

## **Funding for Trails in Stimulus Bill An Opportunity for Horsemen Who Ride on Public Land**

President Obama's approval of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated over \$1.7 billion for federal land managing agencies including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management that can be used for the maintenance and construction of trails and other infrastructure improvements on public land. Horsemen are encouraged to work with these agencies to ensure that equestrian trails are among the projects to benefit from these funds.

- The National Park Service will receive \$750 million for maintenance, operations, and trails.
- The U.S. Forest Service will receive \$650 million for capital improvements.
- The Bureau of Land Management will receive \$320 million for construction and management.

An immediate opportunity exists for individuals and equestrian groups to provide input to the federal land managers in their communities on projects that are important to them and to which these funds could be allocated. Competition for this funding will be great and there is a limited window of time to influence the final spending decisions.

Equine organizations and individuals who ride on public lands are encouraged to contact their local federal land manager and work with them to identify projects beneficial to riders in their area. Doing so will ensure recreational riders are part of the planning process.

Act now! Contact the federal land manager (s) in your area today with horseback riding trail, trailhead and horse camp project needs and ideas.

3-3-09