

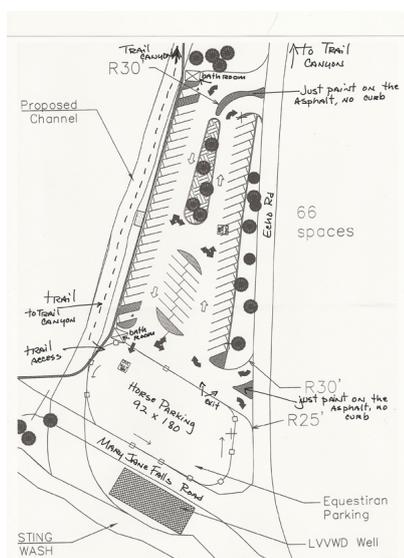
Written by AVH

Wednesday, 29 June 2011 15:39

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Several months ago, before the EHV outbreak made most trail riding trips a moot issue for the remainder of Spring, the AVH Forum was abuzz with the news that portions of the Upper Kyle Canyon parking area would be either closed or paved. This was a USFS proposal to reduce user-created trails across sensitive forest areas, help eliminate parking woes, and decrease trash problems in some areas. While an honorable idea in theory, the proposal did not take into consideration those who use these trails on horseback, and the special circumstances of trailering livestock up the mountain. The trail riding community responded quickly, contacting all the agencies involved to voice one collective concern for our recreational future. A huge portion of the 30 pages of written comments in the new 100-page Environmental Assessment were noted as being Equestrian in origin.



Contained in the new proposal released yesterday, the USFS/SMNRA addressed the issue of not enough parking and unsafe off-loading surfaces for horses and trailers. Noting these concerns as the Key Issue of 2011, the proposal outlines plans to essentially have two unpaved parking areas for horse trailers: the new Trail Canyon Wash parking area with room for four horse trailers on natural footing, plus the Old Ski Tow lot would be kept as overflow equestrian parking for up to four more horse trailers, for a total of eight. The entire plan can be viewed [HERE](#)

with maps, proposed paths, amenities, and all noted commentary. Printed copies can be picked up at the Spring Mountains NRA Office, located at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130. To receive a printed copy or an electronic copy on CD call (702) 839-5560 and

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leave your information.



A two-page cover letter received from the SMNRA Responsible Official, Stephanie Phillips, outlines the steps one can take to voice either support or objection to the Proposal. The timeframe allows 30 days past the publication of the Notice, which was Wednesday morning June 29th. The letter states that "individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to file an administrative appeal of the decision can provide specific comments on the proposed actions, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision, during this notice and comment period." Click [HERE](#) or visit the Happy Trails forum to read the letter and subsequent AVH member commentary.