

Trail Etiquette Guidelines



All summer trails are multi-use. **Yield means to slow down, establish communication, and be prepared to stop.** In order to ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone and protect the image of your sport, state park trail users should observe the following guidelines:

All Trail Users

- Don't cut switchbacks.
- Avoid muddy areas.
- Leave no trace.
- Pets on leashes at all times.
- Pack out dog poop.
- Protect stream quality.
- Give wildlife more space.

Hikers

- Yield and announce presence when approaching horses.
- Allow others to pass, and step to downhill side for horses.
- Tread lightly off trail.

Cyclists

- Yield to horses and hikers.
- Step to downhill side for horses to pass.
- Ride with a partner.
- Know your limits. Wear a helmet.
- Maintain control. Don't skid.
- Stay on trail.

Equestrians

- Stay on trail.
- Maintain control of your horse.
- Minimize tree and soil damage.
- Leave a clean parking area.

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TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Presented by Ponderosa Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington

Most of the trails we use are multi-use trails. Hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, ATV's and hikers with animals like dogs, goats and llamas are likely to meet each other. We need to know the regulations and restrictions for the area we are using and acquire all necessary permits. Below are a few basic universal rules that all trail users should know, follow, and respect.

YIELDING RIGHT AWAY

- Bicyclists yield to Hikers
- Hikers and Bicyclists yield to Equestrians
- Hikers, Bicyclist, and Equestrians yield to Pack Strings
- Equestrians going uphill have the right of way

ATV riders should come to a complete stop, turn off the engine and wait for the Equestrians to get a way down the trail before proceeding.

SHARE THE TRAIL

Be respectful of other users

- Stay to the right on wider paths
- Greet the folks you meet – a simple “Hello”, “Nice Day”, or “Howdy” should suffice and a “Thank you” if they have to get off the trail
- Hikers should stand quietly while the Equestrians pass, but may talk
- Equestrians ask Bicyclists and Hikers to say “Hello”, so the horse knows they are people, especially if they have a backpack on
- Don't try to hide from the horse – he's predator oriented
- Hikers and Bicyclists move off the trail to the down hill side (if safe)
- Horses tend to spook and head up hill, being on the uphill side can make you seem like a predator in the horse's mind
- Control all animals such as dogs, goats, llamas
- Pack it in, Pack it out

Equestrians may communicate instructions if the situation calls for something different than the standard protocol.

COURTESY:

- When parking at the trailhead leave room for others to park
- Keep the trailhead clean – pick up all manure and hay and toss it back in the trailer
- Stay on the trail – do not cut switchbacks or take shortcuts
- In the spring, wait until the ground hardens a bit before traveling on soft trails
- Stopping for a rest or lunch: move off the trail so as not to block it for others.
 1. Tie your horse to a tree 8 inches or larger
 2. Before leaving the rest/lunch area scatter any horse manure

As with anything else, simple **common sense** and **courtesy** are the key ingredients to having a fun and safe day on the trail. Be **respectful of other's rights** to use the trail and lead by example. It takes only one rotten apple to give the entire basket a bad reputation.

Thank you and have fun on the trail! Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen

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