

Glenn Ryan, Lead Packer for the Rocky Mountain Regional Specialty Pack String
personal opinions and suggestions on other issues and gaps:

- Established Stock Managers Responsibilities
- Training the Trainers/There should be a regional or national academy or training facility set up so that people that have responsibility to certify others truly have the riding and stock skills necessary for this position we now have a week long class that Forest Service personnel need to take in order to test other employees in their driving skills
- The rules and regulations that are handed down to our employees are also mandated to volunteers working with the Forest Service we should include comments from volunteer organizations that have for years done much of the work that Forest Service employees have been unable to accomplish
- We truly need competent stock managers that are true horseman to be in the position of stock manager these folks need to have this position not just because of job title a GS level or someone thinks that they should be in that position because they own a horse and this person should have the time and the desire to be in this job
- Establish agency stock standard to facilitate safe accommodations for FS livestock
- Disagree completely with mandatory requirements protection vests, helmets and break away stirrups. They should be optional and available
- Currently there are no weight limits or physical fitness level for employees wanting to ride a horse. It is a misnomer that an animal carrying live weight is greater than an animal carrying dead weight many of the riders I have seen are probably harder on an animal than carrying dead weight there needs to be a total weight limit riders weight and tack for each individual riding animal. Currently the concessionaire in the Grand Canyon has a 200 pound weight limit per rider. We as an agency should also have weight limits for all of our stock. Livestock should not be considered an alternative for ways for people getting into the back country if they are not in good physical shape.
- People using livestock or taking classes to be livestock safety livestock should have a legitimate need for using stock and/or taking horsemanship classes
- Accidents and near-misses statistics from personal stock need to be validated. In 22 years of working with the government as a full time stock person I have not seen this to be true
- We need in Trailering skills and checking that vehicles are the right size for towing trailers and that the stock manager at the regional and or the Forest Service level should work with the fleet manager and inspect these vehicles we should have a separate Trailering certificate for transporting stock we should have a separate Forest Service driver's license classification for transporting livestock
- We need standard for general stock care including animals being fed and checked over weekends and holiday

- Livestock procurement is not addressed. In too many cases stock managers that are not truly skilled are purchasing livestock for the Forest Service a comprehensive livestock procurement policy is needed. In the history of the Forest Service within some regions a group of people determined the breed or type of horse to be used. I feel the Forest or Distric should have the ability to make those decisions

I whole heartedly agree with the recommendations number 7 which in cooperation of horsemanship skill and experiance in agency outreach recruitment and selection process