



WHAT IS BHA? WHY DO WE EXIST?

Our mission is simple: Backcountry Hunters & Anglers seeks to ensure North America’s outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting, through education and work on behalf of wild public lands and waters.

Our freedom to hunt and fish rests on twin pedestals: habitat and access. And while many of us enjoy hunting and fishing on a range of landscapes, including farm fields and reservoirs, there is something fundamental – something that feeds our souls – about hunting deep in the backcountry or fishing on a remote river. Without the continued ability to access our public lands and waters, our long-held traditions cannot endure.

The strength of BHA ultimately lies in our membership. BHA was formed around an Oregon campfire in 2004. In the years since, our boots on the ground members have empowered us, making it possible for us to attain our mission and perpetuate North America’s great outdoors legacy. The quality, passion and drive that embody the public lands sportsmen and women who comprise BHA – our commitment to conservation and keeping it public – are a source of inspiration. Our family is growing by the day, and this is fortunate: because much remains to be done.

Together, we are fighting on the front lines of conservation. Our achievements are growing – in 2016 and beyond – but the need for our combined force has never been greater. Together we can fight the well-moneyed interests and ill-conceived ideas that underlie efforts to divest us of our shared heritage. Together we can prove that we who stand united in support of our public lands and waters will not be denied.

Recruit your friends to BHA today! Our family is growing by the day. And guess what? We’re just getting started.

BHA’S 2016 TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1 BHA continued to rapidly gain force and capacity in 2016, building our reputation as the fastest growing and most effective sportsmen’s organization in North America. New hires both in our headquarters office and in the field expanded our hardworking team, and our budget more than doubled over 12 months. BHA’s membership is squarely focused on young “doers” who live the backcountry life with their families and who relish opportunities to take action in support of our public lands hunting and fishing heritage. Our quarterly magazine, Backcountry Journal, grew substantially in page count and distribution, and our social media presence helps us connect with supporters in all parts of the globe.

2 BHA’s membership increased by an astounding 216 percent in 2016. Our boots-on-the-ground army is amassing, and BHA’s call to arms – keep public lands in public hands – is resonating across the continent. New BHA chapters launched in the Upper Midwest and Texas. Increasingly BHA is seen as the leader in the fight for our public lands, and a growing base of active members are lending their time, energy and dollars to the cause.

3 When armed radicals initiated an occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in January 2016, BHA was the first national sportsmen’s group to publicly condemn the action, with BHA members traveling to Oregon from across the region and emerging as the face of public land owners who opposed the malevolent undertaking. This potent dynamic set the stage for BHA’s engagement in public lands transfer attempts at both the local and national levels over the months to come.

4 In 2016 BHA’s grassroots leaders rallied the troops in support of conservation and access, legislatively and otherwise. In states where BHA has chapters, every public lands transfer bill introduced in state legislatures failed to advance. We beat back bad land deals as well, such as the Bonander proposal in Wyoming’s Laramie Range, a sweetheart deal initiated by a private landowner that would have traded a thousand-plus acres of state land, cut off public access to 3,000 acres of adjacent Forest Service and BLM lands, and eliminated one of only two access points to 10,000 additional acres of public lands. BHA’s Wyoming chapter focused attention on the bad deal, galvanized opposition by sportsmen and others, and ultimately brought about the proposal’s rejection by the state land board.

5 BHA expanded our influence in the Great Lakes region in 2016, establishing chapters in Michigan and Wisconsin, bolstering our already strong chapter presence in Minnesota, and expanding our staff presence regionally to sustain special places and positively influence outcomes for public lands, waters and fish and wildlife. Supporting locally promulgated undertakings such as Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, we added grassroots heft to efforts to prevent development of sulfide mines within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed and support conservation of America’s No. 1 most visited wilderness area.

6 Public access to hunting and fishing opportunities on state lands, like the Elliot State Forest in Oregon, remained a priority for BHA in 2016. Oregon’s oldest state forest and a popular destination for generations of sportsmen, the 82,000-acre Elliott has been offered for sale by the Oregon state land board. BHA is the leading sportsmen’s voice in a broad coalition of recreationists to push back against the sale – and offer alternate strategies that would keep the Elliott publicly accessible. The battle is not yet won, but a final decision on the sale continues to be postponed due to growing support from sportsmen, legislators and the governor alike to “keep it public.”

7 At ICAST/IFTD – the largest sportfishing tradeshow in the world – BHA launched Stream Access Now, a campaign aimed at defending and enhancing public access to public waters. BHA is the first national conservation group to tackle this issue at a nationwide level. Stream Access Now is building momentum among anglers and waterfowlers and boasts a growing base of industry supporters who relish the opportunity to uphold and expand public opportunities to enjoy the nation’s waterways.

8 BHA was presented with the 2016 Nonprofit Leadership Award at the Second Annual SHIFT Conference in Jackson Hole. SHIFT, an outdoor recreation symposium focused on the environment, recognizes sportsmen as a constituency key in advancing results-oriented natural resource policy at both the state and national levels. BHA’s acknowledgement by SHIFT confirms the outside role sportsmen – led by BHA – are playing in efforts to uphold and expand public access opportunities, conserve important fish and wildlife habitat, and defend public lands.

9 BHA played a pivotal role in scuttling legislative attempts to derail the science-based, collaboratively designed management plans that have averted an Endangered Species Act listing for the greater sage grouse. Public lands sportsmen have a huge stake in conservation of the sagebrush steppe, which supports hundreds of species of wildlife. Special interest groups and some members of Congress continue to try to block the plans’ implementation, but so far sportsmen have prevailed, with BHA members leading the fight.

10 BHA continues to defend the backcountry values our members cherish by taking a hard line against illegal OHV use and the effects it has on wildlife, habitat and law-abiding sportsmen. Land management agencies across the West continue to promote BHA’s OHV Reward Fund as a way to encourage self-policing and discourage illegal OHV use. Grassroots efforts are flourishing, as well, with BHA’s Arizona chapter posting hundreds of signs urging public lands users to “maintain your access and habitat” in areas where illegal OHV use is on the rise.

11 Overall, BHA proved in 2016 to be an unstoppable force and a major influencer of policy decisions affecting hunters, anglers and other public lands users. Following the November elections, we used our sway in D.C. and elsewhere to promote decisions by Congress and the new administration that support our shared lands and waters and outdoor traditions. These efforts were widely acknowledged both in the mainstream media and alternative press as well as by stalwarts in hook and bullet media, with BHA members featured in NPR, the New York Times, The Washington Post, Daily Kos, Men’s Journal, and Outside, as well as Field & Stream, Outdoor Life and Petersen’s Hunting. BHA continues to be a strong and growing presence whose membership is poised to build on our achievements over the past year in 2017 and beyond.

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Fund for a Better Future Inc.
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies on private donations for our organization’s work on public lands. BHA is fiscally transparent and strives to be efficient in our everyday work. In Fiscal Year 2016 our revenue was \$1,945,531 and expenses were \$1,782,505. We directed 88 percent of our budget to programs and 12 percent to administration and fundraising. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tax ID is 20-1037177.

Statement of Activities, Year Ended December 31, 2016

Support and Revenue	
Grant Revenue	\$1,007,817
Events and Miscellaneous	\$307,870
Membership	\$405,385
Donations & Interest	\$224,459
Total Revenue	\$1,945,531

Expenses	
Program Expenses	\$1,561,683
Management and General	\$53,254
Fundraising	\$167,568
Total Expenses	\$1,782,505
Change in Net Assets	\$160,026

