

HCS HB 250 -- USE OF PUBLIC LANDS

SPONSOR: Pollock (Wilson, 119)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on State Parks and Waterways by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute specifies that no individual with lawful authority will be denied access to any public land owned, managed, or funded by the State of Missouri for the purpose of riding horses or mules if the land is currently in use by the state as land upon which horses and mules may be ridden, except when conditions are unsuitable due to public safety concerns or necessary maintenance.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will make sure trails that currently permit horse riding will continue to do so in the future. The horsing industry brings about \$9 million into the state, and trail riders should not be discouraged from coming to the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Wilson (119) and McGhee; and Allison Shottenhaml, Mary Kay Church, Marylou Kinsey, and Beth Stevenson, Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that many of the trails that have been built in the state cannot support horse riding and many areas are not compatible with horse riding.

Testifying against the bill were Andy Schnette, Midwest Fat Tire Mountain Biking; and Missouri Bicycle Federation.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that trails are designated for certain uses to maintain the safety of citizens and to preserve the environment. The bill could unintentionally restrict future designation of trails.

Testifying on the bill were Department of Conservation; and Department of Natural Resources.