

2020 Board of Directors

President

Ted Voelker

Vice President

Nihla McCabe

Secretary

Veronica Voelker

Treasurer

Lyn Rowley

Board Member

Al Gram

State Board Reps.

Tif Rodriguez

Al Gram

Committee Chairs

Education:

Open

Trail Work:

Open

Public Lands:

Tif Rodriguez

Public Service

Announcement:

Veronica Voelker

Volunteer Hours

Coordinator:

Open

Social:

Sue Grabbe

Newsletter Editor

Lyn Rowley

(submission deadline
is the 25th of the
month)

Web Site Support

Tif Rodriguez

Mesa Verde Back
Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 812
Cortez, CO 81321

www.mesaverdehorsemen.com

mvbchorsemen@yahoo.com

MVBCH

October 2020

Trail Talk



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ted Voelker

Wow things turned cold fast. However,
there is still some great riding weather.

We are continuing to move forward. We
have sent a load of twine to Phoenix
thanks to Alan Story.

We are going to finalize the scholarship
application and get them out to the
schools.

November will be our last meeting of
2020. We will have the election for officers. We are going to accept votes by
email for those that want to vote and cannot make the meeting. There will be
a board meeting in December and the next general meeting will be in
January.

Ted
503-927-1681 🐾





Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen
General meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020 - DRAFT
Veronica Voelker, Secretary

Location: 34137 Hwy 184, Dolores CO 81323

The meeting was called to order by President Ted at 7:00 PM

President:

- future meetings - *next month will be at Alan Story's, There is no general meeting in December, only a board meeting to plan for 2021*
- Scholarship - *Lyn can meet any day Halloween weekend, Ellen has volunteered to help*
- Twine recycle - *Ted will check when the facility is open, Alan is thinking that we can load Friday, we will send an email to see if we can get some help with twine, we will also help arrange a work day and a material donation for a fence or containment area. Possibly ask for donations of 2x4's in good shape. 8 am on Friday, October 30th the guys will meet to work with twine, and get it loaded on trailer*
- grant project – Transfer - *possibly donate a large tank, pay for the gate for the fence*
- nominations for officers - *Kathe is suggesting email voting, we can say if anyone has any objections that they can contact Ted, deadline in there, Lyn is going to send the email out for the officer elections, we voted and it passed that we are going to run elections via email*

Calendar of events for the year

- trail workdays
- social rides/camp trips
- adopting transfer corral

Committee Reports

Treasurer Report – *Lyn: Gave treasurer's report. It was accepted as read*

Education – position open -

Service – position open

Newsletter – Lyn – *Send info for newsletter*

Media/Marketing – Veronica – *no updates*

Website – Tif - *no updates*

BCH/CO - Tif & Al Gram - *see newsletter for updates*

Round Table Discussion

Adjourn 7:30

Respectfully Submitted

Veronica Voelker, Secretary 🐾

Back Country Horsemen of America® - Dedicated to keeping America's trails open for all.

Public Lands Committee Report

Tif Rodriguez, Public Lands Chair
Comment letter: E-bikes on non-motorized trails



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen, with approximately 40 members here in southwest Colorado. We are one of nine chapters with membership in Back Country Horsemen of Colorado and one of over 200 chapters under our national Back Country Horsemen of America. In the state of Colorado we have over 200,000 horses living statewide, making us the ninth largest state in terms of horse population. We have approximately 698,000 acres of land in Colorado used for horse-related purposes. Our direct contribution to the GDP is approximately \$953 million, a monumental economic impact of our horse industry in Colorado. ¹

Pursuant to the request, we are only commenting as to the changes to the directives, not their full text. We are pleased that the Forest Service draft directives appear to be consistent with the advocacy of our national and state organizations, ensuring that the Forest Service continues to treat e-Bikes as a motorized trail use. Our understanding is that the Forest Service draft directives would update direction found in the agency's manual on travel management and, therefore, do not carry the weight of a formal change in agency policy. Should the USFS attempt a reversal in order to match the policy change made by DOI agencies, it could only be done via the formal "rulemaking" process— with a requirement of additional public review and comment.

We continue to advocate for an open public process ... whenever the Forest Service proposes to add electric bike (ebike) use on otherwise non-motorized trails. We do understand the need to "Consider emerging technologies (such as e-bikes) that are changing the way people access and recreate on NFS lands. For example, where suitable for use, e-bikes may provide new opportunities for individuals who might otherwise be prevented from experiencing an NFS trail without assistance from an electrical motor." Of course, not negating the fact that there are motorized uses and designations already present; e-bikes are, in fact, just a newer recreational tool. However, it should not be lost that this new use may be incompatible with traditional and historic uses on our public lands; focusing only on pack and saddle stock use. The speed discrepancy between horses and e-bikes is only one of a list of possible conflicts. E-bikes pose a new threat to equestrians; they not only travel faster than a traditional mountain bike, but they're quiet. At this point, when we hear motorized coming down the trail, whether single track or ATV, we can be proactive and move off the road. We can't hear mountain bikes coming up behind us or coming from around a corner. We can't imagine the danger this may present when traveling single-track mountain roads where e-bike use would be allowed.

We agree with the following text under FSM 7700 – TRAVEL MANAGEMENT:

- Bicycle. A pedal-driven, solely human-powered device, with two wheels attached to a frame, one behind the other.
- Electric Bicycle (E-Bike). Also referred to as an electric mountain bike (eMTB), a type of motor vehicle {emphasis added} with two wheels attached to a frame, one behind the other, equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that meets the requirements of one of the following three classes:
 - o a. Class 1 E-Bike. An e-bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
 - o b. Class 2 E-Bike. An e-bike equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the e-bike and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour. - {A comment here, this class of e-bike has a throttle, meaning it can be powered without the assistance of a human pedaling it. This definition should be included, as it seems to somewhat camouflage the nature of this ebike. }
 - o c. Class 3 E-Bike. An e-bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

CHAPTER 7710 – TRAVEL PLANNING As per 7710, which endeavors to "Incorporate new criteria for designating Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes to facilitate designation of those three classes of e-bikes on National Forest System

(NFS) trails, on NFS roads, and in areas on NFS lands,” a couple comments: • We do understand the need to figure out a place for e-bikes. • Please consider that travel management objectives (TMOs) for all trails, especially those open to pack and saddle stock, need to keep height, width and sight line in mind when designing a trail or determining if motorized e-bike use is suitable for an already designated trail. TMOs shouldn’t only be considered for comparable mountain bike use. There are mountain bike/equestrian conflicts that are already happening; therefore, TMOs need to be evaluated for any new construction.

Under 7715.5 - Criteria, we do not necessarily agree that, “... designating a class or classes of e-bike use, as appropriate, on NFS trails managed for bicycle use or where bicycle use is allowed, where effects from e-bike use would be comparable to effects from bicycle use ...” should be considered. E-bikes should not be allowed on mountain bike, non-motorized trails; they have a motor, and as such need to be evaluated in that light. We do agree that, “E-bikes are not allowed on a National Scenic Trail unless a regulatory exception authorized by the National Trails System Act is met or there is an exception in the enabling legislation for the trail.”

Of note, there is a lack of peer-reviewed scientific studies on the physical and environmental impact of e-bike use, including the potential for accelerated soil erosion and the disturbance of wildlife. In the absence of such critical data, before permitting e-bike use it is incumbent upon the FS to first analyze the potential impacts of their use on FS managed lands.

Consistent with previous comments, equestrians seek out non-motorized trails on Forest Service lands in order to get away from fast-moving vehicles and enjoy a peaceful, natural environment. Avoiding trails overcome with bike use is already a staple in southwestern Colorado. We can’t imagine having to worry about e-bikes as well. We often find ourselves having to travel further and further to enjoy a peaceful, solitary ride. We often get pushed out of recreation spots that become popular because agencies fail to appreciate the adequate space we need to park our trailers. Our numbers are dwindling, and therefore, we often are overlooked as a legitimate trail user, despite our chapter’s 20 plus years worth of service to our public lands and assisting our agencies in maintaining them.

As equestrians, our selection among trails available in a given area is based, in large part, on safety concerns and the sometimes unpredictable response of our horses or mules in the event of a surprise on-trail encounter. The use of e-bikes, and their potential for travel at relatively high speeds, combined with their often silent approach, elevate the potential for such dangerous encounters. Higher speeds on trails by one user group puts both user groups at risk. On average, equestrians travel along natural surface trails at speeds that average 5 mph or less. Of the three classes of e-bikes designated, both Class 1 and 2 e-bikes provide motor-assisted speeds up to 20 mph, while Class 3 E-bikes provide the rider with a motor assist up to 28 mph. Class 2 is run strictly by a throttle, without even the need to pedal. Capable riders can exceed the maximum motor-assisted speed. Please keep in mind the significant discrepancy in the range of potential speeds by trail users and the resultant safety hazards that are certain to accrue when e-bike use is authorized on certain shared-use trails. Also, a concern, the govern mechanism on the e-bikes can be disabled, thereby permitting them to travel even faster.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to future evaluations and plan to comment accordingly.

Sincerely,

Latifia ‘Tif’ Rodriguez
MVBCH Public Lands Chair

1. Information provided by the American Horse Council, Copyright 2017

Sage Hen Loop Trail Overlooking McPhee Reservoir

If you are looking for a place to ride during colder weather, try Sage Hen. From Cortez, turn left on Rd 145 toward Dolores. Turn left on 184 right before the gas station. From here drive approximately 4 miles and turn right onto Rd. 25. When Rd 25 dead ends, turn right onto the graded road X. Go to the corrals and park there



WHERE YOU BEEN RIDN' ?

Nihla and Wanda took Ellen Leis and Susan Merrilat to Mud Springs on their Icelandic ponies, Tiesta and Sophia



Jackson Lake Reservoir – October – Lyn and Tif

Keith on Skipper with Loki – Transfer



BCHA FREE WEBINARS FOR MEMBERS. REGISTER AT THE LINK.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehdofmtidc77aa&oseq=&c=&ch=>



Webinars are Coming!

Join us for 4 nights of webinars beginning

November 10th, 2020.

All webinars begin at 5:00PM, PST.

Free to all members!

Attend one webinar or attend them all.

Change to Schedule

November 10th, 2020 - Thursday, November 12th, 2020

Original schedule included Fundraising, we have unfortunately had to postpone this part of the series. We will reschedule this webinar at a later date. Stay tuned!

REGISTER HERE

November 10th, Tuesday

How to Influence Great American Outdoors Act Spending

November 11th, Wed.

Empowering Youth in BCHA Membership

November 12th, Thursday

How to Handle a Local Public Lands Issue

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=a14408fc96&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=ms-g-f%3A1682277964346555990&impfms-g-f%3A16822779643...> 1/3

Meeting Corner:

November 17, 2020
6:30 Happy Half Hour, 7:00 Meeting
Alan Story's Home
Contact us for directions!



September meeting – Kathe's house

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2021. You can renew at the meeting (bring the application below) or online on our web site at

www.mesaverdehorsemen.com

A new membership form must be completed each year.

THANK YOU KATHE HAYES FOR DOING A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE LETTER!

Twine Recycling Continues for MVBCH



Be on the lookout for our new banners that will be posted on our twine recycling bins as soon as they come, which should be by the end of the month. We are continuing this wonderful project. Thanks to those that are working on it, making donations and spreading the word. More information will be forthcoming and advertising done.

Collection bins are located at:

Basin Coop

16032 Highway 491
Cortez, CO 81321

IFA

10501 Highway 491
Cortez, CO 81321

Spread the word!

A BIG THANK YOU TO
ALAN STORY FOR THE
TIRELESS EFFORT OF
COLLECTING AND
STORING OUR TWINE
THIS YEAR!

ALAN ALSO TOOK A
LOAD TO PHOENIX.

MVBCH BOARD

Sell! Sell! Sell!

It's time to renew your ad and get new vendors' ads for 2019!

You can have your business card placed in our newsletter. \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members per year. Tell your friends and associates.

Have anything of a personal nature – tack, horse, saddles – to sell or find a home for? Members can have your personal ad in our newsletter for free. Non-members \$25.00 minimum for 6 months.



**YNAMITE
SPECIALTY PRODUCTS**

Distributed By: LATIFIA "TIF" RODRIGUEZ
Independent Distributor
Mancos, CO 81328 970-882-3477 - Cell 970-903-8752
E-mail: LRodri0202@cs.com
Web Site: <http://dynamitespecialty.myvoffice.com/tifrodriguez/>
NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS



HAY for sale
By Appointment Only

Mike Lynch
owner/farmer

Cortez, Colorado
straight grass
alfalfa mix

cell: 970-529-0298 (leave msg)



**Ride On
SADDLERY**

Veronica Voelker
5372 Road L, Dove Creek, CO 81324
www.rideonsaddlery.com
(503) 374-5881

Mobile Therapeutic Massage
Rob Chontos LMT

(970)394-4920

This space for personal ads.



McPhee Park Sign – McPhee Park

**KEEP AN EYE ON THE NEW
AND IMPROVED WEB SITE!**

www.mesaverdehorsemen.com

**Go to the Web to sign up for Event
Participation, Membership
application and payment and
Donations!**

MVBCH MONTHLY CALENDAR

November 2020 14th - Trail Work Day 17th - Monthly Meeting - 2021 Officer Elections. Alan and Shirley Story, 15268 Road Y, Yellow Jacket 28th - Trail Work Day	December 2020 15th Board Meeting - No Monthly Meeting - location to be determined Since we won't be having our usual Thankmas celebration, let's plan something for spring!!	KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR INFORMATION FOR 2021. WE'LL BE GETTING A CALENDAR TOGETHER AT OUR BOARD MEETING AND SENDING IT OUT TO ALL MEMBERS. HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!

Area Calendar 2020

Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen Mission Statement

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. 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
5. To foster and encourage individuals to join and participate in their local, State, and National Back Country Horsemen organization

2020 MVBCH CALENDAR

January 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

MONTHLY MEETINGS

AG EXPO

MVBCH POKER RIDE

TRAIL WORK DAYS

BCHCO RENDEVOUZ

MVBCH SOCIAL RIDES

BCHCO BOARD MEETING

BCHA – KANSAS CITY

NATRAC



Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen

2021 Membership Form

You can also join and/or rejoin at
www.mesaverdehorsemen.com

Names(s) _____ Occupation: _____

Name(s) _____ Occupation _____

Mailing
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Other: _____ *E-mail: _____

Referred By: _____ (Please list how you heard of us!)

***INCLUDING YOUR EMAIL HERE, GIVES YOUR CONSENT TO RECEIVE MVBCH EMAIL BLASTS, AS WELL AS YOUR CONSENT TO SEND IT TO OUR NATIONAL BCHA ORGANIZATION FOR THEIR MAILING LIST.**

Type of Membership (check): ☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Individual \$33 ☐ Family \$38 ☐ Associate/Business \$38

☐ Youth \$9 (under 18 accompanied by guardian/sponsor)

(Memberships paid October-December include the rest of the current year & all of the next year)

Please indicate the Committee/s you'd like to serve on:

☐ Education ☐ Fundraising ☐ Membership
☐ Social ☐ Trail Work ☐ Public Affairs

Would you be willing to be the COMMITTEE CHAIR? ____ Yes

Please make checks payable to: **MVBCH or Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen**

Mail to: MVBCH, P.O. Box 812, Cortez, CO 81321

LIABILITY RELEASE: As per Colorado Revised Statute 13-21-119, an equine activity sponsor shall not be liable for an injury to or the death of a participant resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities. No participant or participant's representative shall make any claim against, maintain an action against, or recover from an equine activity sponsor or any other person for injury, loss, damage, or death of the participant resulting from any of the inherent risks of equine activities. I (We) release the Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen, its officers, directors, members and agents of any and all liability which may arise as a result of injury to my (our) person or property that may be sustained in connection with the Chapter's activities.

PHOTO RELEASE: I (We) agree to the use of my (our) images taken at Chapter activities and events to be published in the monthly newsletter, on the web site, in Chapter scrapbooks and/or at any Chapter function.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(All persons 18 years and older included in this membership form must sign this release)

Big Game Hunting Planner



2020–2021 DEER, ELK, PRONGHORN, BEAR & MOOSE SEASON DATES — finalized in January each year

(Sheep and goat season dates are listed in their brochure.)

Season Dates Overview	2020	2021
Archery		
Deer/elk (west of I-25 and Unit 140)	Sept. 2–Sept. 30	Sept. 2–Sept. 30
Plains deer (east of I-25, except Unit 140)	Oct. 1–23 and Nov. 4–30 and Dec. 15–31	Oct. 1–29 and Nov. 10–30 and Dec. 15–31
Moose	Sept. 12–30	Sept. 11–30
Pronghorn (bucks only)	Aug. 15–31	Aug. 15–31
Pronghorn (either sex)	Sept. 1–20	Sept. 1–20
Muzzleloader (by draw only)		
Deer/elk/moose	Sept. 12–20	Sept. 11–19
Plains deer (east of I-25, except Unit 140)	Oct. 10–18	Oct. 9–17
Pronghorn	Sept. 21–29	Sept. 21–29
Rifle Deer/Elk/Moose		
Moose	Oct. 1–14	Oct. 1–14
Limited elk (1st season)	Oct. 10–14	Oct. 16–20
Deer/elk (2nd season)	Oct. 24–Nov. 1	Oct. 30–Nov. 7
Deer/elk (3rd season)	Nov. 7–13	Nov. 13–19
Limited deer/elk (4th season)	Nov. 18–22	Nov. 24–28
Plains deer (east of I-25, except Unit 140)	Oct. 24–Nov. 3	Oct. 30–Nov. 9
Late plains deer (east of I-25, except Unit 140)	Dec. 1–14	Dec. 1–14
Rifle Pronghorn (by draw only)	Oct. 3–11	Oct. 2–10
Black Bear	2020	2021
September Rifle limited (by draw)	Sept. 2–30	Sept. 2–30
*Archery (over-the-counter and/or limited)	Sept. 2–30	Sept. 2–30
*Muzzleloader (over-the-counter and/or limited)	Sept. 12–20	Sept. 11–19
**Rifle (over-the-counter and/or limited)	(see 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Deer/Elk rifle season dates above)	

NEW *Archery and Muzzleloader Add-On Bear licenses are available in unlimited numbers this year. Hunters can 'add-on' an over-the-counter bear license for archery or muzzleloader seasons if they hold a deer or elk license for the same method of take and at least one unit overlaps. Look for the paw print in the regulation brochure.

NEW **Hunters do not need to hold a deer/elk license to purchase an over-the-counter rifle bear license.

Hunting and Fishing Regulation Brochures:

(updated and released annually):

Available online at cpw.state.co.us, at sales agents statewide and at CPW parks and offices.

*Big Game (Deer, Elk, Pronghorn, Bear & Moose)—Late February

*Sheep (Rocky Mountain & Desert Bighorn) & Goat—Late February

Fishing—Late February

Mountain Lion (online only)—Mid-March

State Recreation Lands—Late July

Small Game and Waterfowl—Mid-August

Small Game Walk-In Atlas—Late August

Late Cropland Walk-In Atlas—Late October

*Turkey—Mid-December

*Regulation brochures are mailed to those who applied for those species the previous year.

Nonresidents can request a mailed brochure online: cpw.state.co.us/brochures

NOTE: For more detailed information, see the regulation brochures online at cpw.state.co.us/brochures or pick up a printed brochure at sales agents.



2020 APPLICATION & DRAWS

Online and By Phone

PRIMARY DRAW

Big Game Limited-License Draw Application Deadline

April 7, 2020 8:00 p.m. MT

(Applications Open March 1)

Payment Deadlines

- May 15: Sheep & Goat
- June 19: Deer, Elk, Pronghorn, Moose & Bear



SECONDARY DRAW

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn & Bear Limited-License Draw Application Deadline

July 7, 2020 8:00 p.m. MT

(Applications Open June 5)

Payment Deadline

- July 29: Deer, Elk, Pronghorn, Bear

2020 OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) LICENSES

Online, By Phone, In Person

Leftover Limited-Licenses

On Sale—August 4, 2020 9:00 a.m. MT

Unlimited Licenses

On Sale—August 6, 2020 9:00 a.m. MT

