

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Next, when traveling in the Back Country (and remember our definition of the back country) what do you think will minimize the evidence of our passing?

- ▲ Established trail – stay on
- ▲ Over a rocky slope - concentrate
- ▲ In a meadow w/o trail – disburse so as not to make a trail or trample vegetation.
Can even untie pack string and have all riders lead a pack animal.

WHY?? Minimize the evidence of our passing!

WHY?? Don't you, too, want to have that feeling of being the first person or at least one of a very few to be there???

Stay on trails – WHY???

What about rest breaks??

Should we stop on the trail? Why not?

- ▲ Choose a site well off the trail so others don't have to go around you.
- ▲ Pull off onto rock or sand
- ▲ Make sure pull off is big enough for group
- ▲ Can we tie to trees?? YES! If you need to, can tie to a tree 8" for short breaks.
 - Remember to watch the stock for pawing, etc.
 - With well mannered horse. I like to tie high and short, don't even allow an opportunity for trying to graze,
 - Kick apart manure piles before leaving, the hurries up decomp
 - Fill in pawed areas
- ▲ WHY?? Minimize the evidence of our passing!

Let's talk about choosing campsites. Good sites are found, not made.

Why should you camp at least 200 feet (70 adult steps) from the water?

- ▲ Protect the riparian areas
- ▲ Not interfere with wildlife

Example 1: You come to a campsite that looks like it has had a LOT of use. There is already an established, worn area, MANY fire rings, etc. BUT it is not 200 feet from water. Should you use this or go bit down the trail to find your own 'better' site??

- ▲ Decreases the addition of unnecessary campsites
- ▲ Confine impact to areas that already show use
- ▲ What about the other fire rings? Which one should you use? The SAFEST one.
- ▲ Dismantle all others.

Example 2: In very pristine area-grassy meadow, lake, forested area, rocky hillside; how do you select a site?

- ▲ 'hard' areas for tents, but, grass ok for tent for one night, move tent during day; grass will recover

- ▲ no trenching
- ▲ rake back duff for highline and kitchen

Kitchen area – highest use

- ▲ What can you do to minimize evidence?
- ▲ Rake back duff
- ▲ Use “scrim” –
 - When I first heard about this, I thought this was EXTREME. As an engineer I wanted to know why I should go to this effort?? But it works - example of unbroken needles with 10 people over two days!
 - Example of use with well mannered horse and highline
 - Add a list of sources where this may be found.
- ▲ When should everyone follow the same path to the kitchen and stock?
- ▲ When shouldn't they???

Where do you put your stock?

- If given the choice between a soft forest duff area and a rocky, hard area, which should you choose?
 - Highlines –
 - Example of our experiment, rocks got misplaced, difficult to naturalize.
 - Example of using collapsible rake (Very Useful), move back duff, clean up and disperse manure, re-spread duff.
 - Portable corrals – be sure to move frequently
 - Loose grazing with hobbles – actually the best to minimize impact
 - Be sure to kick apart manure clumps to encourage deterioration
 - Pickets – make sure horse is happy to prevent pawing
 - Again, you PRACTICE these containment methods at home first.

What should you do when breaking camp?

- ▲ Naturalize site – what does this mean? Give examples, use rake.
- ▲ Leave it clean
- ▲ Dismantle manmade structures

Again

WHY?? Don't you want to have that feeling of being the FIRST person to ever be THERE??

Minimize the evidence of our passing!

Co-instructors do you have anything to add?

What questions do you have??