As horse riders . . . you have the responsibility of protecting this beautiful landscape for you and your children!

Please heed the following advice:

- **Stay on designated ONSR blazed trails or unpaved roads which are open to motor vehicles.** Trails are marked with color coded plastic blazes. Gracious local landowners have given permission to cross private property, but on the trail only. Please do not cut across switchbacks, ride around water bars or puddles, or alter the route. These features maintain the trail while protecting the land it crosses.

- **Horses are not allowed in campgrounds or other developed areas... unless posted.** Horses are allowed on posted horse trails, at the two park staging areas (Shawnee & Broadfoot).

- **Ride responsibly.** Although you may be an accomplished horseperson, there may be green horses or riders on the trail or at staging areas. Use respect when passing or meeting another group on the trail.

- **Please use hitching posts which have been placed in areas of high horse use.** Tying your horse to a tree is not permitted. If hitching posts are not available, cross-tie your horses between two trees to avoid damaging vegetation.

- Some of the trails are steep and rocky. **Know your horse’s ability before heading out on the trail.**

- **Always avoid crossing the rivers during periods of high water.** Streams in the Ozarks are prone to flash flooding. And remember, even under normal conditions the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers have very strong currents, and water may be deeper than it appears.

- **Always undo tie-downs before entering the river, even at normal water levels.**

### Crossing Streams... you can make a difference!

A few horses may not affect the water quality, but hundreds of horses do! You are not the only riders on the trail.

**Recent research** . . . shows that during periods when there are hundreds of horses and riders on the trails, the water quality deteriorates and exceeds the E. coli standards allowed by the State of Missouri and the U. S Public Health Service for human contact with the water. Heed the following tips and you can help protect the water quality in our Missouri streams.

- **Stopping** your horse at least 100 feet from the stream and allowing it to relax and move it from being contained in the sediment to a state where it is suspended in the water column. Once in the water column there is an increased health risk to both humans that are in contact with the water.

**Crossing** streams only at designated areas, moving quickly to the other side and away from the stream's edge, will help to prevent soil erosion and disturbance to sensitive stream bank environments. Limiting the horse's time in the water minimizes water contamination.

- **Lingering or riding** on gravel bars, or near river edges stirs up the E. coli bacteria and moves it from being contained in the sediment to a state where it is suspended in the water column. Once in the water column there is an increased health risk to humans that are in contact with the water.

- **Bathing or swimming** horses in springs, spring branches and rivers is not permitted. These activities contaminate the water and may harm delicate aquatic habitats.

**Consideration** for other visitors is common sense. Do not linger in river corridors with swimmers and floaters . . . manure causes complaints.

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**In An Emergency:**

**CALL 911**

You will be dispatched to the nearest local Sheriff Department.

**Park Contact Information:**

**Ozark National Scenic Riverways**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ozark NSR Headquarters</td>
<td>573-323-4236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Spring Ranger Station</td>
<td>573-858-3297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alley Spring Ranger Station</td>
<td>573-226-3316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powder Mill Ranger Station</td>
<td>573-226-5438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Spring Ranger Station</td>
<td>573-323-8702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or Visit Us Online: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/ozar">www.nps.gov/ozar</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pack it in and pack it out. You had room to bring it so you must have room to pack it out. Please leave only tracks!

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the America people so that all may experience our heritage.