

The Trailhead News

Vol. 50 Issue 3

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

May/June 2025

PACK TO THE FUTURE Rendezvous 2025



www.bchw.org



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The Trailhead News

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Cover Photos: 2025 BCHW Rendezvous Activities. Photos By Jim Thode.

Disclaimer

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As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Back Country Horsemen of Washington has enacted the following policy: Back Country Horsemen of Washington does not endorse or oppose any political candidate, donate or contribute to any political candidate's campaign, participate or engage in political fundraising events, distribute statements for or against particular political candidates, nor engage in any other activity that may constitute favoring or opposing a political candidate. The forgoing applies to the official position of BCHW it does not restrict or discourage individual members from representing themselves in support of a candidate.

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January 18.....	Mar/April
April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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BCHW Directory located online at bchw.org.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "Lifetime," "Contributing," "Sustaining," and "Patron" members.

The Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page is provided by the BCHW Membership Committee. **If you have any corrections or questions, please e-mail membership@bchw.org.**

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Lifetime Members		Kathy & Bob Cole	MSH	Julie & John Lundy	FRC
Mitch Baird	IND	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Paul Mellick	RRR
Scott Bauer	CHC	Sherrie Elliott	NEC	Bob & Rani Merz	MAC
Amanda Biles	TAH	Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NEC	Daren Moorman	PSR
Penelope Booker	IND	Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC	Kris Moran	GHC
Karen Briskey	PCC	Mary Kane	TAH	Jeanette & John O'Keefe	MVC
Caleb Canby	MVC	Lorraine Karmen	CHC	Sheila Richards	NEC
Tawney Carrier	PSR	Bill Kehner	IND	Leonard & Kathy Rolph	MAC
Janis Collett	PCC	Cindy & Dean Kobetich	BRC	Harold Rosenbach & Cindy McAlpin	GHC
Steven & Carol Crapson	CCR	Mike & Chris McGlenn	WCC	Carol & James Russo	TDC
Missy Day	TAH	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Craig Volosing & Karen Stevenson	PON
David Jackson	PSR	Al & Marci Norrbom	WEN	Joan & Ben Wildman	PNC
Kris Lenke	BHR	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC	Sonja Wingard & James Matthies	WCC
Lori Lennox	GHC	Kathleen Parshall	TAH	Kathy Young	TAH
Kim Merrick	NSC	Drew & Rachel Scott	CCR		
Heather Moorman	PSR	Lynda Stafford	SCR		
Jason Ridlon	IND	Michael Torok	MVC		
Kathy Russo	IND	Larry & Felicia Wachtel	IND		
Samantha Sandford	MSH	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC		
John Scherrer	CHC	Brenda & Greg Wiebe	MAC		
Dave Seibel	MOC	Bonnie Witrak	TAH		
Bob Shonka	IND	Bob & Lyrus Wooldridge	MAC		
Teri Starke	IND	JoAnn Yost	GHC		
Cathy Upper	MVC				
Barbara Woo	CHC				
Pat Wyers	MAC				
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Dale & Tina Merton	LCC				
2025 Patron Level					
Christina Cline	MVC				
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC				
Bob Showalter	RRR				
Heather Spencer	PNC				
Nancy Wiest	PCC				
2025 Sustaining Level					
Sheila & Bud Blakely	NEC				
Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH				
Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR				
Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller	IND				

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In-Memoriam

BettyRae Shonka

Carol Wilcox

Doc Wesselius

Jim Murphy

Laarin Lee Barber

Marianne Finrow

Teunis Wyers

Trygve Culp

Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a "trade or business" and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this "trade or business"). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your taxes. ➡

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance

Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.

Vice President's Corner



BCHW Policies

By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Vice President

Thank you to all the BCHW Directors and Officers who signed the Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire at the March Board of Directors meeting.

This is one step BCHW takes to ensure that we have a legal organization well-founded in the principles of caring for BCHW and our members.

BCHW, as a 501C5 nonprofit organization, must follow good business practices. This enables BCHW to support the mission of keeping trails open through education, advocacy, and trail building and maintenance.

Some of the good business practices we follow include:

- **Conflict of Interest Policy** – This policy supports the Duty of Loyalty, which states that we must act in the best interest of BCHW, even if it means forfeiting an opportunity that would benefit us.

- **Whistleblower Policy** – This policy supports the Duty of Obedience, which states that BCHW follows all applicable laws. BCHW intends to adhere to all laws and regulations that apply to the organization. A volunteer is protected from retaliation for reporting violations.
- **Anti Discrimination and Harassment Policy** – BCHW supports the principles and spirit of equal opportunity. Discrimination and harassment can take many forms. They are a barrier to equality in BCHW and the accomplishment of the BCHW mission and are strictly prohibited.

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BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter "BCHA") and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows: The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- 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.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

Did You Know?

Did you know that BCHW is considering changing the date of the BCHW Rendezvous from March to April to improve participation and for better weather? Please provide your Director with your input. We want everyone to be at Rendezvous.

BCHW Policies

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- **BCHW Social Media Procedures** – This provides procedures for social media postings. Among other requirements, they must be respectful, courteous, polite, friendly and factual. They must also exhibit a positive image of BCHW and adhere to policies such as 501c3 guidelines and safety.

Other very important BCHW policies that we should be familiar with protect our organization and our members. They include:

- A variety of policies pertaining to the management and processing of financial resources

- Variety of policies pertaining to the management of BCHW and chapters

All these policies are documented on the BCHW website. If you have any questions, please contact President Dana Chambers, Governance and Bylaws Committee Chairman, Ken Carmichael or Chief Financial Officer, Teri Starke. 🐾

BCHW Bylaws and Standing Rules Amendments

Since the March Board meeting the Executive Committee and the Governance and Bylaws Committee have reviewed and amended the BCHW bylaws and standing rule 2022-1. In addition, they have created a new standing rule 2025-1. These documents are recommended for approval by the BCHW Board of Directors.

THE BYLAWS AND STANDING RULE 2022-1 BOARD – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DELEGATION AND STANDING RULE 2025-1 BCHW BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE DISCUSSED AND APPROVED AT THE JUNE 21, 2025, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

These documents are posted on the BCHW website. If you have questions or concerns about any portion of these documents, please bring them to the attention of Dana Chambers and Ken Carmichael prior to the meeting so that we may address them. 🐾

BCHW Sponsorships Program

We are now offering annual sponsorships!

Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

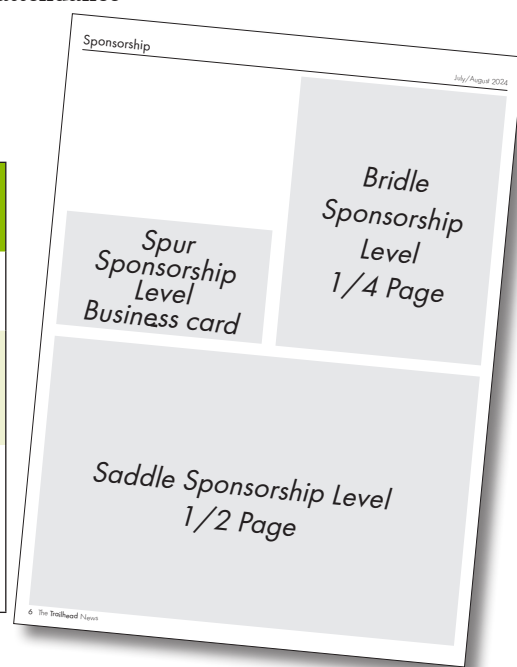
All levels of sponsors will be listed on the Sponsors page of our website.

- **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Facebook page has 8.6K Followers**

- **The Trailhead News publication goes to 2100+ members**
- **Rendezvous Three-day event gathers 400+ members and 100+ public attendance**

Sponsorship Level	Benefits
Spur \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business card-size listing in all 6 editions of our Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events
Bridle \$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter-page listing in our 6 editions of The Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired)
Saddle \$5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-page listing in all 6 editions of The Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired) • Posts on BCHW Facebook page

Contact president@bchw.org for more information





2025 Rendezvous and 2026 Calendar Important Information

By Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer

Hope everyone who attended BCHW's 2025 Rendezvous enjoyed themselves. We are already planning the 2026 Rendezvous and would love to hear your suggestions.

The consensus at the Sunday General Membership meeting was to move Rendezvous to April due to the cold weather in March. Easter falls between March 22 and April 25, with most dates in late March to early April. The third weekend in April is booked for Junktiquen in the Burg at the Ellensburg Fairgrounds. The best option is the last weekend in April, which was tentatively reserved while keeping the third weekend in March reservation until a final decision is made. Please let your chapter director know what you think, as this will be discussed at the June Board of Directors Meeting.

We need more help and would love to add more classes, demos, vendors, and anything else you can think of that is possible.



You may have heard from your director that BCHW is not going to print a 2026 calendar. For the last 5 years, we have not been able to sell all the calendars and have had several hundred left over each year. If we decrease the number of calendars, the cost per calendar increases. The quantity and quality of pictures are not enough to have an entirely new set of pictures each year. We will look at options for the 2027 calendar year. If you have any ideas, please reach

out. Please get in touch, Teri Starke, 253-709-5052 🐾



Please clip out and mail



Permanent or Temporary Address Change Form

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

New Address: _____

Temporary Address for Snow Birds: _____

Start date: _____ Return Date: _____

Mail to: Dana Chambers, State Membership Chair, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391

Email to: membership.bchw@gmail.com

Congratulations to the 2024 BCHW Awards Recipients

By Sue Sundahl, BCHW Awards Chair

Awards 2024 that's a wrap! Thank you to all the volunteers within BCHW. Hosting the Award presentation is always a pleasure, and this year was great. It only takes a little time to submit a nomination for awards. Please

remember to jot down your memorable volunteers throughout the year and see that they are recognized for their hard work within our organization. Congratulations to all this year's recipients. 🐾

PRESIDENT'S DIAMOND AWARD



Larry Baysinger



Gary Zink

JUNIOR BCHW



Renley Snell, Lewis County Chapter

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Jack Gillette, Pierce County Chapter



Doris Bacon, Ferry County Chapter



Cathy Nelson, Traildusters

DESK JOCKEY



Nancy Wiest, Pierce County Chapter



Cathy Karniss, Lewis County Chapter



Chris Woodworth, Ellensburg Chapter

ALL PHOTOS BY JIM THODE

LOPPER AWARD



Lesla Gregory, Ferry County Chapter

TRAIL WARRIOR



Larry Sammons, Buckhorn Range Chapter



Rebecca Wanagel, Peninsula Chapter

BACKBONE



Laura Dell, Scatter Creek Chapter



Sherri Wright, Leonard Wright, Lewis County Chapter



Beth Ferris, Traildusters Chapter

CAMP COOK



Betsy Hargrove, Pierce County Chapter



Breezy Burnson, Northeast Chapter



Chiron Susee, Pierce County Chapter



Cassie King, Lewis County Chapter

Why are Volunteer Hours and In-Kind Donations so Important to Accurately Record and Report?

Volunteer Hours

Many of us may not prioritize recording our volunteer hours, whether working on trails, attending educational chapter meetings, or driving to both. Personally, I have often overlooked this task, focusing instead on BCHW Accounting, Rendezvous, and the Calendar. I admit to missing an entire year of recording my volunteer hours. However, I am committed to accurately documenting and submitting my volunteer hours on time.

BCHW's total volunteer hours and dollar equivalent are included in our annual tax return. This figure highlights member involvement and is crucial for donors to see the accurate amount of time we dedicate to BCHW. It can significantly impact grants and donations.

In-Kind Donations

In-kind donations, which consist of goods and services, are primarily utilized by BCHW for fundraising purposes. The monetary equivalent of these donations is included in our annual tax return, showcasing community support and providing crucial information for donors and grant organizations. It is essential to accurately capture all in-kind donations made to BCHW and its chapters. Detailed instructions on completing the three-part donation form can be found in the 'members-only' section under the Treasurer's new page. This form should be distributed to all do-

nors, with one copy sent to the state (me) and another retained by the chapter. At the end of the year, please report all chapter in-kind donations by event to the state for inclusion in the IRS tax return.

Occasionally, I review the tax returns of other 501(c)(3) organizations, which are public documents generally accessible on their websites. Successful 501(c)(3) organizations typically report significantly higher volunteer hours and in-kind donations than we currently do. I hope this article helps emphasize the importance of these figures for BCHW. If you have any questions, please contact me at 253-709-5052. 🐼



Content Deadline for the July/August 2025 Digital Newsletter is June 1, 2025

Cover Photos can be sent anytime, 8x10 Vertical orientation is best (300 dpi).

You can send articles, photos and calendar of events early!

Please email your articles (700 word maximum) and 3 or 4 photos with caption and photo byline to thn@bchw.org as soon as possible.

ATTENTION!

Mt St Helens BCHW Chapter Packing/Camping Clinic March 29th



Packing with Joe Orchard, Jim Anderson, Joe Hesch, and Tyler Cyr.



Hobbles with Brian Jensen

By Barbara Thomas, BCHW Mt St Helens Chapter

How do you measure the success of an event like our Packing/Camping clinic on March 29th? If by the total number of attendees, then it's a matter of opinion. Two years ago, we attracted only a handful, maybe 20 people. Last year, we counted about 45, and this year, we had about 100. Like last year, people came ready to learn with their notebooks and pens, asking lots of questions and eager to soak up any advice to make their camping trips a good experience.

The event started with the packing demo hosted by Joe Orchard, Jim Anderson, Joe Hesch, and Tyler Cyr. There were lots of questions from the bystanders and lots of advice given. Next

up was Brian Jensen and Ken Evens demonstrating high lining techniques, followed by Brian and Joe showing folks how to teach your horse to hobble. The final demo, by Carl Schmalenberger and Rebecca Harder, used hacks to change a trailer tire. This demo was a big hit with the women attending the clinic.

Off-stage, other demos were going on. Joy Gallagher demonstrated that you don't need a fancy LQ or camper to have everything you need to camp. She camps right out of the back of her horse trailer, turning it into a studio apartment with all the

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Hacks for Tire Changing with Carl Schmalenberger and Rebecca Harder



How to camp out of your trailer with Joy Gallagher

Mt St Helens BCHW Chapter Packing/Camping Clinic March 29th

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necessities and extras. Jan Foltz taught people how to tie various knots that might be helpful for packing or high lining. Jan Schmalenberger explained the ins and outs of taking your horse on an out-of-state adventure and what permits you might need.

Barbara Thomas and Sally Keiger staffed the WTRA/BCHW table and got a lot of people who wanted to know more about our organizations. Ruth Colennello and Chelsea Radi had folks sign a liability release and tracked where people learned about this event. Bob Cole and Paul Cefalo handled parking with Gary

Collins as relief, while Gudrun Mahrt and Mike Ziggler handled door security. Dawn Walker and Carol Harder were our floaters, filling in where needed. Judy Smith was our official photographer, without whom we would not have all the proof of what a great event this was.

The day after the event, Shannon McKinzie with CCSC asked if we wanted to do this next year, add more demos and book a date for the event in 2026 through the Saddle Club. With this in mind, we can say that this event was a success! 🐾



Hi Line with Ken Evans



Knots with Jan Foltz

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2024 and the renewal season starts on October 1st. Please go to [BCHW.org](https://www.bchw.org) and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR SINGLE AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ARE INCREASING.

In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

Whistler Canyon Trailhead and the Pacific Northwest Trail

A little History About Okanogan Valley Chapter of BCHW



Dave Swanberg accepting the donation.

By Lana Christopherson, Okanogan Valley Chapter, President

The development of Whistler Canyon (WC) Trailhead started in 2008. The Kinross Mine made a large donation to the Okanogan Valley Chapter (OVC). After five years of meeting with the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife, DNR, Okanogan County and Indian artifacts, the project could finally begin with Dave Swanberg's persistence. The trailhead displays his name as a memorial.

The key players in the development of WC were, first, Mark Morris, District Manager (not sure of his title), who wanted to add and develop the trailhead for the Tonasket National Forest. He then learned that if the land was not already connected to the National Forest land, it could not be purchased or developed. Mark remained highly active in the continued progress, but OVC took the lead in getting the county to purchase the land and the development of the WC trailhead and the trails.

A few members who were major players in the WC project were Dave Swanberg, Tryg Culp, and Dave Sunde. The actual work began with work parties manually removing the existing orchard. OVC had many active members at that time, so the work party would have had about 15 members, both men and women hard at work.

Due to the start of the trail going up at quite a steep grade, that section of work was mostly done with heavy equipment, accompanied by members using shovels and other manual tools. Stan Kvistad worked for a small company, which OVC hired them to do some heavy equipment work.

Here we are years later, and OVC continues to support and maintain the WC trailhead, PNT and connecting trails due to the times and with much fewer members than from back in the day. OVC was invited to a collaboration work party with the Forest Service, BLM, TOI, and an Okanogan County representative. We worked side by side on clearing out the evasive Russian Thistle growing along the sides of the trail leaving the trailhead. The thistle



was hauled out on tarps and then burned in a huge metal box in the gravel area. We also weed wacked the parking lot and the designated horse highline area. A few hiked up to the frog pond trail, where they cleared brush on the short out and back trail. With all the collaboration effort, we accomplished quite a lot of work in one day. Another project to improve the WC trailhead is installing a vaulted toilet. Okanogan County asked OVC to write a letter of support to apply for a grant to install a vaulted toilet. Well of course we did. Okanogan County received the grant money to install the vaulted toilet six months later. OVC is working on another collaboration work party, leaving from the Wilcox camp and trailhead on the other side of this same trail system. We know up here in the north, we are not on the way to anywhere; if you get a chance to visit Okanogan County, check out our beautiful Whistler Canyon Trailhead. Thank you to Margaret Swanberg with the help of photos and her memory of an elephant. See you on the trail. 🐘



Stan working on excavating the trail.



FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event.

• Check to see if dogs are welcome.

Note: The BCHW Trailhead News represents as many events as possible; however, it makes no guarantees an event will be published. The calendar of events is subject to change. Please check with ride contact for most updated information. Please send calendar corrections to: thn@bchw.org.

Lewis County Chapter Fun Ride

Saturday, May 10, 2025

874 Burnt Ridge Rd, Near Onalaska, WA

Sign In: 9:00-11:00am, Last Rider Out: 11:30am,

Prizes & Fun, Cost: Riders 16 yrs

& older \$20, riders under age 16 FREE

Pre-register online:

www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php

Tony: 360-520-5697 • tkarniss@gmail.com

Black Pine-Crosscut Extravaganza!

Friday-Monday, May 30-June 2, 2025

Alpine Lakes Wilderness-Black Pine Horse camp

btalbot1276@gmail.com • 360-312-3626

Pack Stock and Hiker Team Logout - Independent

Friday-Tuesday, June 13-17, 2025

Alpine Lakes Wilderness-Black Pine Horse camp

btalbot1276@gmail.com • 253-312-3626

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, June 21, 2025

9:00am, Armory

Kittitas Valley Event Center

901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA

BCHW President Dana Chambers

president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

Grays Harbor Fund Ride 2025

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Schafer Grade near Matlock, WA

No permits needed.

Limited camping avail.

2 Loops option w/ raffle & grand prize.

Lunch will be avail. for purchase.

Lots of parking.

Contact Beth Branshaw:

bbranshaw@hotmail.com

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9:00am, Armory

Kittitas Valley Event Center

901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA

BCHW President Dana Chambers

president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

Example

Your Chapter Ride or Event Must Be Open To All BCHW Members To Have A FREE Listing

Lines in the listing have a maximum character count of 32, including spaces. Please keep this in mind.

Please submit the following information with your event listing to thn@bchw.org.

Chapter Name _____

Name of Ride _____

Date _____

First Rider Out _____

Location _____

Register _____

Lunch _____

Name of Pass Required (if needed) _____

Weed-Seed-Free Feed Required _____

Camping (if available) _____

Cost to Member _____

Cost to Non-member _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks



June 7 — Free Fishing Weekend

June 8 — Free Fishing Weekend

June 19 — Juneteenth

Aug. 9 — Smokey Bear's Birthday

Sept. 27 — National Public Lands Day

Oct. 10 — World Mental Health Day

Nov. 11 — Veterans Day