



NEWS

*U.S. Representative C.L. "Butch" Otter
First District - Idaho*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 29, 2003
www.house.gov/otter

CONTACT: Mark Warbis
(208) 336-9831/866-0840

OTTER COSPONSORS RIGHT-TO-RIDE MEASURE

LEGISLATION SEEKS TO ENSURE TRADITIONAL PACK AND SADDLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman C.L. "Butch" Otter, a rancher and avid horseman, has signed on as an original cosponsor of legislation aimed at safeguarding the traditional use of pack and saddle stock animals on America's public lands.

Otter joins California Congressmen George Radanovich and Devin Nunes in sponsoring the Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act, which recognizes that use of horses, mules and other stock has a long tradition in American culture.

President Theodore Roosevelt, a renowned environmentalist and outdoorsman, explored the West extensively on horseback. John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, traveled with packhorses in 1869 through what later would become Yosemite National Park.

Pack and saddle stock provide a natural way for visitors to enjoy our public lands. Families, Boy Scouts, church groups, senior citizens and the disabled are just some of those who use livestock to explore the backcountry.

"You get a different perspective from the top of a horse. It's a way of looking at the world that I think everyone should get the chance to experience," Otter said. "I want my grandchildren's generation to be free to know that joy for themselves. I'm cosponsoring this bill because too many people are eager to make that a part of our history, a memory to read about, rather than part of our heritage, a legacy to live."

The Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act ensures that our public lands will be managed to "preserve and facilitate the continued recreational use of pack and saddle stock animals." The bill recognizes the importance of livestock use on National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service properties, including wilderness areas.