

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

10/15/2024 12:00 AM | Grant County Extension Office

Meeting called by	Matt Rehani	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Cindi deCapiteau, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Matt Rehani

New members have been added to the GBCH roster and email group: Mary Crow, Alaina Dunivan, and Vickie Toney. Welcome, ladies!

Approval of minutes | Presenter Matt Rehani

Minutes from the September meeting were not discussed, as the secretary (suffering from burnout) did not release them until several minutes before tonight's meeting began. The minutes are attached to these minutes beginning on page 9, in the unlikely event that somebody will actually read them.

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

Financial activity since the September meeting:

Expenses: \$17,969.80
Income: \$16,766.00
Checking: \$92,736
Savings: \$103,000

Funds were expended for outlays related to the 2024 BCHNM Rendezvous, including a donation to the Ft. Bayard Historical Preservation Society (\$605), reimbursement of member expenses (\$284.28), and transfers to BCHNM from donations and registration fees received during the event (\$3500).

The Gila chapter now has 51 members.

Recap of Rendezvous | Presenter Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth

The Gila chapter hosted the 2024 Rendezvous for the Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico. Matt Rehani commented that he has received favorable feedback about the event.

Cheryl Roth noted that our local sports retail outlet, Morning Star Sports (<http://www.morningstarsports.com/>) provided 50 Gila Centennial t-shirts at \$12 per shirt for sale at the Rendezvous; we sold 28 shirts at \$20 each and gave away a few. Morning Star will send an invoice for the sold and gratis shirts in late November.

Grant County Search and Rescue (SAR) conducted a session at the Rendezvous to demonstrate the use of "Rigormortis Randy." The unflinching Randy is a training manikin that simulates a deceased adult male (just in time for the Autumn Triduum). The idea is that search and rescue people need to know how to pack a cadaver out of the wilderness so that the luckless individual can receive proper attention by family, friends, and other people

who attend to such things (presumably instead of being left to the noshing pleasure of back country beasts and the desiccating atmosphere of New Mexico). The training session seems to have proceeded without incident, given the fearless performance of somebody's real live trail horse.

Following the SAR training, Cheryl inspected the Rendezvous site and found it to be free from debris.

Action items**Person responsible**

Contact Cecelia Bell about donation to Ft. Bayard Historical Preservation Society

Cheryl Roth

Prepare check (\$605) for Ft. Bayard Historical Preservation Society and give to Cecelia Bell

Dave Imler, Cheryl Roth

Public Service | Presenter Gerry Engel, Melissa Green

Trail work is about finished for the 2024 season. Remaining projects are on the lower Turkey Creek Trail (map on page 4) and brushing along Little Creek from Woody's Corral (map on page 5). If you're interested in working on these projects, contact Melissa Green at 575-536-3659 or groundworktrails@gmail.com

In other news, Mike Netharius packed Travis Perry, President and Founder of Natural Curiosity (<https://www.natural-curiosity.org/>) and a trail crew from Montana into Holden Prong (Trail #114). See map on page 6.

The GBCH trail meisters have been working on the Little Whitewater trail (#214). Starting near Glenwood and moving east work on this trail began in 2023 and nearly four miles have been cleared, but more work is needed. The trail isn't passable for stock beyond about 3.7 miles. Major work will be required to finish the job. See the map on page 7.

Grant County SAR Update | Presenter Dave Imler

Search and Rescue received a few calls for assistance, but none of them materialized. So, the bottom line is nothing has been going on in the last month.

State BCH Update | Presenter Joan Bacon, Cheryl Roth

The state BCHA chapter will hold a meeting next month. GBCH will provide Rendezvous proceeds of \$3500 to BCHNM. Dave Imler asked how the Rendezvous revenue from 2024 compares to that of previous years. Dave also commented that sending a thank you note to Rendezvous participants would be a good thing to do. He will provide a participant list so that the secretary (that would be Cindi) can prepare and distribute the note by email.

Action items**Person responsible**

Get a check for BCHNM and deliver it at the November meeting

Dave Imler, Cheryl Roth, Joan Bacon

Find out how revenue from the 2024 Rendezvous compares to revenue from previous Rendezvous

Cheryl Roth, Joan Bacon

Send a list (containing email addresses) of Rendezvous participants to the secretary

Dave Imler, Cindi deCapiteau

Prepare and distribute Rendezvous thank you note to participants

Officer Elections in November | Presenter Matt Rehani

At the end of every year, the Gila chapter holds elections for its officers. Any member in good standing can hold an office. All positions are open. A set of job descriptions appears on page 8. Use email to submit your nominations or a statement of your willingness to hold an office to Matt Rehani (mattrerhani@gmail.com) so we can prepare for the elections, which will occur at the November meeting. Nominations will close on November 8.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Nominate candidates for office	All members	November 8, 2024
Email nominations to Matt Rehani. Include office and name of candidate	All members	November 8, 2024

Gila Trail Fund | Presenter Dave Imler

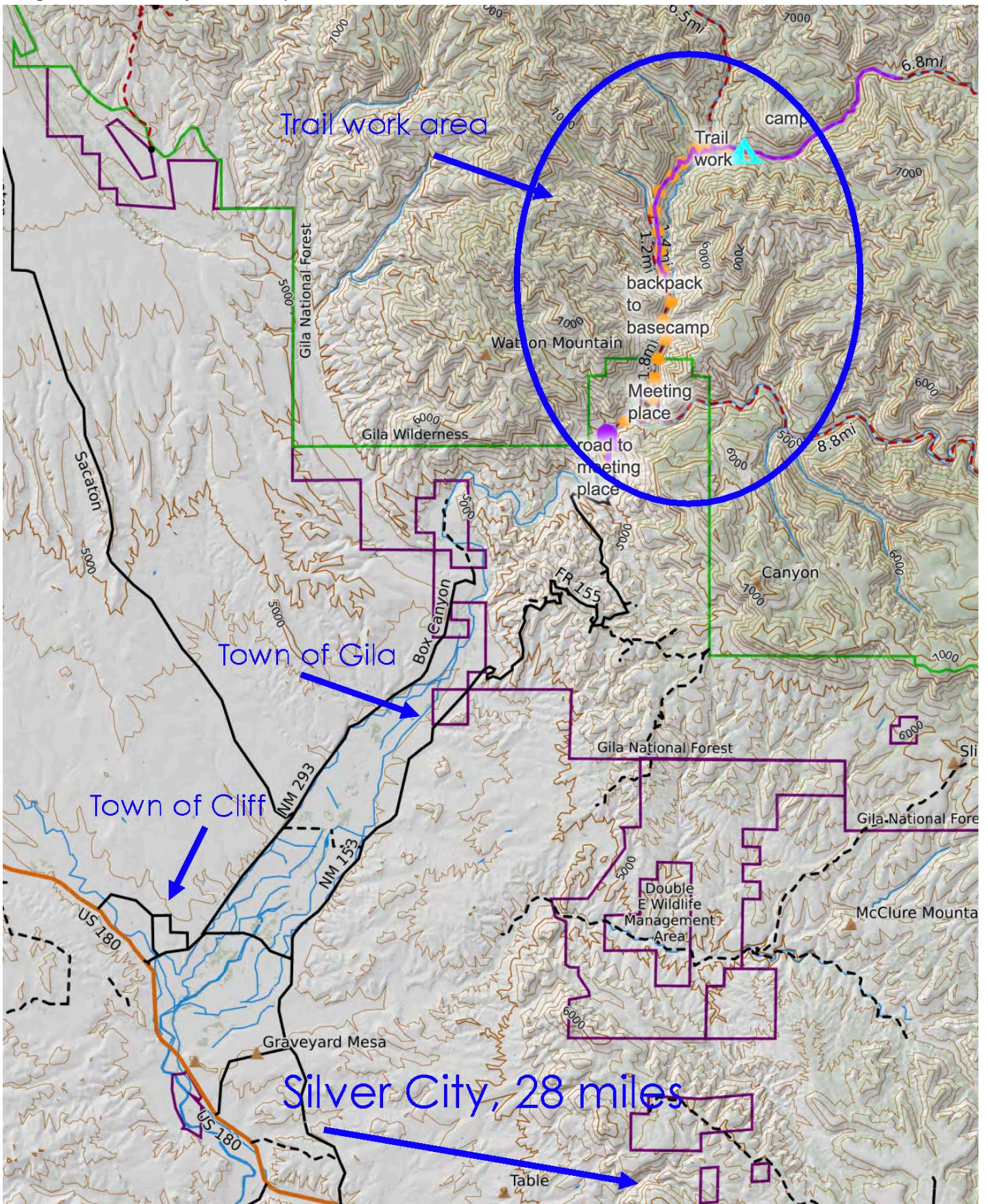
The Gila chapter has received a substantial donation from an anonymous contributor, to be used for trail maintenance. The funds now sit in the chapter's savings account, but will be invested soon. The group attending tonight agreed that in the future, the principle should remain untouched and only the revenue generated would be spent to fund chapter operations. The account will be referred to as the Gila Trail Fund.

Action items	Person responsible
Determine investment options	Dave Imler
Design safeguards for fund expenditures	Board of Directors
Discuss policies and procedures for the fund and report to the GBCH membership	Board of Directors

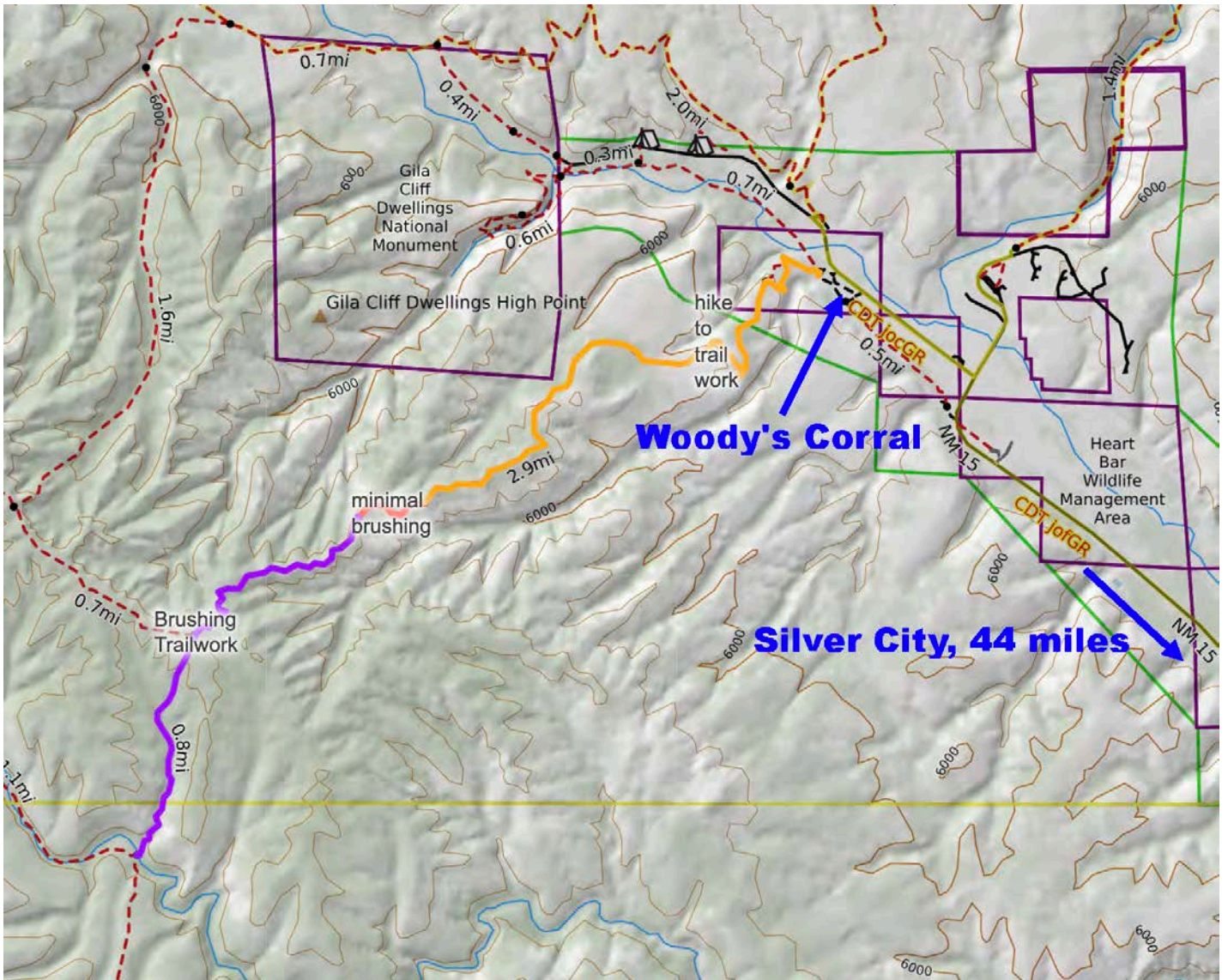
Announcements |

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 p.m. Grant County Extension Office

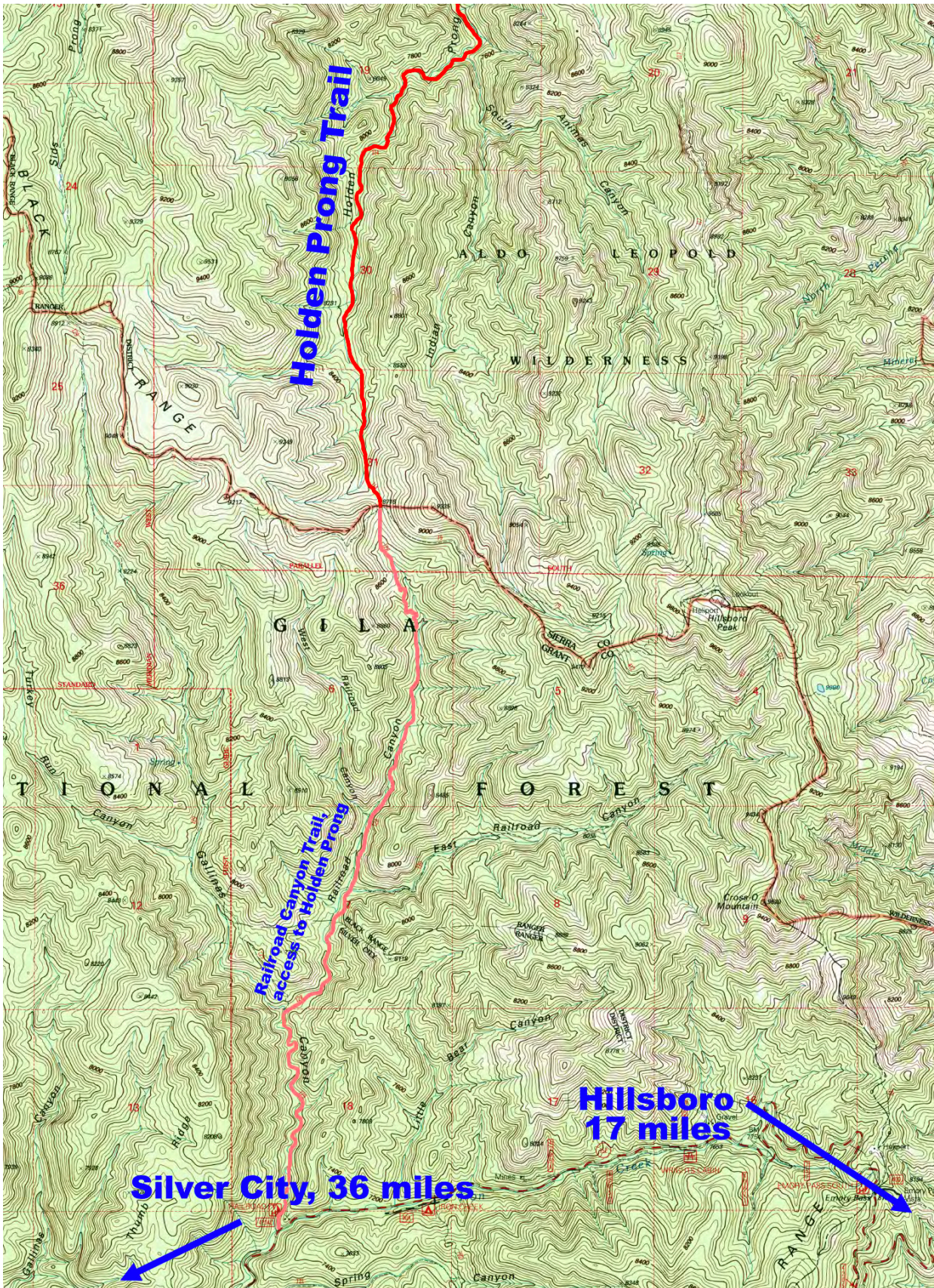
Map of Lower Turkey Creek Project



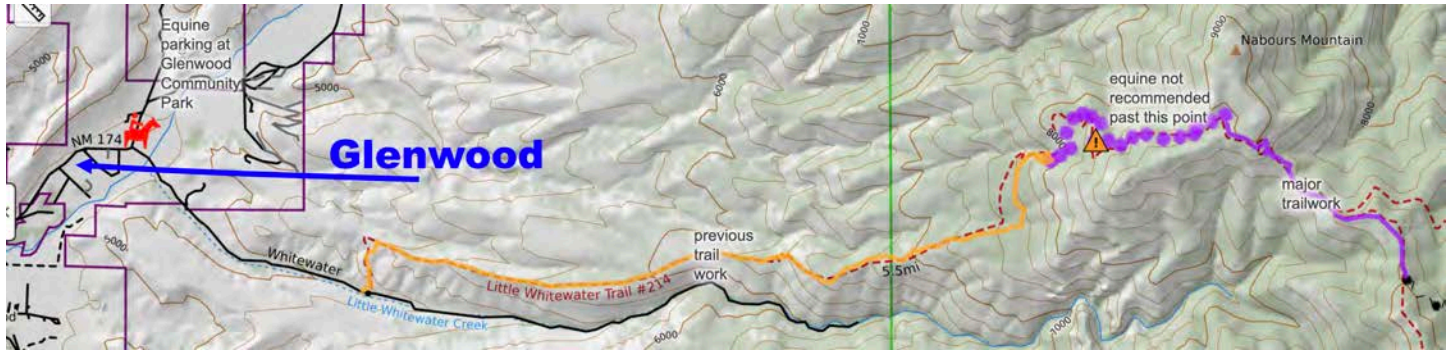
Map of Little Creek project



Holden Prong Trail



Little Whitewater Trail, #214



ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

As amended in 2021

Section 1 The Chapter shall elect annually the following officers of the Board of Directors: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, two (2) STATE DIRECTORS and one (1) DIRECTOR –AT-LARGE.

Section 2 The PRESIDENT shall preside at all Business Meetings, shall appoint such committees that may be necessary and appropriate, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 3 The VICE-PRESIDENT shall assist the President as needed and is to preside at meetings when the President is absent.

Section 4 The SECRETARY shall record and keep the minutes of Business, Board and Special Meetings.

Section 5 The TREASURER shall keep records of income, expenses, disbursements, and any other financial records required for the operation of Chapter business. The Treasurer shall collect dues and maintain the list of members in good standing.

Section 6 The STATE DIRECTORS shall represent the Chapter at BCHNM quarterly meetings and report BCHNM activities to the Chapter.

Section 7 The DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE shall perform the duties assigned by the President.

Section 8 Election of Officers shall be held at the November Business Meeting.

Section 9 Elected Officers, except the State Directors, terms shall begin January 1 of each year following the November elections and terminate December 31 of the same year.

Section 10 The State Directors term of office shall be two (2) years beginning January 1 of the year following the November elections and terminating December 31 of the next year.

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

9/17/2024 6:00 PM | Ft. Bayard Gazebo

Meeting called by	Matt Rehani	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Pat Bulls, Mary Crow, Cindi deCapiteau, Gerry Engel, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Russ Imler, Rawlings Lemon, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Rawlings Lemon

Welcome to Mary Crow, who lives in Piños Altos and just bought a horse.

Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Rawlings Lemon

No changes

Approval of minutes | Presenter Rawlings Lemon

Minutes approved

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

- o Income \$13,302.66
- o Expenses \$12,569.55
- o 47 members

Agenda topic Rendezvous 2024 | Presenter Cheryl Roth

Refunds for cancellations:

- A partial refund will be provided if the cancellation occurs after the Rendezvous has begun, but before it is finished, for reasons such as the following:
 - o Emergencies
 - o Car trouble
 - o Illness
- A full refund will be provided if the cancellation occurs before the event begins.
- Registered participants who do not show up and do not cancel will forfeit their registration fees

Insurance for participants:

GBCH members are covered by the chapter's insurance. One of the Rendezvous fun rides is being led by people who are not members, but who made a significant contribution to the fun and games, will receive a gift membership and will be covered by insurance. Membership for Vickie Toney and Alaina Dunivan will be added to the membership roster now and will receive a gift membership for the coming year. The chapter will pay their membership fee for the entire period.

Defibrillator | **Presenter** *Matt Rehani*

GBCH has owned an automatic external defibrillator (AED) for several years. The trail bosses have packed the device on trail projects, but it has never been used and it is expensive to maintain batteries and supplies. Gerry Engel moved to sell the AED on eBay. The motion was seconded and a vote was approved.

Action items

Person responsible

Sell the defibrillator

Gerry Engel

Public Service | **Presenter** *Gerry Engel, Melissa Green*

Project schedule and updates:

Projects recently scheduled for September have been cancelled. The McKenna Park project (September 23-28) has been cancelled because there's no water up there. Another project on the Turkey Creek trail was cancelled because the weather is too hot.

A project on the Holt-Apache trail (#181) will replace the McKenna Park project. The work will cover the trail section from Sheridan Corral to eventually (October 9-14) hook up with the Little Whitewater (#214) toward Glenwood.

Other projects have been completed or are coming up in October 2024, including Gallinas and Railroad Canyon, as well as Allie Canyon, Bear Canyon, and the Wood Haul Road. For details, please see <https://www.gilatrailsinfo.org/trail-projects>.

Gerry Engel reported removing a couple of trees from a trail (whose designation the secretary did not note). Gerry Engel took out a contentious conifer, which was hanging at a steep angle on a steep slope on a steep trail, using a come-along. Gerry was pretty sure the tree would interfere with a pack string traveling on the pathway.

Donna Tillmann and Cheryl Roth report a barrier tree between Sheep Corral and Tadpole Ridge, along the trail to Meadow Creek. There's no way around that tree.

Work is getting done on the Tadpole Ridge trail, sections of which have been unsuitable for stock use since the 2020 fire. Gerry is handling packing for the workers. He has said for a while now that the trail on the north side of the ridge overlooking Sheep Corral Road should probably be re-routed. The trail there is narrow, soft, and crosses a steep slope, posing conditions that are perilous for stock. It might be helpful for GBCH members to complain to the Forest Service about that section.

Action items

Person responsible

Look into removing tree on Meadow Creek Trail

Somebody

USAF Training Flights | **Presenter** *Cheryl Roth*

About one hundred fifty people turned out for a hearing in Silver City to decry the US Air Force's latest effort to conduct low-level training flights over the Gila and Coronado National Forests. GBCH members at tonight's meeting expressed frustration that we are facing this matter again; we said "NO" a couple of years ago and we haven't changed our minds.

The previous proposal was proffered by Holloman Air Force Base in 2018 and was not implemented in the face of opposition from New Mexico. The current proposal begins to address stated training requirements of several Air Force installations in Arizona and has produced a draft environmental impact statement, which you can review at https://www.arizonaregionalairspaceeis.com/media/5zuprqlw/public-draft-eis_main-document.pdf. The Silver

City Daily Press publicized the matter in August with an article you can find at <https://www.scdailypress.com/2024/08/20/air-force-sets-meetings-low-level-flight-plans/>.

An environmental lawyer from the Center for Biological Diversity has evaluated the current impact statement and has threatened to sue the Air Force, offering that “if you do this, you’ll lose if we sue you.” The consensus of the New Mexico community is that the Air Force didn’t evaluate the matter completely; they are claiming that the flaming chaff they intend to spread over the landscape is harmless.

BCHNM Update | Presenter Joan Bacon, Cheryl Roth

The state Back Country Horsemen chapter hasn’t met in September, but a couple of officers are coming down to Silver City to attend the Rendezvous. Final preparations are underway for the September 19-21 event, which will be conducted by the Gila BCH chapter and held at Ft. Bayard.

BCHN Rendezvous | Presenter Cheryl Roth

The weeks following tonight’s meeting will be devoted to preparations for the 2024 BCHNM Rendezvous. Here’s a summary of what’s happening next:

- U All forms and insurance documents covering our activities at Ft. Bayard have been signed and delivered to both BCHNM and the state of New Mexico.
- U Direction signs have been created by Carol Clark and will be posted on the highway and the road into Ft. Bayard.
- U A dumpster will be posted next to the theater.
- U Kirsten Munson will staff the guard shack at the Ft. Bayard entrance.
- U Deborah Whittemore will oversee the various auctions.
- U Gila chapter members will provide water troughs for riding stock during the event. The Fort Bayard Fire Department will fill the troughs with water on Thursday morning, September 19. The troughs will be located on the east side of our campsite.
- U Rawlings Lemon has laid out the parking plan for participant trailers and stock pens.
- U Trees for high lining are located on the south and west sides of the campsite.
- U The campsite has some hazards (old plumbing, holes, other stuff left over from the demolition of the hospital that existed on the site). Those hazards will be marked with orange barrels and flags, which will be provided and delivered by the village of Santa Clara.
- U We expect up to 40 rigs to be parked at the campsite. Each parking spot will be about 25’ wide. There’s plenty of space.
- U Food for the group meal on Saturday (September 21):
 - Gerry Engel, Matt Rehani, and Cheryl Roth are preparing crock pots with pulled pork, chili, and other goodies.
 - Matt and Rawlings are seeing to donuts, crackers, and cookies that participants can devour on Saturday and Sunday morning.
- U Glen Geesaman is the farrier on call.
- U Russ Imler is handling security. He will keep an eye on things during daylight hours on Friday and Saturday
- U Quiet time, during which running generators will not be permitted, will begin at 8:00 p.m. every evening.
- U Cheryl has procured 50 t-shirts that commemorate the Gila 100 anniversary and will be sold to participants for \$20. The shirts have been provided by Morning Star Sports (<http://www.morningstarsports.com/>) at no charge. Morning Star will take back any unsold shirts.

- U Group activities will be held outside and inside the Ft. Bayard theater, which will be set up with tables and seating.
- U Dave and Nancy Imler will handle registration and distribution of participant ID badges, raffle tickets, gift bags, donation jars, etc.
- U Schedule:
 - Thursday 5:00 p.m. - Speaker from Santa Clara, snacks (provided by participants) in the theater
 - Thursday 6:00 p.m. - Speaker from the Ft. Bayard Historical Society
 - Friday 6:00 p.m. - Speaker from the US Forest Service, 50/50 raffle
 - Saturday 5:00-7:00 p.m. - group meal, fundraisers
 - Saturday 7:00 - BCHNM meeting
 - Sunday morning – “Rigormortis Randy,” a mannikin acquired by Grant County Search and Rescue to demonstrate the technique of packing a body out of the wilderness.

Announcements |

Next Meeting: Grant County Extension Office, Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 p.m.