

## AERC State Trail Advocate Reports 2022

### ARKANSAS

Brittany Sisson AERC Arkansas State Trail Advocate  
No report due to taking over position in February 2023.

### CALIFORNIA

Robert Sydnor AERC California State Trail Advocate  
No Report Submitted

### FLORIDA

Doug Shearer AERC Florida State Trail Advocate  
Not much changed in Florida in 2022 Juliann Philip is minding things in the Jennings Forest near Jacksonville, A whole Crew keeps the Goethe Forest in shape. Sandy Terp added a new ride in the Goethe so now there is 4 rides there. Cross Florida Greenway Equestrians maintains most of the trails on the Cross Florida Greenway in Marion County. The national forest has the Back Country horsemen of Southeast Ocala National forest and the Florida Forever Back Country Horsemen maintain most of the Withlacoochee State Forest. Back Country Horsemen First Coast maintain several smaller forest in northeastern Florida. We are very luck to have hundreds of miles of horse trail in The state with no immediate danger.

### IDAHO

Danielle Delemater AERC Idaho State Trail Advocate  
No Report Submitted

### ILLINOIS

Tony Troyer AERC Illinois State Trail Advocate  
This past year legislation went through making changes to our IDNR Advisory Board. The good news is- It can open up a seat potentially for an equestrian to have a voice. The downside is- They have made sure of more environmentalist of being seated and in some cases, there could be conflicts.  
In the coming year IL is also looking at a "bridle tag" fee, we are waiting to see how the legislation reads.  
More money is being slowing given to trail projects within the budgets. We are waiting for approval to see if they will follow through.

### KANSAS

Monica Chapman AERC Kansas State Trail Advocate  
The email group created in 2022 for each Kansas AERC member has continued to be used. I forward information about free webinars, trail grants, and trail works days across the state. Kansas AERC members recorded 130 hours on the AERC trails log. That is a big leap from 32 hours last year. Goal for 2023 is for even more. Many Kansas AERC members are also members of Back Country Horseman(BCHA) of Kansas or in a local chapter. Being members of both organizations creates good communication and comradery between different equestrian trail user groups. One AERC ride happened in 2022 on Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks trail systems and campgrounds the Hillsdale Fall Blast. The Hillsdale Fall Blast management group teams up with the BCHA chapter for the trails system to keep the trails in shape. Over the last three years the ride has donated over \$5000 to the BCHA chapter to help with trails maintenance. It has created a great relationship between the groups. For 2023 plans include two endurance rides in Kansas.

## KENTUCKY

Greg Jones AERC Kentucky State Trail Advocate

Trail efforts in Kentucky continued around the State, lead by KY-BCH. Work began to again establish a new BCH Chapter in Western Ky while the chapter in eastern KY folded into Ky-BCH.

Numerous small projects were carried out, especially in the Mammoth Caves and Ft. Harrods areas. Efforts to have a Chainsaw Certification course, including Category C training, were thwarted by the USFS constantly sending personnel out of the region on special assignments. The USFS initiated discussions on a proposal to reassign some trails to different user groups, which would result in both a consolidation of some equestrian trails and a significant expansion in miles of equestrian trails. This project has also been delayed by out of area temporary assignments of personnel.

## LOUISIANA

Maranda Bibb AERC Louisiana State Trail Advocate

I shared Trail Grant information with the Bogue Chitto State park. I'm not sure if they applied as I didn't receive any further word. Improvements have been occurring at the park for the benefit of equestrians: trailer site pads are being readied for overnight stays, bathrooms built and they are clearing for a new trail.

## MICHIGAN

Becke Grams AERC Michigan State Trail Advocate

Amy Scharman Burgdolf is monitoring all trails in Michigan, working with DNR and Michigan Horse Council. She started the fb page Michigan Horse Trails Directory where she keeps everyone updated on new campgrounds, horse trails, events and DNR going ons.

Our DNR, Jennifer Cook, is the one advocating for riding the Lake Michigan shore, putting on trail courses and making sure money earmarked for equestrians gets to equestrians.

We are now advocating for equestrians only in Horse campgrounds. A lot of folks have been camping in equestrian campgrounds without horses. There is a movement to document this and contact DNR for their removal.

So much going on in Michigan.

## MINNESOTA

Candy Barbo AERC Minnesota State Trail Advocate

In our area it's been a challenge to expand our trails as we are in city limits. We really have to campaign and fight to be on the trails and it's not easy sharing with all the users on our multi use trails.

Our trail alliance is in contact to the southern chapter of Back County Horseman in Minnesota to help us out with the politics, government agencies, ideas for fundraisers, and membership. Our season is very short but we're making progress slowly.

## MISSOURI

Pamela Suzanne Garrison AERC Missouri State Trail Advocate

No Report Submitted

## MISSISSIPPI

Jane Lee AERC Mississippi State Trail Advocate

Mississippi was very fortunate this past year as there were no significant hurricanes or tropical storms to hit the area. This resulted in less damage created in the forest. However, it was the year for prescribed burns in the portion of Desoto National Forest where the Hunting for Bigfoot Ride is held. Some burnings resulted in several downed trees in the area. My biggest accomplishment was attending a four-day chainsaw operator class held by the USFS. I'm now a certified "A Sawyer". I can now buck, limb, and perform basic steps with felling trees within any National Forest. With this certification, I can clear trails without the assistance of Forestry

Service personnel. The Rangers at the local office have been very supportive of the endurance community. I'm also now in charge of organizing other volunteers that utilize the horse trails. All in all, I would say that it's been a productive year.

## NEVEDA

Tami Rougeau AERC Nevada State Trail Advocate

As in previous years Nevada continues to see increases in OHV activity. In particular the off road racing style vehicles. This is causing problems not only for the equestrian community but also the cyclists, hikers and social outdoor activity population. After years of trail destruction and community outcry the state, county and local public land managers are working on plans to protect these areas from OHV abuse. The State OHV Commission is working hard on education and partnering with trail user groups to do repairs as well as establishing areas for OHV use.

I continue to hold a position on the State Recreational Trails Program Committee. This year we reviewed 31 applications with approximately 2.5Mil to award. Some of the applications were for follow on work from previous years projects while some were new projects. Of the 18 proposals that had equestrian interest 15 actually had written in plans for equestrian access. This was an improvement from the last 2 years where equestrian use was hardly mentioned. We believe that this is due in part from the local equestrian trail advocacy group – Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc – membership attending planning meetings and voicing strong opinion and offering solid solutions. It is a small start that we plan to expand over the coming year. NASTR has engaged the county parks planning commission as well as other non-profit trails organizations to partner with ongoing projects and to add trails of particular interest to equestrians to established projects. One example is the Truckee Meadows Trail Plan which will link trails from Verdi (Carcione and Canepa Trails projects) through Reno, Washoe and Carson. Most of these existing sections are high traffic areas for horses so it is imperative that we maintain the equestrian presence and participate in the development. These trails will also have connector trails to the Tahoe Rim Trail and Pacific Crest Trail.

The Lakeview Trail Head project was truly completed this year with the addition of a water station for horses. More signage is needed for parking as it is limited to only 4 horse trailers and we still see other users blocking this parking area frequently. This project area is maintained in partnership with NASTR and the State Parks.

Our one big goal this year is to re-establish a connector trail to sections of the Franktown and Tahoe Rim trails. This 1.2 mile section was used for the 102 ride, the Capital to Capital and the Bicentennial ride, all from the “good old days” of endurance riding. This section is on Nevada State Parks land. We will be working with other groups to organize and plan the project as well as state parks to ensure this trail section is sustainable. State Parks would like for this section, like many sections of the TRT and other areas in the Spooner Backcountry, to be foot traffic only.

We continue to work with our BLM land managers on issues with OHV and shooters. They have agreed to patrol areas of greatest concern more frequently, provide more education and when needed enforcement. This started last year and had a noticeable affect in the areas patrolled. We are hoping to expand this to other areas.

My final goal for this year is to reach out to more of the equestrian groups in southern Nevada. While there is a lot of open space they are seeing the same issues that the Northern part of the state encountered. I would like to include more of the issues from that part of the state and ensure that those projects have a strong equestrian voice and partner at the table for planning.

## NEW ENGLAND(CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, ME)

Rob Sawyer & Jenn Jacobsen AERC NE State Trail Advocates

Rob Sawyer and Jenn Jacobson have joined forces to serve as the Trails Representatives for the six New England states. They have started by reaching out to the CT Horse Council, RI Federation of Horses, Bay State Trail Riders, and Green Mountain Horse Association to try and establish liaison to assist with trail maintenance and advocacy. Rob has established a

relationship with the new manager of Pachaug State Forest (largest state forest in CT) and is working to help improve trail maintenance and markings within that forest.

## NEW MEXICO

Deirdre Monroe AERC New Mexico State Trail Advocate

In 2022, we had progress in a couple of important areas. I am pretty much tied to the Caja in my NM trail activities. I am encouraging others to get involved. The Caja ride has a new RM, which will help reduce the load. Still, I have been poor at reporting my hours on the trails log. Federal legislation for the Caja del Rio, a portion of the Santa Fe National Forest and with BLM-managed lands has been proposed by Santa Fe County and Santa Fe City for permanent protection.

It is unclear what form this will take, e.g., National Monument or some other designation.

I have been a strong participant in this process, working with a local group (New Mexico Wild) for language to protect equestrian access in these resolutions.

I have numerous interactions regarding the Caja.

I toured three members of our congressional staff (Senator Martin Heinrich) around the Caja del Rio in early December 2022.

Briefed Santa Fe County Commissioner on the Caja's need for Federal protection.

I have coordinated with USFS and BLM staff on unsafe shooting and possible new shooting range issues (Ongoing).

Developed and hosted a New Rider Endurance Clinic, September 2022.

The local news (Santa Fe New Mexican) carried an article about my trail work in the Caja.

(January 2023) Coordinating with BLM enforcement and USFS contact on rock climbing bolts in a cultural area. This is building confidence for our recreational community with the enforcement community and with USFS archaeologists (as I have been told by my USFS trails contact.)

(January 2023) Presentation and talk about the Caja to the NNMHA (Northern New Mexico Horsemen) which is leading to some financial support for the Caja ride.

Developing a map of the Caja water infrastructure is still in work.

Fifteen new gates have been in the Caja for a total of thirty-two (approx.) since 2004.

Federal permission for new gates took eight months for archeological reviews, a new requirement for what would previously have been done under range management.

Our grazing association has installed the gates, furthering our existing collaboration.

An article is in work for Endurance News by Marsha Hayes.

Caja ride: A Caja Endurance Ride is sanctioned for May 27, 2023. I have turned over management to a new RM, Aura Jensen-Curtis.

The Caja ride now has a 5-yr permit for use of existing trails.

Serving as NM Governor's Recreational Advisory Board member. We are not getting enough proposals for what I consider real "trails" work. Most proposals are directed at bike trail development and improvements.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Dr. Stith Gower AERC North Carolina State Trail Advocate

No Report Submitted

## NORTH DAKOTA

Angie Mikkelsen AERC North Dakota State Trail Advocate

No Report Submitted.

## OHIO

Alex Uspenski AERC Ohio State Trail Advocate

There are three major points for AERC activity in Ohio for this year:

1. A \$4000 AERC grant was approved for repair work to the Wayne National Forest area around Elkins Creek, primarily driven by OAATS (a regional riding club) and the Elkins Creek Horse Camp, which has consistently held two rides a year for the past several years.
2. A trailmaster class initially proposed by DBDR (a regional riding club) in Kentucky is close to the Ohio border. While details are still TBD, this class also has sparked interest at nearby Elkins Creek, so the class may be held in Kentucky or Ohio at this point. This may also be a combination of trail building and mechanized class.
3. I started attending OHC (Ohio Horseman's Council) meetings to foster collaboration on trail projects or training. OHC is the group recognized by the state for all things horse trail related. Access and funding related to state parks have OHC involvement. The OHC comprises county chapters, so some county groups work with county parks, state or national parks depending on location. Some chapters have no trail focus at all, so it varies widely. I met with the president Eric Estill as well as Don Wagner, who is the head of the trails committee. There are probably two areas of trail systems where we can work in a collaborative manner. The needs will be assessed this spring. I am hopeful at this point. At the beginning of our conversations they had never heard of AERC, and kept referring to it as AEC. Two conversations later they started calling us AERC, so let's take that as a win! I will continue to communicate with the organization throughout the year. Several AERC members are also OHC members, so this won't hurt either.

## OKLAHOMA

Leslie Brown AERC Oklahoma State Trail Advocate

Bell Cow was again the site for several endurance rides in 2022. The city has done some dozer work and repaired several sections. AERC members spent many hours clearing, trimming, and marking the trails. We look forward to another year of using this trail for training and competition.

Prague Lake, current home of Cougar Prowl (one of the longest continuously running rides in Oklahoma), benefited from an AERC grant that help fund horse pens for every camp site. Lots of volunteer hours went into trimming, mowing, marking these trails in 2022. Early spring thunderstorms damaged a creek crossing that we hope to get repaired in 2023. While Prague Lake is small it is a favorite amongst the area's pleasure and competitive riders.

No endurance rides were held at Lake Carl Blackwell in 2022 BUT a 2 day Indian Territory ride is on the calendar for Nov 2023! Early scouting shows some 2020 ice storm damage still present but clean up progress is being made. Much of the previous clean up work still looks great so hopes are high to open up even more this year to give riders an even larger variety of trails for upcoming events. Campsites can now be reserved online at <https://www.campspot.com/book/lake-carl-blackwell!!>

## OREGON

Jeff Tryens AERC Oregon State Trail Advocate

In 2022 I updated the Oregon AERC membership list with the help of Mike Maul and send out a handful of trail updates. As usual I receive very little feedback from members when a call to action goes out.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of trail advocacy this year was my distribution, at the request of Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET), of a call for folks to endorse a project the entails advocating for a new mountain biking area that was designed, in part, to take pressure off existing equine trails. In that instance, I received negative feedback from folks opposed to the idea – mainly from members who flat out want nothing to do with mountain bikers. My personal view is if equestrians, a shrinking proportion of trail users, can develop mutually beneficial alliances with mountain bike organizations we should.

One of the most important trail planning events in Oregon, organized by Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) involving federal and state land managers along with numerous trail advocacy groups, will occur next weekend. I will distribute the notes from that meeting to all AERC members.

Oregon is blessed with lots of equestrian trails on public land and quite a few groups that care about those trails so, as the AERC trail advocate, I play a fairly small role in the greater scheme of things which seems to be just fine with my members.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Kathy Shank AERC Pennsylvania State Trail Advocate

There are two updates at the State level:

Sunday Hunting:

Three Sundays designated for hunting remained in effect for 2022. While additional species were added to the list of what could be hunted on those days, no additional dates were added. This affects riders in that horses may not use State Game Land trails during hunting season (from the last Saturday in September thru the third Saturday in January, and before 1 p.m. from the second Saturday in April thru the last Saturday in May), except on Sundays not designated as Sunday hunting days.

There is a Memorandum Co-Sponsored by State Senator Dan Laughlin (R-Erie) to repeal Sunday hunting prohibition in Pennsylvania. The legislation he plans to introduce in 2023 will remove the prohibition on Sundays available for hunting and trapping and leave all wildlife management decisions to the Game Commission.

Another proposal is being put forward by State House Rep. Brian Smith, who said he will introduce a bill to change the start of rifle deer season back to Monday and add a second Sunday to the season. Currently, the rifle deer season begins on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving, and the following Sunday is the only one open for hunting. If passed, Smith's bill would allow for the season to begin on Monday and continue for 14 consecutive days, including two Sundays. In order to add a second Sunday to the rifle season, one would have to be transferred from the archery or bear season. Laughlin doesn't believe such a move would sit well with archery and bear hunters, but his bill would address the matter by giving the Game Commission the ability to implement more Sundays for hunting.

Neither proposal portends well for riders to utilize State Game Lands.

Equestrian Camping at State Forests

Until late last year, Equestrian camping at PA State Forests was free. A permit with the local Forest was needed but there was no charge. Starting in November 2022, reservations have moved to an automated, state-wide site, with \$10/day (PA residents) and \$6.50 transaction fee being assessed.

Summary of other Trail Activity and Concerns:

Horse-Shoe Trail: A new guidebook and map set for the 147-mile horse/hiker trail is in progress. Maps will clearly designate which parking areas are suitable for horse trailers. The Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy continues to pursue easements to move as much of the trail as possible off road.

Swatara State Park: A portion of the Equestrian Trail is slated to be re-routed from field edges to forest trail to ease maintenance requirements. Future plans are to re-route the 0.5 mile stretch along the road to within the woods to the extent possible. Volunteers are needed to help with trail maintenance at this park.

Clarence Schock Memorial Park (Gov Dick): The bank holding the Trust for this property has raised concern over language stating that use is limited to foot travel only. It is believed that at the time (1935), foot travel referred to both human and horse and was meant to convey 'non-automated'. The Board supports continued use by both horses and bicycles. Hopefully this will be favorably resolved.

Lebanon Valley Rail Trail: There is controversy over continued use of a 12-mile portion of the trail by horses. This arose when three unidentified, irresponsible riders rode across newly resurfaced trail. At this time 8 of the 12 miles have been closed to horses. A small core of

equestrians has volunteered to provide clearer signage and educational outreach. A 4-mile "trial" section remains open. Opening the rest of the trail is pending demonstrated success in the 4-mile stretch.

Green Lane Park: On December 9th, Bridge 99 (Perk Trail Connection between Rt. 29 and Deep Creek Rd.) was closed and will remain closed for a period of at least 18 months for renovation. The park closed the trail from Crusher Rd. to the Orange trail Parking lot at Green Lane.

Blue Marsh Lake: A portion of the horse trail was re-routed from single-track through the woods to open fields between Lake Road and Old Church Road due to trail damage.

Volunteers are needed to help with trail maintenance at this park.

Leaser Lake: Horses can no longer do a loop as a farmer posted his private land. Now only an out and back is possible.

Ontelaunee: Riders have expressed concern over the safety of the "graffiti bridge" which has developed multiple holes.

Pennsylvania has many miles of beautiful trail open to horses. However, as the summary above indicates, there are several threats to usage and volunteers are needed.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Vance Stine AERC South Carolina State Trail Advocate

The Equestrian Campground at Kings Mountain State Park in Blacksburg, SC is in the process of making some great improvements in 2023. Work has started on running power and water to the equestrian campground, which has been primitive for many years. This project was made possible through a joint venture of Kings Mountain State Park, the State of South Carolina, Friends of Kings Mountain State Park, and York Electric Cooperative. This will be a great addition to this state park! The trails are maintained by volunteers of Friends of Kings Mountain State Park, which have workdays on the third Saturday of each month throughout the year.

In 2016, a 17-mile trail was built called the CCC Loop Trail at Kings Mountain State Park in Blacksburg, SC. This trail was built and paid for by volunteers and members of the Friends of Kings Mountain State Park. The trail was made possible by preserving entrance markers to the CCC Camps that built Kings Mountain State Park and Kings Mountain National Military Park in the late 1930s. This trail addition made it possible to host an endurance ride and ride and tie event, Take No Prisoners. The endurance ride will resume when power and water project is completed in the Equestrian Campground.

Woods Ferry Recreation Area near Chester, SC continues to improve their equestrian trails with the help of Woods Ferry Horse Trails Association, which is a volunteer group. Woods Ferry is part of the Sumter National Forest, located along the Broad River, and is a great place to ride and camp.

Currently there are 9 endurance rides held each year at 5 different locations in South Carolina. We hope to have conversations with the National Park Service about more mixed use on existing trails to provide more equestrian use of trails in South Carolina.

## TEXAS

Sylvia Sazama AERC Texas State Trail Advocate

The trail that I am most involved with is RICHARDS RAVEN EQUESTRIAN TRAIL, near Huntsville TX. It opened the spring of 2021 and is well used. We now have grant to finish the other 10 miles of it. Ross and Dawn Carrie have also gotten permission to hold an endurance ride there in September. And have confirmed a ride camp on some private land.

Trace Trails private land has held several rides and those trails are now permanently marked, and are kept clear by volunteers several times a year. They held 2 rides there this last year.

Storm Ranch in Dripping Springs has agreed to let us hold an endurance ride there this year. Have not had one there in several years, because of disagreements, but it has been worked out.

John Nowell our photographer, is managing the WHOLE HOG ride again this year at the grasslands.

Texas Tango at 7IL Ranch was held on New Years this year, again there has not been a ride there for a few years so it was good to have it again.

As always the Fants and Parrish families keep the trails open in the Davey Crockett Forest for Unicorn Hunt and Armadillo.

The Heritage Center where the River Run ride is held has added additional parking for more convenience and additional riders, which is great.

Last Hoorah, Racing Stripes and Shanghai Trails all on private ranches is greatly appreciated, and attended by endurance riders.

Quitaque held at Pole Canyon Ranch is a beautiful hilly challenging place to ride, once again well done.

All our ride managers have done an amazing job working with the land owners to accomplish the use of these lands for rides.

## WISCONSIN

Jon Wagner AERC Wisconsin State Trail Advocate

Most of the 2021-22 trail projects across the state have been successfully completed or are near completion. Gov. Dodge State Park is putting the finishing touches on their renovation projects and trail enthusiasts are enjoying the expansion of the parking and camping opportunities. The Northern Kettle Moraine trails at Horse Riders Campground have a new and improved access road to the campground making it much easier for larger rigs to enter and exit the campground. Their project to install electricity to the remaining sites has been derailed for a while due to such a large increase in anticipated costs related to inflation but the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trails Association continues to work with the DNR on ways to support the project. Meanwhile, the Southern Kettle Moraine Trails in Palmyra, Wi., along with the local trails club (SKMHRA) are completing their project of new footing material in all of the corrals and hi-tie areas. They are working together with their local DNR to raise funds to work on trail repair/improvements to the "Stairs" section of trail and hope to complete the work this summer (2023).

## WYOMING

Bridget Helms AERC Wyoming State Trail Advocate

In 2022 there were two rides held in Wyoming, Big Horn and Happy Jack. I have kept members in my state informed through emails of any trails related issues and updates. I am hopeful that members in my state will become more active by recording trail work hours as this is an area I feel like my state and region lacks in. That is a goal of mine for 2023.

## AERC Virginia Trails Report for 2022 by Nancy Sluys

Since I am a fairly new AERC trails rep I will reintroduce myself. I came into this position near the end of 2021. I am the Ride Manager for the Iron Mountain Jubilee Endurance Ride and Ride & Tie in Cripple Creek Virginia in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, a part of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest. Being a strong trail advocate I am also the president of the Back Country Horsemen of the Virginia Highlands (BCHVH) who help maintain the trails at the Mt Rogers NRA. Approximately 10 BCHVH members are also AERC members and all are very active on our trail projects. The Iron Mountain Jubilee is a benefit for the BCHVH Trail Fund that helps generate revenue for trail projects. Although I reside in North Carolina all my trail work is in Virginia and we own the property in Virginia where the Iron Mt. Jubilee ride is held. I have to say I was so busy in my own forest I did not have time to do a lot of state wide advocacy but hope to get better at that as time goes on.

In 2022 BCHVH applied for and received a \$2000.00 AERC Trail Grant to help repair an extensive mud hole on the main trail that accesses the Collins Cove Horse Camp. This trail is also used by the Iron Mountain Jubilee Endurance Ride and had become nearly impassible due to knee deep mud that had collected due to poor drainage and lack of maintenance. BCHVH planned, funded and executed this technical project that involved constructing a 125' turnpike structure and improving approaches and drainage. Thank you to AERC for helping us to reconstruct this important section of trail!

BCHVH and the Iron Mountain Jubilee also repaired a one mile section of the East Fork Trail later in the year with the help of AERC member, Alex Uspenski from Ohio and his company AK Trails LLC. BCHVH/AERC members contributed over 400 hours between the two projects and routine trail maintenance in 2022.

In December, 2022, BCHVH applied for a Legacy Trails Grant from American Trails to repair an 8 mile section of the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail. This section will be used for the new 100 mile ride that will be held on on August 26, 2023 as a test ride for the AHA Distance Nationals to be held in 2024 in conjunction with the Iron Mountain Jubilee. The Legacy Grant decisions will be announced sometime in February.

The three Old Dominion Endurance Organization rides are also held in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in the Northern part of the state. The Old Dominion folks were hard at work in 2022 preparing the trails for the AERC National Championship that took place this past June. The extensive work that was done, mostly by hand, included clearing to 6' wide overgrown, nearly impassible trails, reestablishing water bars and opening up clogged or filled drainage tracks along the side of the trail. Focusing on the Laurel Run Trail, the Old Mail Trail, Tuscarora Trail, and trails around the Bucktail vet check area. Over 50 downed trees were cleared from the 100 mile course. Overall the organization put in a total of 200-250 hours of group trail work. Additional work was done by individuals for the months leading up to the ride. The AERC National Championship was a huge success!

Both groups that organize AERC rides in Virginia have excellent working relationships with their ranger districts. Both are proactive in presenting and carrying out projects to make the trails better and more sustainable for endurance riders and all trail users while setting a good example of stewardship.

Back Country Horsemen of the Virginia Highlands Making a Difference on the Trail!



BEFORE- 125 foot mud hole  
behind Collins Cove Horse Camp



AFTER- Beautiful 125 foot Turnpike!  
Thanks BCHVH!!!



Old Dominion- Work Day & Results

