

BCHC Sutter Buttes Unit is working to keep access to public lands and trails for all equestrians and provide some FUN events for our members and fellow equestrians.

HELLO FELLOW EQUESTRIANS

Elegant Ears Mule Association and the Mother Lode Unit of Backcountry Horsemen are writing to you with exciting news for all equestrian campers and trail riders. We hope to gain your support in a project that we are working on with the United States Forest Service (USFS). This project is to create the no fee/no reservation Caples Creek Horse Camp. This camp will provide 15 large camp sites for equestrian rigs and several day-parking spots.

The Pacific Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest has received approval to develop the new equestrian campground located about 9 miles south of Kyburz, Ca. off of the paved Silverfork Road. An equestrian camp in this location will provide access to the Caples Creek Trail head, connecting to trails within the Eldorado National Forest including those leading to Schneider's Cow Camp, Sayles Canyon and the Kirkwood area.

As with a previous project (Sayles Canyon Horse Camp), Back Country Horsemen - Mother Lode Unit (BCH-ML) has joined with Elegant Ears Mule Association (EEMA) in supporting the development and construction of the campground. Both clubs have met with Forest Service personnel to survey and discuss design and project time lines and have already completed several phases of the project as noted below.

Previously referred to as the "Fitch Rantz Dispersed Campground," this project has been renamed the "Caples Creek Horse Camp".

The project will have several phases spread out over the next year. It is estimated that the cost to build the campground will be eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000). Future amenities, such as water and a pit toilet, will be evaluated at a later date as funds become available. A pit toilet costs about \$21,000 plus weekly servicing and monthly pumping.

Construction began in the Fall of 2013 and will be completed in 2014.

Projected Phases:

- 1) Establish a connector trail (about ¼ mile in length) from the campground to the Caples Creek trail head. The connector trail will allow access to the trail head without riding that distance on the asphalt highway. This task was completed on October 26, 2013, by volunteers representing three horse clubs and 4H.

