

Horse Sense

Trinity Alps, Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel & Castle Crags Wilderness Areas -
Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Going on horseback with pack animals into the Wilderness can be a wonderful experience.

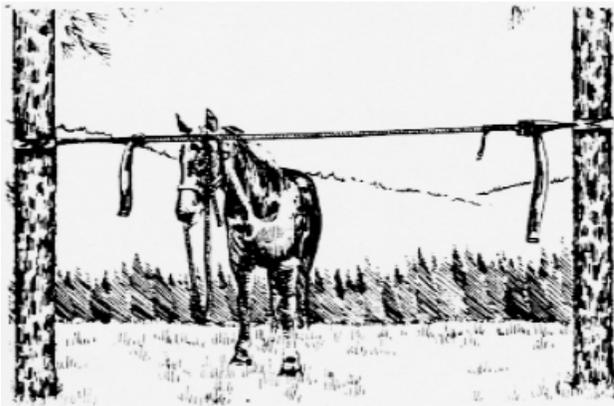
These regulations and tips can make your trip very enjoyable and also help to minimize conflicts with other wilderness users. You and your stock will enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere in Northern California. Remember that the wilderness is a fragile environment and we need your help to protect and maintain it for future equestrians to enjoy.

Some things to remember:

1. When you meet hikers on the trail, ask politely if they will move off the trail on the downhill side and stand still until you get your animal string by. Offer a courteous greeting and conversation, this can reduce the chance of your horse being scared by the hiker and will let your horse relax. Conditions in the wilderness are constantly changing and the lead person is responsible to make the decisions for safe passage of people and animals.
2. If you pack it in, please pack it ALL back out. Horse groups are capable of packing many supplies with them on their outings. Be prepared to carry your trash along with you. Don't bury it or try and hide it. Wild animals will dig it up and scatter it everywhere.
3. Don't burn everything in your campfire. Many items don't burn and plastics pollute. Clean out the trash from your fire pit and pack it out.

4. Tie your stock to individual trees only long enough to set up a picket line. Tied up for long times, the animal will paw out a trough around the base of the tree, compact the soil and injure the root system. If you must tie your animal for the night, use a picket line. Move it every day if you are in a long term camp. Nylon tree saver straps are great for picket lines. Or use hobbles, or use a cork screw auger, but remember to move it often. An example of a picket line is on the back.
5. Keep stock out of the camp area and spread manure piles to speed decomposition and minimize flies.
6. Tie stock at least 200 feet away from any water source. To water your stock, they should be led to a rocky spot where little bank damage will occur. Soft or marshy lake edges should be avoided. Using a collapsible bucket is very helpful in this situation.
7. Maps and information about trails and overnight areas are available for planning a safe horseback trip. If you are not sure, ask for information. Report any unsanitary conditions, trail problems, or wilderness damage. Information about wilderness conditions is always welcome at any ranger station.

Your help with these items will mean a beautiful wilderness for the future. If we all do our best, we will be assured of having a great time on our next visit to this wonderful and inspiring area.



Example of a picket line. Be sure to use nylon straps to minimize damage to trees

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