

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, contact:

Holley Groshek, Executive Director

Equine Land Conservation Resource

Phone: 859-455-8383 /Email: hgroshek@elcr.org

www.ELCR.org

ELCR and AT to Host Equestrian Trail Design and Best Practices Webinar

Lexington, KY – April 6, 2020 – Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR), in partnership with American Trails (AT) and Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA), will be presenting the free webinar *“Equestrian Trail Design and Best Practices from Backcountry to Urban Edge Settings”* on **April 16, 2020** From 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM (Pacific Time). The webinar, sponsored by Rhino Marking and Protection Systems, will focus on best practices for trail design planning, construction, and management in undeveloped natural areas and connecting to urban edge settings.

Webinar presenters include Justin Azevedo, Director of Landscape Architecture & Planning, with Coffman Studio and Matthew Woodson, President and Founder, Okanogan Trail Construction. Matt Woodson has been a wilderness trails development contractor for over 35 years. He has worked extensively on remediation of trails for use primarily by packers and horseback guiding across the U.S. His work has even reached as far Africa working with the USFS to train locals to build and maintain trails to promote land/wildlife conservation efforts for the African Guerilla.

Justin, a licensed Arizona landscape architect and Faculty Associate in the Landscape Architecture Department at Arizona State University, has managed and participated in numerous park, trail and active transportation master plans. In addition to his trail and active transportation work, his experience includes residential design, cost estimation, construction documents, and website design/build along with other skills.

The presenters will review best practices for trail design planning, construction, and management in undeveloped natural areas and connecting to urban edge settings. The webinar will include trailhead development, urban to wildland transition design, and equestrian trail features to provide best sustainability and lowest impact.

Justin Azevedo with Coffman Studio will discuss the 'merge/transition' areas from towns to wild land trails— how to design/where/how many, etc. Matt Woodson with Okanogan Trail Construction will then pick up and bring listeners into the mountains to discuss both trail techniques as well as best practices for equestrian use for maximum sustainability.

Webinar participants will learn:

- Improvement/re-alignment tips and techniques for degraded trails to help provide maximum durability and optimum sustainability.
- Backcountry trail design and key points to consider for deciding optimum placement.
- Key points for designing wildland to urban edge trail transitions for user/community friendly access and reduction of 'social' non-authorized trails and access points.

To register for the *“Equestrian Trail Design and Best Practices from Backcountry to Urban Edge Settings”* webinar go to: <https://www.americantrails.org/training/equestrian-trail-design-and-best-practices>

This webinar is a continuation of the August 2019 joint ELCR/AT webinar “*Equestrian Trail Design for Urban Shared Use Trails*” which addressed the methods used in constructing equestrian trails for shared use while also including ADA interface in an urban environment. This previous webinar can be viewed at <https://www.americantrails.org/training/equestrian-trail-design-for-urban-multi-use-trails>

About American Trails: American Trails (AT) is a national, nonprofit organization working on behalf of all trail interests, including hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, horseback riding, water trails, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, trail motorcycling, ATVs, snowmobiling and four-wheeling. AT supports local, regional, and long-distance trails and greenways, whether they be in backcountry, rural or urban areas by finding common ground and promoting cooperation among all trail interests. AT’s website, www.americantrails.org, is a comprehensive online source for planning, building, designing, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails, greenways, and blue ways. Contact American Trails at their Redding California office: (530) 605-4395.

About the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR): ELCR builds awareness of the loss of lands available for horse-related activities and facilitates the protection and conservation of those lands working to ensure America’s equine heritage lives on and the emotional, physical and economic benefits of the horse-human relationship remains accessible. ELCR serves as an information resource and clearinghouse on conserving horse properties, land use planning, land stewardship/best management practices, trails, liability and equine economic impact. For more information about the ELCR visit www.elcr.org or call (859) 455-8383.