CHECKLISTS
BEFORE LEAVING HOME:

— Have I checked with officials about trail and weather conditions??
— Am I familiar with regulations for the area I’ll be visiting?? (Group size limits, hunting/fishing, etc.)
— Have I acquired a good area map??
— Have I refreshed my map reading and compass skills??
— Do I have enough pelleted stock feed??
— Have I selected the best lightweight equipment and checked it for repairs??
— Do I have myself and stock in good physical condition for rigorous backcountry travel??
— Have I trimmed my equipment down to the basics ...plus emergency provisions??
— Am I as well prepared for this adventure as I can be??

FOR THE CAMPSITE:

— Have I located my tent 200 ft. from water??
— Is my sanitary set-up well away from camp and water sources??
— Are my horses and mules on a highline away from camp in an area least likely to be damaged by restless hooves??
— Have I adapted my campsite to this natural setting??

BEFORE LEAVING CAMP:

— Have I packed up my garbage??
— Have I dispersed my fire ring and cleaned the camp area??
— When I’m in the saddle and ready to leave—can I tell that I was here???
Aahl, the joy of the back-country..... that wonderful unpeopled place to escape the humdrum of home and job routines. Getting "out there" with our horses and mules makes the backcountry experience even more rewarding. Unfortunately, poor stock handling and back-country manners have led to many restrictions on our public lands and fostered resentment toward stock-users by other users. COMMON SENSE AND COURTESY are good rules for everyday living, and NOW are especially important for back-country travel. How well we meet the challenge of change will determine how many more rules and regulations there will be in years to come. COMMON SENSE AND COURTESY are the key to continued back-country privileges.

CLEANING UP OUR ACT

That old Pack-It-In/Pack-It-Out policy still works wonders for keeping the back-country litter-free. Packing out your garbage plus that left by others makes for a clear conscience plus it's only COMMON SENSE AND COURTESY!!

TAKE ONLY AMOUNT OF DUFFLE NEEDED

Did you bring the kitchen sink?? Before you leave home, ask yourself: "IS THAT ITEM REALLY NECESSARY??" But don't forget the things you really need. Remember your axe, shovel and bucket for sanitation, clean up and fire-prevention, and possibly a handsaw for trail clearing. Rain gear and a warm coat are a MUST even when the sun is shining! AND make room for a rope to be used as a high line.

Modern day light-weight equipment and food is a boon to the back-country traveller. Synthetic tents are half the weight of canvas and dehydrated foods are lighter and take less space than canned. Contents of glass jars and bottles can be transferred into reusable plastic containers. Eliminating weight and bulk will require fewer stock resulting in less worry for you and less impact on the land.

AT THE CAMP!

After finding the ideal campsite, the fun begins!! Situating your camp, stock and toilet 200 feet from any streams, lakes or rivers will guard against contaminating your water supply. That shovel you packed will be a great aid in burying human waste, dish and bath water, and table scraps.

Where you tie your stock is as important as how you do it. Quite honestly, nothing gives stock users more bad marks than tying their horses or mules to trees. The girding, rubbing and pawing scars are visible for years. Locating your stock in a grove of trees on dry, solid ground with sparse vegetation will reduce those impacts. Picketing, hobbling or a ROPE HIGHLINE are good solutions for keeping stock confined and content.

Your land-caring techniques won't go unnoticed or unappreciated!! Remember: COMMON SENSE AND COURTESY!!