



Backcountry Horsemen of California

Who We Are and What We Do!

Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) is a group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock. BCHC members perform public service activities for numerous land management agencies and are continually working to educate other members and the general public on how to be “Gentle Users.”

The use of livestock has played an important role in the American culture. California and the western states have particularly had a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock. BCHC carries on this tradition in modern times. With this use comes the responsibility and obligation to care for our public lands in order to ensure their use for future generations.

Backcountry Horsemen of California works in cooperation with government agencies to help clear trails, maintain historic sites, construct new facilities, sponsor educational seminars and clinics, and assist with service projects as requested. Members also strive to stay current on relevant issues and to provide input on management plans, access and activities that pertain to trails on public lands with pack and saddle stock.

Membership in Backcountry Horsemen of California is open to any individual or family sharing the concerns of the organization. There are numerous units throughout the state of California. Our organizational structure starts with BCHC, Inc., holding the non-profit status. Each of the local units is a subsidiary of the parent organization. Each unit has its own governing board and conducts activities of its choice, while operating under broad guidelines established by the state BCHC Board of Directors.

BCHC focuses its efforts in three key areas:

- Service Projects
- Education
- Public Lands Issues

Backcountry Horsemen of California has a well-established educational program offering tips and techniques for the backcountry. Our “Gentle Use” Program along with the Center for Outdoor Ethics’ Leave No Trace Program are principles BCHC hopes you will consider following while enjoying your time on the trail.

BCHC officer contact information may be found on both state and local unit web sites.

BCHC web site: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/>