SHARING THE TRAIL WITH HORSES



JUSTINE STATEN
EXEC. DIRECTOR
KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL



RIDE YOUR HORSE TO SCHOOL DAY



AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL FOUNDATION

2023 Economic Impact Study *of the* U.S. HORSE INDUSTRY



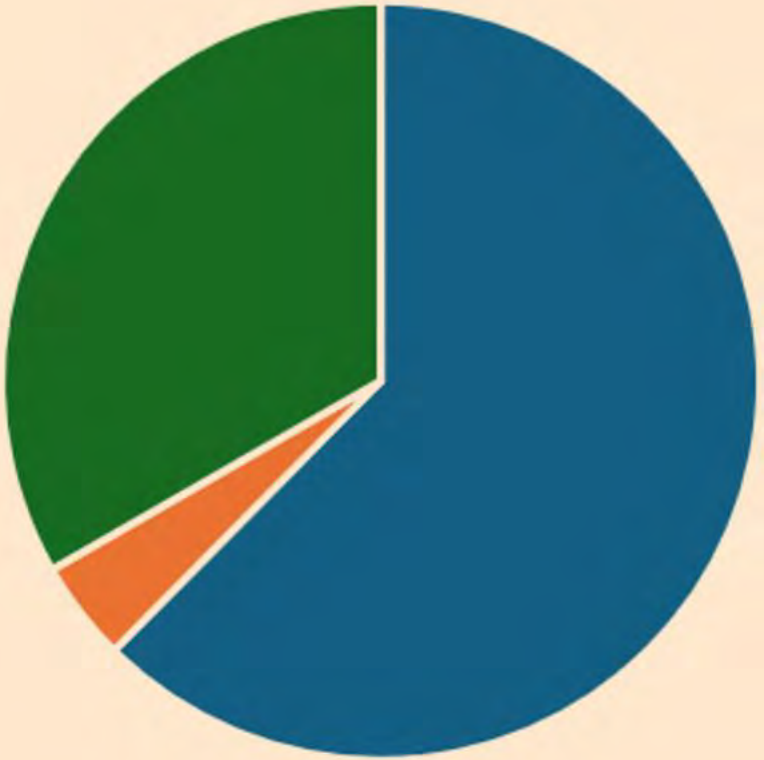
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U.S. $100





ANNUAL HORSE/RIDER VISITORS




TRAIL COURTESY
YIELD
TO



WHAT THE HORSE SEES

Horses are a prey species.

Anything moving fast and quiet is a potential predator to a horse.

When meeting horses on the trail, please stop and talk to the rider.

TRAIL SAFTEY IS EVERYONES BUSINESS



TRAIL SAFTEY



Trail Love - YouTube


Shared
Trail

STOP. SPEAK. SMILE.



Horses & Invasive Plants

THE WESTERN USA STUDY

BY DR. STITH T. GOWER

PROFESSOR OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF FOREST & WILDLIFE ECOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A study funded by the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) in the eastern USA showed that while horse hay and manure may contain a small number of seeds of invasive plants, the seeds do not successfully germinate on trails. In this new study—funded by AERC, Envirohorse, the Tanklage Foundation and the Dean Witter Foundation—a similar study was conducted in nine locations in the western USA. The western study is needed to better understand if horses introduce weeds in ecosystems that dramatically differ from ecosystems in the eastern USA.

No one likes weeds

Weeds, also referred to as invasive, alien, or noxious plants, adversely affect the ecological and economic sustainability of native and managed ecosystems. Almost 500 invasive plants are now established in natural ecosystems in the USA. Invasive plants can displace rare plants in most any ecosystem, totally transform natural ecosystems (e.g., yellow star thistle in California grasslands), dramatically increase fire frequency, thereby threatening personal property and livestock (e.g., European cheatgrass in the shrub-steppe ecosystems in Utah and Idaho), and use precious ground water in arid ecosystems (e.g., salt cedar in southwest desert ecosystems).

Invasive plants compete with crop species in agriculture, pasture, and rangelands ecosystems and decrease yields and crop value. In the U.S. alone, the total cost of invasive plants in agriculture approaches $27 billion annually. Decreased productivity of forage crops totals an additional $1 billion annually. Moreover, some invasive plants are toxic to livestock and wild ungulates (e.g., leafy spurge and cattle). Many of the invasive plants were introduced for food, fiber, soil stabilization, or ornamental purposes.

However, the spread of invasive plants has dramatically increased in recent decades because of greater local to global transportation of people and commodities and disturbances (fire, road construction, etc.). Therefore, there is an urgent need to identify how invasive plants are introduced into ecosystems and thwart their spread.

Horses have been accused of spreading invasive plants through hay and manure. However, few studies have attempted to rigorously quantify whether these accusations are true. Campbell and Gibson (2001) reported 23 invasive plant species germinated and grew from horse manure samples in a greenhouse study, but only one invasive plant species became established in the trail plots in Illinois. Gower (2008) also noted that while non-native plants germinated and grew from hay and manure samples placed in the ideal conditions of pots, no non-native plants established on the horse trails at five sites in the eastern USA.




THE SCOOP ON
THE POOP

TRAIL UNITY

KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS









HABITAT
CONSERVATION AREA

NO TRESPASSING
AT THIS LOCATION

ACCESS PERMITTED ON DESIGNATED TRAILS ONLY
DOGS ON LEASHES ONLY



TRAIL







FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL

Back Country Horsemen of Kansas currently has five chapters operating throughout the state. See below to find a chapter near you! If you don't want to join a chapter, you can join as a state member at large.



Sunflower Chapter

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUNFLOWER CHAPTER!

Join Sunflower Chapter Facebook Group

Sunflower Chapter By-Laws



Saddle Ridge Chapter

LEARN MORE ABOUT SADDLE RIDGE CHAPTER!

Join Saddle Ridge Chapter Facebook Group

Saddle Ridge Chapter By-Laws



Tuttle Creek Chapter

LEARN MORE ABOUT TUTTLE CREEK CHAPTER!

Join Tuttle Creek Chapter Facebook Group

Tuttle Creek Chapter By-Laws



Chisholm Trail Chapter

CURRENTLY INACTIVE - Looking for a team of dedicated trail users willing to take the lead in the South-Central Kansas area!

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHISHOLM TRAIL CHAPTER!

Join BCHKS - Chisholm Trail Chapter Facebook Group



Big Hill Chapter

LEARN MORE ABOUT BIG HILL CHAPTER!!

Join Big Hill Lake Riders Facebook Group

Big Hill Chapter By-Laws



Equestrian

Kansas State Parks

LABOR INCOME
3,504,071

EMPLOYMENT
112

OUTPUT
10,558,459

Equestrian

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
LABOR	$2,076,557	$775,343	$652,172	$3,504,072
EMPLOYMENT	83	15	14	112
OUTPUT	$5,858,492	$2,552,697	$2,147,270	$10,558,460

Source: CEDBR

3.4
AVERAGE GROUP SIZE

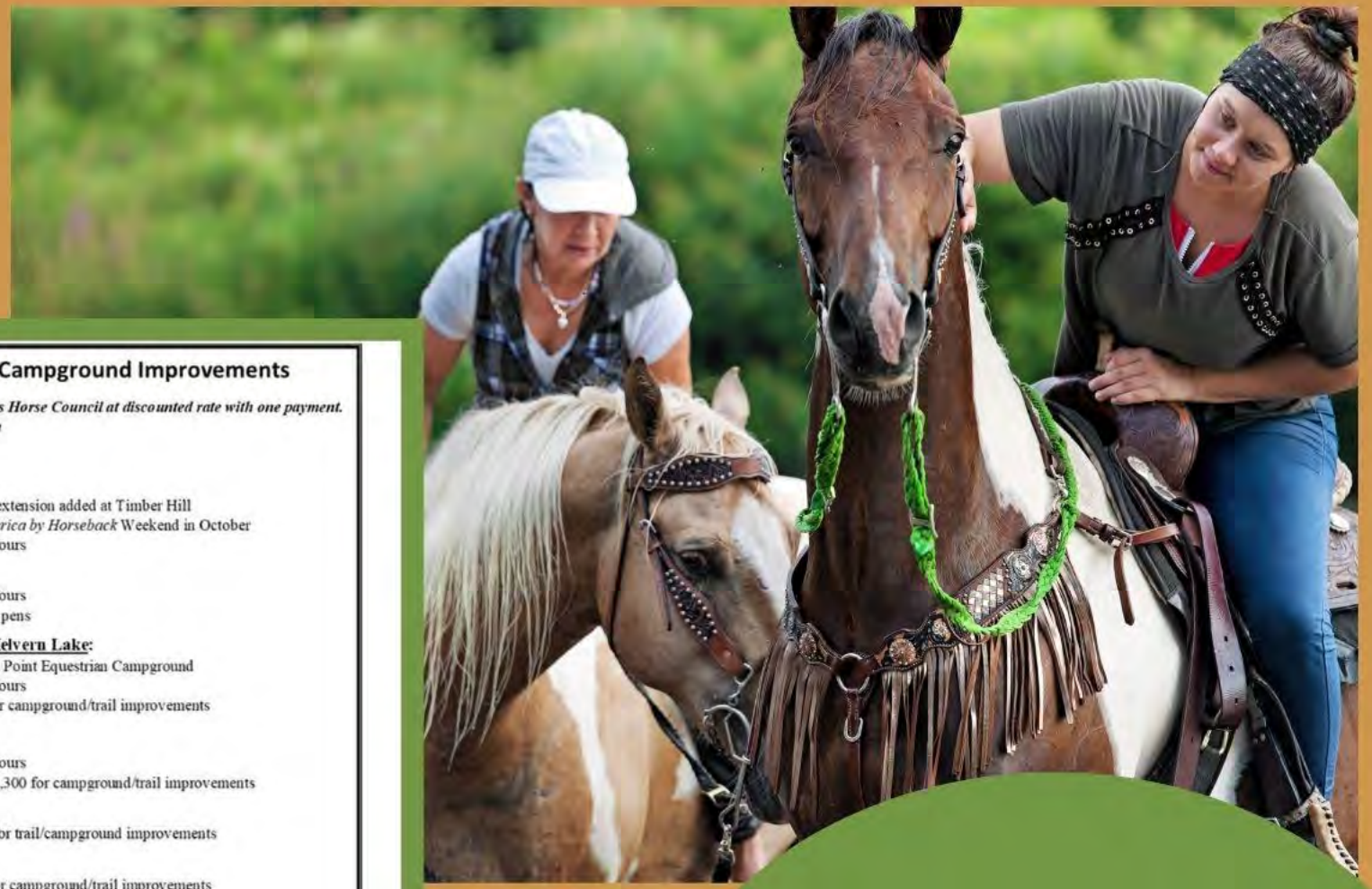
3.0
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

VISITORS

2015-2019 AVERAGE
109,493

2020 TOTAL
138,464

*Visitor Days



BCHKS 2025 Volunteer Hours Summary

Across Kansas, BCHKS volunteers are assisting in the maintenance of trails on public lands. We do make a difference! Equestrian volunteer work hours on Kansas public lands in 2025 are as follows:

(Formulas provided by BCHA and determined by The Independent Sector.)

Backcountry Horsemen of America

Volunteer Hours Report

Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025

	Totals	Rate per hour/mile/ day	Total Value
Total Basic Hours	721	$33.49	**$24,146.29**
Total Skilled Hours	2297	$50.24	**$115,401.28**
Non-Trail Hours	939	$33.49	**$31,447.11**
Travel Time	537	$33.49	**$17,984.13**
Total Hours	**4494**		**$188,978.81**
Personal and Stock Use	32077	$1.00	**$32,077.00**
Total Travel Miles	**32077**		**$32,077.00**
Power Equipment	1026	$35.00	**$35,910.00**
Heavy Equipment	327	$140.00	**$45,780.00**
Total Equipment Hours	**1353**		**$81,690.00**
Total Stock Days	240	$125.00	**$30,000.00**
			$30,000.00
Total Donations	$31,811.00		**$31,811.00**
		Total	**$364,556.81**

Keeping Kansas Trails Open for Future Generations!

2025 Trail & Campground Improvements

Join both BCHKS and Kansas Horse Council at discounted rate with one payment. www.kansashorsecouncil.com

Big Hill Lake:
~ Recipient of BCHKS Grant
~ Six-mile Purple Heart Trail extension added at Timber Hill
~ Hosted *RFD-TV Best of America by Horseback* Weekend in October
~ 925 Volunteer Trail Work Hours

Clinton Lake:
~ 266 Volunteer Trail Work Hours
~ $2,000 raised for footings in pens

Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake:
~ 18 pipe pens painted at West Point Equestrian Campground
~ 348 Volunteer Trail Work Hours
~ Benefit ride raised $7,000 for campground/trail improvements

Hillsdale State Park:
~ 455 Volunteer Trail Work Hours
~ Fundraising events raised $2,300 for campground/trail improvements

Kanopolis State Park:
~ Benefit rides raised $1,645 for trail/campground improvements

Perry State Park:
~ Benefit ride raised $5,150 for campground/trail improvements
~ New arena completed
~ 523 Volunteer Trail Work Hours

Pomona Lake:
~ 202 Volunteer Trail Work Hours
~ $200 donation from Murder Mystery Ride

Randolph Area, Tuttle Creek State Park::
~ Benefit ride raised $1,250 for campground/trail improvements
~ 228 Volunteer Trail Work Hours

Since 2014, equestrian volunteers have donated 38,500 hours toward the preservation and maintenance of trails on Kansas public lands with a value of $2.6M!!

BCHKS assisting public land managers since 2014!
bchkansas.com or bcha.org
On Facebook - Back Country Horsemen of America Kansas Chapter

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN KS CHAPTER


KANSAS TRAILS UNITE US ALL.