

PLAN AHEAD

1. Check with the appropriate agency for rules and regulations. Get the name and place of person contacted.
2. Fires allowed?
3. Trail conditions? Possible trail closures?
4. Weed seed-free feed required? If so, start feeding two days before so as not to transport seeds in manure.
5. Grazing conditions?
6. Bear resistant boxes required?
7. Restriction on group size? Dogs allowed?

Plan the trip with care: Don't take more than you need, check maps, trail conditions and weather.

KNOW ABILITIES & LIMITATIONS OF RIDERS & STOCK

1. Is stock in good physical condition and ready for the level of difficulty of the trip?
2. Is the stock properly shod?
3. Is stock familiar with restraints?
4. Portable electric fence?
5. Hobbles? Pickets?

MAKE A CHECK LIST

- q** Knife and matches (carry on person).
- q** First-aid kits (human and horse).
- q** Maps and compass, know how to use them.
- q** Fire Tools:
 - a. Axe - saw
 - b. Shovel
 - c. Collapsible buckets - plastic or canvas
- q** Lightweight camping gear (sleeping bag, food, tent).
- q** Weed seed-free hay and grain.
- q** Check all riding gear for need of repair.
 - a. Take time to look over all gear closely.
 - b. Check saddle pads to be sure they are not matted.

TRAILHEAD

1. Check with trailhead host if there is one.
2. Park in designated areas.
3. Restrict horses to horse area, use high lines with tree saver straps.
4. Water horses at designated areas or use buckets.
5. Be courteous, keep noise level down (radios etc.).
6. No loose stock - control pets: leave dogs at home or on leash.
7. Keep a clean trailhead, Pick up after stock periodically. Put manure back into trailer.
8. Spray your horse with repellent.
9. Register each horse and rider at trailhead box, this is helpful to the Land Manager, documented amount of horse traffic helps keep trails open.

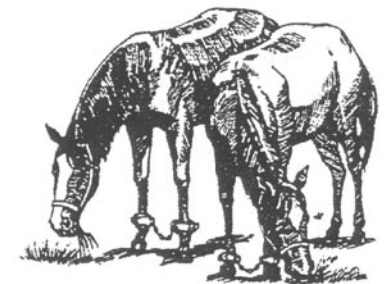
STAY ON THE TRAIL

1. Don't cut switch backs.
2. Try to keep stock in single file on the trail.
3. Loose stock can stray off trail and cause trail damage.
4. Repair and clear trail if needed to avoid detours.
5. Don't run horses, for safety reasons.
6. When meeting other stock users, whoever can get off the trail easiest should do so.
 - a. When you meet hikers be courteous and take time to talk with them.
 - b. from a horses point of view: they are less intimidating - not up high looking bigger. If your horse spooks hope fully then it will spook uphill not down. A horse is more likely to fall off the trail on the downhill/soft side than a human. Humans can step off the side a bit to give the horse a more open lane to pass.
7. When stopping for lunch, tie horses well off the trail and hobble if necessary.
8. Watch wildlife from a distance:
 - a. Keep quiet

CAMPSITE

CHOOSE CAMPSITE WITH CARE

1. Away from trails and shorelines (out of sight of trails and at least 200 feet from lake or stream).
2. Bury human waste at least 6-8 inches deep. (try to use the same hole for everyone to keep from digging so many holes).
3. Build only a small fire or use a propane stove.
4. Don't cut green trees, use only dead or downed trees.
5. Set up high line for horses away from the trail.
 6. Use hobbles, pickets or electric fence to graze.
 - a. Don't overgraze area (move around)
7. Avoid damage to stream banks or lake shores when watering.
 - a. Try to water on gravel area or with a bucket
8. Use weed seed-free feed for horses (grain, cubes or pellets)
 - a. Do not feed on the ground
 - b. Use feed bags
9. Keep camp neat and clean.
 - a. Spread manure
10. When fishing, pack out fish entrails, don't throw in lake or stream. If camping more than a few days bury deep in trees.
11. Practice safe bear camping:
 - Nuisance bears are made not born.
 - a. Hang food, horse feed and garbage high in a tree.
 - b. Use unscented biodegradable soap (scented deodorant and colognes attract bugs, bears and other animals.
 - c. Hunting camps: hang game animals and meat 200 yds from camp, the lowest part of the carcass should be 10 ft from ground and 4 ft from the tree.



BREAKING CAMP

1. Clean up camp:
 - a. Spread manure.
 - b. Make sure fire is out (use water and stir).
 - c. In an established campsite, use existing fire ring. In a new campsite, remove evidence of fire ring, put sod over hole.
 - d. Pick up all nonburnable trash and take home.
 - e. Put back all unused firewood.
 - f. Drag rider should take one last look around to make sure everything has been picked up.
 - g. Try to leave camp in better shape than you found it.

BACK AT THE TRAILHEAD

1. Report to Forest Service:
 - a. Trail conditions
 - b. If you made any trail repairs
 - c. Any endangered species
2. Sign out.
3. Clean up trailhead, leave it cleaner than you found it.
 - a. Manure
 - b. Hay
 - c. Garbage



TRAIL COURTESY

- Be saddled and ready to ride at the appointed time.
- Dogs are not appropriate on club rides. Not all horses are accustomed to dogs.
- Maintain a horse-length between you and the next horse. Don't tailgate!
- Tie a red ribbon on your horse's tail if it has a tendency to kick.
- Tie a green ribbon on your horse's tail if it is green broke.
- Stay with the group and the trail plan. If you intend to leave the group, inform the ride leader.
- Don't trot or run past others. If you must pass, tell the person which side you are passing on and do it slowly and carefully. If someone is passing you, face your horses head toward the trail.
- When allowing horses to drink, wait until all are finished before proceeding.
- If someone has trouble, be considerate. If you have trouble, call ahead for others to wait. Impatient horses can be dangerous if left behind.
- Be friendly and courteous to other trail users and support multiple use of trails.
- Safety helmets are recommended, especially for children.
- Make sure all equipment (saddle, bridle, breast collar, crupper, etc.) is in good repair and fits properly.
- Carry the following:
 - Hoof pick and pocket knife
 - First aid kit and insect repellent (for horse and rider)
 - Halter and lead rope
 - Compass and whistle
 - Water
- Be prepared for all weather conditions: warm coat, slicker, hat, gloves, etc.

Today's education can help to maintain the back country for future generations.

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF BC

www.bchorsemen.org

LEAVE No TRACE



MINIMUM
IMPACT
GUIDE

