

Back Country Horsemen of America



PRUDENCE

The effort to conserve public lands for the use of horses and pack stock is an ongoing issue because much of the land is being developed to meet the needs of an ever-growing human population. However, organizations such as Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) are at the forefront of the campaign to bring awareness to the problem and to find possible solutions.

A non-profit corporation consisting of state organizations, affiliates and at-large members, BCHA has implemented several programs to educate horse and pack stock owners about the appropriate ways to use the land available to them.

"In our Leave No Trace riding program, we train master educators from all over the country," says Kande Haertel, BCHA director of development. "Then they go back to their home areas and train more people about being responsible trail users."

The BCHA has also established various committees to address the problem on a higher level. The Public Liaison Committee works with legislators in Washington, D.C., to get necessary funding, while the Wilderness Committee helps state organizations correspond with their respective public land managers.

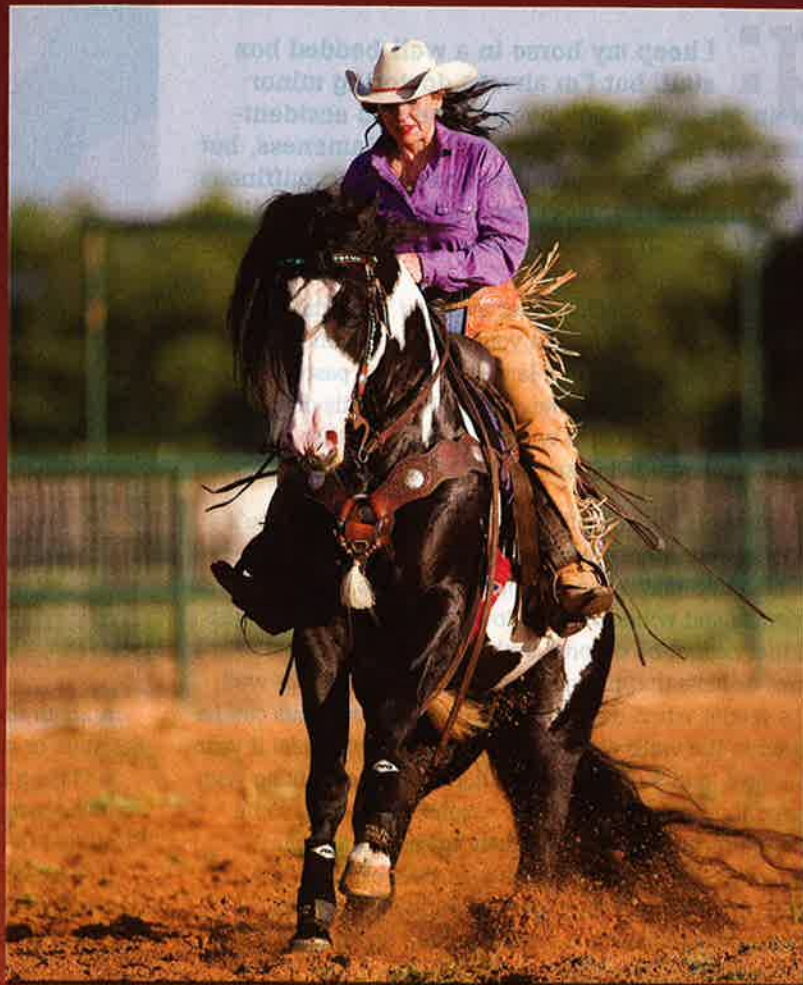
"We have the wilderness tool kit available on the web. It gives practical advice on what to look for when you're having discussions with land managers on the state and local level about keeping country open," says Haertel.

For more information about Back Country Horsemen of America, call 888-893-5161 or visit www.backcountryhorse.org

— Kim Abbott

Exhilaration

n. The state of being stimulated, refreshed or elated



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