



December 15, 2008

Jonathan Stephens
National Program Manager for Trails
and Congressionally Designated Areas
Recreation and Heritage Resources staff
USDA Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Mailstop 1125
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Forest Service Trails Classification System

Dear Mr. Stephens:

The American Horse Council (AHC) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on the Forest Service Trails Classification System.

American Horse Council

The AHC is a Washington-based association that represents the horse industry before Congress and the federal regulatory agencies. The AHC includes individual members and over 160 equine organizations representing all horse breeds and virtually every facet of the horse industry, including recreational riders, therapeutic riding organizations and programs, state horse councils, horse owners, breeders, veterinarians, race tracks, horse shows, rodeos, farriers, breed registries, horsemen's associations, and commercial suppliers.

General Comments

The AHC supports the comments made by the Backcountry Horsemen of America concerning the Forest Service Trails Classification System. We believe their comments reflect the position of the equestrian community.

The AHC encourages the Forest Service to manage the federal lands under its jurisdiction in a manner that preserves and facilitates the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on lands on which "there is a historical tradition" of use.

The AHC appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

James J. Hickey, Jr.
President

