall, we must ensure that the ethical pursuit of fish and game is upheld as dearly as our own obligation to morality and citizenship.

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BHA PROGRAMS



ARMED FORCES INITIATIVE

Veteran and active-duty programming



COLLEGIATE PROGRAM

College clubs and student leadership in conservation



HUNTING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Recruitment, retention and reactivation

ARMED FORCES INITIATIVE



VISION

To provide members of the Military community with all the knowledge, experience, and passion, needed to be fully operational as hunters and anglers in the forest, on the water, and as conservation stewards for habitat and wildlife as engaged advocates in the legislative process.



COMMANDERS INTENT:

Instill within the Military Community, a knowledge of conservation practices and theory, a love of wild places, and a desire to elevate Americas public wild lands as fundamental components of American Freedom.

COLLEGIATE PROGRAM PILLARS



COMMUNITY

Our public lands and waters are best shared with friends



STEWARDSHIP

Protecting public lands for future generations



EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Empowering tomorrow's conservation leaders



INCLUSIVITY

Public lands and waters are for everyone.



ADVENTURE

Find your backcountry

COLLEGIATE PROGRAM

Fostering the next generation of conservation leaders

BHA recognizes the important role college students play in the protection of and access to public lands and waters, conservation of critical wildlife habitat, and upholding the ethics of fair chase. Our goal is to kick-start formal, university-recognized clubs made up of public land advocates who want to take an active role in conservation and public lands protection.





STEWARDSHIP

Habitat work

- Fence removal
- Planting
- Invasive species removal
- Clean ups
- Guzzlers
- Beaver analogs
- Streamwork

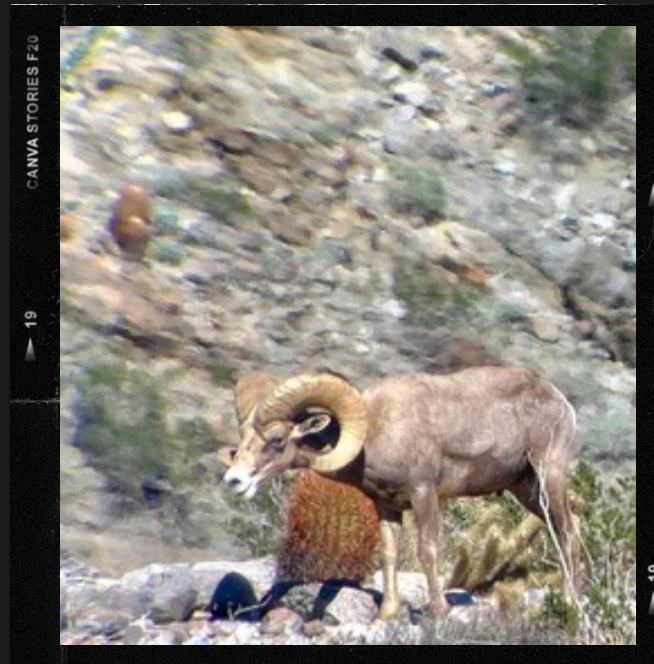
Citizen science

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2023



North American Grasslands Conservation Act

Voluntary, science-based efforts to conserve grasslands and sagebrush shrub-steppe these ecosystems while supporting working lands conservation in order to sequester carbon and prevent further loss of grassland and sagebrush wildlife.



Recovering America's Wildlife Act

\$1.4 billion annually to help state and tribal fish and wildlife management agencies proactively manage at-risk species and prevent them from being added to the federal list of threatened and endangered species with many spillover benefits to fish and game species.



Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act

Facilitate clean up of abandoned hard rock mines. This would enable interested entities to propose cleanup projects of mining sites that impact public lands, waters and fish and wildlife resources without assuming liabilities

Illinois 3D Archery Park at Lake Shelbyville

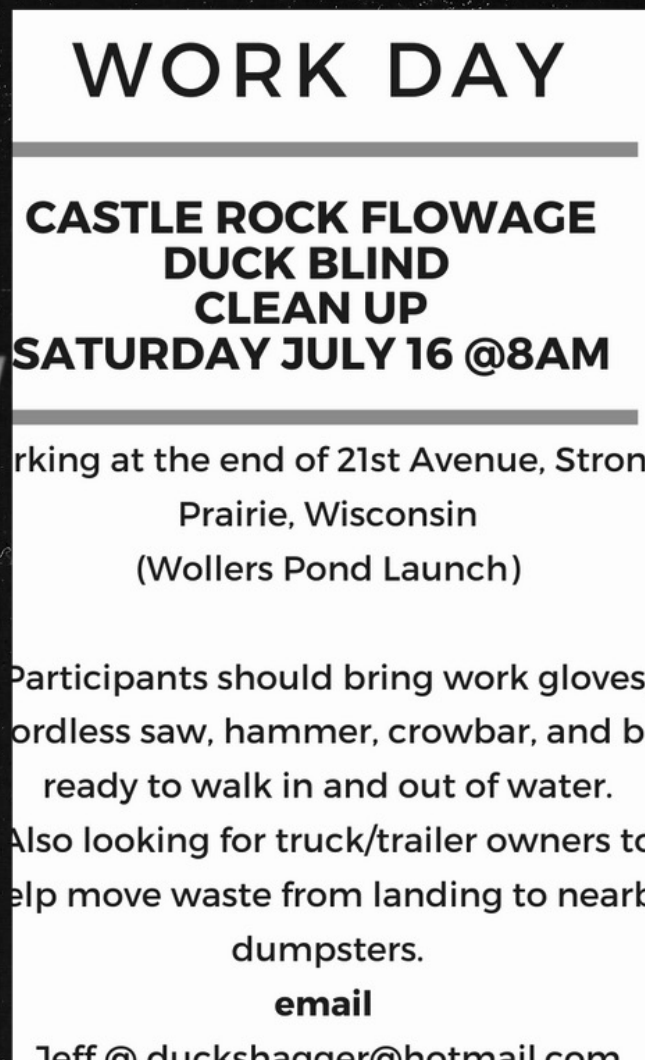
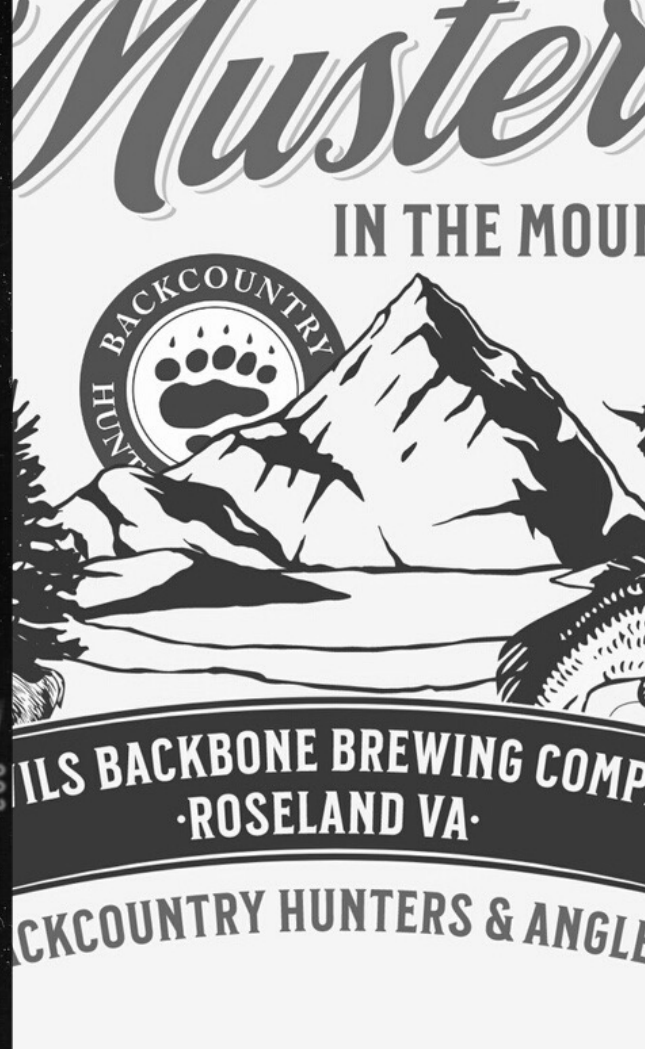
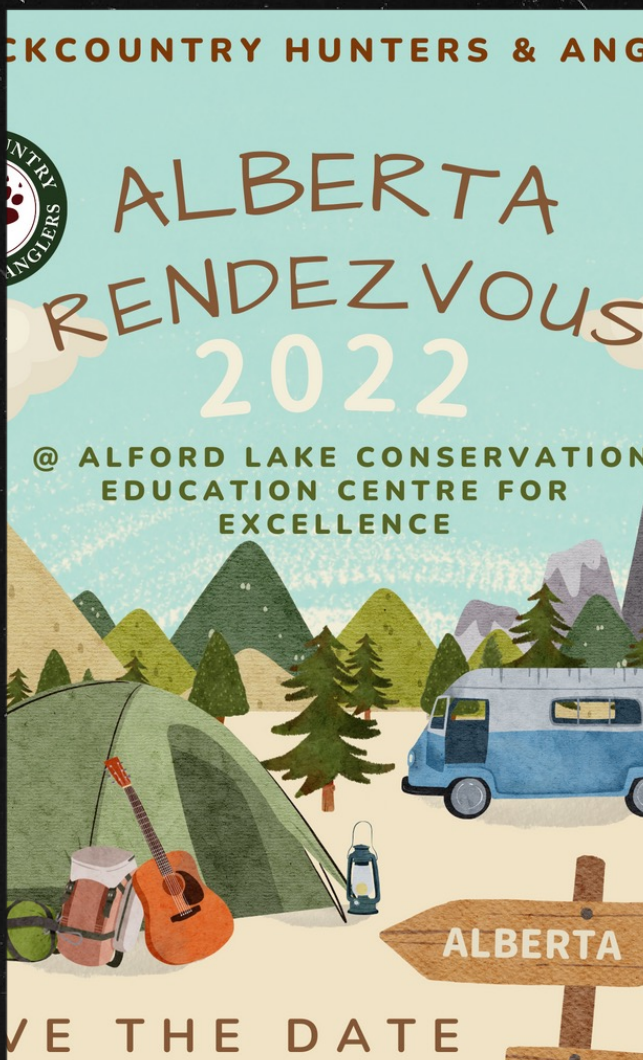
- Chapter approached USACE summer 2022
- Partnership grant utilized
- Work began spring 2023
- Archery park is now open
- Only public 3D archery course in the region



Kentucky Buckhorn Lake Packout

- 1200 gallons of trash collected
- Past projects include cleanups, fish habitat





KEEPING UP WITH BHA

Stay up-to-date, find events, and get involved!

WEBSITE

backcountryhunters.org

PODCAST & BLAST

Itunes, Stitcher, and Podbean

SOCIAL MEDIA

@backcountryhunters

BACKCOUNTRY JOURNAL

BHA's quarterly magazine

"This public lands legacy that was gifted to us didn't happen by accident and it won't be carried forward by accident, either. It is the people in this room who are going to carry it forward."

Land Tawney
President & CEO



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