

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE HORSE INDUSTRY IN WASHINGTON STATE

By Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) for the Big Tent Coalition in Olympia 2013

Number of people in Washington State engaged in equestrian activities: **4%** or **250,000**¹

Activity rating in number of participants of all outdoor activities in Washington State: **14th**¹

Number of horses in Washington State: **249,964**²

Average cost of keeping a horse for a year: **\$3,876**³ (249,964 x 3,876 = **\$968,860,464/year**)

Wages from Equestrian and Related Industries in King County alone: **\$61,559,408**⁴

Factors for continuing to have a successful and prosperous equestrian industry (King County):

- a) Maintenance of an agricultural infrastructure that provides the materials, services, and facilities for breeding, raising, training, stabling, feeding, and caring for horses.
- b) A healthy pari-mutuel racing industry.
- c) Quality show and competition facilities and venues.
- d) An active calendar of shows, competitions, and other equestrian events and activities , such as 4-H, county fairs, etc.⁵

A newly completed study in Kentucky (2012) which has 242,400 horses and comparable recreational and racing facilities puts their equine-related assets as **\$23.4 billion** and **\$1.2 billion** in equine related expenditures.⁶ With secondary business effects, we (BCHW) estimate that equestrian economic impacts in Washington State at **\$5 billion per year**, which is consistent with the national study by the American Horse Council⁷ and making it one of the top recreational contributors to our state's economy.



Bridle Trails State Park 2012

¹ 2006 Outdoor Recreation Survey by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

² American HorsePower publication by the American Horse Council 2005

³ Maine Cooperative Extension Publications Bulletin #12004

⁴ The Horse Industry in King County by King County Economic Development 2007

⁵ Summary of Economics of Equestrian Industry Use in King County 2011

⁶ 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey

⁷ National Economic Impact of the U.S. Horse Industry by the American Horse Council 2005