

Equestrian Recreation

Plumas National Forest



Places to Horse Around

Most trails on the Plumas National Forest allow horses; however, livestock are not allowed in the majority of developed campgrounds.



Dispersed camping is allowed outside of developed recreation areas. When camping in the forest, please establish a campsite away from nearby trails and sources of water. Horses should be kept at least 200 feet from lakes, streams and camping areas. Please remove, scatter or bury any manure left in the camp site area and at the trail head.

A good practice is to use a high-line (also called a picket or hitch line). When stretched between two trees, a high-line keeps horses from tramping the soil near the trees and injuring the root systems. Nylon tree-saver straps can also make it easier to set up a high line and will protect the trees.

Before you go

Maps and information about trails are helpful in planning a good trip. These may be obtained at the local Forest Service office and online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/plumas/maps-pubs/>. Knowing the distance and conditions of the trail helps you to prepare stock for the trips altitude and distance.



Weed-seed-free-feed

Since grazing may not always be available, make sure to bring enough feed for your horses. To help stop the spread of noxious weeds, use a certified weed-seed-free-feed because once noxious weeds are established in an area, they can quickly ruin the grazing stock.

On the Trail

As the number of users on the trails increase, you will likely meet other hikers and mountain bikers that are not familiar with stock.

Hikers and mountain bikers should yield the right of way, but they may not be aware of it. Ask them to 'please stand quietly on the downhill side, while you pass. When faster hikers or riders want to pass, yield the trail by moving aside as soon as it is safe and allowing them to go ahead. This will keep the horses from creating a parallel trail and limits the destruction of vegetation and soil erosion. Please remember that everything that is brought in with you should leave with you. Pack out trash



Trail Tips

Not all the trails on the Plumas national Forest are ideal for horseback riding. Riders are not recommended on the Silver-Round Lake connector Trail on the Beckwourth Ranger District. Both the Grass Lake and Bear Lakes Loop trails have some stepdowns that riders should be aware of. The Long Lake Trail, along the back side of Mt. Elwell, goes through a shale area that might be challenging for horses.



United States
Department of
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Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Plumas National Forest
<http://fs.usda.gov/plumas>

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Trailheads with Horse Corrals

Feather River Ranger District

- **Trailhead at Belden Town** (off Highway 70) has a corral and accesses the Pacific Crest Trail.
- **The Trailhead at Snake Lake Campground** is located in the Meadow Valley area off of Bucks Lake Road

Mt. Hough Ranger District

- **Trailhead at Belden Town** (off Highway 70) has a corral and accesses the Pacific Crest Trail.
- **The Trailhead at Snake Lake Campground** is located in the Meadow Valley area off of Bucks Lake Road



Horse Campgrounds are multi-use campgrounds that are set up with horse facilities.

Beckwourth Ranger District

- **Meadow View Campground** is located in the Meadow Valley area off of Bucks Lake Road and boasts shady lakeside campsites for tents, RVs, OHVs and horses. The multi-use campsite has 17 sites; 8 of them with corrals for equestrian campers. There are no hookups. Horses are allowed overnight in equestrian campsites only. Activities include fishing, hiking, horseback riding on OHV trails and non-motorized boating. Snake Lake is not recommended for swimming. There is no garbage service at Snake Lake Campground and no potable water; bring your own drinking water.

Feather River Ranger District



An Accessible Horse Campground is located at **Little Grass Valley Reservoir** on the Feather River Ranger District. There are 10 campsites available for tent camping and trailers. It has potable water, picnic tables, vault toilets, no corrals and is accessible to persons with disabilities. Reservations are available at www.recreation.gov (877-444-6777)



Mt. Hough Ranger District

- **Snake Lake Campground** is located in the Meadow Valley area off of Bucks Lake road and boasts shady lakeside campsites for tents, RVs, OHVs and horses. The multi-use campsite has 17 sites; 8 of them with corrals for equestrian campers. There are no hookups. Horses are allowed overnight in equestrian campsites only.

Activities include fishing, hiking, horseback riding on OHV trails and non-motorized boating. Snake Lake is not recommended for swimming.

There is no garbage service at Snake Lake Campground and no potable water; bring your own drinking water.

• **Trailhead at Belden Town** (off Highway 70) has a corral and accesses the Pacific Crest Trail.



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