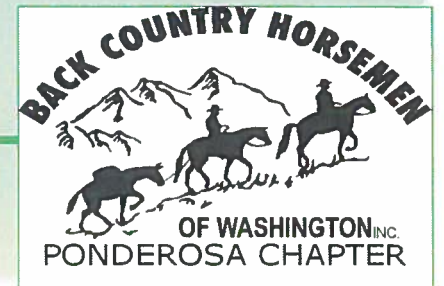


# PONDEROSA

*Back Country Horsemen of Washington*



*"Keeping Washington Trails Open"*

*March 2017*

## EVENT CALENDAR

Membership Meeting  
March 7, 6:30 pm  
INB Bank in Airway Heights

Rendezvous in Ellensburg  
March 17-19, 2017

Membership Meeting  
April 4, 2017  
INB Bank in Airway Heights

Leave No Trace Basic Class  
April 7-9, 2017  
Riverside State Park

Chapter Ride and Overnight  
Camping  
April 14-16, 2017  
Escure Ranch

Trailhead Camping Seminar  
June 10-11, 2017  
Riverside State Park



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SADDLE

BY Dean Giles

I was out this morning feeding my horses- it was sunrise, the eastern sky was an orange red glow, and it was light enough to see without the flashlight. Later, when the sun came over the horizon, an amazing huge rainbow appeared to the west... that's another story, though. Back to the horses.

When I feed them, I make it a point to look them over for injuries. My main riding horse is a tyrant, tending to bite any horse that is eating too close, too friendly to me or just plain near enough to bite. He's kind of a pain, a short horse with a big attitude, but we're bonded and he's family. Anyway, I look over the other two for bites, kicks or other missing fur. As part of the lookover, I run my hand over their backs, legs and belly. This morning, when I ran my hand over their backs, I noticed they were all shedding fur. Spring is coming, riding season is getting closer, *and I am completely unprepared.*

I got a good start on cleaning my saddles about mid-December... got distracted and didn't finish. Need to finish cleaning both saddles. Also need to clean out the trailer, which should not have gotten so messy in the first place. Also need to sort through the pile of random tack and organize it so I know which tack goes with which horse. And clean/condition the leather.....it goes on and on! I get exhausted, just thinking about it!

So, I procrastinate, not getting to the jobs that I know need to be done. The challenge I am setting for myself is to make a list of projects and start checking them off one by one. Starting today, I will make a point of doing one thing per day that is relevant to springtime riding or a PBCH mission. I can come up with any number of excuses for not getting tasks accomplished. In fact, I have a real talent for it.....the problem is, I'm only hurting myself by not just diving in and getting it done. If I tell myself I only need to do one thing, though, it makes it easier. Thinking about ALL the work is overwhelming, but thinking about cleaning and conditioning one set of reins, is manageable. Breaking it down into small pieces makes it doable... each journey begins with a single step. Tonight, I'll finish cleaning Dillon's reins. Tomorrow will take care of itself. By springtime, I'll be ready to go.

### **COGGINS TEST NOW REQUIRED FOR HORSE TRAVEL ACROSS STATE LINES**

**As reported by:**

**Brad R. LeaMaster, DVM, MS, PhD  
State Veterinarian  
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture**

As you know, the states of WA, OR, and ID have allowed an exemption for the Equine Infectious Anemia testing requirement (ie., Coggins test). The risk for the disease was considered low so the exemption was allowed to remain in effect. Unfortunately, ten EIA positive horses in Washington and four in Oregon were detected in 2015 and early 2016. Additionally, one EIA positive horse was detected in Idaho in late 2016. Because of the recent detections the three State Veterinarians (WA, OR, and ID) agreed back in early January that dissolving the Coggins testing exemption was the right thing to do.

It is in best interest of our regional equine industry for the EIA testing waiver to be annulled and for EIA testing to be resumed for interstate movement. Idaho reinstated the Coggins testing requirement on February 1 and beginning February 13 Oregon will be requiring a negative Coggins test within the prior six months for importation of any equine into Oregon from Washington and Idaho. This requirement already exists for all other states. Just so you know, we will honor the test exemption for all previous passports and travel that is in-progress between OR, WA and ID.

It is my understanding that WSDA has to change some of their rules before they can cancel the OR-WA-ID Coggins test exemption. However, I would call them to make sure. Practically speaking, I would just begin to educate your membership that a Coggins test is going to be required for all interstate travel.

In summary, the Coggins test exemption that has been in place with Washington and Idaho has been terminated. Oregon importation requirements for Equidae from all states include a CVI, entry permit, and a negative Coggins test within the prior six months of entry.

Do not hesitate to contact Oregon Department of Agriculture if you have questions  
[503-986-4680](tel:503-986-4680)).

# Plan for Upcoming Events

By Ken Carmichael

We always have a full calendar, both private and BCH, so it is good to do some planning. The following are special events for BCH that you can plan for:

**BCH LEAVE NO TRACE SEMINAR:** Starting a 6:00 pm Friday April 7, going all day Saturday and ending at noon on Sunday, April 9. This is a fantastic program that every member should participate in. We are putting it out to other BCH chapters and the public so early registration is encouraged. See the details on the website [www.pbchw.com](http://www.pbchw.com).

**FRONT COUNTRY TRAILHEAD CAMPING:** This will be Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11 in Riverside State Park. If you have never camped with your horses, or want to learn more about it this will be a great opportunity. We are limiting the class to 10 rigs so that we can provide lots of help. See the details on the website [www.pbchw.com](http://www.pbchw.com).

**BCHW STATEWIDE WORK PARTY:** This event is the 5<sup>th</sup> time that BCHW has put together a large statewide work party to do some major work on our public lands. This year it will be in our backyard, the Colville National Forest. It will be From August 2 to August 5. Some people will take horses, others will not. Food is provided. Come see what can really be accomplished when BCHW puts their backing into it. More information will be available soon.

**FALL FUN RIDE AND SCAVENGER HUNT:** Saturday, September 30 at Riverside State Park. This is the PBCH big fundraiser for the year. Here we will need all hands on deck to volunteer as we invite the public to participate in the scavenger hunt, crazy hat contest, raffles, music and chili feed. See the details on the website [www.pbchw.com](http://www.pbchw.com).

See the BCHW Trailhead News (THN) for information about rides and events by BCHW and other chapters.

What about some PBCH rides? Would you like to coordinate rides in the chapter? It is easy and fun to do. You do not need to attend every ride, just work with the ride leaders to help them get organized. We have the information that you need. Would you like to host a ride in an area that you enjoy? Things get done by someone taking the lead.

## Equisure Liability Insurance is Now Available to BCHA Members!

The Back Country Horsemen of America has added to its value to members by offering excess equestrian liability insurance through [Equisure](#). The liability policy is available to current BCHA individual and family members in good standing and covers excess personal liability up to \$1 million dollars! The cost for the policy through BCHA is \$20 for individual BCHA members and \$40 for family BCHA members.

There have been a lot of questions about coverage since we last sent out an email. For a list of frequently asked questions compiled by Equisure please [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have other questions or need more information you can contact Diane Leshner at Equisure by calling 303.614.6961

Once you have made a purchase you will receive two emails. One of these emails is just to confirm purchase. The other email that is titled "**Back Country Horsemen of America - Your downloadable items are ready**" will contain a link to download a pdf that has your policy information in it. Make sure you download this certificate and save it and that is all you need! Eventually if you need to make a claim you will call Equisure to do so.

---

You have to purchase the insurance on-line.

[TO PURCHASE AN INDIVIDUAL POLICY THROUGH EQUISURE CLICK HERE](#)

[TO PURCHASE A FAMILY POLICY THROUGH EQUISURE CLICK HERE](#)

**Please Note: You must be logged in to purchase insurance. Please contact:**

**John Aliberti**

Association Administrator | Back Country Horsemen of America

[jaliberti@bcha.org](mailto:jaliberti@bcha.org) | 860.586.7540 | 888.893.5161

# Do I Really Need Horse Insurance?

By Patti Sander

If you own a horse you do have exposure and need to address your insurance needs seriously. If you think about it, you have a lot of money wrapped up in your horse, training, tack, equipment, rigs and stable facilities. You may be thinking, "one more hand in my pocket". However, this huge investment is exactly the reason you need insurance.

As horse folks, we all like to think positive, and make every effort to insure that nothing goes wrong. But let's face it; we're dealing with large, living, breathing animals with the mind of their own. At some point, you are going to experience an injury to a visitor on your property, an unexpected kick or fall, the equine escape artist that likes to explore the neighborhood, or your horse getting sick or injured.

You might think that insurance for a horse and associated activities is something that only horse breeders, eventers, show people, and the like that are wealthy and own expensive horses are the only ones that need to be insured. You are right, of course. "Full Time" horse people have large investments and should be insured. But, what about the recreational horseperson? What is your investment worth to you?

Insurance by its general definition is a gambling proposition. You are gambling that something is going to happen and the insurance company will have to pay you in the event of a loss. The insurance company is gambling that, initially, nothing bad will happen and will be the ones who are right. But what if something does happen? And how do you know what kind of insurance you might need, and that you'll be protected in the event of a loss?

The recreational horseperson is just as much at risk as the "full time" horseperson. Could you afford to replace your horse if he/she was seriously injured or got sick? Could you afford to pay out of pocket for a horse-related loss to a third party that is not covered under your farm or home owners insurance?

As a responsible horse owner, you may want to consider ways to manage this personal risk. The insurance industry offers the following risk management tools:

## **Horse Mortality**

As you know, horses can be very costly and valuable. This insurance policy protects the owner/lessor against the loss of a horse as a result of a covered accident, injury, illness or disease, while also providing coverage for theft of the horse. The premium is determined by a percentage of the horse's value, as well as its intended use, breed, sex and age. Most policies are written on an agreed value basis.

## **Major Medical**

Major Medical (horse health insurance) reimburses the veterinarian's fees for surgery, major illness and disease. It will also pay the reasonable and customary charges necessitated by accident, injury or illness for your horse. These policies can be customized to include full medical or surgical only.

Optional coverages that this policy can include is loss of use and trip transit.

## Personal Equine Liability Insurance

Owning a horse comes with the risk of a liability lawsuit. Many homeowner's policies (and some Farm Owners policies) do not cover your equine exposure and others provide limited coverage.

An Equine Personal Liability policy provides coverage for accidental bodily injury/property damage to a third party arising out of the use and/or ownership of a horse(s) declared both on and off the premises.

Some boarding facilities require that their clients provide personal liability coverage for their horse while it is stabled at their facility. This is the type of policy that would provide that coverage.

This policy is NOT meant to cover your commercial equine activities such as boarding, training, horse club activities. If you have equine commercial exposures such as these, there are other types of insurance that will provide coverage.

## **BCHW Legislative Day**

BY Ken Carmichael

Wednesday, February 15, was the BCHW day to visit the state legislatures in Olympia. This is an annual event that helps legislators know and appreciate BCH. Jeff Chapman, BCHW Legislative Chair, posted the following report about the day. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE BCH MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS IMPORTANT DAY.**

I want to thank all that came out today on this very rainy day. It was great that the Big Tent was much bigger and enclosed so it made it a bit easier to navigate around.

We had a fantastic group show up for our morning BCHW Legislative Day with good speakers (Senator Warnick, Representative Kretz, Mark Borleske (John Wayne Trail effort), and Joyce Willms, our THN editor/lobbyist). We always tackle a wide range of bills and topics which allows us to connect with the interests of different legislators, but it can be a lot to keep straight. Our members headed off to their legislative appointments, which can be a bit like finding your way through a corn maze since there are so many narrow hallways in the 3 buildings. The good thing about that is in transit seeking out an office, you run into as many people you know (and some you don't) as in the meetings. We are easy to recognize so it is a lot of publicity for our organization.

We 24<sup>th</sup> District folks had one legislator constituent meeting shared with a large WTA group, and we had about a dozen folks combined. It went well.

Thanks to Joan Fleming, Chris Enrico, Louise Caywood, and the other Big Tent organizers from BCHW. Agency staff, state legislators, and trail organization volunteers. Plenty to talk about.....and we stayed out of trouble as well. It was great that our state BCHW officers were there as well (Kathy, Dave Darrell, Bernie). Thanks to Jim T. for taking pictures.

Jeff Chapman



# **BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON**

*To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of their lands.*

*To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.*

Representing the greater equestrian riding community across the state of Washington, we ask for legislative support in 2017 for the following:

## **CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING**

BCHW supports the Governor’s capital budget (HB1075/SB5086) recreation request for

**SECTION 3101 STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
Iron Horse - John Wayne Trail - Repair Tunnels Trestles Culv Phase 3 (30000253)  
Appropriation: \$606,000 **JOHN WAYNE TRAIL**

**SECTION 3111 STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
Willapa Hills Trail Develop Safe Multi-Use Trail Crossing at SR 620(30000519)  
Appropriation: \$422,000 **WILLAPA HILLS TRAIL**

**SECTION 3164 STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
Iron Horse John Wayne Pioneer Trail Lind to Malden (30001023)  
Appropriation: \$1,136,000 **JOHN WAYNE TRAIL**



New parking lot dedication at Miller Peninsula S.P. Trails by BCHW volunteers. Grant through WWRP.

**SECTION 3199 RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD**  
2017-19 Washington Wildlife Recreation Grants (30000409)  
Appropriation: \$100,000,000 **WWRP**

**SECTION 3201 RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD**  
Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Activities (30000411)  
Appropriation: \$13,195,000 **NOVA**

**SECTION 3207 RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD**  
Recreational Trails Program (30000417) **RTP**  
Appropriation: \$5,000,000

**SECTION 3215 RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD**  
Recreation and Conservation Office Recreation Grants (92000131)  
Appropriation: \$1,500,000 **BLANCHARD MTN**

**SECTION 3265 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Sustainable Recreation (30000263)  
Appropriation: \$2,500,000

**SECTION 3281 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Teaway Working Forest (30000289) **TEAWAY**  
Appropriation: \$1,481,000



BCHW volunteers in Anderson Lake State Park. Grant through RTP.

## OPERATING BUDGET FUNDING

BCHW supports the Governor's operating budget request for the Natural Resource agencies including the Department of Natural Resources and Washington State Parks. BCHW is engaged in efforts to maintain trails, trailheads, and campgrounds throughout the state. We have members who serve on several advisory committees including the effort to develop a recreation plan for the Teanaway Community Forest. We build and maintain trails from Miller Peninsula State Park in Clallam County to Riverside State Park in Spokane County.

## PUBLIC LANDS ACCESS AND USE

**YES on HB1464/SB5384 Concerning the development of cooperative agreements to expand recreational access on privately owned lands.**

COMMENT: Private timberland roads and trails are popular areas for horseback riders and hunters. In the past, most timber companies kept their lands open to horseback riders since we had little impact on their lands and could reciprocate with providing maintenance, litter removal, and security. Private lands do not however enjoy the same access advantages that public agencies have. The recreational immunity statute does not apply to private lands when a financial transaction is involved unlike the cost of the Discover Pass that is specifically allowed. As a result timber companies charge high access fees. This bill is intended to give them the same right, and lower their costs of providing recreation access.

**YES on HB1799 Utilizing cooperative agreements with the federal government, such as good neighbor agreements with the United States forest service, to advance forest health in Washington.**

COMMENT: BCHW provides volunteer work on both federal and state public lands. In recent years, a number of popular riding areas have been devastated by wildfires. This is disheartening since it undoes many decades of work, and also takes as many future decades to recover to where the area is enjoyable to recreate on again. We strongly encourage better cooperation between federal and state agencies.

**YES on SB5200 Allowing spouses to combine volunteer hours for purposes of receiving a complimentary discover pass.**

COMMENT: BCHW as a volunteer organization often deals with the pass requirements when we are working on state lands. In general, we can have an organized work party scheduled with state staff without requiring a pass. However, that doesn't include the many times we are out these lands clearing and evaluating trails outside of work parties scheduled in advance. It is simply easier to have a Discover Pass in our vehicles, sometimes needing to have more than one available when switching between work trucks. The Forest Service made an effort to accommodate volunteers with their pass much more pragmatic than the state has done to date. (NOTE: BCHW is included in the current Ruckelshaus Center and State Parks study on passes and exemptions.)

**YES on HB2056 Recognizing the final Saturday of September as public lands day.**

COMMENT: BCHW members are working and riding on public lands every day of the year. It is nice having the state recognize our public lands with this day in addition to the June national trails day.

For more information about these positions, contact Kathy Young, President BCHW  
P.O. Box 1132, Ellensburg, WA 98926 [president@bchw.org](mailto:president@bchw.org) 2017



THIS IS US  
By Joyce Johnson

Sugarfoot and I met in August of 2004 when my friend from the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen and member of the Big Sky Fox Trotter club, Kristina Tracer, convinced me to travel with her to Red Lodge, MT where the Eastern Director of Big Sky Fox Trotters had some geldings for sale. They had been transported from Springfield, MO for sale in Montana. I tried out 3 of them in the round pen, including Sugarfoot, the youngest at 6 years old. After owning quarter horses for several years, riding a gaited horse was a new experience.

My heart melted after meeting and riding Sugarfoot, although a 6-year-old, not very well-trained horse, was not an ideal horse for me. It took me awhile to figure out how to get him to do the fox trot and learn the difference between that and the “hard” trot. Needless to say, after owning him and learning together for over 12 years, he has turned out to be the best horse I’ve ever owned. It’s so fun to get him into his smooth fox-trot gait.

I don’t know if all the Fox Trotters have split personalities like him: the serious, hard-working trait; the sweet, innocent trait; or the comical, mischievous trait.

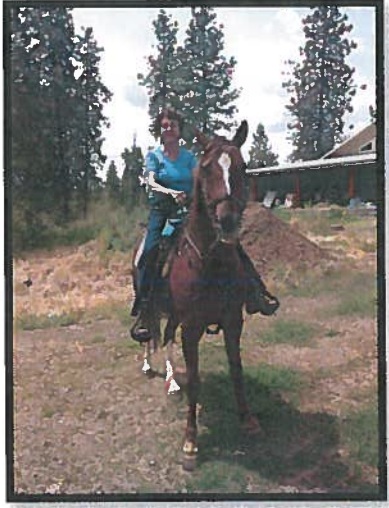
The serious, hard-working trait: He loves to help me clear trails in Palisades Park, especially the tall grass and leaves from bushes. I have no problem getting him to move out in many different speeds (I compare him to my 10-speed bicycle).

The sweet, innocent trait: Sugarfoot is very friendly and respectful toward other horses. Mares especially love him. I can’t remember ever seeing him lay his ears back in anger, even when another horse accidentally bumps him. I’ve also never seen him kick except at insects. He loves humans also and likes to lick us; many times I have to remind him that dog licks are acceptable, but not horse licks. It’s a good thing he doesn’t bite.

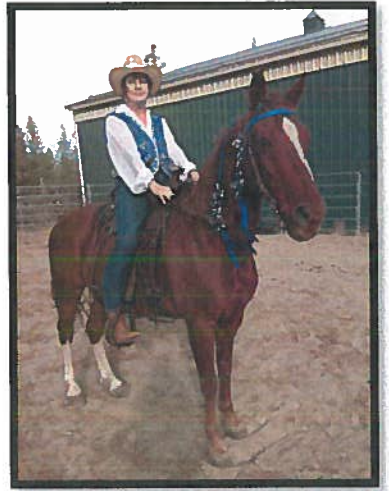
The comical, mischievous trait: Several times when I was out on my big pasture doing some weeding with my rake laying on the ground nearby, instead of grazing with my other 2 horses, he’d try to help me by picking up the handle of the rake with his teeth to give it to me. They were the times I had to shut him in by the barn and close the gate to keep him from minding my business. He didn’t know he was more of a hindrance than a help.

Now for the funniest thing I’ve ever seen Sugarfoot do: In about 2005 when we lived in Hamilton, MT, my farrier, Joe Gervais, and his wife and my friend, Kay, came over to shoe him. Afterwards, the 3 of us were sitting on my lawn chairs in the corral having a beer. Kay had a pretty black bow in the top section of her long, blonde hair. All of a sudden, Sugarfoot’s curiosity got the better of him and he quietly came up behind Kay’s chair, softly took the bow in his teeth and proceeded to pull it straight up in the air still attached to some of her hair. You should have seen the expression on Kay’s face! Joe and I cracked up! If only I’d had my camera with me.

Yes, Sugarfoot has been such a fun horse and a joy to be around. And, yes, horses, like other pets, are very therapeutic for us, as most of you know. Now, I don’t know if his 3 personality “disorders” are a Fox Trotter breed trait or not. I now know why Sugarfoot’s breeders named him Sugarfoot’s Sweet Revenge. His sire was named Revenge, and his Dam, Sugarfoot’s Buffalo Gal. He has been blessed with lots of sugar, sweets and a little playful revenge.



**Sugarfoot and I Begin Silly**



**Us in our Show Gear**



**Sugarfoot Working Hard to Clear A Trail**

**On Palisades Park**