

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA Hoof Prints

happy
4TH
OF
July

July 2020

Issue 28

San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC
PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693

Email: membership@bhcocalifornia.org (membership email only)
On the WEB: www.bhcsjsu.org (SJS Unit) or
www.bhcocalifornia.org (State)

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



OF CALIFORNIA

Concerned Men and Women Dedicated to Gentle Use of California Trails and Backcountry

Presidents Message



Who would have thunk that I would be writing covid plans? Certainly not me. As part of our new enviroment yes Virginia, we not only have one, but two covid plans, one for the Sierra and one for the Sequoia. Should any of you need one, we would be happy to share.

Unfortunately, there is no crystal ball to see what tomorrow will bring. We are trying to give as much notice as we can for rides and work parties. We do know the Wishon Work Party will run from July 23-30. We have Montana de Oro scheduled July 9-13 however we have not been able to confirm that the horse camp will be open at that time as we have not been

able to make contact with the state. The Shaver Poker Ride is Aug. 15 and the Diana Sorenson Memorial Ride is set for Sept.12 with camping available for Thursday to Sunday with the actual ride on Saturday. We are trying to let you know as soon as possible for any date changes.

We have just returned home from our first work party at Edison Lake which was quite successful. Again no injuries and a lot of work was done on the trails. The weather was cool (28) with some rain and hail. It would be nice to have part of that 28 degrees down here. Thanks to all who participated and braved the wonderful road.

Remember to stay in the saddle, the ground is hard,

Joe Kaminski
President

BRIDGE TO BRIDGE

By Cara Peterson

On June 6th, National Trails Day 2020, 7 members from BCHC-SJSU, Joe and Carol Kaminski, Marcee Hansen, Karen Daugherty, Cara Peterson, and Richard and Tami Telles, met with SCE-Chuck Ervin, and 7 members of the Shaver Lake Trail Volunteers (SLTV), to put up safety rails on the Azalea Creek Bridge, and the Manzanita Creek Bridge. Both creeks are located between the North Fork Cove and South Fork Stevenson Creek, Shaver Lake. Eric Tallberg, SLTV President, and Jim Dixon, Pastor of Church of Shaver Lake, worked together in preparation. Eric cut the posts and railings, built the bracings, and replaced bridge boards. Jim trailered in the stock for them to ride, cut several down trees off the trail, and packed in the lumber. Brent and Lois Patton helped at the landing, located on Osprey Trail Rd., which is 5 miles from Hwy 168 and 5 miles inland Dinky Creek Road. Joe and Carol also brought stock to help pack in tools and additional post to upgrade the approach at Manzanita. Little Eric walked in Little Foot, Jim's mule-Jack. Last year Edison volunteers from down south came up and resurfaced the Azalea Creek Bridge making good use of old picnic tables. The Manzanita Creek Bridge has not been resurfaced yet. Char, who is with SLTV, ordered 2 Rider Bypass signs, showing an option for the re-route that she had worked on years prior when she was with SJSU, and that both ours clubs working together re-established last year. We all stepped aside for a large group of bike riders who were crossing this bridge. They were very friendly and much appreciative.

To ride the Lake Shore Trail, drive in from the Sierra Marina at the pay booth, and park at the top of Road 3, just before the locked gate. Ride the paved Access Road for a few miles, and then turn left at the gravel road near Eastwood Powerhouse. The trailhead is on the right just passed the vehicle bridge, which crosses the North Fork of Stevenson Creek.

To access the Perimeter Trail from Dinky Creek Road, park at the BCHC Corrals, or along Fishing Club Rd. When you see Stevenson Cove, stay to the left before and after the South Fork of Stevenson Creek. At the end of the dirt road you will find the Lake Shore Trail sign.





2019-20 Calendar

Board Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month. All members are welcome to attend. Board meetings start at 6:30 pm at the Clovis Elks Lodge, 535 Woodworth Ave. (Bullard & Woodworth).

Calendar & Ride schedule is on-going, and new events and rides will be published when confirmed.

Note: Dates and events are subject to change or cancellation; calling the contact person is recommended or checking www.bchcsjsu.org

2020

- | | |
|------------|--|
| July 23-30 | Wishon work party |
| July 9-13 | Coast Ride (non BCHC event) CANCELLED |
| 9/11-13 | Diana Sorensen Memorial Ride |
| Oct | Shaver Ride TBD |
| 10/8-12 | Coastal Mounted Unit (non BCHC event) |
| 12/12 | Christmas Dinner |

Is there any activity that you would like to sponsor? We are always looking to improve the club and making it fun for all members. Please submit your ideas, wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net. You may call 559-908-3138 and I will get back to you.

Joe Kaminski
President

Remember to check for any Unit updates at our Web Site:
www.bchcsjsu.org for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,
www.bchcalifornia.org for the State Web Site

The purpose of this publication is to keep its members informed on important issues that affect all horsemen and to inform the membership on up-coming events within the unit. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor & authors and not necessarily shared by BCHC.

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CAMPFIRE NACHOS

What better way to end the day outside than with a cold beer, warm campfire, and a big pot full of cheesy nachos?

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon neutral flavored oil
- ½ lb tortilla chips
- 1 (7.75 oz) can El Pato hot tomato sauce, or equivalent
- 1 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend
- 1 (14.5 oz) can black beans, drained
- 1 large avocado, cubed
- 4-5 green onions, sliced
- handful of fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 small lime, cut into wedges

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lightly oil the bottom of a large dutch oven, to prevent the nachos from sticking.
2. For the first layer, evenly spread ⅓ of the chips into the dutch oven, topped with ¼ can El Pato, ¼ can black beans, ¼ cup cheese, and a handful of avocado, green onions, and cilantro. Repeat for the second layer.
3. For the third and final layer, use the remaining ⅓ portion of chips, ½ can El Pato, ½ can black beans, ½ cup cheese, and the remaining avocado, onion, and cilantro.
4. Cover the dutch oven and place on a metal grill over your campfire for about 10 minutes, until the cheese has melted. Serve with the lime wedges.



SUNSHINE CORNER



The Lighter Side

Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big-city church. "When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began. "You mean the parking lot," interrupted Charlie, a more worldly fellow. "I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued. "The sidewalk to the door," Charlie corrected him. "Inside the door, I was met by this dude," Joe went on. "That would be the usher," Charlie explained. "Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said. "You mean the aisle," Charlie said. "Then, he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued. "Pew," Charlie retorted. "Yeah," recalled Joe. "That's what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."

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www.bchcsjsu.org

Make sure you check out our website for updates on the Home page, Calendar page, and Newsletters. We also have a Photos page of our latest activities.

If you have any photos send them to Duane at wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

www.bchcsjsu.org

Advertising Rates

Classified Ads

\$.10/word with a 20 word minimum (\$2.00),
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Display Ad Rate per issue

Business Card Size, \$8.00,	1/2 page, \$35.00,
1/4 page, \$20.00,	Full Page, \$50.00

Prices are subject to change without notice. All prices are for one month, due the 10th of the month. Editor reserves the right to refuse inappropriate ads.

All paid Ads include an E-mail Blast to all members with current emails

Attention

Your SJS Unit Board of Directors would like to invite any of our members to attend the monthly Board meetings or General meetings. It is important all directors have the same opportunity to hear the information, concerns or suggestions you wish to share. We are volunteers doing our best to keep our Unit informed and working smoothly. Refer to the newsletter for the information regarding times and location of upcoming meetings.

Respectfully,
Joe Kaminski



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"Travel Advantage"

Dear BCHC Members

Check out the latest edition of "Travel Advantage", @ www.ytbtravel.com/bchc a travel newsletter full of terrific deals from YTB, our BCHC travel partner. The newsletter is chock full of great ideas for anyone's next getaway! You can download an icon to your computer desktop for instant connection to the BCHC Getaway website.

Please forward "Travel Advantage" newsletter to your friends and family and other BCHC supporters. The more we get the word out, the more people will use the BCHC Getaway travel site to take advantage of great rates on hotels, flights, rental cars and other travel-related items, the more BCHC will earn for our Treasury!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the travel site, how it works or what BCHC earns by participating in this great opportunity. Thank you for supporting and promoting BCHC Getaway!!

C.J. Hargreaves
BCHC Editor/Travel Site Coordinator
cjohargreaves@verizon.net

THOMAS A EDISON LAKE WORK PARTY

By Jim Laber



There we were the last to arrive at the USFS Eastwood Visitor center above Huntington Lake. We had Ruth Cramer in the pilot car with 6 trailers in tow. We all got out and had a meet and greet with a brief meeting and radios were passed and set to the same frequency. We spent maybe 10 minutes there and set out for Kaiser Pass Road. Anyone uninitiated to the road soon appreciates having a pilot car to clear the path for that many trailers. Kudos to Ruth! Joe & Carol Kaminski, TJ & Carol Smith, Bob Skinner, Steve Naylor, Phil Mirise from the High Sierra Unit, Jennifer Best, Doug Laber, and Jim Laber were headed out with 12 head of horses and mules.

We arrived at the High Sierra Pack Station right around noon with all our fenders in tact and all in line for parking and unloading. John Cunningham and his crew helped to get us parked and set for the week. Getting the trailers set we all unloaded stock and got them settled into the corrals John had for us. The rest of the afternoon we milled about getting to know our surroundings again and saying hi to some familiar faces around the pack station that for some had not been seen for a year or two. John and Joyce Cunningham, Alan Parenti, and Johnny were already in for the season and it was great to catch up with all.

Before we knew it we were being called for dinner by the bell, and Joe and Carol had whipped up some sloppy Joes, salad with all the fixings and watermelon. It was great to get together around the table break bread and

hear a number of good stories while sharing a meal. Before too long the discussion turned to the work we would start in the morning. With all that showed up we were able to put two teams together for trail clearing. The first Team was comprised of Joe, Bob, Jennifer, and Phil. They would work Devils Bathtub trail, the cutoff trail to Graveyard Meadow, and down to the lake trail. The second Team was Jim, Doug, Steve, and TJ and Carol. We were assigned to the lake/Mono trail all the way to the end of the causeway beyond the PCT John Muir crossing above the Ferry landing and the wilderness marker. As dark started to set in it was getting pretty cold the first night and then we had wind, lightening, hail, and a light rain to prod us off to sleep. The rain was welcome for the dry dusty trails but the cold was a bit much for those of us without a heater.

The next morning, we were up early feeding stock and preparing loads for the work ahead. The bell for breakfast was nice to hear and we all gathered at the Station Kitchen again for some welcomed hot coffee and warm kitchen. After breakfast Joe started the safety meeting and went over the teams and what was expected for our day. After that it was off to gather stock, tack them up and get the pack animals loaded with all the tools. It was expected that most of the days work would be outside of the wilderness so besides shovels, axes, Pulaski's, and Silky saws, we had a chain saw for each team.



Joes team spent the better part of three days clearing the Bathtub Trail and cutoff trail to Graveyard Meadow, and the Graveyard Trail down to the Lake/Mono Trail.



Their team cleared 18 trees with 27 cuts and took one 12" tree out of the Onion Springs Trail which are all now clear. Jim's team Spent 3 days on the Lake/Mono Trail including a mile trip up the Graveyard Trail and took out 28 trees and made 47 cuts. Our third day we missed TJ and Carol, as they had to return home early for the health of their dog at home. Some of all this work was done with chain saw and some with large and small Silky saws. There was a lot of debris removed from the trail as well. Paul Sorenson who showed up Saturday afternoon worked on the outskirts of the Pack Station along with Carol and cleared Quite a bit of brush encroaching on the trails leading in and out. Every morning after breakfast we met outside the Kitchen went over the days plan for these trails and safety and first aid as well as radio communications.

Most of us enjoyed Monday evening after dinner outside Alans and Johnny's quarters with a good fire and fellowship with plenty of stories and travails of the work we had done. By evenings end it was pretty clear that the two teams we had and the help around camp had already cleared everything we could except the Pack Station Feeder trail that goes out of the top of camp all the way up to the Devils Bathtub Trail.

Tuesday morning, we were up and at it early with most of us waiting to hear the plan. The coffee was a brewing and the breakfast bell was ringing. After breakfast we all met again outside and a team led by Johnny from the Pack Station comprised of Jim, Doug, and Jennifer

were to set out on the feeder trail above camp and clear anything we found. Once we crossed the meadow the work began as every 2-300 yards up we had impassible fallen trees across the trail. Everyone pitched in with hand saws and Jim and Jennifer took care of the chain saw work we could do.

When we returned right about lunch time, we all gathered at Paul Sorenson's invitation at the kitchen picnic tables for Smoked Salmon and Cheese that Paul had smoked and brought from home along with other fare brought out by all to enjoy in a light lunch. As discussions went it became apparent that although we were scheduled till Friday, we had mostly worked our way out of a job. Doug and I were not set to go home until Wednesday but we had work back at the shop and decided we would start back after lunch. It was a great 4 days of work and great sightseeing. I had never been all the way back on the mono trail to the PCT/ John Muir wilderness behind the lake and it was good to see it and help make it accessible for another season. Tuesday Night those that remained were entertained by Ron Jefferson and was well received as he played to a good crowd. Wednesday a crew went out and cleared the Onion Springs trail all the way to Devils Bathtub. Thursday was a fun day for riding and fishing. All came out Friday morning without incidence.



THOMAS A EDISON LAKE WORK PARTY



THOMAS A EDISON LAKE WORK PARTY



Back Country Horsemen of California



San Joaquin Sierra Unit



Come and enjoy Horse Camping at the Oak Group Horse Camp at

Montana De Oro State Park

The park's name, "Mountain of Gold," comes from the golden wildflowers that bloom in spring. The Park features over 8,000 acres of rugged cliffs, secluded sandy beaches, basins, streams, canyons, and hills, including 1,347-foot Valencia Peak. Dogs are allowed on trails.

July 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, & 13 2020

Camp is available from 2:00pm Thursday 7/9/20 until noon Sunday 7/13/20.

There are miles of horse trails along the beach and in the foothills for all levels of riding.

Potluck join-ins for no cook dinner Saturday night. Bring an item to bring to eat and a main meat item for our grill.

Cost: Horse and ride for 7 days is \$45.00; Additional individuals \$ 3.00

Oak Group Camp has 10 corrals, pit toilets, water for horses only, no showers, and no hook-ups.

Contact Information: Ruth Cramer (559) 417-3878 or Gary Van Sickle (559) 288-0301

This is a BCHC-SJSU sponsored event and you must be a member of BCHC to attend.

Reservations are limited and will only be taken upon receipt of signed check with reservation form below.

NAME:		PHONE:	
ADDRESS:			
Please make check payable to BCHC-SJSU and mail with completed reservation form to: Gary Van Sickle 31831 Road 132 Visalia, CA 93292	EMAIL:		Amount
	Number of Horses with rider	@ \$ 45.00 ea.	\$
	Additional individuals	@ \$ 3.00 ea.	\$
	TOTAL:		

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To my fellow backcountry horsemen and trail riders,

The last few months have proved difficult for various reasons and certainly the closure of some areas have been frustrating. Some of our long time members have let their membership lapse and have not renewed. This is understandable, since many of our usual, fun adventures have been limited or non-existent. HOWEVER, this is the time to show continued support whether we are riding, working in the wilderness or on trails, or staying home for shelter in place. Right now this is the time congress and the forest service continue to consider allowing E-Bikes on our beloved trails, closing of some, and continued infringement on our rights to have open trails and forests as horsemen and horsewomen. Please renew your membership to show support to the BCHC projects and the organization. Help provide them the support and funds needed to continue their plight when in Washington or doing work from the state. Yes, certainly recent events have proved extremely difficult that we have never experienced in our lives. Let us not forget the importance of our BCHC history and our personal heritages as well. We are told we are a dying breed, but through our continued rallying for open trails and preserved wilderness, we want to prove them wrong. Our heritage can be preserved if we support the group that can represent us.

Please renew your membership today. If you are unsure of your membership expiration or if you have any questions at all, please email me:

Be safe and well,

Jan Mikkelson
Membership Coordinator
BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit

jessecowboy@comcast.net
<http://www.bchcsjsu.org> (SJSU website)

BCHCSJSU SHIRTS

On the trails we work and ride we share the trail with others, that at times have trouble seeing us because of shadows and various modes of transportation used, especially in non wilderness designated areas.

For that reason your unit board of directors has made this shirt available for safety on trail rides and work parties as well as a way to promote our unit and its activities.

Order you BCHCSJSU Trail Work/Riding Shirt

To order call Gary Van Sickle with size and quantity.

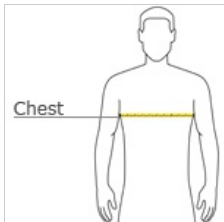
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HOW TO MEASURE



CHEST
 Measure under the arm and around the fullest part of the chest with arms down, keeping tape horizontal.

SIZE CHART

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-56	58-60	62-64

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

ARE YOU A Mountain Lion LUNCH?

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING MOUNTAIN LIONS

*Pumas are like a light breeze:
When one is present, you know it;
You can feel it, but you don't see it. John Seidensticker, 1991*

The mountain lion, also known as puma, panther or cougar, is the largest carnivore (meat eater) of California. The generally secretive and solitary nature of lions makes it possible for humans to live in mountain lion country without ever seeing a mountain lion. The chance of being attacked is quite low compared to many other natural hazards. Attacks to humans are rare. A dozen people have been killed in the U.S. since 1890—though over half have occurred in the last fifteen years, indicating they are on the rise.

Generally, mountain lions are calm, quiet and elusive. They are usually found in areas that have adequate cover for ambushing and plentiful prey. These conditions exist in mountain subdivisions, urban fringes and open spaces, from deserts to coastal areas and to 10,000 foot elevations in the mountains. About half of California is prime mountain lion country!

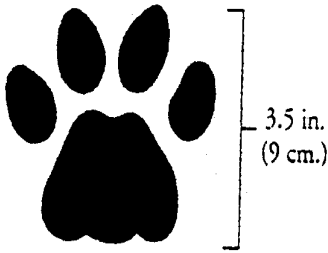
The coloration of these lions is usually a tawny-yellowish but may also be a gray-brown to red-brown with black tipped ears and tail. The kittens, or cubs, are covered with blackish-brown spots and have dark rings around their tails. Adult males may be more than eight feet long from nose to end of tail and an average weight between 130 and 150 pounds. Adult females can be seven feet long and average between 65 and 90 pounds.

Think how quick, athletic and strong these animals are! They must be in excellent physical condition to survive. Lions are very powerful and normally prey upon large animals, such as deer, bighorn sheep and elk. However, they will prey on smaller animals as well, such as coyotes, skunks, raccoons and opossum. Domestic animals are also acceptable to their pallet, such as sheep, goats, cattle, horses, llamas, dogs, cats, ducks, and chickens. Mountain lions have excellent night vision and depth perception, prefer to stalk and ambush their prey, often from behind. The usual attack is with a powerful bite below the base of the skull, breaking the neck, or by suffocation. The carcass is often covered with dirt, leaves or snow and the lion comes back to feed on it over a course of a few days.

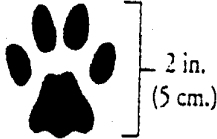
A lion's home range will often span over 100 square miles with many adults occupying the same area. Lion populations appear to be regulated not by social interactions but by the density of their principal prey. Competition for habitat is intense, especially in the western Sierra-Nevada where as many as 10 adult lions per 100 square miles has been recorded. The lion population has grown from an estimate of 600 in 1920 to a better field study of 2,000 in 1970. The 1990's show a population estimate ranging from 4,000 to 6,000.

Despite differences in opinions about mountain lions there is a common desire for proper scientific management of this magnificent animal. We must consider the regional diversity of the animals habitat, prey availability and human populations. Conflicts between mountain lions and humans vary regionally for different reasons. Minimizing your risk of becoming a mountain lion lunch is the main objective.

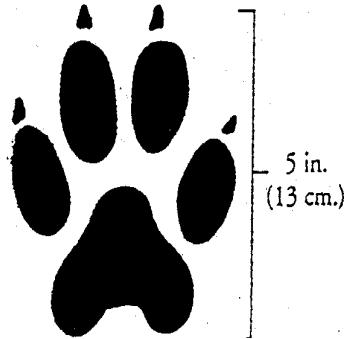
Mountain Lion Track



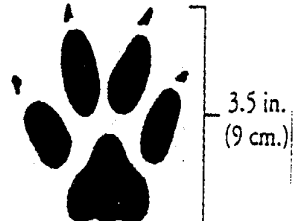
Bobcat Track



Wolf Track



Dog Track



Mountain Lion Essentials To Remember

The following are some helpful hints to remember while visiting the forests and parks or maybe your own backyard.

You Must Be Alert

Remember Wild Animals Can Be Dangerous

Each Situation is Different

Hiking Alone Can Be Dangerous. Statistics show that nearly all recorded attacks in California involved lone trail runners and children.

Keep Children Close To You. Mountain lions seem especially drawn to children. Keep children within your sight at all times.

Avoid Confrontations. Most lions will try to avoid you approaching them. Give them a way to escape. Never corner a wild animal.

If You Smell A Dead Carcass, be extremely alert and get out of the area. Animals will protect their food supply.

Please Do Not Crouch or Bend Over. A person squatting or bending over looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal. If you must bend over, get quickly back to an up-right position.

Please Do Not Run. Running stimulates the lion's instinct to chase. Stand still and face the animal. Maintain constant eye contact. If you have children with you, pick them up if possible so they do not panic and run.

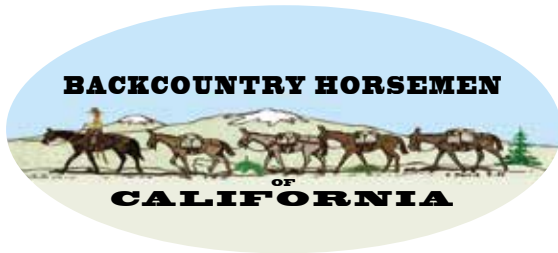
Try To Look Big. Raise your arms and speak firmly in a loud voice. Throw rocks or branches without crouching or turning your back.

Fight Back If Attacked. Protect your head and neck area. Remain standing and face the animal.

We hope this information gives you a better understanding of how the California Mountain Lion thinks and appreciate the animal's abilities.



The content of this written material has been officially approved for distribution by
Backcountry Horsemen of California P.O. Box 40007 Bakersfield, CA 93384-0007
www.bchcalifornia.org 12/08



San Joaquin Sierra Unit

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Objectives & Purpose of the Backcountry Horseman of California

From the BCHC Bylaws

- To improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners.
- To promote the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources in concert with livestock transportation.
- To keep the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horseman on all public lands.
- To keep current information before the Corporation membership and its local Units regarding new legis-lation or management plans related to government regulations of the backcountry.
- To support or oppose new proposals, plans and restrictions as related to the interest of horsemen and those persons interested in recreational stock use and enjoying the backcountry.
- To promote the interest of people who, due to health or physical factors, need transportation other than by foot on backcountry trails.
- To promote public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the back-country and to help educate backcountry users on the ways to use the trail and foraged in a manner that conserves the backcountry resources.
- To assist in keeping the public informed of the vital need for a clean backcountry.
- To promote a working relationship with and keep the work and interests of the Corporation before our local, state and federal officials.
- To assist in the formation and continuation of local Units to carry out these purposes.