









Tips for Minimizing Impacts in Horse Camps

-  When setting up picket lines use old cinches, a piece of carpet, or a thick towel, to prevent the picket rope from girdling the support trees.
-  The use of portable panels, versus picketing, is more desirable for both the horses and the land.
-  Feed horses often to keep them busy. Otherwise they are likely to pace, paw, or chew on trees. Consider the use of hobbles if pawing becomes destructive to tree bases.
-  Use a liberal amount of fly spray to keep flies and insects from bothering the horses. Animals irritated by insects and flies will rub on trees and limbs causing damage.
-  Consider using hay cubes or pellets instead of hay. This minimizes waste and minimizes the possibility of introducing exotic weeds that are often present in hay. Consider weed free hay if you must use hay. Pick up any remaining hay at the end of the event.
-  Should picket areas be severely impacted, consider seeding these areas. Use native, weed-free seed as required by Forest Service policy. Seeding before the event allows the hoof action from horses to trample the seed into the ground. However, seeding after the event makes it possible to target the impacted areas.
-  When leaving camp and heading cross-country towards trails or roads, spread out to minimize damage. It takes just a few horses walking in single file cross-country to create a trail.
-  After the event, scattering manure will reduce high concentrations of insects and wildlife attracted to insects, such as the brown-headed cowbird. Besides, it's good etiquette to restore a site as close to the condition as you found it before your event.