

# Gila Chapter

## Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

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4/12/2006 6:00 AM | City Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Meeting called by	Matt Rehani	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Rawlings Lemon, Jessica Swap Massengill (guest speaker), Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

### AGENDA TOPICS

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*Call to order* | Presenter Matt Rehani

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. Matt noted that Gerry Engel and Melissa Green, who would normally have much to say, are out on trail projects now.

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*Recognize guests and new members* | Presenter Matt Rehani

Our guest speaker this evening is Jessica Swap Massengill of the Grant County Extension Office (affiliated with New Mexico State University)

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*Additions or changes to agenda* | Presenter Matt Rehani

None

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*Approval of minutes* | Presenter Matt Rehani

There were no comments about the minutes from the March 2023 meeting.

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*Financial & membership report* | Presenter Dave Imler

- Receipts \$337.52
- Expenses \$4573.29
- Current balances Checking \$38,848.52 Savings \$30,117.00
- Current members total 56

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*Agenda topic Education Segment* | Presenter Cheryl Roth/Jessica Swapp Massengill

Jessica Swap Massengill is an agent of the Grant County Extension Office. She delivered information concerning plants in Grant County that are toxic to livestock and particularly to horses. See her presentation and links to details about the toxic plants discussed beginning on page 3.

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*State meeting Recap* | Presenter Cheryl Roth

The state BCHA is beginning to plan for the 2023 Rendezvous, which they expect to be held in August. The members present at the recent BCHA meeting were complimentary about the Rendezvous GBCH hosted a couple of years ago. A recap of the meeting appears on page 19.

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### Highway Cleanup | Presenter Matt Rehani

Matt will set up and communicate about plans for a highway litter cleanup project within the next couple of weeks. GBCH is responsible for a mile of Highway 180 west of town between mile markers 108 and 109. Parking at the fire station at US180 and Truck Bypass Road. The activity doesn't take long and often features interesting trash, as well as exercise and giggles for the members who participate. Watch for more information.

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### Summer Picnic | Presenter Matt Rehani

We're gonna have a picnic, but we haven't decided on the details.

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### Trail Days 2023 – Continental Divide Trail and Gila Earth Day Celebration

Trail Days is an annual event that focuses on activities, equipment, and important information about the Continental Divide Trail. GBCH will have a booth at the event. GBCH will conduct its customary cookie cutting and branding, using tools recently acquired by the chapter—a propane device to heat up the branding irons quickly and a new GBCH branding iron to join the collection of the USFS and CDT irons.

Take this opportunity to show off your skills with one end of a crosscut saw.

Contact Doug Dexter or Gerry Engel for details about cookie cutting and branding.

Since Earth Day 2023 occurs on April 22 at the same time as Trail Days, the two events have been combined.

The event occurs on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 21-23. GBCH will host a booth in Gough Park on Saturday, April 22, beginning at 7:30 a.m. We need volunteers for setup, interaction with the public, and takedown.

See <https://continentaldivide-trail.org/trail-days/> for more information.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Volunteer for a 2-hour shift. Contact Doug Dexter or Matt Rehani	All members	ASAP!

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### Give Grandly | Presenter Doug Dexter

Give Grandly is an annual fundraising effort to support non-profit organizations in Grant County. The event occurs in early May and has both online and in-person activities. GBCH will host a booth at the in-person event on Saturday, May 6, from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. GBCH will conduct its customary cookie cutting and branding, using tools recently acquired by the chapter—a propane device to heat up the branding irons quickly and a new GBCH branding iron to join the collection of the USFS and CDT irons. Take this opportunity to show off your skills with one end of a crosscut saw.

Contact Doug Dexter or Gerry Engel for details about cookie cutting and branding.

We need volunteers for setup, interaction with the public, and takedown. This event raises significant amounts of money for the Gila BCH chapter and is an excellent and entertaining activity. Give a couple of hours of your time to volunteer for a two-hour shift.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Volunteer for a 2-hour shift. Contact Doug Dexter or Matt Rehani	All members	ASAP!

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### Announcements |

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, Grant County Extension Office, 2610 N Silver St, Silver City

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

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# Poisonous Plants (Horses)


Jessica Swapp-Massengill  
Grant County Cooperative Extension Service

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and extension programs.

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## Outline

- Milkweed
- Russian Knapweed
- Yellow Star-Thistle
- Oleander
- Locoweed
- Sorghum forages...



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## Milkweed

- Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) is an erect-stemmed, herbaceous perennial plant that grows from 3 to 4 feet tall.
- The plants are characterized by the thick, milky sap that seeps out when the plant stem is broken.



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## Toxic Principles

- The lethal dose of milkweed varies among species and, to a lesser extent, plant parts, but consuming green plant material in an amount equivalent to 0.005 to 2.0% of the horse's body weight is considered to be a toxic dose.
  - For a 1,000-pound horse, this toxic dose could be between 0.5 and 20 pounds of plant matter.
- While the fresh, green plant material is the most toxic, dried plants present in pastures or hay retain their toxicity.



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## Symptoms

- Depression and reluctance to stand, irregular heartbeat, colic, dilated pupils, muscular weakness or tremors and uncoordinated gait, and labored breathing, with death following within 24 hours.
- Signs of whorled milkweed poisoning include severe colic, dilated pupils, muscle tremors and falling down, incoordination, violent convulsions, and respiratory failure, normally leading to death within 24 hours of ingesting the toxin.
- **If you believe that your horse may have been exposed to milkweed toxins, remove the suspect feed immediately and call your veterinarian.**



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## Management: Prevention & Control

- Milkweed is very unpalatable, and horses do not readily consume it. The risk of poisoning increases when pastures or rangelands are overgrazed and horses have no other suitable forage to eat.
- Develop a weed management plan for areas such as field edges, fence lines, irrigation ditches, and roadsides where milkweed infestation is more common
- ***\*\*The greatest incidence of milkweed poisoning in horses occurs when milkweed species have been baled along with the normal hay crop\*\****
- **ALWAYS INSPECT YOUR HAY!**



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**Table 1. Herbicides and Application Rates for Control of Milkweed on Rangeland and Pastures<sup>1</sup>**

Common name	Trade name	Application rate (amount/acre)	Time of application
Picloram	Tordon 22K	1 qt	Seedling to bloom
Picloram + 2,4-D	Trooper P+D	1 to 2 qt	
Dicamba	Banvel, Clarity	1 pt	
Dicamba + 2,4-D	Weedmaster	1 to 2 qt	
Metsulfuron + 2,4-D + dicamba	Cimarron Max	Label Rate II 1/2 oz + 2 pt	

<sup>1</sup>Always follow the herbicide label, which supersedes this table. Some herbicides may injure non-target plant species and have use restrictions. Be sure to use adjuvants described on herbicide labels. Further control recommendations can be found in NMSU Extension Circular 597, *Chemical Weed and Brush Control for New Mexico Rangelands* ([http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_circulars/CR597/welcome.html](http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_circulars/CR597/welcome.html).) [back to top](#)



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## Russian Knapweed & Yellow Star-Thistle

- Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*, formerly *Centaurea repens* or *Acroptilon repens*) and yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) are unusual among poisonous plants in that they are toxic to horses—causing “chewing disease”—but cattle and sheep consume the plants without any apparent signs of toxicity.
- Russian knapweed is a woody-stemmed perennial that grows to approximately 3 ft tall. It is characterized by gray hairs (knap) that cover its leaves and stems. The terminal branches of the stem give rise to purple thistle-like flowers



## Yellow Star-Thistle

Yellow star-thistle is found in certain areas of New Mexico. It is an annual weed with multiple branching stems that yield characteristic star-like yellow flowers protected by long, spiny bracts. It also grows to a height of approximately 3 ft.



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## Toxic Principles

The toxic effects of Russian knapweed and yellow star-thistle are cumulative, meaning that poisoning normally results when levels of the toxin build-up in the body over time due to horses routinely grazing these plants.

It has been suggested that a horse must consume 60% of its body weight in green Russian knapweed plant material before toxicity symptoms appear.

For yellow star-thistle, toxicity symptoms may arise after horses have ingested 85 to 100% of their body weight in green plant material.

Once these thresholds are reached, disease symptoms have a rapid onset.



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## Symptoms

- Initial symptoms of the disease: impaired ability to eat or drink and anxious or confused behavior.
- In the following couple of days, the horse will begin showing the classic symptoms of hypertonicity (sustained contraction) of the muscles of the muzzle, lips, and tongue.
- The mouth may be held open or closed with the tongue hanging out in a curled manner to form a "V" shape. This is accompanied by constant chewing-like motions of the mouth, which can injure the tongue and other mouthparts.
- If left untreated, horses normally die of starvation, dehydration, or inhalation pneumonia. Due to the irreversible neurological damage that occurs, euthanasia of afflicted animals is recommended.



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## • Management: Prevention & Control

- Generally, these plants are not highly palatable to horses, so toxicity stems from horses being forced to eat Russian knapweed or yellow star-thistle because no suitable forage is available.

**\*\*Prevention is key!\*\***

Table 1. Herbicides Currently Labeled for Control of Russian Knapweed and Yellow Star-Thistle in Pastures and Rangeland

Common Name	Trade Name	Application Rate (amount/acre)	Time of Application
<b>Russian Knapweed</b>			
Picloram	Tordon 22K	1 to 2 qt	Early flower to frost
Clopyralid + 2,4-D	Curtail	1 to 2 qt	Full bloom to frost
Clopyralid	Reclaim	2/3 to 1 1/3 pt	
Imazapic	Plateau	12 oz	Fall and winter
Aminopyralid	Milestone	5 to 7 oz	
Chlorisulfuron	Telar XP	1 to 3 oz	Prebloom to bloom and fall rosette
Aminopyralid + metsulfuron	Chaparral	2 1/2 to 3 1/3 oz	Spring or fall
<b>Yellow Star-Thistle</b>			
Metsulfuron	Escort XP	1 oz	Seedling to early bud
Metsulfuron + 2,4-D + dicamba	Cimarron MAX	Rate III: 1 oz + 4 pt	
Dicamba + diflufenopyr	Overdrive	4 oz	Rosette
Triclopyr	Remedy	3 pt	Spring to early bud
2,4-D	Exteron 99 and others	1 qt	
Imazapyr	Arsenal	1 pt	
Picloram	Tordon 22K	1 pt	
Dicamba	Banvel, Clarity	1 pt	
Clopyralid	Reclaim	2/3 pt	
Picloram + 2,4-D	Grazon P+D	2 qt	
Aminopyralid	Milestone	3 to 5 oz	



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## Oleander

- The oleander plant is a native plant of the Mediterranean region and tropical Asia. It is now widely planted as a drought-tolerant ornamental in the southern United States and Mexico.

Oleander can be managed to grow as a single or multi-branched evergreen tree or shrub, reaching heights of 10 to 18 feet with a spread of 10 to 15 feet.



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## Toxic Principles

Oleander contains cardiotoxic compounds that have been known to poison animals, including humans, dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, and birds. The primary toxic agent, oleandrin, causes heart arrhythmias that lead to cardiac arrest and death.

- In horses, as little as 1 ounce of green leaves can be lethal.

While horses rarely eat green oleander leaves since they are unpalatable, there is the potential for dried leaves to accumulate in pasture areas with tall grass or end up in the horse's daily hay ration where they may then be ingested.



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## Symptoms

- Horses that consume a lethal dose of oleander leaves are often found dead 8 to 10 hours later, and symptoms of poisoning rarely last more than 24 hours before death occurs.

Clinical symptoms include colic, diarrhea, labored breathing, muscle tremors, ataxia, and the inability to stand.

Furthermore, an irregular and weak pulse, due to the decreased cardiac output, will lead to cold extremities, and convulsions prior to death are not uncommon.

If you suspect that your horse may be suffering from these symptoms of oleander poisoning, it is extremely important to contact your veterinarian immediately.

While there is no specific treatment for counteracting the effects of the toxic principles, animals that have not consumed a lethal dose may be treated with a guarded prognosis for recovery over the next several days.



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## Locoweed

- Locoweed has been reported to be the most widespread poisonous plant problem in the Western United States.
- Locoweed is also referred to as milkvetch.
- There are over 300 species of these plants found across the United States.



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## Toxic Principles

Swainsonine, an indolizidine alkaloid, is the toxic principle responsible for the pathological changes in body tissues that lead to the disease known as locoism.

All parts of the toxic plants (seeds, flowers, foliage, and even pollen) contain some level of swainsonine, and it has been reported that dried plant stems retain sufficient swainsonine content to pose serious health risks even after a year or longer.



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## Pathology of Localism

Once the animal is removed from locoweed-infested forage, the damage done to brain and neural tissues is permanent and responsible for the abnormal behavior, incoordination, and impaired sensory perception.

There is no proven effective treatment for locoism in horses, and locoed horses have a very poor prognosis for recovery.



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## Clinical Signs of Locoism

- Severe depression and lethargy
- Weight loss
- Odd or erratic behavior, including overreaction to various stimuli such that the horse, when handled, may be severely head shy and rear and flip over backwards, or exhibit other violent and dangerous behaviors.
- Other neurological deficits, such as ataxia (loss of control of body movements), incoordination, head bobbing, or an exaggerated high-stepping gait.



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## Research on Locoweed & Horses

One of the few research trials involving horses (Pfister et al., 2003) compared locoweed consumption patterns in cattle and horses grazing eastern Arizona rangelands infested with spotted locoweed during the spring (April to June). This study revealed several important facts about horses grazing locoweed:

- Horses were observed to begin eating locoweed on the second day of the experiment
- Horses ate more green vegetation (grass and locoweed) than did cattle.
- Providing other green forage may reduce the likelihood that horses will consume locoweed).
- After two weeks of consuming locoweed, the horses began showing obvious signs of depression, and by the fifth week of the experiment the horses were showing the classical neurological symptoms of locoism.
- Over the course of the study, all of the horses were severely poisoned and in very poor body condition. At the conclusion of the grazing period, two of the horses were euthanized and a necropsy of each was performed to evaluate the effects on various body tissues.
- The remaining two horses were removed from the locoweed and allowed to recover for 27 days before being euthanized for collection of tissue samples. This "recovery period" had no favorable impact in terms of the damage that had already been done to the neurological tissues of the horses.



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## Management

Based upon the limited research involving horses, it seems that horses are more likely than cattle to seek out the green vegetation provided by locoweed when other forage sources are dormant and less palatable.

Therefore, the only safe grazing recommendation is to ensure that "horse pastures" are free of locoweed.

Previous work at NMSU has identified effective herbicide control strategies for locoweed, and these recommendations are available in *Guide 8-823, Locoweed Control: Aerial Application or Ground Broadcast*



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### *Potential Poisoning of Horses Consuming Sorghum, Sudan grass, and Sorghum-sudan grass Hybrid Forages*

- Sorghums are warm-season, annual grasses--drought and heat tolerant high yield potential.
- The sorghums that are predominantly used for forage or feeding purposes: forage sorghums, sudan grasses, and sorghum-sudan grass hybrids.



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## Toxic Compounds

First Concern: Nitrate toxicity where the plant accumulates high levels of nitrate. Once consumed, this nitrate/nitrite by microorganisms present in the rumen of **ruminant animals**.

Since horses are non-ruminants, this **conversion does not occur until the** hindgut, and there are no known reports of nitrate toxicity in horses consuming sorghum, Sudan grass, or sorghum-Sudan grass hybrid forages (Lewis, 1995).

*However*, ingestion of toxic nitrite by horses can occur when nitrates in forages or water have been converted to nitrite by environmental microbes prior to consumption (Gaskill, 2009).



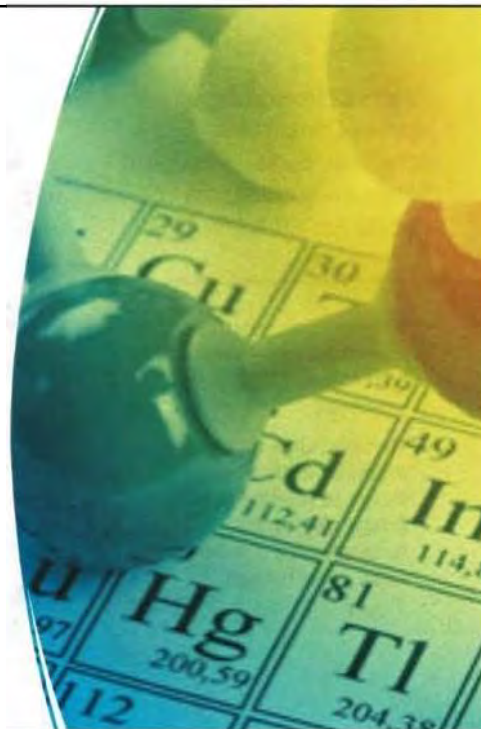
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## Toxic Compounds

Second Concern: release of free prussic acid (hydrogen cyanide; HCN) in the plant following periods of stress. In grazing situations, the ingestion of plants containing high levels of HCN dhurrin (*cyanogenic glycoside produced in many plants*) leads to cyanide poisoning.

Ruminants are more susceptible than horses due to the microbial population in the rumen.

Still, horses are not immune to the effects of prussic acid. However, they have a lower risk of acute poisoning (Cope, 2014). It is commonly thought that Sudan grasses, and sorghum-Sudan grass hybrids, contain less dhurrin than grain or forage sorghums; however, there is no concrete data to support this claim. Water stress (i.e., drought) and application of nitrogen fertilizer have been shown to increase dhurrin levels in sorghums.



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## Toxic Compounds

- Third Concern: horses grazing these forages may develop sorghum cystitis ataxia syndrome, a poorly understood syndrome, which causes nerve damage in all types of horses and fetal birth defects in pregnant mares (Gaskill, 2010).
- These two conditions may appear as a result of chronic exposure to low-levels of cyanide or cyanogenic glucosides through grazing these forages for a period of weeks to months (Cope, 2014).



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## Symptoms of Poisoning in Horses

- Early symptoms of nitrate/nitrite poisoning include colic, frequent urination, and diarrhea, followed by difficulty breathing, increased heart rate, muscle tremors, weakness and abnormal gait, seizures, blue to brown discoloration of the gums, and death (Waldrige, 2010; Thompson, 2015).
- In cases of acute cyanide poisoning, the horse will generally show clinical signs within 15 minutes to a few hours, followed by death within two hours of the onset of these symptoms.
- Characteristic symptoms include difficulty breathing and rapid respiration, foaming at the mouth, dilated pupils, ataxia (incoordination of the limbs), muscle tremors, and convulsions (Cope, 2014; Knight, 1995).



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## Symptoms of Poisoning in Horses

- Cystitis ataxia syndrome-The clinical symptoms related to the damage to the spinal cord and nerves begin to appear. The horse will gradually develop ataxia, especially in the hind end, most evident when asking the horse to back or turn.
- Paralysis of the bladder can lead to dribbling or leaking of urine in both males and females. Inflammation of the bladder and kidneys may also develop.
- In pregnant mares, the toxins may also result in abortion or skeletal malformations of the developing fetus.
- Once the neurological symptoms appear, the nerve damage is permanent and the prognosis for the animal is poor. As the condition progresses, paralysis of the tail and hind legs may occur (Cope, 2014; Gaskill, 2010).



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## Other considerations

- The way in which the hay is cured and baled. Sorghum has larger stalks and leaves than most other hays. As such, dry-down during the curing process can be difficult.
- Sorghums are sometimes baled too wet, which can lead to mold growth in the bale. As with all equine feedstuffs, hay containing mold should not be fed to horses because it poses health risks due to potential toxins carried in the mold, and the mold may aggravate respiratory conditions (e.g., heaves, asthma, COPD, etc.) of both horses and their owners.




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- A renowned expert in the field of poisonous plants and livestock toxicology, Dr. Anthony Knight, DVM, gives the following advice:
- "Unless it is certain that the sorghum hay is from species of sorghum that have been selected to be free of cyanide, it is risky to feed the sorghum hay to horses...for extended periods" (Knight, 2020).
- While there is much interest in utilizing "low" or "no" dhurrin (HCN precursor) sorghum forages, these varieties are still in the developmental stages, and it may be several years before these are released commercially.



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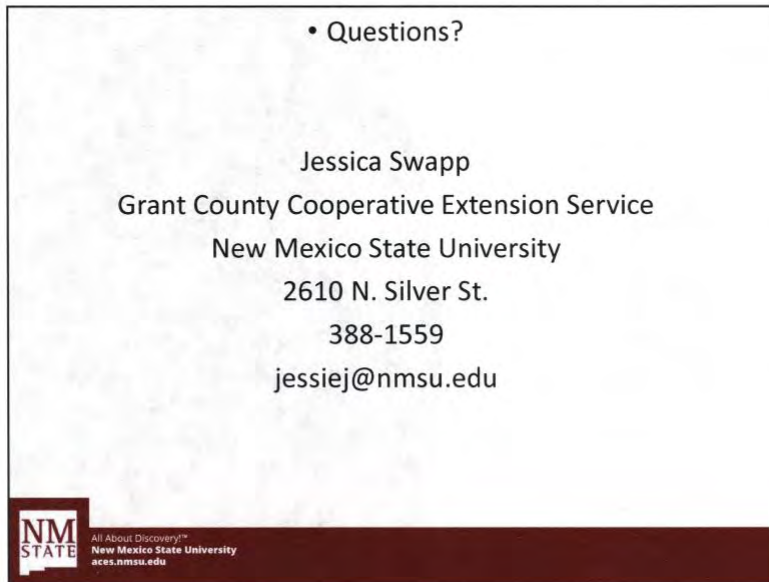
### Local Veterinarians

- Dr. Allred-Arenas Valley Animal Clinic  
1865 US-180, Arenas Valley, NM 88022  
388-1993
- Dr. Brown-Town and Country Veterinary Clinic  
2035 Memory Ln, Silver City, NM 88061  
538-3700
- Dr's Britton Bradberry & Shelby Bradberry-Advanced Veterinary Care  
212 US-180, Silver City, NM 88061  
388-1503



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Links to details about poisonous plants from NMSU Cooperative Extension Service

### **Milkweed Poisoning of Horses**

[https://pubs.nmsu.edu/\\_b/B709/index.html](https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_b/B709/index.html)

### **Russian Knapweed and Yellow Star Thistle Poisoning of Horses**

[https://pubs.nmsu.edu/\\_b/B710/index.html](https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_b/B710/index.html)

### **Oleander Poisoning of Horses**

[https://pubs.nmsu.edu/\\_b/B712/index.html](https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_b/B712/index.html)

### **Locoweed Poisoning of Horses**

[https://pubs.nmsu.edu/\\_b/B713/index.html](https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_b/B713/index.html)

## April 1<sup>st</sup> NM State BOD Meeting 2023

Meeting was called to order by Dan Key, and the agenda was approved.

Treasurer reported we have \$4824.25 in our checking account and \$2088.62 in our savings account.

Fees for Zoom, and E, mail were discussed. We will contact Derek for clarification especially for our Go-Daddy account and the expenses evolved.

Our yearly expenses are approximately \$8353.00 and our income is \$6413.00 leaving us about \$1940.00 in the red. We will discuss fundraising at our next meeting.

Sam will send out complete budget information.

Insurance bill has stayed the same for about 5 years. If a Chapter needs to get an insurance certificate

Please contact Sam as early as possible.

Approved sending John Bruch \$150.00 for his Disco that will be used as a donation from NM for the raffle at Nationals.

Budget was approved. Sam made motion Joan second..

Maresa reported on Public Lands, her full report is included: Lots of talk about e-bikes again. There is a discussion to eliminate the tax on reimbursements over 0.14. There was a successful Hike the Hill where BCHA joined with several other groups to lobby for our issues in WA. Maresa reminds us we need to be involved in issues if we want to keep our trails open.

Discussion on reimbursement for travel expenses. Different Chapters are having different successes. Gila has been successful in obtaining 0.65 and negotiates directly with the Forest service. Jemez and Pecos are waiting for their volunteer agreements to see what happens with the Santa Fe FS. The Cibola has refused to pay even \$0.14 and Pecos is no longer doing trail work for them as a result.

Dan will take the raffle prize with him to Nationals. There was a motion made and approved to add Vickie Huelster as 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate for Nationals.

### **Discussion of Resolutions** that will be voted on at Nationals:

- One, changes to how we do membership, online, vote no.
- Two, Annual cost of living adjustment, vote no, must be discussed at national meeting.
- Three, Read 5 founding principals at Chapter meetings, vote no
- Four, Resolve that financial information be adequate, yes
- Five, Nominating committee shall choose the most talented productive members to elected positions, vote no

### **Other:**

- Sam has concerns about lack of receipt for zoom.
- Discussed talking to Micahlynn Kaza about doing our State Web Site as she has a lot of experience. Motion made and approved to Have Dan look into that.
- Dan will check to see if he can find someone to write grants for state chapters.
- Rendezvous discussed: Possible Fort Stanton, Maresa will check into that, try for Mid August or mid September.
- Mary Ann will check into Argentina Bonita
- Anna will check into Continental divide Radar Site
- Each Chapter will check on interest in a Rendezvous

APRIL 25TH ZOOM MEETING AT 7:00 to discuss rendezvous.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30

**Members present:**

Joan Bacon, Gila Cheryl Roth Gila, Sam Prda 3 Rivers, Maresa Pryor-Luzar, Pecos, Mary Ann Ende Pecos, Dick Rahal, Pecos, Johgbn Young North West , Anna Larson Zuni Dan Key bJemez and Hermits Peak, Lorraine Farrell Jemez

**Zuni Chapter** reports they had mud, and snow and mud and rain and lmore mud and more snow.

**Three Rivers** reports no activity

**NW Chapter Report**

- Quebradas Backcountry Byway - 7 riders began exploring the Byway, plan on going back
- Picked up 3 trails to work in the Pecos, one for April/early May, one for June and one for July-exact dates to be decided after we check out the weather
- BLM agreement will be made to support the new Wilderness area near Cabezon NM
- Cibola NF still hasn't gotten our agreement together
- Ride planning with no dates set: Quebradas, (before it gets too hot), Fort Stanton, Maybe Memorial Weekend; Diablo Canyon early spring; Tapia Canyon, early spring, camp out at Ojito or San Lorenzo Canyon, sometime early spring, trails day project June 3 rd to be determined; De-spooking clinic before it gets too hot

**Gila Chapter**

Officers for 2023:

- President Matt Rehani matt.rehani@gmail.com
- Vice President Dixie Dexter dixazteca@gmail.com
- Treasurer Dave Imler daveimler@gmail.com
- Secretary Cindi DeCapiteau cdecapiteau@gmail.com
- At Large Gerry Engel engelhill@comcast.net
- Trail Co-ord Melissa Green groundworktrails@gmail.com
- State Rep Cheryl Roth sturgisroths@gmail.com
- State Rep Joan Bacon baconjoan@hotmail.com

Spring projects:

- Signs Project: 9 signs made, 11 signs installed
- Rain Creek Project: 1 day, 1.5 miles brushing
- Railroad Project: 1 day, 3 miles, brushing, cairns and drains.
- Whiterocks Project: 5 days, 4.5 miles, brushing, cairns, tread and logging

Total volunteer hours: 554

Deferred Maintenance: 11.25 miles

Routine Maintenance: 10 miles

Logs: 54

Cairns: 57

Blazes: 2

Drains: 18



### Upcoming projects:

- March 25: 1 day project out of Glenwood
- April 4-14: Lilley Mountain, Logging, brushing, trail marking and tread work, approx. 12 miles northwest of the Cliff Dwellings.
- Membership: 62
- Give Grandly, May 6th
- A community event to send money to your favorite Grant County Nonprofit. We will have a booth and “cookie” branding.
- Grant County Trail Days, April 22: Celebrates Grant County being a gateway to the CDT. We will have a booth there.
- Education Segment: AAA trailers discussed trailer maintenance, breakdown prevention and what services their business provides at our March meeting.
- Sawyer certification class is planned but not scheduled

Membership Retention Coordinator: pending

### Pecos Chapter

- Pecos Chapter was not able to negotiate a reimbursement agreement at this time with Ciobla, so those projects are on hold. It is too bad as we have been clearing those trails for almost 30 years.
- We had our annual Trailer clinic at the Kingsbury's.
- We have a crosscut class scheduled for May 6th.
- We have had folks participating in first aid classes.
- We have had 4 training rides canceled because of weather.
- Pecos will be doing considerable pack support for Santa Fe Here is our current schedule, no work in April or early May as that would be in the Manzano's.
- Training rides rescheduled April 8th and 16th.
- May 25th to 29th Work in the Pecos, tread work and trail clearing, weekend in the Pecos.
- June 9th in, June 11th out, Packing for VFO in Sandia's (Richard)
- June 17th in, June 25th out, pack support for Kevin Mora Flats, Pecos, Iron Gate
- July 6th in, July 9th pack support for VFO Horsethief Meadow
- July 12th in, July 19th out, Pack support for ACE Stewart Lake, Pecos
- July 26th in, August 2 out Rito Azul, Pecos
- August 10th in, August 13th out pack support for VFO Stewart Lake, Pecos

### Public Lands Report – Maresa Pryor-Luzier

BCHA PLC had its regional meeting on the 13th of March and discussed about a new bill put in my Minnesota Amy Kolvachar on making reimbursable monies not taxable as they are at this moment. Anything over the 0.14 cents is taxable.

The “Hike the Hill” was successful for BCHA in Washington DC in February. Randy, Darryl Wahl, and Mark Himmel all went and found having more than one person was better and they teamed up with American Trails, National Historic Trails, and others. They were able to talk with BLM, National Forest, and National Park Directors.

Public Land Solutions has come out with their draft recommendation reports of the SW and Central Regions of NM. Public Land Solutions is currently working with the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division on a project called the NM Uplift Initiative, which will eventually become SCORP. Please read those reports. Equestrians are not well-represented but they are willing to listen if changes need to be made. You would

contact Claire Kendall, [claire@publiclandsolutions.org](mailto:claire@publiclandsolutions.org) or 505-795-0039 to give feedback or setup a meeting. Other BCH regions were familiar with them since they have worked on SCORP projects in their states.

SB9 the **Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund** has passed through all the committees and is now signed by the governor.