

Horse Riders and Pack Horses

Training

- Well trained horses are essential for trouble free trail riding.



Meeting other trail users

- Steady your mount and exchange greetings.
- Give clear advice to the other parties to tell them how you would like them to act based on the type of trail user and the width and nature of the trail.
- Warn other trail users of hazards or difficult areas ahead.

When to travel

- Avoid using trails when they are wet and muddy to avoid damage.

Dog Owners

Restraint

- Dogs on trails should be trained to obey verbal and non-verbal commands.
- Owners should carry a leash to restrain their dogs when required and obey the regulations for the trails they are using.
- When off-leash dogs should remain within sight of the owners at all times.



Behaviour

- Dog owners must realize that many people are uncomfortable when approached by a dog.
- Owners must ensure that dogs do not disturb wildlife near the trail.

Respect the Land and the Environment

Preparation

- Check with local land managers or agencies ahead of time for trail conditions or closures.



On the trail

- Stay on established trails and don't cause trail braiding or carve out short-cuts on switchbacks.
- Respect private property and "No Trespassing" signs.
- Use existing bridges and structures to cross streams and don't make new ones.
- Remember wetlands are very sensitive and so should be avoided.
- Respect wildlife.

Overall

- If you pack it in — pack it out!
- Use appropriate sanitary procedures at least 100 metres away from rivers, streams or lakes (see *Back Country Sanitation*, a brochure of the Outdoor Recreation Council).

To order more copies of this brochure, contact:

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The Trail User's Code of Ethics

How to minimize your impact on the environment and other trail users

1. Common Sense

2. Communication

3. Courtesy

Whether they are hikers, mountain bikers, horse riders or quad riders, trail users are increasingly sharing trails. And with the increased use of trails there is an increasing level of public concern for the environment in which they travel.

Dangers can exist when different types of user share the same trails. If all trail users are prepared for encounters with other types of user and if they tread lightly, they will help to reduce trail conflicts and environmental damage. In that way they will make everyone's time outdoors safer and more enjoyable.



Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia



Trail Ethics

The Three C's: Common Sense, Communication & Courtesy

1 Common Sense: Common sense begins with planning your trip and continues when you encounter others on the trail. Although a trail user's protocol normally calls for the most mobile person to yield the right of way, it is important to assess the situation and use common sense to decide who can get out of the way most easily. Cyclists need to realize that equestrians and hikers may not hear them approaching so they should be prepared to make themselves heard. Hikers should give way to cyclists climbing a steep hill.

2 Communication: A friendly word of greeting for equestrians by hikers and cyclists reassures their horses and alerts them to your presence. By chatting with other trail users you can warn them of dangers or adverse conditions on the trail ahead. You can also tell them about interesting or attractive natural features ahead. If you are leading a large group on a narrow trail it is a good idea to let others know so they can take appropriate action. Peer group policing is everyone's responsibility and if you see someone acting irresponsibly in the back country you should warn them of the potential consequences of their actions.

3 Courtesy: Above all, **treat all other trail users with respect and courtesy.** Trail conflicts can occur when people forget the golden rule! Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself!

Hikers

Stay on the trail

- Whenever possible use existing trails to avoid trail braiding and other damage to the adjacent habitat.
- Avoid leaving traces such as rock piles or marked trees.

In the alpine

- Groups crossing meadows should spread out to avoid carving out unnecessary trails.
- Walk on rocks or snow as much as possible to avoid damaging vegetation.
- Alpine vegetation is delicate and takes a long time to grow again when damaged.

Meeting horse riders or pack horses

- Exchange greetings with the riders or stockmen to calm the horses.
- Be prepared to step off the trail on the lower side if possible to make way for the horses.
- Keep at least two to three metres clear of the horses so they can pass.
- Face the horses to hide your backpack which could spook a horse.

Mountain Bikers

Anticipate

- Expect to encounter other trail users and be ready for them especially on blind curves.
- Slow down in good time to avoid sudden encounters with equestrians or hikers.

Meeting horse riders or pack horses

- When you meet horses stop, get off your bike, take off your helmet and exchange greetings



with the riders so the horses can see you are a human.

- Be prepared to get off the trail on the lower side to let horses past because horses are less likely to be spooked by something below their eye level.
- Keep a distance of three metres or more between you and the horses.

On the trail

- Stay on designated trails to avoid damage to the environment.
- Avoid using trails when conditions are wet and muddy to prevent erosion and channelling of rainwater.
- Avoid sliding round curves which can destroy the tread of the trail.

Quad Riders

Speed

- Keep your speed below 20 k.p.h. when travelling within 30 metres of a non-motorized trail user.
- Do not spin your tires to avoid damage to the trail.
- Avoid creating dust and noise when passing other trail users.



Meeting other trail users

- Yield the right of way to horses, bikers and hikers.
- When approaching horses stop your vehicle, remove your helmet and exchange greetings with the riders or stockmen so the horses can see you are a human being.
- When travelling downhill give way to others going uphill.
- When travelling in a group avoid blocking the trail.