

TIPS TO MINIMIZE HORSE-USE IMPACT ON THE BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

1. Take the minimum number of stock needed. Fewer animals create less impact on the land. One pack animal should suffice for two persons.
2. Staying on the trail and not shortcutting switchbacks will reduce erosion problems and unwanted paralleling of trails.
3. Select camping areas off main trails to prevent overuse and reduce conflicts between stock and people.
4. Camping spots should be a minimum of 200' from water sources to help prevent contamination.
5. In order to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on National Forest System lands, all feed must be certified weed free.
6. Do not tie horses to live trees for extended periods of time. Use a pole or rope hitch and select a site where stock cannot trample tree roots and damage plants. Rocky ground is best. If animals are inclined to paw while tied, use hobbles to allow movement but prevent damage to soil and plants.
7. Leave your campsite in better condition than you found it.