

Reporting Equestrian Trail Closures or Access Issues on Federal Land

The reduction of trails, trail heads and the closure of public lands to horses and pack animals is a growing problem. The American Horse Council and its member organizations are working to address this issue on federal lands with introduction of legislation that will protect the rights of historic and traditional recreational users of public land such as equestrians.

No effort to pass such legislation will be successful unless evidence can be supplied that clearly demonstrates the scope of the problem and the need for action on the part of Congress.

The AHC is asking for documented examples of trails or entire areas that have been closed to equestrians on federal land (National Forest Service, National Parks Service, and Bureau of Land Management), due to administrative decisions, lack of maintenance or any reason.

Examples need to include the following information.

Name and Address of individual reporting closure: in order to indentify that person or group as constituents of certain members of Congress if needed.

Jurisdiction: National Park, National Forest, Bureau of Land Management.

Location: Specific national park, forest, ranger district, etc and trail or trail system if applicable.

Stated reason for closure: environmental impact, user conflict, maintenance issue, re classification.

Process associated with closure: Was public comment solicited or accepted, was environmental impact study preformed etc.

History of equestrian use: if available

Any additional relevant details: such as volunteer work performed by equestrian group on trail, user conflict etc.