**BCHW Statement Principles**

**February 12, 2024**

**BCHW’s Mission Summary**

**To preserve and enhance the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public lands. To participate and to Advocate!**

**Objectives**

BCHW chapters and members should plan and operate the following activities:

1. Responsibly using stock in front country, back country, and wilderness in such a way that it can be sustained environmentally, socially, and politically.
2. Advocacy. This includes making our viewpoints about trails and adjacent land uses known to land managers, elected officials, other trail organizations, and the general public. Members should strive not to misrepresent official positions of a chapter or BCHW.
3. Trail Maintenance, as approved or directed by public land managers. This includes working with other trail partner organizations and providing pack support for trail work. Our work is essential for preserving our ability to ride on and access to public lands.
4. Educate the general public, land managers, and trail users about the nature of equines, our efforts to manage potential impacts of stock on the environment, how we can all share trails safely and respectfully, and expand awareness of our contributions to trail construction and maintenance. This includes Leave No Trace and similar educational programs.
5. BCHW chapters are also charged with retaining and recruiting members. This sometimes requires social activities, such as rides, social gatherings, and other fun events. However, BCHW chapters must not pursue these at the expense of other core activities.

**Strategies**

* All chapter members participate and contribute to the mission.
* Provide meaningful resources to the land managers.
* Educate decision makers and the public about stock use on public lands.
* Practice and communicate the Leave No Trace principles.

**Our Vision**

Back Country Horsemen continues as a premier resource focused on keeping trails and related facilities open for equestrians.

Maintain a viable non-profit organization where all chapter members participate and contribute in one or more of the following: work parties, education, advocacy and/or supporting activities.

Concentrate and direct the energy of a cohesive group of stock advocates towards the common purpose of accomplishing the BCH mission. This will provide an efficient, responsive, and effective BCH chapter working for the benefit of the equestrian community.