

Rules for Visitors to Utah's Public Lands

Living in the West, horsemen are very fortunate to have access to so much public land. Whether the land is administered by the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Utah State Parks & Recreation, the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, the Bureau of Land Management or the Bureau of Reclamation, today's Utah horsemen can pretty much ride where they want relatively unencumbered by prohibitive regulations.



Part of the Back Country Horsemen's purpose is to perpetuate our heritage of common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry. One of the strategies to accomplish this goal is to avoid creating situations where regulations become necessary. As a visitor to Utah's public lands, you are asked to follow certain rules designed to protect the land, the natural environment, to ensure the health and safety of others and to promote pleasant and rewarding outdoor recreation experiences for all visitors.

Campfires

- Obey restrictions on fires. Open fires may be limited or prohibited at certain times.
- Within campgrounds and other established sites, build fires only in fire rings, stoves, grills, or fireplaces provided for this purpose.
- Be sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving. You are responsible for keeping fires under control!

Property

- Do not carve, chop, cut or damage any live trees. Do not drive nails or stick an axe into live trees.
- Leave natural areas the way you found them.
- Enter buildings, structures or enclosed areas only when they are expressly open to the public.
- Native American, old cabins, and other structures, along with objects and artifacts associated with them, have historic or archeological value. Do not damage or remove any such historic or archeological resource.

Sanitation

- Throw all garbage and litter into containers provided for this purpose or take it with you. "Pack it in – pack it out". Show our concern for the public lands by cleaning up after others.
- Wash food and personal items away from drinking water supplies. Use water faucets only for drawing water.
- Prevent pollution – keep garbage, litter, and foreign substances out of lakes, streams and other water.
- Use toilets properly. Do not throw garbage, litter, fish cleanings, or other foreign substances into toilets and plumbing fixtures.

Operation of Vehicles

- Obey all traffic signs. State traffic laws apply to all public lands (unless otherwise posted).
- When operating vehicles of any kind, do not damage the land or vegetation or disturb wildlife. Avoid driving on unpaved roads or trails when they are wet or muddy.

Pets

- Pets must be restrained or on a leash while in developed recreation sites.

Fireworks and Firearms

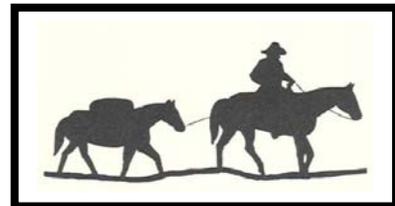
- Fireworks and explosives are prohibited on public lands.
- Firing a gun is not allowed: a) in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area; b) across or on a road or body of water; and c) in any circumstance whereby a person may be injured or property damaged.

Horses

- Saddle or pack animals are allowed within recreation sites only where authorized by posted instructions.
- Stay on trails. Cutting across switchbacks damages the trails, vegetation and our image.
- Scatter all manure. Scattered manure is fertilizer but manure piles are offensive to non-horsemen. Don't scrape fertilizer out of your trailer and pick up manure which falls out while unloading and loading.
- Feed stock only weed-free hay (and straw) or commercially prepared pellets while on public lands. Besides avoiding fines, we avoid introducing noxious weeds into the very backcountry we're trying to preserve.
- Do not tie horses to trees. Nothing gives horsemen poorer marks than trees killed by horses pawing the dirt to expose the roots or chewing the bark. Use a high picket line – your horses (and the public) will thank you for it.
- Be courteous on the trail. Although regulations are posted as to who has the right-of-way on the trail, nothing works like courtesy.

Most public lands have unique and interesting attractions and are managed for visitors to enjoy. If all visitors use common sense and courtesy, these attractions will be there for many future generations to enjoy.

Lead the way – show others how much horsemen value Utah's public lands!



Bridgerland Back Country Horsemen
Steve Guymon, Education Chair