

Land Manager Contacts

As mentioned in the summary of the Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen mission one means of keeping trails open is to advocate for equestrians. Maintaining a good working relationship with the land managers where we ride is part of this advocacy as they make policies that affect where and how we can ride.

There is a saying that if you want to be heard, listened to and respected then you better be at the table when the discussions start, don't be a Johnny Come Lately with complaints.

Land managers need to, and generally want to, hear from the stakeholders using the land. They also want to know who can speak for different interest groups with authority and accuracy. If they have a problem with a user group, or just want help, they want to know who they can go to for help and advice.

As equestrians, we want to be heard when we have concerns and input. From the start back in 1973 it was determined that if we are to retain our rights to ride on public land we must be part of the solution, not the problem. This means cooperation and providing meaningful solutions to problems.

Then how can we meet the needs of the land manager and the equestrian?

- Know the land managers. Go into the office and introduce yourself.
- Leave information about BCH so that they know and understand who BCH is, our mission and that we are part of the solution, not the problem.
- Offer the resources (knowledge, labor, skills, equipment, finances) that BCH has at our disposal to improve the experience on the land.
- Volunteer to help with THEIR projects. Some may not exactly help equestrians, but that effort of support can help our reputation when we come in later for help.
- Be a fair and reasonable advocate for the equestrian position. Be willing to lesson to the other side and work together.
- Be the person the land manager comes to first with requests for input and help so that we are not shut out when decisions are made.
- Be part of their volunteer team. Participate on friends groups, advisory committees and foundations where land issues originate and receive thorough discussion.

BCH provides us with the reputation of being part of the solution, not the problem. Working with the land managers while advocating for equestrians can enhance our right to ride on public lands.

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