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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As past President of the Back Country Horsemen of the Croatan, we in conjunction with the Croatan Ranger District, have accomplished some amazing things in the Pine Cliff Recreation Area over the last 10 years. We have maintained the approx. 15 miles of trails by mowing, trimming overhanging branches, grading roads, installing culverts in muddy and dangerous natural drains, mowed and graded Pine Cliff Rd. and Hope Rd., bucked and limbed fallen trees on the trails and as the "the icing on the cake", we were the primary work crew to building the nearly 4 acre parking lot for horse trailer parking and for hikers to park their cars. We were instrumental in acquiring help from the Young Marines from Cherry Point in building the fence around the parking lot.

And that is just a summary of what we have accomplished.

This is why I was quite disheartened to see the degree of thought and planning that has gone into the other locations for camping and user improvements with NO mention of the horse riders and the recreation opportunities we desire.

The equestrian community is large and we contribute MILLIONS OF \$\$ to the economy of North Carolina, yet we seem to be the LAST to receive consideration.

BCHC is 1 chapter of the National organization, Back Country Horsemen of America that dates back to the 1970's. Since that time, BCHA has contributed over \$180 million in volunteer service.

We have been asking for YEARS now for a proper surface material for the parking lot that our horses can walk on to prevent hoof bruises and possible permanent damage to their feet. but we can't even get that! And remember, WE, BCHC, provides ALL the labor!

But as usual, this will probably be ignored.