



BCH-MN Annual Newsletter

December 2020



2020 BCH-MN elected Officers and Directors

President:

Marvin Breitreutz
320-212-9843 mphorses43@gmail.com

Vice President:

Diane Freese
507-319-5808 freese.diane@outlook.com

Secretary:

Ken Olson
507-356-8686
oakridgefarm244@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Steve Freese
507-271-0052 sfree49@outlook.com

SEM Chapter Delegates:

Mark Fitting
507-273-5883 fittingsnuthouse@gmail.com

Dave Robson
507-269-8401 crazyrhorses@gmail.com

ZB Chapter Delegates:

Barb Kvitem
507-259-6117 bkvitem7@yahoo.com

Dawn Dick
Winddancer55945@yahoo.com

National Directors:

Marv Breitreutz and Diane Freese

BCH-MN
501©3 Non-Profit
BCH-MN formed in February of 2016

BCH of MN Annual General Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 16, 2021

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Zoom Call

Connection details emailed before the meeting

BCH-MN PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE 2020 RIDING SEASON

This past year was one of the more difficult riding seasons since BCH-MN was formed. The COVID-19 Virus pandemic seemed to change everyone's plans for the season. While everyone did their part to slow the spread of COVID-19, we also tried to enjoy the outdoors. Early in the riding season the State curtailed riding on public trails which also included maintaining those trails. As we got into mid-summer, we were able to assume clearing and riding our favorite trails. We are all hoping that this can be controlled soon so we can get back to our normal routines.

With some additional effort we were able to keep our membership about the same as in previous years.

Later into the Summer restrictions were lifted somewhat so people began to increase outdoor activities such as trail riding. This meant that trail cleanup crews were also back at work on State and County Trails. Favorable weather and reduced virus restrictions allowed most trail repairs to be completed by late summer or early fall.

Because of COVID-19 the BCHA Annual Meeting which is held in late April was canceled. A virtual meeting using ZOOM was held rather than an in person annual meeting. This was a three-day meeting and by the end of the third day all required activities were completed. Comments following the meeting were that everyone was pleased on how well it had worked.

In the business session of the meeting it was decided that the 2 State delegates from each member state were going to have a more active roll on the National Board. This was going to be done by holding monthly virtual board meetings. The first couple of months calls were held via conference call. This proved to be difficult because only a few directors ever spoke because people seemed to be talking over each other so they quickly lost interest in participating. BCHA then switched to using ZOOM. This proved to be a much better format and allowed a person to be recognized when

speaking.

BCHA is limited to 100 callers on the call because of the package they purchased. If the time comes that they need more room capacity they plan to use Face Book for the additional members because of the cost of a larger network on Zoom. The problem is when using Face Book a person can only listen in on the conversation but can't make a comment. BCH-MN is now trying to see how we can make Zoom work for us.

Because of the severity of the COVID-19 virus and our concern for members' safety the State Board has decided to hold our 2021 Annual Meeting electronically via Zoom on a computer or phone. The date for the 2021 annual meeting has been set for Jan 16, 2021 at 1 pm. All members will receive the details for the meeting via email prior to the meeting. At the annual meeting we will be electing a Vice President and a Secretary for two-year terms.

This summer Eileen Menefee ask to step down from the State Board as a voting delegate from Northern Minnesota. Our By-Laws allows the State Board to appoint directors to represent an area in which we hope that a chapter would be formed. Anyone interested in serving as a representative for Northern Minnesota on the State Board should let their interest be known to a current board member.

I would like to end this report by Thanking everyone who has supported BCH-MN, and those who helped to keep trails open and safe for everyone who wishes to enjoy our great outdoors.



Calendar of Events:

Jan 16 - 1:00 pm – BCH-MN Annual Meeting via Zoom (video or phone) access details will be sent later

contact – Diane Freeze freeze.diane@outlook.com or 507-319-5808

Jan 23 – 1:00 pm – SE BCH-MN Chapter Annual Meeting via Zoom (video or phone) access details will be sent later

contact – Dave Robson – crazyrhorses@gmail.com or 507-269-8401

Jan 31 – Zumbro Bottoms BCH-MN Annual Meeting via free conference call – time and access details will be sent later via email or ZB Facebook page

contact – Bruce Kvitem – kvranch@mail.com or 507-259-6127

April 17 – Zumbro Bottoms BCH-MN work day – time and access details will be sent later via email or ZB Facebook page

contact – Bruce Kvitem – kvranch@mail.com or 507-259-6127

BCH-MN Officer Elections

Elections will be held at the state annual meeting in January. This year Vice President and Secretary are up for election.

- **Current Vice President - Diane Freese**
- **Current Secretary - Ken Olson**

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.



***BCH of MN Annual
General Membership Meeting
Saturday, January 16, 2020
1:00
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Stay tuned for details.....***

Contact – Diane Freeze

freeze.diane@outlook.com or 507-319-5808





BCHA National Convention

Open to all Back Country Horsemen members. Listen to engaging speakers, hear what other chapters/states are doing.

Meet new friends!

April 26-28, 2021

Zoom Conference Call

Details in a future email

Contact: Diane Freese 507-319-5808

freese.diane@outlook.com



Southeast Minnesota BCH-MN Annual Meeting

January 23, 2021

1:00 PM

Zoom or Phone Conference Call

Connection details will be emailed before meeting

Contact: Dave Robson | crazyrhorses@gmail.com | 507-269-8401

<https://seminbch.weebly.com/>



Zumbro Bottoms BCH-MN Annual Meeting

Meeting is open to everyone, members & non-members

January 31, 2021

Conference Call – Connection Details will be posted on Facebook
and sent via email.

For information contact Bruce Kvittem at kvranch@mail.com
or 507-259-6127

<https://zumbrobottomsbchmn.weebly.com/>

Amazon Shoppers - Please Use AmazonSmile Donate to Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota

Please do your shopping at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 5% of purchase price to Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota.

Bookmark the below link so all your eligible shopping purchases will benefit Back Country Horsemen Of Minnesota.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-1466089>

Thanks for all your support!!

BCH-MN Rendezvous

Tamarack Horse Camp—July 31, Aug 1,2, 2020



The 2020 Rendezvous went well. COVID concerns affected attendance, those that attended had a good time. Fears of it being too hot did not come to pass and the bugs were not bad. Mid 80's daytime temperature, cooling to mid-60's nightly. The campground looked great, a big thank you to DNR manager Rick Dunkley and the park staff. All of the planned events had excellent participation.

Mark & Lynn Widner and Jean Hendrickson were gracious ride leaders. We had rides, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Several rain storms came and went thru during the rides. Which added some excitement to the rides. Good fun. Good participation.

Packing Demonstration: Mark Widner with help/support from his wife Lynn held the very informational demonstration. Lynn's mule, Raymond, was packed. He was the star of the show.



Rick Dunkley, DNR St Croix State Park Manager,

spent 1.5 hours chatting with us. He has a great team. They do an excellent job maintaining the parks and trails.



- Additional trail signage is in the works. Tamarack has received a grant from MTRA for signage. Trails will be assigned names and intersections will be labeled. In time, the trails will be electronic and available as a download via Avenza Maps.
- Beaver's have been busy in certain areas. Making the trails in that area unusable. Rick has been in contact with the trapper association. Note: We rode this area. The DNR is right, the trails are under water.
- With COVID, he has not been able to bring all of his staff back. Or they have recently returned. Many trails have had little to no maintenance.

- Discussed erosion and problem spots on the trails.
- Discussed OHV damage on certain trails. Rick's role with the DNR does not entail any type of enforcement.
- COVID camping regulations. At the horse camp, sites are spaced adequately so all could be open. At the ST Croix State Park, some had to be closed.

The Saturday potluck was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Hot coals were available for cooking. Barb Partington did a Dutch Oven cooking Demonstration - "Plum Dump Cake". It was quite yummy.

The Silent Auction raised \$148. Nice items were donated. Thanks to Barb and Bruce Kvitem who coordinated the event. Thanks to all who donated and bid on the auction items.

Sunday morning Cowboy Church was attended by everyone in camp. Mike Reicherts with "We Will Ride Ministry", delivered an inspirational message. Mike is wearing the "Wild Rag". Lee Partington supplied the music.

Thanks to Kari Zenz for donating "Wild Rags". These were given to the committee members and volunteers that made this event a success.



BCH-MN
Trail Work, Advocacy, Friends
Great Potlucks

Volunteer Hours Report

Submitted by Diane Freese

2020 will be a year to remember. We have witnessed so much distressing news. Usually the weather is our adversary but this year the COVID pandemic took over that job. Despite this we managed to donate \$25,847.64 in volunteer work this year. (hours may still be turned in) A big thank you to all who made this happen. While we were limited in how much we could do this year, plans are already underway for projects next year.

If you have hours or donations not reported yet please send them to me as soon as possible so I can finalize our report for this year.

We have donated a total of \$187,959.69 worth of volunteer time since we organized BCH MN in 2017. Our land managers are grateful for our help. Let us keep up the good work!

Send volunteer hours to: Diane Freese freese.diane@outlook.com

BCH MN Volunteer hours history

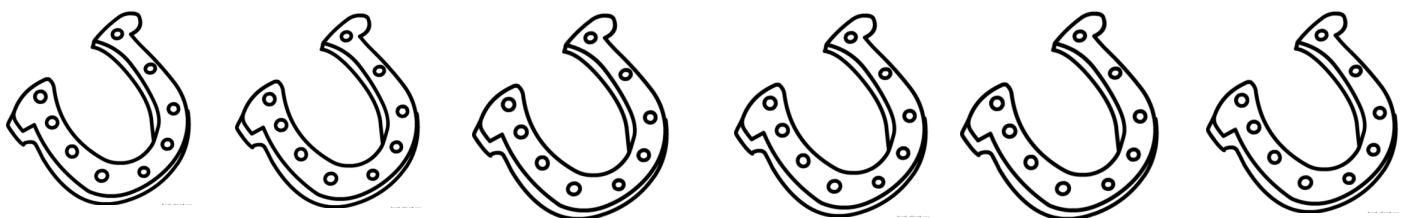
2017 \$76,020.20

2018 \$32,908.02

2019 \$53,183.83

2020 \$25,847.64

2017 to present \$187,959.69





Zumbro Bottoms

Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota

What a year glad we got through it finally. Riding was great this year so that was a benefit for all of us. Hope you all got out and rode plenty. The Zumbro Bottoms trails were in good shape, thanks to the many riders that kept them cleared by removing trees and branches that were on trails. Many storms caused plenty of damage to those trails we all enjoy riding. The DNR did a nice job last spring of going over the trails and filling in some of the washouts that the spring rains caused. There are still some spots that need work, and we are hoping to get them on the DNR list for 2021. Currently there is a review of the Richard Dorer Forest going on by the DNR that was open for public comment last spring, they got many comments and are now working with some of the user groups to make headway on what to do and how much they and us can do to keep the trails stay open and safe. This review is about the horse areas of Zumbro Bottoms, Haycreek Recreation Area and Kruger State Park. Other areas of the Dorer Forest will be considered next as the Dorer forest is too large and has many diverse uses. We are glad the DNR is considering the horse trails now. Some of the undesignated trails are being considered to become designated and maintained by the DNR. Zumbro Bottoms BCH-MN has been active in any meetings they had and will have. We are doing what we can to protect our wonderful trails at Zumbro Bottoms. Membership in ZB-BCH-MN will assist us in keeping you informed about the meetings.

ZB-BCH-MN has been like other groups struggling to get members to join. We are ending the year with 50+ paid members, but we have 1160 followers on Facebook. We appreciate you following us and keeping informed that way on what we are doing as a group but sure could use you as members and contributors. Last year we had a few scheduled work days to clean camp, work on the tie lines and fix broken tie line posts. We even had a clean-up day after the Frostbite ride to make sure the camp was in good shape for the winter. Lots of good that did as the hunters have been using it and it is not as clean as when we got done cleaning it. Guess that gives us something to do at the spring clean up day.

For spring we have received permission to add a few tie lines to the West Camp area, we have purchased 44 posts and are working on the pipe braces and either chain or cable for the ties. We cannot thank you enough for the donations that have been given to Frostbite Ride Inc and the ZB-BCH-MN towards the ties. We can still use donations for them but are proceeding with getting the things needed to place them in the spring. Our plans are to install them in April with your help and some additional donations. Donations can be accepted through PayPal or sent directly to our treasurer Angie at Cowpokes Western store. Donations can be tax deductible as the state BCH-MN chapter is non-profit.

As public meeting have been limited to few people, we have been doing our monthly meetings by FreeConferenceCall.com. This allows you to be home and participate in the meeting. We do publish the contact info for the meetings on our Facebook page and send notices to members. Please feel free to join us by phone at any of our meetings. Our annual meeting is set for Sunday, January 31st using FreeConferenceCall.com. Watch your email in box or our Facebook page for more info. We will be doing elections somehow, if you want to join as an officer we are electing: President, Treasurer, a State delegate, and a member at large delegate. Contact any of our current board members if interested.

Bruce Kvitem ZB BCH-MN President

<https://zumbrobottomsbchmn.weebly.com/>

zumbrobottomsequestrians@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/197591260612245/>





Southeast Minnesota Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota SEMNBCH-MN

Wow, another horseback riding season has come and went – way too fast. I hope all had a good riding season.

Southeast Minnesota Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota (SEMNBCH MN) continued to work with the MN DNR but was restricted as MN DNR did not want volunteer workers.

Still we were able to do some work. We cleaned trails at Reno, Wet Bark and Hay Creek – thanks to all that participated.

SEMNBCH MN received a grant and provided “fill” around all the tie rails at Forestville State Park. MN DNR did the work but we provided all the “fill”. This was much needed and in meetings with the management of Forestville State Park, they agreed to maintain the area better than in the past.

SEMNBCH MN has approval and will be installing additional tie rails at Wet Bark in the spring.

Dave Robson
President

<https://seminbch.weebly.com/>



<https://www.parksandtrails.org/>

BCH-MN has become a Friends Group Partner of Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota. Here we can access resources and services as well as see what other friends groups are doing.

Huntersville State Forest Project Update by Tami Wenthold

The Trail and Management Revision Project in Huntersville State Forest was approved this summer by DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. The final trail plan includes 4.5 miles of new horse trails. New maps will be finalized when all the additions of trails in the project are established. There is a plan for new kiosk signage on the designated Horse Trails once the map is updated by the DNR.

Maintenance and improvement projects completed at the Shell City Horse Campground included new footing being added to the horse stalls, corrals, and under the tie lines. The entry road to the Horse Campground was widened and regraded. This will help with drainage and allow more room for trailers to pass when they meet on the road.

Report Volunteer Trail Work Hours

Volunteering is our clout. Volunteering has a positive effect when talking with land managers. It shows that as a user group we take responsibility for keeping our public lands in good condition for future generations.

Any questions and to report all volunteer hours

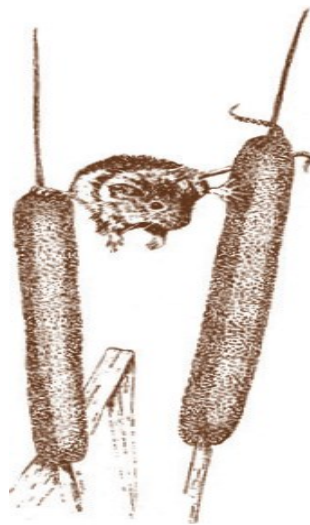
Please contact

Diane Freese

507-319-5808

freese.diane@outlook.com

Ever need a
little help?



BCH-MN
Needs yours.
Join Today

2021 Membership Renewals Due

As 2020 ends it will be time to renew your BCH MN membership and I hope you will do so as soon as possible. As a member your involvement in local 'boots on the ground' activities help to ensure that the trails in your area remain open and usable. Participation comes in many forms: trail workers, meeting attendees, chief cook and bottle washer at events, planner, or check book supporter to name a few. **Everyone is important.**

Your membership supports the BCHA mission at your local, state, and national levels. Nationally your membership gives BCHA a stronger leadership role as 'the' equine trail group. This is important because there are more users of public lands today than ever before competing for access and it is paramount that BCHA is vigilant in protecting our historical access to public lands.

The most frequent question we hear is "What does BCHA do for me?". I have just named one but in the last year or so BCHA has made agreements to give you discounted rates for Equisure Liability Insurance, US Rider truck/trailer insurance, Air Med for evacuation emergencies and John Deere. BCHA also collects Trails Forever Fund donations that are distributed to local chapters as grants for local activities.

Numbers speak volumes to land manager, law makers and partners. So please send in your renewal to your local chapter/state today and continue to be part of this amazing organization.

Renewal forms are available on the BCHMN.org website.

<https://www.bchmn.org/>

BCH-MN Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 11, 2020 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Pizza Ranch | Lakeville, MN

24 members in attendance

President Marv Breitreutz called the meeting to order at 11:15.

Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves and stated where they came from.

Notice of Annual Meeting was sent out 30 days prior to the meeting.

Secretary Report – reading of the minutes from the summer membership meeting was waved. MSP

Treasurer Report – Barb Partington submitted a paper report. It was in the membership packet.

Checking beginning balance Jan 1, 2019 \$2390.79.

Income = \$1773.37

Expenses = \$2288.00

Balance in checking = \$1876.16

Owed to national = \$471.00

Usable Balance = \$1405.16

MSP to accept Treasures Report

Total State Membership – 128 Voting Members. This includes the state members, Zumbro Bottoms Chapter and Southeast MN Chapter.

President Marv Breitreutz Report – Marv talked about the past year's events and projects. He talked about our booth at the MN Horse Expo, by-law changes and the reasoning behind the changes and going to the National meeting. Discussed BCH-MN BOD goal of having a meeting with the state level DNR staff.

Volunteer Hours – Diane Freese is the volunteer hour's coordinator.

2019 to date 1242 hours valued at \$49,261. Included in this number is 50 stock days at a \$5,000 value. With all the heavy rains, it has been a hard year to get any trail work done. Diane created a form and handed it out. There is certain information that needs to be documented. Including date, project description, mileage, travel time, hours worked, trail miles cleared, personal vehicle miles, stock haul miles, total stock days used, heavy equipment used, Public meetings, name and contact information.

2019 Expo Booth – Barb Partington and Barb Kvitem

Our booth was in the Miracle of Birth Building. Good foot traffic at this spot. Thank you to Dave Robson for connecting with Robert Eversole (The Trailmeister). Robert Eversole was a 2019 speaker. He allowed BCH-MN to pass out our brochures at all his talks, which gave our group lots of exposure. This resulted in several new members.

Information was shared on the DNR proposal OHV trail/campground for Togo Horse Camp. All who stopped at the booth were encouraged to submit comments and concerns.

Those who volunteered enjoyed the experience. It was fun talking to those that stopped at the booth.

BCHA National Meeting – Diane Freese and Marv Breitreutz are BCH-MN delegates for 2019. The national meeting is open to all members. This year is April 19-21 at Kansas City. All were encouraged to go. Can attend all the conference or only for a day. There is a daily charge. If interested, register on-line. It is very worthwhile to go. Steve Freese is the alternate BCH-MN delegate. Only delegates can vote. Anyone can be on a committee or attend the committee meetings.

Zumbro Bottoms Chapter – Barb Kvitem – The group meets 2nd Thursday of the month. This past year, weather has impacted meetings and workdays. Camps are in good shape. In 2018 the camp host site was reworked, it was a very good improvement. The clean up days went well. Good participation. There is a new DNR Frontenac state

park manager, started this fall. Tentative plans for additional tie lines have been drawn up. Tentative plans for a "Ride with the DNR". Their annual meeting is Jan 19 at Tailgaiters in Elgin.

Southeast MN Chapter – Mark Fitting - 4 workdays were coordinated this past year. Two of the workdays were at Forestville. 7 mounting block/benches were built and installed. 18 water bars were installed. One workday was at Wetbark and one workday at Hay Creek. Weather was an issue. During the workdays, they have had success in member recruitment. A meeting with the Forestville Park manager is planned for this month. The annual meeting is at Forestville on the 25th.

Western MN – Marv Breitreutz – With the heavy rains, lots of road and trail damage at Upper Sioux. At Renville County Park, Marv and Patsy Breitreutz, rerouted a problem trail. The park manager is willing to do more. There is a hope to have a trail system to connect county/state parks. The river has taken out some of the existing trails. There is not that many miles of trails; it would be a weekend destination.

Northern MN – Barb Partington – Cut Foot Sioux had a workday in the spring. Horse Camp 101 event was held at McCarthy Beach State park. There was a team of horses and wagon giving rides. Barb Partington did a Dutch Oven cooking demonstration. Eileen Menefee had a high tie with horse for demonstration. Attendees enjoyed the day. Dawn the park manager has worked hard coordinating different events. With the goal to increase attendance at the park.

New Business

By Laws Election Rotation – Old bylaws had 1 year terms. New adopted by-laws have 2 year staggered terms. Secretary and Vice President will be elected in on odd years. This year secretary and VP will be elected in for a 1-year term. President and Treasurer will be elected in on even years. They would be elected in for a 2-year term. Implement immediately. MSP - by 2/3 vote.

Budget - MSP to accept budget as proposed. Marv Breitreutz has donated his \$250 stipend to attend the BCHA National Convention back to BCH-MN.

Dues – MSP - Dues to remain the same as last year. Different ways to raise money was discussed. Silent auction, raffles

Summer Rendezvous – Having a summer rendezvous was well received. MSP - Have the Summer Rendezvous at Tamarack Horse Camp on July 31, Aug 1 and Aug 2. Speakers – there are knowledgeable horse people within our state. This would be a good time to have a silent auction. The new and used silent auction items will be supplied by those attending. Many of us have items horse related that are no longer wanted. Kari Zenz volunteered to be on the Rendezvous committee. She would not be the chair though.

Election of officers -

President - Marv Breitreutz for two years

Vice President – Diane Freese for one year

Treasurer – Steve Freese for two years

Secretary - Ken Olson for one year

National Director – A National director will be chosen by the board. Going to the national board meeting is very worthwhile. Is anyone interested? If so, please contact Marv Breitreutz.

Notification of Workdays - Members who are not chapter members, how can they hear about workdays? Most workdays are posted on Facebook. Not all members are on Facebook.

Relationship with MTRA and MN Horse Council - It is BCH-MN goal to work with MTRA and MN Horse Council. Inviting MTRA members to the summer rendezvous was discussed.

News & Notes mini- newsletter - Many found it informational. Thank you to Ken Olson for all his hard work in creating the documents.

Meeting adjourned 1:45 pm

Submitted by Barb Partington – recording secretary.



TrailMeister website is your free online resource for horse trails, horse camps, and all of the information you need for a successful and uneventful ride.

From trail maps, satellite imagery of the parking areas, links to land managers, trail riding clinics, acclaimed magazine columns, applauded videos, and more. TrailMeister is your one-stop for trail riding information.

Robert Eversole, the TrailMeister, travels 5-6 months of the each year traveling all over the US speaking at horse expo's, leading trail riding and horse campaign clinics. He is a big BCHA advocate. Spreading the word about BCH at many of his clinics and talks.

<https://www.trailmeister.com/>



TRAIL WORK,
ADVOCACY,
CAMARADERIE

\$12,170,827
WORTH OF
VOLUNTEER
EFFORTS IN 2018



CHAPTERS IN
31 STATES

VISIT BCHA.ORG TO FIND
OUT HOW YOU CAN GET
INVOLVED

DNR Review of the RJD Forest

SE Minnesota - Zumbro Bottoms, Krueger, Hay Creek

DNR Review of the RJD Forest

The DNR is conducting a review of the Richard Dorer Forest, this means they are looking at things that can be done to preserve the forest for us and future users.

The DNR is considering a number of measures to improve trail sustainability and enhance user experiences for both motorized and non-motorized uses including:

- Adding new trails
- Adding trail connections
- Changing allowable trail uses
- Designating areas where motor vehicle use is restricted during trapping and hunting seasons

Closing unsustainable trails

The trail system changes will not include changing forest-wide motor vehicle use classifications. This means they are not planning to add motor vehicle use to these trails. At present they are looking at Zumbro Bottoms, Haycreek and the Kruger Management unit. They have broken the RJD forest into smaller areas as there are many different uses and sections have different terrain to consider as they look at preserving the forest.

Expect more information to be sent to you as things progress. The DNR does not at this time want a hundred people in the planning stages, so they are working with a select few from the various user groups. Horse riders are well represented and will keep information flowing to you as things progress.

This information was copied directly from the DNR web site with regards to the review project.

State Forest Trail and Management Revisions Project Description

Background. Between 2003 and 2008, the DNR classified Minnesota's state forests as limited, managed or closed with regard to motorized use. The DNR also inventoried over 12,000 miles of forest routes over 3,000 miles were closed, and 827 miles were designated as non-motorized trails. On the inventoried routes that were not designated or closed, motor vehicle use is permitted in forests classified as managed and prohibited in forests classified as limited or closed. The process was limited to inventory, classification, and disposition of existing routes; new trails were not proposed. The DNR has started a review of the forest trail systems to identify new trail routes and connections, areas for special management, and to close trails that have proven unsustainable. The trail system changes will not include changing forest-wide limited, managed, or closed motorized classifications. The DNR expects some trails will be closed (undesignated). The review will not include forest-wide changes in classification, other state forest recreation facilities like campgrounds or day-use areas, or state corridor trails specifically authorized in statute. The DNR will also consider designating areas for special management. For example, state law (Minn. Stat. Sec. 84.926) provides specific hunting and trapping-related exceptions to the normal prohibition on off-trail ATV use in limited forests. The DNR may designate areas where these exceptions no longer apply, and off-trail ATV use will not be allowed.

Process Details. State forests will be reviewed either individually or in geographically-related groups. The public will be invited to an initial scoping meeting to review preliminary DNR sug-

gestions and submit their own ideas and recommendations. A draft proposal will be developed following the scoping meeting.

Process Objectives

- Designate a sustainable system of forest roads and trails that provide for diverse motorized and non-motorized public recreation and access.
- Close unsustainable routes to vehicular travel.
- Designated trails and trail systems that provide a 'quality' recreational experience, and provide connections to other recreation facilities, support services and other popular destinations.
- Forest roads and trails that provide adequate access for both recreational and utilitarian purposes (e.g., hunting, trapping, angling, firewood collecting, berry and mushroom picking, etc.)
- Management options not available or not used during the 2003-2008 process will be implemented:
 - o Hunter/walking trails designated;
 - o Areas where the hunting and trapping exceptions do not apply;
 - o New trails designated to provide improved state forest access and trail connections.
- Trail systems will be designated in forests classified "managed".
- The public will be engaged in recommending and reviewing changes to forest trail systems and management.

What trails were designated during Phase 1? Over 180 miles of trails was designated during Phase 1 within the RJD. This includes horse, mountain bike, ski and off-highway vehicle trails. The table below highlights the miles of trail for the three management units under review.

Trail Type	Zumbro Bottoms (miles)	Hay Creek (miles)	Kruger (miles)
Horse	44	14.5	5.3
Mountain Bike	--	--	7.5
Hike and Ski	44	14.5	7.5
Horse-no bikes	44	14.5	--
Mtn. Bike-no horse	--	--	2.2
Accessible -- --			.75

Why start with these units? Several factors went in to determining what units of the RJD to review first. Trail mileage, use and demand are determining factors the DNR uses to decide the location of a trail review project. Geographic location and similar uses help the DNR decide what units to group together. Zumbro Bottoms contains one of the largest and most heavily used trail systems in the State. Hay Creek and Kruger are near-by and contain similar trail uses.

What are the benefits of designated trails? Designation ensures the trail will receive funding for maintenance, signage and mapping. In addition, within the RJD, horses, mountain bikes and OHVs must stay on designated trails only.

What are the desired outcomes for this project? The DNR has developed a set of general desired outcomes for Phase 2 projects. The desired outcomes include:

- Closing unsustainable trails;
- Connect trails to other destinations and local communities;
- Provide for a variety of experience levels;
- Provide for a variety of uses-both motorized and non-motorized;
- Avoid ecologically sensitive areas; and
- Address major safety concerns and user conflicts.

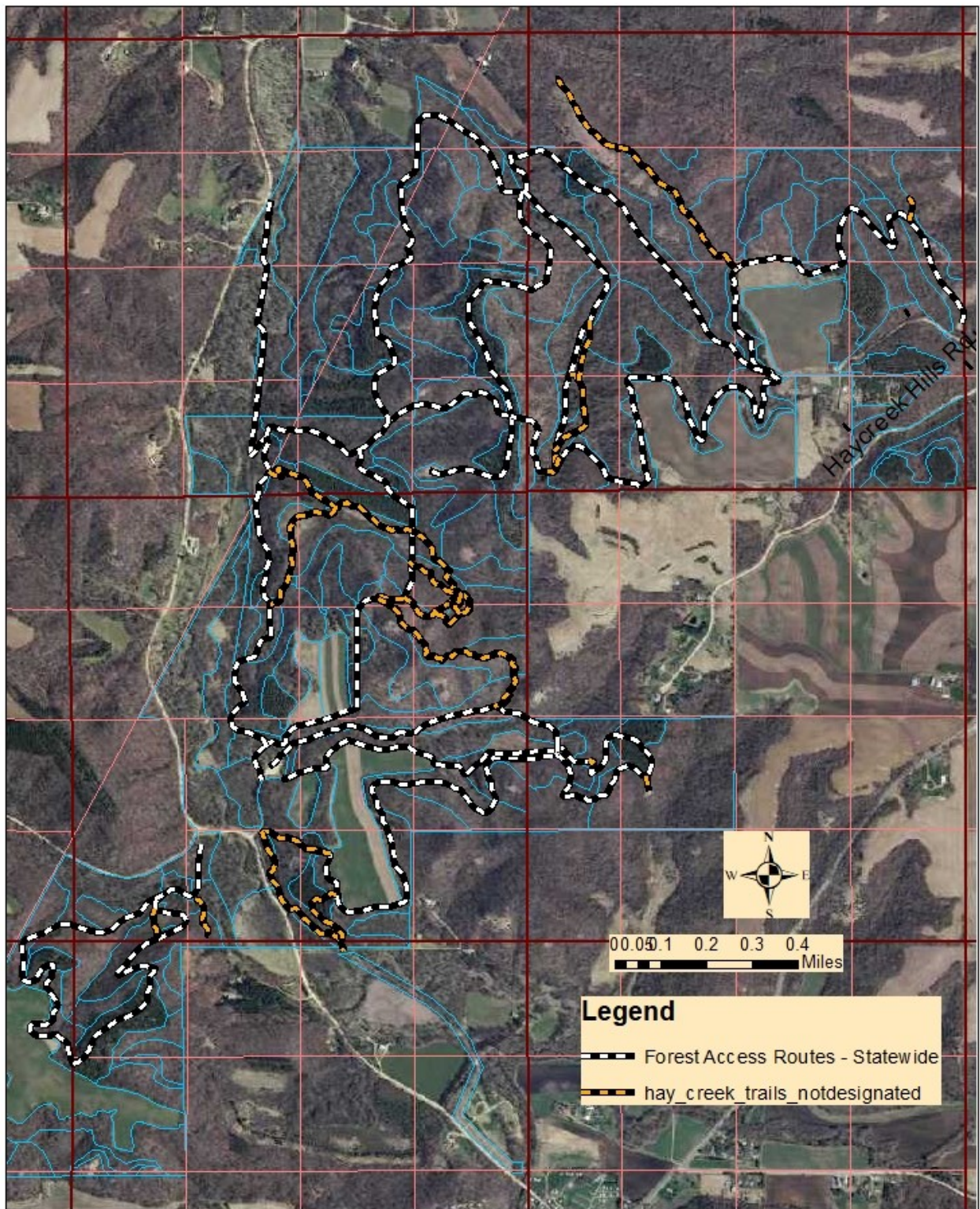


DNR Parks & Trails Zumbro Bottoms Forest Recreation Area November 2019

44.2 miles of Phase I designated trails
8.3 miles of non-designated trails*
*This includes the West Assembly Campground Loop



Hay Creek Horse trails - fall 2019





Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota – BCH-MN

501c3 Non-Profit

State Chapter Affiliate of Back Country Horsemen of America – BCHA.org

BCH-MN Membership Application and Dues Payment Form – 2020

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____ - IMPORTANT – This is our primary means of communication

Email 2: _____

Phone () _____ - _____ Cell Phone () _____ - _____

DUES _____

DONATION* _____

TOTAL: _____

* 501c3 Non Profit Status

BCH-MN MEMBERSHIP

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BCH-MN

MAIL TO: STEVE FREESE
720 25TH STREET SW
ROCHESTER, MN 55902

Thank you for your support!

Dues Payment:

☐ Family Member Dues - \$30 - Includes BCHA Newsletter
(2 or more family members active in trail work)

☐ Single Member Dues - \$25 - Includes BCHA Newsletter
(individuals active in trail work)

☐ Youth Member Dues - \$10 - Includes BCHA Newsletter
(individuals active in trail work)

☐ Associate Member - Donation*
(Individuals or groups supporting BCH-MN but not active in trail work)

I wish to support BCH-MN with a donation of _____

I wish to support local chapter _____ with a donation of _____

If I/we are not currently a member of a local or regional chapter I/we understand that 100% of the state dues portion goes to BCH-MN.

I/we are a member of a local/regional chapter in MN and intend for the local portion of dues go to _____ Chapter

Division of Dues	Single Membership			Family membership	
	State Member only	Chapter Member	Youth Member	State Member only	Chapter Member
Local Chapter Dues		\$8			\$10
BCH - MN - State Dues	\$10	\$2		\$12	\$2
BCHA - National Dues	\$15	\$15	\$10	\$18	\$18
Total	\$25	\$25	\$10	\$30	\$30