

“Leave No Trace” for Equestrians

Plan Ahead & Prepare

- Learn about the area you plan to visit. Scout the area before an extended trip.
- Choose appropriate grazing restraints to minimize impacts.
- Take your most experienced, calmest animals. Practice backcountry activities at home with your animals.
- Take responsibility for knowing your route and staying on it.

Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Water your horses away from the source by carrying water in a bucket. If watering in a stream or lake, choose a spot with a low rocky bank or established ford. Avoid soft ground.
- Stay in the center of the trail, single file, and avoid trailside vegetation areas.
- Use trails designed for heavy use. Follow regulations; avoid non-horse trails.
- Avoid steep slopes and soft ground.
- Rather than staying multiple nights at a destination campsite, consider camping in different places along your route to disperse your impact.
- Place your kitchen area in the most durable spot since it gets the most traffic.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Consider using a liquid fuel stove rather than a campfire for cooking.

- Keep social fires small and consider having them only occasionally rather than every day.
- Use only down and dead wood. Gather wood away from camp.
- Burn fires to ash.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack out *all* trash and garbage. Do not burn or bury trash.
- Kick apart manure piles each day at camp and after rest breaks. In an established campsite, carry manure away from camp.

Leave What You Find

- Use certified weed-free hay and processed feed. *Start this feed three or more days before you arrive so your animals' digestive systems are clear.*
- Do not break off limbs, cut trees, build structures or tie horses to trees.

Respect Wildlife

- Control your dogs.
- Securely store feed and provisions to prevent scavenging by hungry wildlife.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Use pack animals to remove trash left by others.
- If you encounter hikers or other recreationists not familiar with horse traffic, greet them. Ask hikers to move off the downhill side of the trail.

Luders Creek

Campground

Horse* Rules

*** Mules, donkeys,
llamas & other pack
animals too....**



**Saguache Field Office/
Ranger District**

Rio Grande National Forest

Three stock-friendly campsites have been added to the Rio Grande National Forest's Luders Creek Campground. Each campsite includes a corral and adequate parking for trailers. The campground is a good staging area for the nearby Colorado Trail and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Other sites in the campground are designed for users without horses or other stock. Luders Creek offers toilet facilities, but no trash pickup or drinking water for humans.

Sites can't be reserved and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please take a minute to read the rules for horse-camping in this brochure and to check the bulletin board for additional information.



For more information, contact:

Saguache Field Office/
Ranger District
46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81149
(719) 655-2547

8-4:30, Monday-Friday
Closed weekends & holidays

Horse-camping Rules

Equestrians are asked to abide by these rules, which apply to horses, mules, donkeys, llamas and other pack animals:

- 🐾 Use only certified weed-free hay and processed feed.
- 🐾 No grazing is allowed in or around the campground.
- 🐾 Stay on hard surfaces at all times in the campground and on trails.
- 🐾 No picketing, hobbling or tying livestock to natural features, such as trees, bushes or rocks. Use hitching rails, horse trailers or outside fences of corrals for temporary tethering—and corrals for keeping stock overnight.
- 🐾 A watering site is available in Luders Creek. Please follow signs, lead stock to water and stay in the hard-surfaced area. Other than at the watering site, stock is not allowed within ¼ mile of the creek. *(Note: There is no drinking water for humans at the campground, so be sure to bring plenty.)*
- 🐾 Clean up after your stock and take manure with you to dispose of properly. ***Pack it in, pack it out.***
- 🐾 No riding in the campground. Saddle your horses and lead them (and any pack stock) to the road or trails. All stock must be under your control at all times.
- 🐾 Have respect for other campers who don't have horses—and remember that they may not know how to act around stock.

*Cover photo: Boo, a 10-year-old Quarter Horse, from the Saguache Field Office/Ranger District's remuda.
Photo by Olivia Torrez.*