

Dear Governor Haley,

*We the undersigned are a representation of the horseback riders of the community.
I am speaking on our behalf to explain our needs and why we feel we are being discriminated against.*

The Lewis Ocean Bays Heritage Preserve in Horry County is a beautiful nine thousand three hundred and ninety-three acre property that was donated to the state of South Carolina. No other Wildlife Management Area in South Carolina has restrictions on horseback riding like we do. You can ride a bike, walk, jog, or drive a vehicle at any time of the year in Lewis Ocean Bays, but there are restrictions for horseback riding.

Our horse community all pay taxes in South Carolina. We have currently been riding on Sundays only, as law permits. Our rights are limited to what the handbook dictates; two weeks from October 21 through November 5 and a few of days throughout the winter months. Mid May through September is our greatest opportunity to ride, and while there is no hunting during those months it gets much too hot to ride by midday and the flies are in peak season which is dangerous for the rider.

There is seventy three miles of fire break trails within the preserve. We are not allowed to ride these trails so instead money is spent to maintain this area with heavy machinery. Horses would maintain these paths naturally but we are restricted from them.

There are many people who enjoy riding and those who would travel to have access within this beautiful preserve. This could bring in additional revenue to South Carolina to open up riding to the public throughout the year as well as bring in outsiders from nearby states to pay an annual permit fee.

This acreage can have designated areas for both hunting and for riding. Everyone should have equal opportunity to use this state land freely.

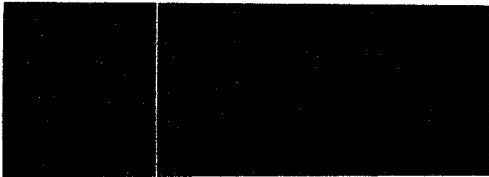
I would be more than happy to provide research showing the number of accidents occurring to horses and riders on roads once passable and now dangerous. We need the preserve and it needs us. If this issue is not addressed we will see a decline in the horse industry and it will create a negative impact on our community and trickle down to our local economy.

Thank you.

We all appreciate you help!

Jean Parisi


Signed petition pages will be sent under separate cover



Attached is a copy of a letter that has been circulating our community expressing our concerns and needs as members of the South Carolina Horseman and women riders of this state.

We appreciate your help in this matter.

Jean Parisi

843-712-2295

Gnie34@gmail.com