

Big South Fork

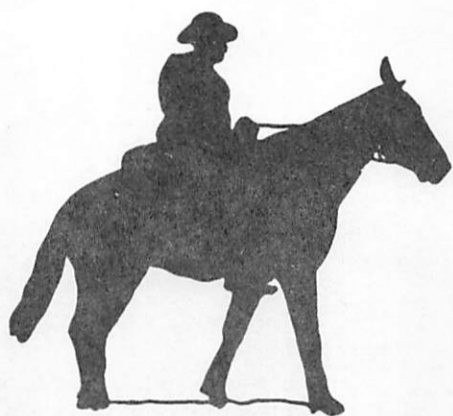
National River and Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding has become one of the most popular activities at the Big South Fork. This guide is designed to help you have a safe and enjoyable visit to the Area.

The National Park Service welcomes you to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

TRAILS



To provide access to many of the Area's most scenic features, more than 130 miles of horse trails have been constructed throughout the Big South Fork.

The completed horse trails are all signed and marked with a white blaze and yellow horse head. These trails vary in both their length and degree of difficulty. They range from short, easy day rides to long and strenuous loops that may take several days to complete.

For the safety of all trail users, horseback riders are reminded that horses are restricted from using hiking trails. Hiking trails are marked with a white blaze and either a red arrow head or blue silhouette of John Muir. The use of horses on hiking trails leads to serious damage that may result in the closure of those trails.

CAMPING

Backcountry camping is permitted free throughout the Big South Fork. While camping permits are not required, they are issued free of charge and are recommended for a safe trip. A permit provides a record of where you plan to travel, when you intend to return, and where you may be reached in an emergency.

To help preserve both the historic and natural resources of the Big South Fork, horses should be tied on pickett lines away from trees, buildings, and water sources.

Accessible by horse, Charit Creek Hostel offers a comfortable backcountry camping experience. Managed by American Youth Hostels, Charit Creek can serve as a perfect base for those wishing to ride in the Big South Fork. Facilities at the Hostel include cabins heated by wood stoves, bunk beds, stables, a cook house, water, and toilets.

IN AN EMERGENCY

Park Rangers may be reached at the visitor center by stopping or calling 569-6963 or 879-8659 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Telephones are located in the campground and at the Leatherwood Ford Bridge.

AFTER HOURS DIAL "0" and ask the Operator for the Scott County Sheriff's Dept. Ask the Sheriff to contact a National Park Ranger. Tell him what is wrong and where you are calling from.