



ORDER NO. 08-19

ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR

RESTRICTION OF HORSES OR OTHER SADDLE OR PACK ANIMALS TO DESIGNATED AND INTERIM TRAILS IN THE EAGLE CREEK, BIG GRAND PIERRE CREEK, LUSK CREEK AND UPPER BAY CREEK WATERHEDS ON THE SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST

Under the authority of the Act of Congress dated June 4, 1897, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551), and pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations set forth at 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart B (36 CFR 261.50(a), the following acts and omissions are prohibited on the areas, roads and trails within the proclamation boundaries of the Shawnee National Forest.

Riding or leading a horse or other saddle or pack animal off designated or interim trails or routes,* as shown on the attached interim trail maps (Figures 1 and 2) is prohibited. [36 CFR 261.58(aa)] The area of the closure has been delineated using existing roads. (See Figure 3 and list of roads below.)**

*Legal routes for riding or leading a horse or other saddle or pack animal include designated trails, interim trails, designated stock confinement areas, equestrian trailheads and roads displayed on the interim trail maps. Roads not shown on the maps are not considered legal travel routes by the Forest Service.

**The interim trail maps are revised annually. The current map is available on the Shawnee National Forest website, at Shawnee National Forest offices, and at permitted equestrian campgrounds.

THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT NATIONAL FOREST PROPERTY. THEY ARE IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN 36 CFR PART 261. THE PROHIBITIONS WILL BE IN EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF THIS ORDER UNTIL SPECIFICALLY WITHDRAWN BY TERMINATION ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member or an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty [36 CFR 261.50(e)(4)]; and,
2. Persons with a permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act or omission [36 CFR 261.50 (e)(1)].



Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both, under authority of Title 16 U.S.C. 551, Title 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2008 at Harrisburg, Illinois.

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

HURSTON A. NICHOLAS

Forest Supervisor
Shawnee National Forest

The four watershed closure area (as displayed in Figure 3) includes the area delineated by the following roads:

Trigg Tower Road (424) from State Highway 147 to Burden Falls Road (402)
Burden Falls Road (402) from the Trigg Tower Road (424) to State Highway 145
State Highway 145 from Burden Falls Road (402) to Oak Road (404)
Oak Road (404) from State Highway 145 to Upper Cochran Road (10)
Upper Cochran Road (10) from Oak Road (404) to Upper Springs Road
Upper Springs Road from Upper Cochran Road (10) to Center Springs Road
Center Springs Road from Upper Springs Road to the Lusk Creek watershed boundary
Lusk Creek watershed boundary from Center Springs Road to Bill Road
Bill Road from the Lusk Creek watershed boundary to Williams Lookout Road
Williams Lookout Road from Bill Road to Oak Road (404)
Oak Road (404) from Williams Lookout Road to State Highway 34
State Highway 34 from Oak Road (404) to South Fork Eagle Creek Road (156)
South Fork Eagle Creek Road (156) from State Highway 34 to Horton Hill Road (1454)
Horton Hill Road (1454) from South Fork Eagle Creek Road (156) to West Fork Eagle Creek Road (112)
West Fork Eagle Creek Road (112) from Horton Hill Road (1454) to Big Saline Church Road (263)
Big Saline Church Road (263) from West Fork Eagle Creek Road (112) to Sulphur Springs Road (17)
Sulphur Springs Road (17) from Big Saline Church Road (263) to Horseshoe Road (902)
Horseshoe Road (902) from Sulphur Springs Road (17) to Garden of the God's Road (17)
Garden of the God's Road (17) from Horseshoe Road (902) to Rice Hollow North Road (1664)
Rice Hollow North Road (1664) from Garden of the God's Road (17) to Captain Vineyard Hollow (7)
Captain Vineyard Hollow (7) from Rice Hollow North Road (1664) to Captain Little Road (185)
Captain Little Road (185) from Captain Vineyard Hollow (7) to Robinette Creek Road (2)
Robinette Creek Road (2) from Captain Little Road (185) to State Highway 1
State Highway 1 from Robinette Creek Road (2) to Karbers Ridge Road (9 and 13)
Karbers Ridge Road (9 and 13) from State Highway 1 to State Highway 34
State Highway 34 from Karbers Ridge Road (9 and 13) to State Highway 146
State Highway 146 from State Highway 34 to Waltersburg Road (78A)
Waltersburg Road (78A) from State Highway 146 to South Hayes Creek Road (71)
South Hayes Creek Road (71) from Waltersburg Road (78A) to Ag Pond Road (1843)
Ag Pond Road (1843) from South Hayes Creek Road (71) to State Highway 145
State Highway 145 from Ag Pond Road (1843) to Dixon Farm Road (412)
Dixon Farm Road (412) from State Highway 145 to Bull Pen Road (6)
Bull Pen Road (6) from Dixon Farm Road (412) to Flatwoods Road (151)
Flatwoods Road (151) from Bull Pen Road (6) to IT204JNC Road
IT204JNC Road from Flatwoods Road (151) to State Highway 147
State Highway 147 from IT204JNC Road to Trigg Tower Road (424)



**Field Guidance for Implementation
Of Restriction of Horses or Other Saddle or Pack Animals
To
Designated and Interim Trails**

1. **Question:** Why do we need designated trails?

Answer: Requiring equestrians to stay on designated trails allows us to reduce overall resource impacts by concentrating use on the trail system. Concentrating use on the trail system allows us to focus our maintenance efforts and funding, as well as improving public information and safety.

2. **Question:** Can we stop along the trails for brief periods?

Answer: Stopping momentarily to adjust tack or check a shoe should be done right on the trail tread when possible. When it becomes necessary to stop for longer periods of time or to let others pass, it is best to get off of the trail. Several stock confinement areas and trailheads have been established on the trail system and should be utilized when possible. The Forest will continue to update a free interim trail map showing the locations of the stock confinement areas (available at all Shawnee National Forest offices).

If a stock confinement area or trailhead is not accessible, users may leave the trail tread for short periods of time. If stopping is necessary, care should be taken to disturb the ground as little as possible. When getting off of the trail tread, go only as far off the trail as necessary. Stock should be restrained by having another rider hold them in the trail or by cross tying. Horses should not be allowed to chew or otherwise damage trees. Trips should be planned to use roads and trails designated for stock use.

3. **Question:** What if there are obstructions in the trail?

Answer: If a tree or rock falls into the trail please report it to the Trails Hotline at (618) 658-1312. If the trail is not passable, it is permissible to ride around the obstruction, but please re-enter the trail as soon as possible. Whenever it is necessary to leave the trail tread, groups should ride single file and avoid bunching up.

4. **Question:** What about muddy trail conditions?

Answer: Information on trail conditions can be found on the Trails Hotline at (618) 658-1312. Equestrians should try not to ride when trail conditions are muddy. Wet-weather trail use by horses causes a greater need for trail maintenance. If a section of the trail is muddy, please remain on the trail, as the ground nearby is likely to be wet and riding there will only lead to the formation of a second muddy trail. Trail conditions can also be reported to the District office at the Hotline number.

5. **Question:** Will enforcement be reasonable and fair?

Answer: Enforcement will be fair, firm and consistent.