



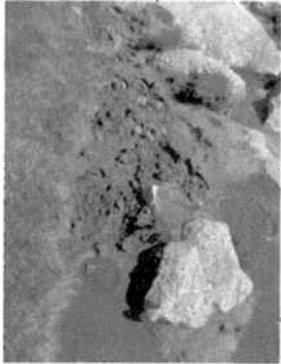
ONCE A TRAIL GETS SCRAPPED TO ROCK, HORSES MAKE 2ND TRAIL



THIS IS IN A BEAUTIFUL HIGH MEADOW, PINE CREEK PASS



THIS WILL SOON TURN INTO THIS ↓



HORSES IN TOO SOON CREATE BEATS & they go around



STOCK GATES ↑ - HORSES FREE GRAZING IN MEADOWS CAUSE DAMAGE



SPREADING DIRT & ASHES ON SNOW TO GET HORSES IN QUICKER TO WET AREAS



WHERE THEY GO OFF TRAIL TO GET AROUND WATER HOLE S

HIKERS DIDN'T DO THIS DAMAGE TO TRAILS, TOO MANY HORSES, PACK STATIONS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIR, NOT MY TAX DOLLARS

September 13, 2002

~~JoEllen J Keil~~

~~Acting District Ranger~~

~~Dear JoEllen J Keil,~~

*Karen - I still
feel the same*

~~This is regarding your letter, file code 1950/7720, Aug.27."02~~

This is too easy!

The trails haven't been damaged by foot traffic. It's obvious and proven that a horses' 400lb per hoof does more damage to a trail than any number of human pedestrians, especially a metal shod hoof that works like a plow.

In the 60's and 70's I used these trails more for backpacking. As the horses increased the trails got worse to walk on. In the 80's I passed a bit of trail that was being worked on by a group of hardy workers. When I came back through 2 days later all their hard work was destroyed by more than two full strings of 12 horses and 12 mules each. I stood a watched as one stomped to oblivion any traces o the hard work done. In that day I was to see many more horse packers and all their "small, invisible "garbage along side the trail.

As the packers were allowed their greed more and more stock pounded these trails until any one in their right mind could walk on the ditches of loose rock and dirt, horse excrement and biting flies.

To save the hard work you plan to do. Limit the horses in number and time frame they can go in. Like on Mt. Baker only after Aug. 1. are horses permitted. The trails are soft and vulnerable in the spring and early summer.

Have the horses and mules wear the special shoes like they do in Yosemite.

Make some trails just for horses and the rest for hikers and backpackers.

Start getting rid of them, they claim they are there for those who aren't able-bodied. Wow! Of all the pack trains I have had to jump off the trail for I've never seen a person older than me, I've never seen a wheel chair. All of them looked and acted very healthy especially in camp, yelling drunkenly while I'm trying to sleep.

So when you make repairs to the trails with my tax money, remember I'm still out there hiking and backpacking wishing the horses and mules were gone.

Sincerely,