

- Trail users not staying on designated trails.
- Rudeness of a trail user
- Excessive speed by a trail user.
- Trails blocked by trees or debris or other maintenance need on the trail
- Loose dogs if trail has a leash rule.
- If you meet a violator, please do not engage or confront them.

#### To report a violation:

- **Call the trail authority dispatch number - before you go on your ride, make sure you have a number to call incase of an accident or you see a problem on the trail or breach of trail regulations.**
- Give your full name
- State your phone number
- State your location to the best of your knowledge. Trail mile markers, other makers, or a land mark
- State the problem or violation
- Give the time and date of the violation or problem
- Give description of the violator, clothing, helmet color, type vehicle, bike or rider description , license number.
- Give detailed description of the trail problem, tree down, trail blocked, eroded or other trail problem
- **When you get home, report on the Trail Comment Form found at [www.garlic.com/~lbha](http://www.garlic.com/~lbha) This way trail incidents will be recorded in a data base for future use.**

#### DISPATCH PHONE NUMBERS

NORCAL STATE PARKS 916 - 358 - 1300

PLACER COUNTY TRAILS 530 - 308 - 0417

Produced by Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association

3/14/2009 Sharing Our Trails

# Sharing Our Trails



Photo by C. McClowski

## **A guide to Trail Etiquette**

To Help Make Trails a Friendly  
place for all users

Horsemen-Bikes-Hikers-Runners-OHV-Dirt Bikes

Trails provide a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and your favorite activity - whether that is horseback riding, biking, hiking, ATV'ing or other OHV usage. With our great weather here in California, trails are getting more use. Following is basic "Share the trail Etiquette" that can improve the trail experience for all users.

### **Everyone should**

- **Use only trails designated for your activity**
- Do not cut across switchbacks, stay on the trail
- Do not disturb surrounding wildlife or plants
- Dispose of all trash properly-what you bring in take out.
- Clean up after your pet. Do not smoke or drink.

### **Yield to other users**



- Yield the right of way to those passing you or traveling up-hill.
- Motorized vehicles yield to mountain bikes, hikers, and horses.
- Mountain bikes yield to hikers and horses.
- Hikers yield to horses.

- Dirt bike engines can be a real horse frightening experience. When racing the throttle, remember there may be panic-stricken horse and airborne rider around the next turn. Go slow on the blind corners.
- Bikes should have bells when riding multiuse trails so they can warn others they are coming if line of sight is poor. Follow speed limits and bell rules from East-Bay Trail Organization. I understand that IMBA has even recommended this on some of the Multiuse trails.
- Horses and other users should also follow speed limits if posted on trails being ridden. If there is a blind curve or poor line of sight SLOW DOWN.
- Only ride on trails that permit horses. Same for other users. Follow trail use rules as to what the trail use is.
- Be courteous to all users.
- Leave no trace
- Night riding only where permitted.
- Preserve our right to ride on public land by following the rules. It is your responsibility to know the rules and regs of the trails you ride or use. Stay on the trail, do not cut across switchbacks. Watch speed in areas of poor line of site. Do not smoke or drink on the trail.

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE AN INFRACTION OF TRAIL USE**

- **Before you ride on any trail program your cell phone with the dispatch number for the trail you are riding.**
- If you encounter vandalism, fire, theft .
- Any driver or rider of a vehicle, bicycle or horse illegally gaining access to a trail not by a legal trailhead.
- Any trail user that willfully or negligently injures any person or animal

there other trail users in your area.

- Have your pets under control. Dogs should be on a leash if rule of the trail calls for that. If ponying another horse go slow, do not take a loose horse on the trail with you.
- Before you ride a trail, know the rules for that trail, if there are speed limits, usage limits (pedestrian/ equestrian trail, multiuse trail that permits bikes, if OHV are permitted. Ride only on trails that you are permitted on. Follow all trail rules, know your contact number if there is an incident, program it into your cell phone.
- With the use of common sense and courtesy on the trail there will not be the need for a referee to oversee our sports.



- Always approach BLIND CURVES and areas where there is poor line of site with CAUTION and look out for other trail users.
- A hiker with a back pack and/or walking stick can look very frightening to a horse, Let the horse and rider know that you are human by saying “Hi”. When a horse hears a human voice they will calm down.

## Safety for All Trail Users

- Bicyclists, riders of motorized vehicles, and equestrians are urged to wear a helmet.
- Travel at a reasonable speed and reduce your speed when approaching slower users and areas of reduced visibility such as curves and trail intersections

### Rules for Equestrians on shared trails with OHV

- Cooperate with local OHV/ATV and Bike riders to expose your horse to vehicles in a gradual manner in a safe environment
- Be alert and pull off the trail when you hear oncoming OHVs or bicycles.

Ask the Horse-back rider what he or she needs you to do. Some may let you pass easily, others may want to have you stay still while they pass.



- At trailheads or staging areas, park vehicles and secure stock in a manner that provides a safe distance between the horses and passing traffic.
- Be prepared to let other trail users know what needs to be done to keep you, the horse, and other trail users safe when you meet on the trail.



## General Rules for OHV riders and bicyclists when encountering horses on the trail:

- Horsemen may try to pull off the trail a safe distance if they hear OHVs or bicycles coming but many times, this is not possible. This DOES NOT necessarily mean it is safe for you to ride by.
- Pull off the trail far enough for horses to pass safely as soon as you see horses.
- Pull off on downside of trail if possible (horses tend to perceive unknown threats on the uphill side as predators)
- Shut off your motor and remove your helmet. (horse will be more likely to recognize as human)
- Speak to oncoming rider/horse in a friendly, relaxed tone
- Ask the horseman how they would like to proceed..



- Keep ears open – no ear buds for MP3 or iPod . Be alert – be aware . On guard for oncoming traffic
- Horsemen will know his/her horse and how they react to other users

- The horseman may ask you to stay put and ride past you
- The horseman may ride off the trail and ask you to ride or push past them.

## General rules for Horsemen on the trail

- **KNOW YOUR HORSE**
- Horses are prey animals and as such regardless if they have been exposed to outside stimulus such as dirt bikes, ATV's cars and trucks or hikers and runners on a trail, they can still go into the prey mode if startled by a loud unseen noise (dirt bike or ATV) coming at them. Same is true of a bike or even a runner/hiker on a trail. If there is a sharp curve or no line of site and trail users all need to slow down.



- A hiker/jogger should always slow down and stop when they see horses on the trail ahead or behind them. Stop and greet the rider so the horse knows you are human.
- If you have a young inexperienced horse, ride behind another horse that is more trail wise. The younger horse will work off the older one. Time and hours on the trail will build confidence in the youngster. Horse groups should have the steadiest horse up front.
- Riders should be aware of traffic ahead. Check the trail for tracks and droppings. This will help you not be surprised that