

Checklists before leaving home

- Have I checked with officials about trail conditions?
- Have I checked local weather conditions?
- Am I familiar with regulations for the area I'll be visiting? (group size limits, weed seed free feed, hunting/fishing, etc)
- Do I have a good area map and compass?
- Have I refreshed my map reading and compass skills?
- Do I have enough supplemental feed for my stock?
- Have I selected the best lightweight equipment and checked it for repairs?
- Do I have myself and my stock in good physical condition for rigorous back country 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 at least 200 feet from water?
- Is my toilet well away from camp and water sources?
- Are my horses on a high-line, located on a durable surface least likely to be damaged by restless hooves?
- Is my campsite adapted to this natural setting, and hidden from view of the trail?

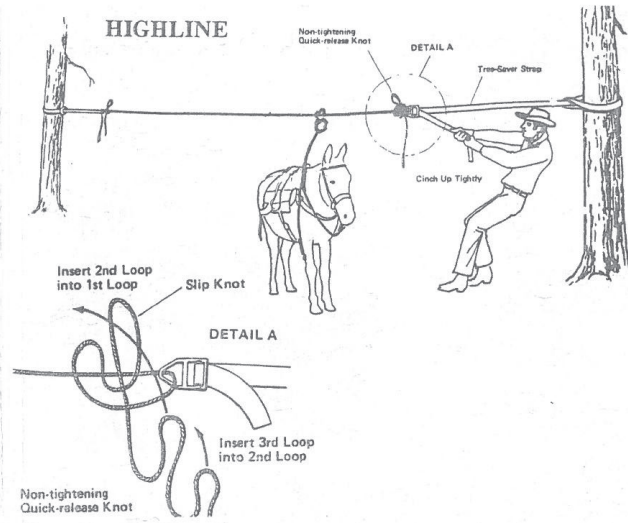
Before leaving camp

- Have I packed up my garbage?
- Have I dispersed my campfire and naturalized my camp area?
- Have I raked out manure and naturalized my high-line area?
- When I'm in the saddle and ready to leave, can I tell that I was here?

High-line

A preferred method of tying horses is with the use of a "high-line." This is a rope stretched between two trees, no less than seven feet above the ground. Lead ropes are tied along the high line. Horses are more relaxed and content when tied to a high-line than any other method. The high-line prevents the horse from getting around the tree, damaging the bark or root system.

Tie your high-line to trees no less than 8 inches in diameter. Where the high-line goes around the tree, the bark should be protected by padding, using a cinch or 2-inch wide nylon "tree saver" strap. Tree savers need to be cinched tight so there is no wiggle room against the bark.



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MOUNTAIN MANNERS

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A stock user's
guide to
common sense
and courtesy
in the back country

Aah! The joy of the back country...

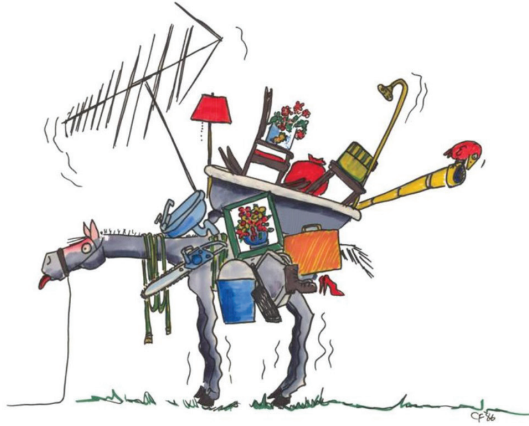
that wonderful unpeopled place to escape the humdrum of home and job routines. Getting "out there" with our horses and mules makes the backcountry experience even more rewarding. **Common sense and courtesy** are good rules for everyday living, and are especially important for back country travel. **Common sense and courtesy** are the key to continued back country privileges for stock users.

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 the amount of duffel 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 a saw 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 traveler. 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 at least 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, and dish and bath water.



Where you tie your stock is as important as how you tie them. Quite honestly nothing gives stock users more bad marks than tying their horses or mules to trees. The girdling, rubbing and pawing scars are visible for years. Locating your stock on dry, solid ground with sparse vegetation will reduce those impacts. The high-line should be no less than 7 feet above the ground, tied on trees no less than 8 inches in diameter. Don't use dead trees, they are unsafe. Tree savers need to be cinched tight so there is no wiggle room against the bark.

Your land caring techniques won't go unnoticed or unappreciated!

Remember: **Common sense and courtesy!**