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# Nag News



## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

September 2021

Issue #09

### BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MISSION STATEMENT

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.
6. To cooperate with other B.C.H.A. organizations.

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### *A Message from our President*

I hope you have noted that we are returning to the Corvallis School cafeteria for our monthly general meeting this month. We are happy to be able to bring our membership together in this facility. At this time, we will not be having the potluck, but you may bring your own food.

I want to thank all of you that participated in our support of the Ravalli County Fair. Each shift was fully staffed and several of you took multiple shifts. Although I have not seen the final accounting, at about 5 pm on Saturday you had taken in over \$120,000 in ticket sales. Congratulations on your hard work. This fund raiser for our chapter was a success.

Earl Philips and Christy Schram-Duggan receive a special thank you. These individuals worked tirelessly to prepare for our Fair work. They worked with the fair staff to prepare ticket booths, the credit card iPads, and other processes and procedures that made our jobs easier. During the fair, they were there to ensure that any problems were quickly resolved.

We have one more project scheduled for September 16. The Rock Creek Horse Camp is in need of some repairs. During that Thursday, we will be helping the Forest Service replace some of the fire pits in the campground. If you can come help, please bring work gloves, a shovel, personal drinking water and any lunch/snacks you may want. The planned repair of the tables is postponed due to the increased cost of lumber and its availability.

*Gene Merrill, President*

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
Oct 2021  
NAG NEWS is  
5 p.m. Oct 12, 2021**

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairs &amp; Members</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Audit	Dan Maiyo	208-940-2887
Budget	Candace Erickson	
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
Election & Nominations	Sandra O'Brien	907-529-1315
Equipment & Inventory	Chris Grove	381-7600
Fair		
Fundraisers	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
RTP Grant	Christy Schram-Duggan	360-5947
Historian	Tim Meyer	907-440-0841
Issues	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
Memberships	Kathy Stroppel-Holl	961-0096
Newsletter	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
Packing Clinic Scholarship	Chuck Miller	961-5453
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Jones	415-264-5457
Programs	Philip & Pam Torgerson	360-4933/360-3201
Projects	Dan Brandborg/Lionel Lavallee	381-5643/640-1242
Social Marketing	Susan Slep	821-2017/381-5910
Sunshine	Cindy Beck	360-1165
Trail Rides	Jan Bullock	907-242-9853
Training	Bonnie Morgan	381-9021
Education Committee	Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan	369-3140/360-5947
Website Design	Nancy Pollman	546-6492

## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2021 Officers & Board

### Chapter Officers

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
President	Gene Merrill	2021	208-310-6326
Vice President	Dan Brandborg	2021	381-5643
Secretary	Christy Schram-Duggan	2021	360-5947
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2021	928-606-0855

### Board Members

	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Ed Bullock	2020-21	907-575-7878
Jan Bullock	2021-22	907-242-9853
Ed Duggan	2021-22	369-3140
Joe Kirkland	2021-22	802-2286
Katie Williams	2021-22	531-0688
Lionel Lavallee	2021-22	640-1242
Mike Costanzo	2020-21	375-1340
Julie Schram	2020-21	961-2457
Dan Maiyo	2020-21	208-940-2887

**Past President:** Karen Philips 406-961-0101 **State Chairman:** Sherri Lionberger 208-691-6218

**State Directors:** Lionel Lavallee (2021) 640-1242  
Taylor Orr (2021-22) 930-5838

**Alt State Director:** Chuck Miller (2021) 961-5453

**September 16<sup>th</sup> BRBCH Monthly meeting: Corvallis School Cafeteria  
(No potluck) Program Speakers: TBA**

**NOTE FROM OUR HISTORIAN**

Ok Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen,

As chapter historian I have a duty to document and save chapter events – especially work parties.

I have been seeing many posts on Facebook with pictures and descriptions of the work parties we have been able to do this smoky year. BUT no pictures are showing up in our chapter's Google Drive or in my email.

It is fairly simple to put pictures into our Google drive.

1. First copy your pictures to your laptop or computer
2. Open your computer's version of file explorer
3. Go to the Google Drive (BRBCH History Files or <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yjxboOoAQ6FYJnmXM3xpZpe1vbujXFRR> )
4. Open the "Member Submissions" folder (the contents of the other folders can be viewed and/or downloaded if desired).
5. Split your screen so you can see both applications
6. Select all the files you wish to share with the chapter
7. Drag and drop them to the Google Drive window.
8. Send me an email with short explanation of the files you uploaded including date, location, persons' names, etc.

I would be more than willing to show anyone how to do this in person. Just email or call me.

Tim Meyer  
907-440-0841  
Timinmt1030@gmail.com

**BCH Member Benefit – Equisure Insurance**

Equisure Insurance through BCHA provides discounted rates (\$20 Single or \$40 Family), Equine general liability coverage for up to \$1,000,000, and is valid for the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31 each year. The time of year you purchase the insurance does not change the renewal date of January 1.

You must be a member of a BCH chapter to purchase insurance. Download the form and send in your payment. You can enclose a check or provide your credit card information on the form. For questions, open the Equisure FAQ.

Equisure Insurance Form:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/e75b0703801/4aeaadb6-6096-4fd6-9523-9cc169aa18e2.pdf>

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**Tips for Preparing Your Older Horse for Winter** Posted  
by University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment | Oct  
25, 2019 | On [www.thehorse.com](http://www.thehorse.com) (edited for length and content)

*With the cold weather almost upon us, we must take into account several important considerations for preparing and maintaining older horses throughout winter.*

Fall is here, which means it's time to prepare your aging equine (15 years or older) for the winter

ahead. Horses, like people, are typically faced with more challenges handling the cold weather as they age. Thus, preparing them ahead of time and providing proper care throughout winter is important.

With the cold weather almost upon us, we must take into account several important considerations for preparing and maintaining older horses throughout the cold season. Some of the most important points to consider include body condition and nutrition, vaccination status, parasite control, dental and hoof care, housing, exercise, and health monitoring.

### **Body Condition and Nutrition**

Start by assessing your horse's body condition score (BCS). Is he too thin, too fat, or just right? You must make the call now and feed appropriately to prepare for the winter months ahead. If you don't feel comfortable in making this call, involve your veterinarian or nutritionist in body scoring your horse. Be sure to get your hands on him or her as well, because a growing winter coat can hide a lot. Horses at a BCS of 5 or greater will have some extra fat stores that can provide insulation during the winter months; but your horse should not be overweight for the breed, as insulin resistance (IR) could become a problem. If you are worried about IR, have your veterinarian perform an oral sugar test to determine if your horse is IR or simply check basal insulin levels for an indication of hyperinsulinemia.

If your horse has a BCS below 5, increase his calorie intake slowly to improve his BCS score going into winter. If you are worried about putting weight on your horse because of IR, or perhaps because your horse has PPID (pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction, also known as equine Cushing's disease) and you think he might be IR, it is best to not guess or worry, but instead have your veterinarian check your horse's insulin levels so you know it's safe to add calories to his diet.

In developing a feeding strategy for the horse that needs to put on weight, first consider increasing your horse's hay intake to meet his energy needs. Hay is digested in the gastrointestinal tract by fermentation, which produces heat that the horse can use to maintain core body temperature. But there is a limit as to how much hay a horse can consume daily. In most cases horses will consume between 2.0-2.5%; however, during times of harsher weather conditions, they might require upwards of 3% of their body weight (BW) per day. For example, if your horse weighs 1,000 pounds and is eating 2% BW per day, he should be consuming 20 pounds of hay per day. Be sure to accurately weigh your hay and grain using a scale because estimating can lead to under- or overfeeding. Allowing hay consumption throughout the day is important to provide the continuous calories your horse needs to keep up with the energy demands of staying warm when temperatures drop.

### **Vaccination Status**

Cold temperatures can stress older horses and potentially set them up for illness. Here at the University of Kentucky we have shown that older horses have reduced immune responses to vaccination and are at risk for increased susceptibility to respiratory illness, in particular influenza (EIV). Moreover, we have recently shown that older horses with PPID are likely to have an even further reduced immune response to vaccination. Thus, it's important to make sure you maintain your old horses on a regular vaccination program. At the minimum,

make sure they are up-to-date on core vaccines recommended by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. If you have a higher risk senior (an older show, trail, or 4-H horse), consider having your veterinarian administer a booster for risk-based vaccines, including EIV, equine herpesvirus-1, and potentially West Nile virus, every six months, especially if your horses are showing or co-mingling with other showing horses during the stressful winter months. Consult your veterinarian with specific questions.

### **Parasite Control**

Parasite control is an important part of caring for and managing horses. We have recently conducted an experiment to evaluate whether aged horses demonstrate statistically higher fecal egg counts (FEC) compared to middle-aged adult horses and to investigate whether they respond differently to the dewormer moxidectin compared to horses treated with pyrantel pamoate. This study's results indicated that old horses have significantly higher FEC than middle-aged adults. FECs declined significantly following anthelmintic treatment in both age groups. In summary, older horses are likely to harbor more parasites; however, it is important to perform FECs in order to determine if your older horses fall into this category. In our hands, both dewormers were effective at reducing FECs, but test your dewormer's efficacy, and use ones that work on your farm. It might be beneficial to deworm your horse after the first frost and perhaps two to three times per year. Again, let the FECs tell you what is appropriate for your farm. It is also wise to involve your veterinarian in your deworming program.

### **Dental and Hoof Care**

Have your veterinarian examine your older horses' teeth at least twice a year. One of these exams should happen in early fall. Normal dental care will help your horse chew and consume hay adequately, which will allow him to utilize the energy sources needed to stay warm and maintain body weight. Proper

dentition will also help prevent problems such as choke and colic.

Keep your horse on a schedule when it comes to hoof care. You might consider pulling the shoes or changing shoes to prevent slipping on winter ice or adding borium and/or snow pads to protect the sole from bruising due to ice or frozen ground. It all depends on winter's effects on your terrain. Most importantly, clean your horses' feet daily to remove ice accumulation or what we call "snowballs."

### **Shelter and Blanketing**

Providing shelters or wind breaks such as a barn, three-sided shed, rolled bales of hay, or plywood on fence rows is critical for older horses. Keep these areas dry, clean, and well-ventilated. Providing shelter will help older horses tolerate more severe weather temperatures and might help reduce his energy requirements slightly.

Consider blanketing the senior horse when temperatures or wind chill drop below 5 degrees Fahrenheit if there is no shelter available, a chance the horse will become wet (not usually a problem with snow, but much more of a problem with rain, ice, and/or freezing rain), the horse is bodyclipped, the horse has not been acclimated to the cold (i.e., recently relocated from a southern climate), or the horse has a BCS of 3 or less.

### **Exercise**

During the winter months it is important to prepare your horse for exercise with ample

warm-up and cool-down periods. Cool the horse out completely with the help of coolers. Warm the bit before bridling him. Use common sense when judging riding conditions, as older horses do not adjust well to stressful conditions.

### **Health Monitoring**

Because older horses face changes that naturally occur to the immune system with increasing age, it is important to monitor them more closely for health conditions you might not have considered previously, including respiratory illness, skin conditions, signs of colic, and arthritis. We have shown that as horses age, a phenomenon called inflamm-aging occurs and is defined as low-grade, chronic inflammation.

### **Summary**

In preparing for winter, make sure your horse is up-to-date on vaccinations and deworming and is maintaining a proper body condition score. During winter you should provide your horses with warmed water, additional hay and/or concentrate during extreme cold, access to shelter, regular hoof and dental care, and regular body condition assessments. Also evaluate your shelters and their ventilation frequently. Horses, given the opportunity to acclimate to cold temperatures, often prefer and are better off outdoors with access to shelters.



## Wilderness Policy and Packing students report to members



Wyatt Day and Jack Winters, two students in U of M's inaugural Wilderness Policy and Packing class, spoke to our members at the August 19 meeting at Coyote Coulee Trailhead. Dr. Eva-Maria Maggi, a BRBCH member, designed and taught this class, and our chapter joined other organizations in contributing money to help fund the pack trip component of the course. Wyatt and Jack gained a greater appreciation for the value of wilderness, and the experience of actually camping in the wilderness helped them better understand the importance of the wilderness policies studied in class. They emphasized how they quickly bonded with other students on the trip; they felt there were few situations where that kind of connection can occur in such a short period of time. Both young men greatly appreciated our financial support that helped make the pack trip aspect of the class possible. According to them, it was a life-changing experience.

### **DROUGHT DRIVES HIGH HAY PRICES AND DEMAND** from

[www.westernranchbrokers.com](http://www.westernranchbrokers.com) (edited for content and length)

As extreme drought conditions continue to worsen across the state of Montana, hay prices and fire danger continue to increase. "It's not good," says sixth generation rancher Josh Reynolds of Ekalaka, Montana. "Lots of guys are selling their cattle, and the ranch we usually buy hay from isn't selling any outside hay this year," says Reynolds.

Many Montana ranchers are still searching for hay and seeing prices creep up to over \$200 per ton. For some ranchers Alfalfa round bales delivered may cost up to \$310 per ton. With continued high temperatures and lack of moisture, some have turned to resources such as Montana Stockgrowers or the USDA for guidance and support.

According to Tri-State Livestock News: *"A representative for the USDA Farm Service Agency said some of their producers have signed up for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, which is only available to producers in a qualifying drought area. The program is intended to provide assistance to producers whose grass or other forage is significantly reduced due to drought. The payment depends upon the severity and length of the drought as reported by USDA."*

"There's not much to do especially when days are warming up to over 100 degrees," continues Reynolds. "It's too hot to ride, the hoppers [grasshoppers] are terrible, it's smoky, and we have to stay home to fight fires." Many ranch owners and employees, like those in Eastern Montana, are sticking around because of the heat and increased fire danger.

On July 1st, 2021, Montana Governor Greg Gianforte declared a statewide drought emergency. *"Every region of the state faces severe to extreme drought conditions, and the situation is getting worse. These alarming drought conditions are devastating our ag producers, challenging our tourism industry, and could bring a severe wildfire season," Gov. Gianforte said. This emergency order makes available all necessary state government resources to mitigate the impacts of this drought and protect Montanans.*"-Credit: [Montana Stockgrowers](#)

## BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN



### One Pan Huevos Rancheros

*This one pan recipe works both at home and around the morning campfire.*

#### Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp Oil
- 1 small Onion, chopped
- 2 cups chopped Bell Peppers (any color, we use a frozen chopped mix)
- 1 (14 oz) can Black Beans
- 1 cup Salsa, any variety
- 4 Eggs
- 8 small Tortillas, flour or corn
- 1 Tbsp chopped Cilantro

#### Optional Toppings:

- Cheese
- Avocado
- Sour Cream
- Salsa

#### Directions

1. Heat a skillet over medium heat. Add oil and when it begins to shimmer, add onion and bell peppers and sauté until tender, about 4 minutes (add a few minutes more if using frozen bell peppers;

they will release extra moisture while cooking, so sauté until liquid is cooked off).

2. Rinse and drain beans. Add beans and salsa to pan and bring to a low simmer. Simmer until mixture thickens, 4 minutes.
3. Use a spoon to create four small indentations in the filling. Crack the eggs into the indentations. Cover the skillet with a lid or tightly with a piece of foil. Cook, covered, until the eggs are cooked to your liking (for us, to keep the yolks runny, this was 4 minutes, but adjust to your liking).
4. Meanwhile, wrap tortillas with foil and heat (by the fire) until warm, about 2 minutes. Keep them covered with a dishtowel until ready to serve so that they stay warm.

Divide tortillas between plates and spoon Huevos Rancheros onto each serving. Top with cilantro any other toppings you'd like!



## St. Mary's Lookout Resupply 8/12/21

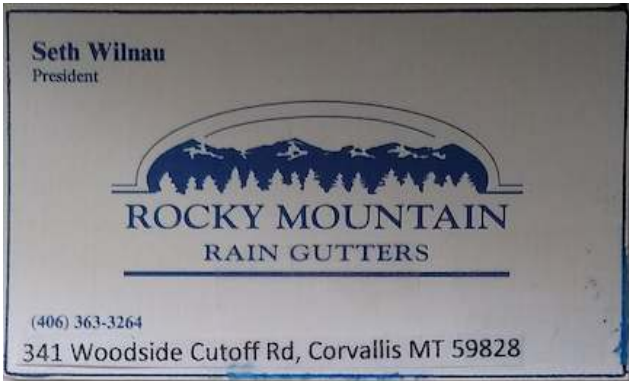
Dan Brandborg and Gene Merrell joined Stevensville District Ranger Steve Brown on Thursday, August 12, to provide pack support and resupply for the St. Mary's Lookout, our chapter's second trip there. Steve's daughter and her friend accompanied the group. BRBCH members Dan and Leslie Maiyo helped load the pack stock and they followed the riding group for about a mile and a half as they hiked up the trail. All went well and Gene reported that they left the trailhead about 9:00 a.m. and were back by 3:00 p.m. Thank you, everyone, for providing this support to the lookout and the Stevensville Ranger District.



## **Board and General Meetings Notes**

Notes will be published at a later date due to time constraints.

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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



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**NEXT BRBCH MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Location: Corvallis School Cafeteria**  
**Meeting at 6:30**

