

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Chapter

August 2011
Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S PROSE

The clouds are rollin' in and you can't beat an evening ride in New Mexico for gorgeous scenery and light effects! Just remember, if you can see lightening, you can get struck... So don't be a'horseback out there on the hill when there's a thunderstorm in sight!

We've been getting some pretty good rains here in Southern New Mexico, but it's still dry up north, with fires still going on, so the BCHNM Board of Directors have cancelled this year's Rendezvous. If you sent your registration in you will be getting your money back very soon from Amber Kingsbury, our State Secretary. The money saved on this year's rendezvous will make next year's an even better affair. That is, if there's any wilderness left to go to...

There are those who claim to represent us in congress that are out to eliminate public lands in general, and the lands now designated as "roadless" and/or Wilderness Study Areas. HR1581 has been presented to the House of Representatives, with Representative Steve Pearce as co-sponsor. I strongly advise you to take a look at the attached map which shows the areas in question, and click on this link to read the details and see a video of the session:
<http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=252577>

If you click on the names in the left-hand column you will get the opinion of the people who were allowed to speak at the hearing. Please take the time to read the statements of Mr. Harris Sherman, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture, and former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, as well as Mr. Robert Abbey, current Director of the BLM. In Mr. Babbitt's words, "H.R. 1581 would destroy the protections established by the Roadless rule; it would degrade backcountry hunting and fishing opportunities, increase fire risk, destroy recreation economies, impose increased water treatment costs, and add to the Forest Service's maintenance backlog. H.R. 1581 would terminate time honored and successful Wilderness Act procedures for lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. H.R. 1581 should be entitled "The Great Giveaway". The only beneficiaries of this legislation would be industrial timber and oil and gas corporations. The losers will be the American public, our children and grandchildren and generations to come. I urge you to reject this legislation."

We have a couple of weeks to make our voices heard on this issue, which is extremely important to the preservation of our public lands! Please call, fax, write, email your congressmen and make your opinion count!!!

The Gila Chapter will be constructing some horse corrals (steel pipe) at the Upper Gallinas Campground this month. That's in the Black Range, our stompin' grounds, so if you have any welding skills, or just want to support the project, drive on up there the week of August 22-26. But please contact Gerry Engel of the Gila Chapter at engelhill@comcast.net if you plan to join the work party. There is limited space in the campground.

The Middle Rio Grande Chapter has scheduled a work project on the Continental Divide Trail at Pelona Mountain on August 26 – 28. They have invited all BCH members in the state to join them on that project, as an informal rendezvous. It's a long haul in there, but for the more adventurous, a great opportunity. Contact Rick Babcock for more info: rbabcock@earthlink.net

The Socorro Chapter has invited us to join them on a work project, marking trails at Fort Stanton on September 9 – 11. It will be really pretty up there in September, so mark your calendars!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 6: Training Ride in the Dona Ana Mountain Area, 6:00 pm. Note: this is an evening ride, weather permitting. If there is lightening going on in the area the ride will be cancelled. Please call Pat for go/no go confirmation. (575-621-9068)

Directions: Take Dona Ana exit from I-25 North of Las Cruces. Go east (right if you come from the south). Turn left at first left (Del Rey Blvd). Turn right at first right (Calle Las Lomas). Turn left at La Reina Rd (at end of Calle Las Lomas). Turn right on Desert Wind Way. Take this road 1 or 1.5 miles back to parking lot. You will cross a cattle guard and the parking lot will be just beyond where the power lines cross the road.

August 11: Regular Monthly Meeting, Board Room at Branigan Library, upstairs, 6:30 pm.

August 20: 9:00 am, training ride from the home of Tom and Latana Bernier. From Hwy 70, either direction: Exit on the Dunn/Holman exit...take DUN which is the road to the SOUTH. (Right turn if you're driving east). Once on Dunn, go about 3/4 mile or so. Take SHANNON, which is the SECOND LEFT TURN off Dunn. It only has a sign on the right side, which is up farther than the left turn! On Shannon, you'll go about another half mile. Road turns to dirt....take a right turn onto NOPALITO (a hand-made green sign on light pole). Go a few tenths of a mile on NOPALITO. On your RIGHT you'll see four mailboxes. On your LEFT, you'll see a turn onto CHARRO. (another home made green sign on lightpole) Take the turn!!! Drive to the end of Charro (another few tenths of a mile). At the road's end, their driveway goes off to the left....drive through gate (plenty of room for even a big truck and long gooseneck).

August 22-26: Gila Chapter's Upper Gallinas Campground Corral Building Project. Contact Gerry Engel if you'd like to work on this project: engelhill@comcast.net

August 26-28: Middle Rio Grande Chapter's Continental Divide Trail Project at Pelona Mountain. Contact Rick Babcock if you'd like to work on this project:
rbabcock@earthlink.net

September 9-11: Socorro Chapter's Fort Stanton trail marking project.

CLASSIFIEDS

Riding lessons and horses trained in a gentle, low-stress environment, including arena obstacles and trail riding. Learn a simple, logical language of communication that makes sense to your horse, no matter what discipline you prefer. Call Pat Buls, The Gentle Tamer, at 505-990-7801 or 575-571-0221.

Websites of our Congressmen, where you can get their email addresses:

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/default.aspx>

US Senator Jeff Bingaman: <http://bingaman.senate.gov> Phone# 800-443-8658

US Senator Tom Udall: <http://udall.senate.gov> Phone# 202-224-6621

Representative Steve Pearce's website with contact info: <http://pearce.house.gov/>

Equine Land Conservation Resource: www.elcr.org

New Mexico Horse Council: www.nmhorsecouncil.org

Information on the Rio Grande Trail:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/riograndeconcept.htm>

For up-to-date info on National Forests and BLM areas, go to <http://www.nmfireinfo.com> or http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/nm/restrictions_nm.htm.

The website of the New Mexico DOT BPE (Bicycle/Pedestrian/Equestrian trails):

<http://www.nmshtd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=11190>

