

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Deb Balliet, CEO
Equestrian Land Conservation Resource
(859) 455-8383 dballiet@elcr.org

Equestrian Land Conservation Resource Announces New Benefit for Equestrian Partners

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) has launched an *on-line bulletin board forum* as an additional means of communication among ELCR's Equestrian Partner member groups located across the United States. Any topic related to land conservation, stewardship and access for horses is open for discussion, and partners have the ability to access the entire membership for advice on relevant issues that are facing them. Topics already being discussed include working with zoning and planning boards to protect equestrian interests, identifying horse friendly land trusts that can aid landowners in conservation efforts, and tracking unexplained trail closures.

Deb Balliet, ELCR's CEO said, "We are delighted to provide this additional benefit to our Equestrian Partners with the intent of raising the level of discussion and success in conserving land for horses. Additional benefits for our members are in the works and we invite others to join us as Equestrian Partners in 2008 and beyond."

The idea of an on-line community forum came from a series of conference calls between ELCR and its Equestrian Partners in 2007. Equestrian Partners are made up of equestrian organizations, conservation organizations and company's serving the equine industry whose leadership is concerned about the alarming rate of land loss for horses in the United States. According to USDA figures, 250 acres of open space and grazing land are lost to development each hour.

For more information about ELCR, its Equestrian Partner Program and to become a member, visit www.elcr.org or contact Deb Balliet at (859) 455-8383

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About Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR):

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource is the only national not-for-profit organization assisting in the conservation of land for horses and horse-related activity. ELCR serves as a clearinghouse and technical resource for land and horse owners on issues related to good land stewardship, conserving land, and preserving horse access on public and private lands.