



## Tri-Cities Horsemen's Association

To: Amelia Marshall

August 12, 2020

Re: EBRPD Trail Use Policy

I have been asked by my organization to provide input on our position on this issue.

- **Trail access for equestrians that do not have direct ride-in access.**  
Those that must drive trailers to access trails have limited access due to parking limitations. Even those parks where there is trailer parking can be difficult to access or the dedicated trailer parking is used by passenger vehicles. For example, at Wildcat Canyon there is an old tree ring directly in front of the main entrance. It makes it very difficult to weave around with a truck and trailer and larger trailers cannot make it through. At the Briones Alhambra entrance there is a large tree limb over the road near the entrance that is so low some trailers cannot get under it. Tilden does not have any trailer parking, what was at Inspiration Point was removed several years ago. Castle Rock, the small parking lot is too small to turn around in if there are cars in there. Parking alongside the roads is not safe.
- **Loose dogs that are not under control.**  
Dogs are supposed to be leashed in parking and picnic areas and within 300 feet of those areas. After that they are allowed off leash as long as they are under voice control. In my experience that is usually not the case. I always stop at a distance and wait for the owner to leash the dog and if necessary ask them to leash them "for the dog's safety". For those that are well behaved I always thank the owner/handler. Unfortunately many dogs do not have a recall and simply ignore their owner/handler. We have all had more than our share of run ins with aggressive dogs. In areas with a large equestrian presence dogs should not be allowed off leash.
- **Lack of water on trails for horses.**  
Water is sometimes available in those parks with cattle or at parking lots. However few parks provide water on the trails for horses. It is really not feasible to carry water for the horses on a ride.
- **Dangerous encounters with speeding bikes.**  
While most bicyclists are courteous and stop or slow down for horses there are too many out there that are not. Speeding by horses and coming up behind them quickly can be disastrous not only for the horse and rider but for anyone else in close proximity. This is especially dangerous on narrow gauge trails with limited line of sight. I don't know what the answer is. There are not enough rangers or police to patrol the trails and unfortunately the bicyclists know it and there are no repercussions for their actions.

If you would like to discuss any of the above please give me a call on 510-304-1025.

Sincerely,

Marie Grisham  
Tri-Cities Horsemen's Trail Chair