



The Highline

A tri-annual newsletter of the Back County Horsemen of Oregon

Summer 2014

Baker Beach Pre-Solve Cleanup

Submitted by: Betty Jean Keele, EEBCHO

With some research I found our first Annual Pre-Solve Baker Beach Cleanup was in 2001. I'm not really sure how one counts the number of "Annual" clean-ups, as one year we had to cancel the event because of snow. And we also canceled the 2012 cleanup because of tsunami warnings. But this cleanup provided us with great first of March Oregon coast weather, nice warm showers with almost no wind. It was a good day to clean up the beach. We had 14 riders this year, fewer riders than usual. The stars were lined up against some of us to keep us off the horses, but we had seven folks who hiked the beaches with their plastic "Solve" trash bags in hand.

Twenty-one folks picked up only 300 pounds of trash this year. The beaches were much cleaner than prior years. In past years we picked up about 1000 pounds of trash. This year the trash was not as interesting as before. No glass floats, and no huge nets. Instead we got a broom, an old expired drivers license, lots of spent shotgun packing,



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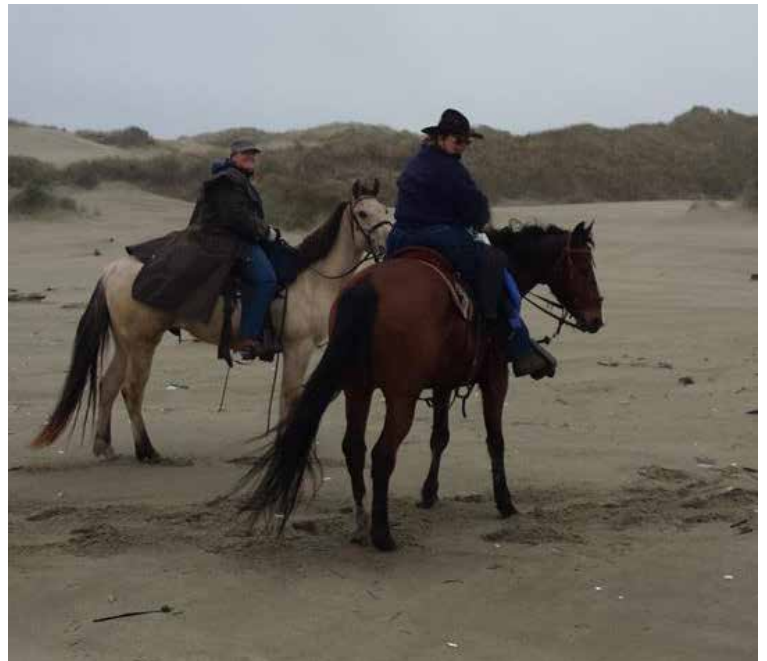
All together 21 folks worked 80 hours, and took 68 hours to travel 2970 miles. Our 14 horses/mules were hauled 1070 miles to get to the beach.

After the cleanup we had our potluck lunch at a nearby beach house where we got warm and dry. We ate lots of good food and enjoyed good company. The potluck was really great. It was a good day!

Thanks to all of you that participated to make this a fun event. Thanks to Solve for providing supplies and sign-up support. Thanks to the USDA Forest Service for providing pickups to haul our bags of trash, to Cindy Burns and Crystal Mullins of the Siuslaw National Forest for their cheerful, helpful support and the Emerald Empire Back Country Horsemen and friends.

lots of plastic water bottles, and a weird light bulb. I find the plastic shotgun packing most troubling as they look like little sea animals that birds and fish might be tempted to eat. We speculate folks are not tossing so much stuff out of boats, maybe there is less trash washing down the rivers, or the winter storms may not have been as violent as they were in earlier years.

This year Cindy Burns, our Siuslaw National Forest contact, saw seven snowy plovers in the rehabilitated nesting habitat. Our riders saw four of them, and the rest of us saw a HUGE flock of hundreds of sanderlings. Sanderlings are shorebirds that flock together and scurry along the water's edge. I have not seen a flock that big in about 10-12 years.



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Submitted by: Jim Kitzhaber



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Letter from the President

Submitted by: Jerry Bentz

Greetings,

I want to congratulate everyone that is reading this. You made it through another Oregon winter. My favorite time of the year is summer because I get to spend time in the mountains. I was at a college reunion the other day and we were talking about the places where we have gotten to visit or would like to visit. My answer to both questions was the mountains and any where I haven't been in the mountains. The biggest reason we do work parties and go through the frustration of dealing with the Forest Service, is so that we don't lose our access to the mountains. Thank you to all of you who work hard at fulfilling the mission of the Back Country Horsemen. Hang on to that passion.

As I am writing this, Phil and I are in the planning stages of this year's Leave No Trace "Train the Trainer" class. The class is going to be held at the historic Fish Lake Remount Station. Our LNT class will be the first organized class held by a group other than the Forest Service. This year we once again have several youth attending. It's not too early to start thinking about next year's class. Even if you think you know all about LNT, it's a good idea to attend one of these classes. Also, think about sponsoring a youth for next year; kids are our future. I should remind everyone that anyone who attends this year or next year's class is then eligible to attend next year's "Learn to Pack" pack trip.

July 18th – 20th is this year's State Ride. The ride will be at Allen Creek Horse Camp in the Ochocos. We always have a great time at the State Ride. There is room at Allen Creek for as many riders as wish to attend. There is lots of water available for stock. Joy and Neal Senger plan on having certified hay available for purchase on site. Saturday night we will have a potluck with the meat provided by the Territorial Riders. Sunday breakfast will be provided by West Cascades. Jim Kitzhaber is in charge of this year's ride. Jim's phone number is (503) 897-3369 if you have any questions. I hope to see you all there. Jim is also in charge of an organized work party that

will take place the two days before the ride. I am sure he would welcome anyone's help. Give him a call.

It's time to start planning for Winter Convention. This year the Winter Convention will be held February 27 – March 1. We moved it ahead one week this year so that it didn't conflict with the Central Oregon Sportsman Show. The East Cascades Chapter has a booth at the sportsman show and have been unable to attend as the booth takes a lot of their attention. We are planning on having the convention at the Shilo Inn in Bend. We are in the process of setting up speakers for Saturday. If anyone has any suggestions about the program please get in touch with me ASAP. I welcome your suggestions. We would like to have a good turnout this year.



There are many things happening on the public lands scene. Recently many of you got e-mails about the multi-use trails on the drawing board for the Ochocos. East Cascades took the lead and wrote a great comment letter to the Forest Service. BCHO was asked to also provide a comment letter which we did. The board really appreciates the fact the East Cascades, the local chapter, took the lead on this. Local folks always have a better feel for what is going on in their area. This was just the first step. There will be more letters and comments before this issue is resolved. This is a good example how BCHO is suppose to work. *(Letter continues on page 13.)*

If you are having issues on your local public lands, we would like the local chapter to take the lead. We have been asked that BCHA not be contacted about these local problems without going through BCHO. If you have a problem we are willing and able to help. Please contact myself or Becky Wolf, our public lands chair. BCHO's board will have a bicycle policy to vote on at the September meeting. If that policy is approved by the board we will get it to the chapters immediately. Once we have that policy, we will be able to present a united response to issues involving bicycles.

Last, I would like to remind all of the board of the board meeting September 20th. We had to change the meeting to Izzy's in West Eugene. Fish Lake was unavailable to us on that date. I will get an e-mail out to everyone as we get closer to the meeting with the address and an agenda.

I hope everyone gets a chance to go enjoy the mountains,

Jerry



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Mountain Bikes and Equestrian Future

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

Things aren't looking rosy for the equestrian nation; several equine trails are coming under attack by the mountain bike community. So you might ask how this is a problem – why can't trails have multiple users? Well, examine the rules. Hikers and horses can use the same trails safely, but what happens when a horse meets a mountain biker on steep trails on a blind corner. The horse and rider will be the one that gets hurt. Why? Because it's only natural for the horse to try and get away from that predator.

So now, let's take it one step further, the federal agencies are looking at having more horse and hiker

trails changed to multiple users, on the same trail. That might seem OK until you read the federal manuals. It states that if a portion of the multiple use trail has any portion over 6% grade, and visibility less than 100 feet, it can be deemed unsafe



for the hiker and biker community, so the horses will be banned from using it in the future. So on flat ground, with excellent visibility for a long ways, the trail could be used by all parties involved. So then the next question comes to mind is why would the equine community give up a single inch of trails to the mountain bike community if they could be banned from using any or all portions of the trails historically used by stock, in the future.

The next question we have been asked is: that won't happen here in Oregon will it? The answer is it already has happened in Oregon, and Colorado, California and parts of Washington. The next statement at the K-Falls Pack Clinic was my animal has been trained around bikes and it's not a problem. Then after

further questioning, you find out it was a controlled arena training with horses and bikes mixed together, not out on the trail in the woods in an uncontrolled situation.

In the middle of May in the Spencer Butte area outside of Eugene, Oregon, an 86 year old lady and her granddaughter were walking on a bike/hiker trail not open to horse use, long flat straight away. A bike came up behind the ladies and plowed into the back of the 86 years old sending her to the ICU at the hospital. What were the contributing factors for this tragic accident? Flat ground and visibility did not play



a role at all in the accident, in reality the biker had his head down looking at the front tire trying to pick up more speed.

So let's take this same accident and move it on to a mountain trail with the horse and rider walking down the same trail and

a bike comes up at a high rate of speed. There is a good chance the rider might be able to get off the trail if there is a place to go. But now let's move the same accident to some of the mountain trails we all ride – the results would probably be catastrophic.

Stay tuned for Part Three where we will print some of the accidents that have happened around the different states, the catastrophic results of when a horse and rider meets a mountain bike on a mountain trail, and it will help explain why the BCHO board is moving towards new policies dealing with the loss of equine trails to the mountain bike community.



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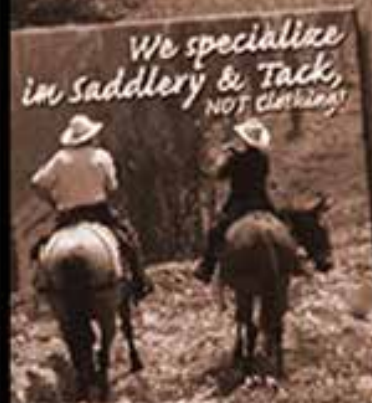
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Territorial Riders Chapter Update

In the Territorial Riders chapter, we like to think we are awesome at playing well with others, often teaming with other user groups to work on trails. In May, we worked with another all volunteer group, Molalla Riverwatch, to spend a few hours one day, up on a BLM trail in the Molalla River corridor, sawing a huge pile of trees that had blown down. With three sawyers and two swampers to help, the work went by very quickly and easily. Molalla Riverwatch is a group composed of anglers, kayakers, hikers, bikers, and equestrians who all have an interest in the recreational opportunities afforded to us by the BLM in the Molalla River Recreation area. Maintaining good relationships with other multi-user groups is key to paving the way for equestrians to have friends in many places when it comes down to the wire on fighting to keep trails open for all user groups.

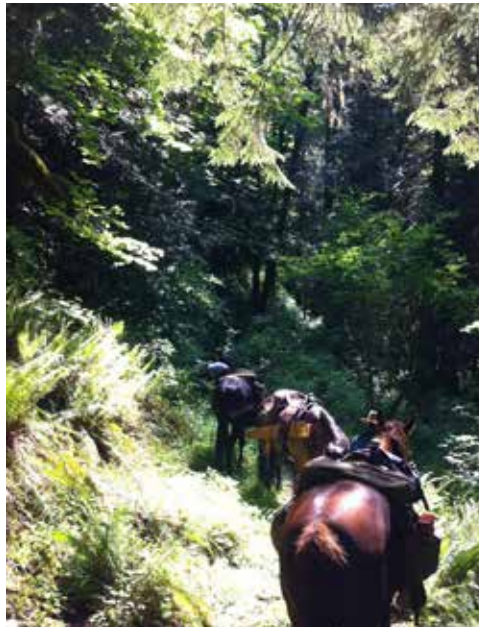


There were 12 logs to be cut and the trail was impassable.



All clear, and ready for business!

On the very last day in May, members from our Territorial Riders chapter, volunteered to help the Mt. Hood chapter of Oregon Equestrian Trails, maintain a beloved hiking and riding trail in the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness area, the Eagle Creek trail #501. The day was wonderful and the volunteers all well experienced, so the work was completed efficiently, leaving ample time for socializing while riding down the trail. It is amazing to me what you can learn from and about other folks on a work party – far more than you will just at a meeting or on a trail ride. I encourage everyone to help others out, and have fun doing so!



Working to make a steep, soft approach into Eagle Creek, a little more horse friendly

The long hours put in on the Eagle Creek #501 just didn't quite fill the weekend out, so another group of volunteers went into the Mt. Hood National Forest, and rebuilt a fairly treacherous ford on the Sandy River. The old ford had been washed out quite a few years back, when the river flooded, moving course about 1/8th of a mile west of the original location. The temporary ford was in a place with very deep, and fast running water, so the decision was made to relocate it farther upriver where there was more shallow, and safer water to cross. The bank needed to be leveled out a bit on the top on both sides, as it dropped vertically for about 3-4' before leveling onto a good trail down to the water.



Working on the new approach to the horse ford on the Sandy River



Tim is demo'ing how to LNT on the dirt, while Sara Barzee Lagasse points out the spots he's missed at Clackamas County Fair.

We are not all work, and no play, in our chapter! Coming up on July 6th, we will be holding our annual fundraiser trail ride, held on a BLM seed farm, and crossing into privately held timber area, near Colton, Oregon.

This ride is hugely popular, due to the large amount of equestrians residing in the area. Clackamas County has the largest population of horses of all of the counties in the state of Oregon. Our ride has cash prizes to the top hands and homemade root beer, which is almost as popular to repeat attendees as the trail itself! If you would like to join us, check out our page on Facebook to get more information on times, directions, and more! Our chapter sees the ride as way more than a fundraiser. To us, it is a way to reach out and draw in new members. We set up our Leave No Trace educational booth, as well as our new chapter booth with fun, interactive information on who Back Country Horsemen is, and what all we do!



Riding on the Port Blakely Unger Road property

Oregon's National Directors' Report

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

The past several months since the last Highline edition has been a very busy time for both Directors. Both directors participated in several National campaigns to move BCHA into the business world of the future.

- Casey was the key spokesman on a National BCHA video used for the National Fundraiser.
- Phil participated in the executive committee with some of the following as accomplishments:

(Here are some quick notes on projects)

1. National Fund Raiser (As of this printing \$60,000 has been raised plus a matching \$25,000)

- a. Develop a message
- b. Identify targets
- c. Produce a sales brochure
- d. Produce a sales video using Casey as the spokesman
- e. Conduct sales campaign

2. Improve Communications

- a. Implemented BCH state presidents monthly conference calls
- b. Implemented rapid distribution of EC monthly minutes
- c. Increase and improve e-mail list
- d. The "WY Jim Wolf Request" – increase the distribution of trail maintenance best practices among states and chapters

3. BCH Public Lands Regions

- a. Form four Public Lands Regions composed of states in each region with commonalities of geography, climate, issues and etc., i.e. PCT states; Rocky Mountain states; southwestern states; southeastern states or some logical combination

- b. Regions will meet and discuss problems and solutions; headed up by Public Lands Committee co-chairs and advised by BCH Public Lands Advisor

4. Oral History

- a. Developed an oral history (video?) with our two surviving founders, Ken Ausk and Roland Cheek
- b. This project's goals are to 1) record our early years; 2) make sure that current and future generations of BCH'rs stay true to the cause; 3) set a benchmark from where we started and where we are now.

5. Website

- a. Organized groups/individuals to provide current and important content to our website
- b. To not overload the work content of any one individual such as the webmaster

6. Develop BCHA Job Descriptions

- a. Identify the duties of current and job descriptions of position required in BCHA management – Chairman; Executive Director; Recreation and Public Lands Advisor; Executive Secretary
- b. This project is vitally important for BCHA to properly function in the coming years and to do so with the best people available.

7. Form One New Alliance (FONA)

- a. Form an alliance/partnership with another world-class organization – similar to The Wilderness Society
- b. To further our ability to impact legislative and regulatory directives
- c. To aid our partner in accomplishing its respective goals

8. Financial Controls

- a. Make our financial reports more reflective of what we do down to the project level i.e.; a P/L for the NBM; P/L for fund raising initiatives "How much did we get in by using this method versus another; P/L for brochures and etc.
- b. Essentially develop a system that gives an ROI on the various things we do as an organization.

Casey was the only National Director to travel back east for the National Board meeting in April. By sending just one director it was a cost savings to Oregon of about \$4000.

- A couple items that came out of the NB meeting that affects Oregon is that the USFS has finally divulged that the National Parking Pass Money is being disbursed as follows. National USFS Office keeps 10% for admin purposes, Region keeps 10% for admin purposes, then the district takes a 33% cut for admin purposes. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that very little of the fee dollars reach the ground.
- USFS will be paying for Workman's comp for volunteers out of a national fund, rather than out of district funds.
- Two hot topics with all NB Directors are the GAO study and mountain bikes trying to take over Equestrian trails, and having the equestrians evicted using new Government Agency policies.



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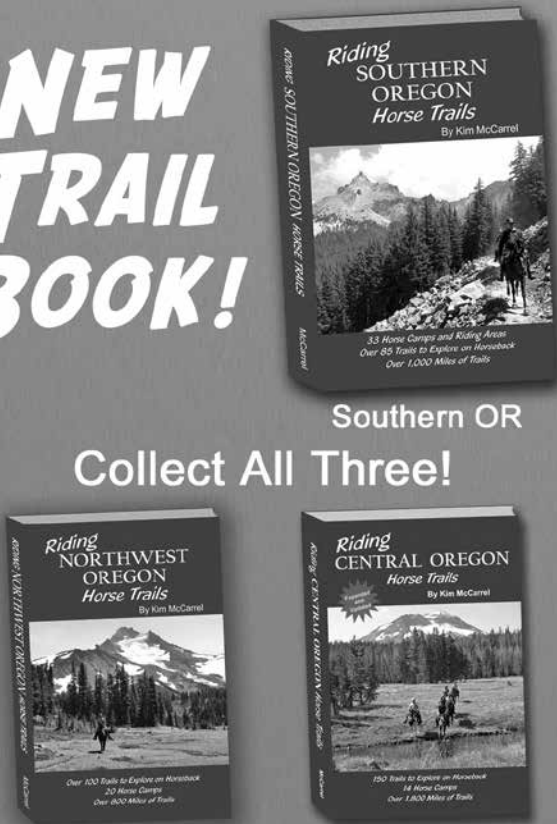
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Thank you for a New Perspective

Submitted by: Emily Elias

This was a great year at the Packing Clinic in Klamath Falls put on by High Desert Trail Riders BCH. Betty Applebaker called way back in January to see if I would take over Becky Wolf's Trail riding talk. Thanks for the referral Becky! Well at first that comment was sarcastically made, but then again I didn't have to say yes. Saying no is not high on my list of the right thing to do; I love being an ambassador of YES! So anyway I got started writing a talk and surprisingly it came pretty easily. I was writing about something I love to do. So, how hard could that be?

Giving a talk at the Clinic sure put a new perspective on the whole weekend. The talks themselves are not the reason I am writing this article. It was about the folks who actually showed up to my talks. Yes, I actually had an audience! Then of course I was wondering how nervous I would be, but again, it is something I love, so all of it came really easy!

The questions the audience put to me were the best guide for the hour. Funny thing was I had answers to all of them, well except maybe how to get rid of Yellow jackets on the trail. The people generally wanted some guidance, and I had something to give. The best part was the folks who came up afterward, saying they enjoyed my talk and were going to try some of the exercises. I especially appreciated the comment from a gentleman who said, "You will be back next year, right? So, I have 363 days to practice?". Wow, what a great way to make me feel like I really did have something to give.

I have only been a backcountry horseman for seven years now, although a horsewoman most of my life.

I feel so proud when I tell people that I am a Back Country Horseman and how our organization is helping America.



Five years ago I was asked to be president of our chapter. I told them in five years and here it is. I now feel like I have something to give to our chapter and can help our next year be as good as the last ones.

Thank you BCH and especially those at Emerald Empire Chapter for giving me all the time I needed to really feel confident about going to the backcountry. I thank those who had the vision and those who then kept the vision going for our wonderful organization. I feel so proud when I tell people that I am a Back Country Horseman and how our organization is helping America. I am now in the position to start giving back that which was handed to me, although I really see it as paying it forward.

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I have attached a picture of Jake (aka marshmallow belly) and the new tack. It is amazing how the pad and saddle stick to that fat boy.

I am on my second viewing of the foundations for the finished mule video and still learning. Jake has improved on turns and respects the martingale more every time. Thank you!"



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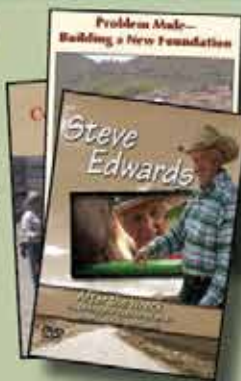


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MAIL your application to Susie Wood, PO Box 362, O'Brien, Oregon 97534

541-596-2488 jswood@frontiernet.net

Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders and spectators, and also recognizing that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., including its chapters, officers, directors and /or members cannot know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other Back Country Horsemen of Oregon functions, I do hereby release Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., its officers, directors and members from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

*Must be signed by all chapter members 18 years and older.

Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

New___ Renewal___ (Please check)

Columbia Gorge BCH
Becky Wolf
32126 S. Wright Road
Mollala, OR 97038
(503) 829-2694
wolfdn@spiritone.com

High Desert Trail Riders BCH
Cheryl Dryer
2821 Foothills Blvd.
Klamath Falls, OR, 97603
541-883-7524
graymare@charter.net

Steens BCH
John O'Connor
PO Box 471
Hines, OR 97738
(541) 678-3502
ooconnor@highdesertair.com

Territorial Riders BCH
Joanne Hanson
10551 SE 352nd,
Boring, OR 97009
(503) 663-5632
joanne_hanson@ahm.honda.com

Emerald Empire BCH
Betty Jean Keele
33485 Hampton Road
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 747-3916
bjkeele@epud.net

Sourdough BCH
Susie Wood
P.O. Box 362
O'Brien, OR 97534
(541) 596-2488
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West Cascade BCH
Jim Kitzhaber
P.O. Box 487
Mill City, OR 97360
(503) 897-3369
kitz@wvi.com

East Cascades BCH
George Johnson
50674 Deer Forest Rd.
LaPine, OR 97739
(541) 536-1685
gbjhomestead@q.com

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon
c/o Laurie Hufstader
PO Box 543
Veneta, OR 97487
(541) 935-2176



PURPOSES of BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of OREGON

To PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.

To WORK to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To ASSIST the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the back country resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.