



EQUINE TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Location: RAM Center, Roscommon MI

May 18, 2022

1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Welcome – Roll Call

EQUINE TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE (ETS):

- Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf, Chairperson
- Jenny Cook (absent)
- Dug Jordan
- Kristie Walls
- Karen Bahrman
- ETS Tourism (vacant)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

- Annalisa Centofanti, Scott Pratt, Ron Yesney, Peter Costa, Jill Sell, Nick Van Bloem, Paige Perry, Ron Yesney, Michelle O’Kelly, Elissa Buck, Nicole Hunt, Matt Torreano, Greg Kinser, Dakota Hewlett, Kim Kennedy, Earl Flegler, Eric Cowing

OTHERS: Anna Lee, Diane Traver

Meeting minutes

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 1:32 p.m.

Motion made to approve March 9, 2022 draft meetings minutes by Jenny Cook and Kristie Walls second, with all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made to approve the May 18, 2022 agenda by Dug Jordan and Karen Bahrman second, with all in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ETS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Karen Bahrman, Upper Peninsula

Written report provided (attachment A).

Karen asked if DNR staff will engage initially during the legislation process requesting to separate horse and bike trails. Nicole Hunt, DNR, provided a response saying the Department does not comment or engage for legislation changes until the Governor's office hands down a direction to the Department.

Karen added agenda item e.) *ETS Appointment Process and Legislative Amendments* to her regional update conversation. Her suggestion is to have the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) review ETS applications and remove any connection with the application process from ETS members and DNR staff. Nicole Hunt, DNR, commented that perhaps the NRC is not the appropriate committee for this since they focus on the manner and function of taking game. Nicole suggested the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee as another choice. Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf added she does not believe the Speaker of the House and Majority Senate come up with nominations on their own and so the task does fall on the DNR and ETS subcommittee.

Nicole Hunt, DNR, added the Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) policy with seven specific trails introduced earlier this year is moving through the approval process internally, across the divisions. The Department hopes to have all approvals in place by end of this summer. All the internal resource divisions will provide approvals before the Directors final approval and implementation. Separately, the camping LUOD should be in place by June/July of this year.

Dug Jordan, Northern Lower Peninsula

Written report provided (attachment B).

Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf, Southeastern Lower Peninsula

Amy said she is receiving reports of loose dogs on horse trails.

Highland had a horse event last weekend and in conjunction there was a running and scouting event taking place at the same time and location, resulting in a lot of runners and hikers on the horse trails. Amy suggested advertising more hiking trails in the southeast regions that are not shared with equestrians which may defer some of the hiking/foot traffic.

Lakeland rail trail in Livingston County, where horses allowed, still are experiencing biker conflicts. These types of situations happen a lot on shared multi use trails and points out the need to separate trails. A better approach is to have designated equestrian trails, as separating the trails at Proud Lake created ill feelings between user groups.

Kristie Walls, Central Lower Peninsula

Kristie did not have much to report on, saying the projects are moving on a snail's pace due to hiccups.

Jenny Cook, Southwestern Lower Peninsula

Written report provided (attachment C).

Jenny reported in Allegan County last weekend they had a benefit ride with 144 riders taking part. The event raised \$14K for Wings of Hope and Hospice of Allegan County.

Jenny asked where the Allegan State Game bike proposal is at with Wildlife (WLD)? Earl Flegler, WLD, suggested Jenny to go back to MTAC minutes from the last meeting.

Bass River volunteers are removing autumn olive.

Fort Custer trails are maintained and keeping up.

Jill Sell, DNR, commented on the Allegan State Game bike proposal, saying she does not believe the bike path does intersect with equestrian trails, but she will have to confirm. Jill said she has not received any updates in a while from WLD. Jill will send Jenny Don Poppe, WLD, information so she can follow-up.

Jenny inquired about the trail going in next to the Red Arrow highway, and will there be room for equestrians? Jill said as far as she knows, Berrien County is beginning to develop the Red Arrow linear trail which will be more urban, with sidewalk connections. Berrien County is working on a trails master plan and Jill will let Jenny know when next meeting is scheduled.

Jenny asked for an update on the Van Buren trail project. Jill reported that project is still in design and engineer phase, with no plans for development at this time.

DNR EQUESTRIAN MAPS

Kim Kennedy, DNR, provided a demonstration for DNR equestrian geographic information system (GIS) map web page. [DNR Equestrian Trails and Campgrounds](#)

EQUESTRIAN TRAIL DESIGNATION LAND USE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR (LUOD)

Nicole Hunt, DNR, reported last week a LUOD was presented to the NRC, which specified to have at least one horse registered to a camper per campsite in order to camp at the following equestrian campgrounds within a state park or recreation area (RA).

- Brighton RA
- Fort Custer RA
- Ionia RA
- Ortonville RA
- Pontiac Lake RA
- Yankee Springs RA
- Waterloo RA (from May 1 – October 31)

This presentation was received without issue and it is expected the Director will sign the order sometime in mid-June, with the LUOD going into effect upon signature. State Forest campgrounds are not a part of this LUOD but can be incorporated at a later date.

For the LUOD equine trail designation, staff is still meeting and working on the map, it is about 85% complete. The LUOD language is drafted and complete. ETS will be presented with the final draft for review before presented to the Director.

STATE FOREST TRAILS, ROADS, PATHWAY, TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Greg Kinser, DNR, provided information on what a designation means on state forest lands. Designated really means an established LUOD within the DNR. Designate does not always mean exclusive, as there may be other allowable uses on the lands. There appears to be a need to shift wording to reflect what the primary use is and what is allowable. State Forest lands are open to equestrian use unless indicated closed. As we continue to work together, we need to recognize what we are trying to get at so everyone will have the same understanding.

Greg addressed a question as to whether a mechanism exists to separate compatible state forest trails and become policy or do they have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Right now, a case-by-case review is the best scenario when considering applying for a LUOD for allowing or restricting use.

Kristie Walls mentioned some structures that are built on trails do not accommodate all users and wondered if there is a policy in place that outlines accessibility for all users. Nicole Hunt replied and said there is not a policy in place.

Karen Bahrman commented the master trail plan is a good place to recognize structure accessibility. Nick Van Bloem said as we continue to collaborate amongst our divisions, we can address some of the trail conflict language and issues.

Greg discussed timber management on state forest lands. The primary function for state forest lands is for timber management. There is a formal process in place for timber management. Every year 10% of state forest lands are inventoried, prescribed, and a compartment review is conducted. Public engagement and input are encouraged during the compartment review process and it is important to be involved as early on in the process as possible. Compartment review process examines relocating trail sections into a desirable area. Restoring trails are part of the requirements of the timber harvester.

ETS APPOINTMENT PROCESS & LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

Discussed at the beginning of this meeting (Karen Bahrman regional update).

WILDLIFE FUNDING SESSION-THOUGHTS?

Nick Van Bloem, DNR, asked if there any thoughts or feedback from the wildlife funding session that took place on May 11, 2022. Kristie Walls liked attending a meeting with a single focus and feels this is a good concept for topics that need a deep dive.

QUESTIONS FOR ELK STUDY DINNER w/DNR SESSION (JUNE 15)

Nick Van Bloem, DNR, brought up the upcoming session on June 15, 2022, *Elk Study Response*, and remarked to send questions to Anna or Nick prior to the meeting.

UPDATES

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Scott Pratt, DNR, will send out an update to committee members.

INSPIRATION POINT

Paige Perry, DNR, provided an update on Inspiration Point. Paige said she received emails from Pigeon River Country Equestrian committee members with questions. Paige learned from recent discussions that both trail proposals have been approved and are pending permission from Fish and Wildlife divisions. Both proposals have fish and game lands. There is an internal meeting across the divisions scheduled in June to discuss further.

GOOSE CREEK STEPS

Greg Kinser, DNR, reported there is not a lot to add since the last ETS meeting in March. DNR and stakeholders recognize the need and are working on various pieces. Greg has received the materials estimate and has a request in to the planner for final plan documents. Greg needs the final plan documents in hand in order to get a natural rivers permit.

STC HIRING UPDATE

Nick Van Bloem reported a new State Trails Coordinator (STC) will be starting on May 29.

Peter Costa (PJ) is now onboard, filling the Eastern Upper Peninsula Trail Specialist role vacated by Paul Gaberdiel's retirement.

Greg Kinser is in the process of filling the Northeast Lower Peninsula Trail Specialist. The draft hiring packet is internally in review.

Jenny Cook asked Nick Van Bloem where signage is this at? Nick said it is still in motion, working with the consultant on an overall template and package.

TRAIL MASTER CERTIFICATION COURSE

Course will be held at the Pinckney Recreation Area September 15-18, 2022.

DNR Q2 2022 STAFF UPDATES

Written reports given to committee members.

2022 MEETING DATES

Aug. 10 (Lansing); Oct. 26 – Location TBD

ROUND ROBIN/CLOSING COMMENTS

Meeting adjourned 4:32 p.m.

Regional ETS report – May 2022

Right to Ride Act amendments – Senator McBroom’s office reports that the DNR has not responded to their request for comment on the draft bill, but it appears that he has acquired a co-sponsor and that the bill is headed for introduction.

- Of concern is the DNR’s continued focus on trying to prevent members of advisory groups from pursuing their legislative remedies. At the MTAC meeting in March the chair represented that the DNR is awaiting an AG opinion on the legality of legislative activity by advisory groups, although the theory under which this is allegedly unlawful had changed dramatically, i.e., the idea that the statute which created the ETS prohibits lobbying was abandoned in favor of the idea that a vague provision in MTAC’s rules of procedure prohibits lobbying.
- Subsequent inquiries revealed that this wasn’t true, i.e., that no such opinion request has been or will be made, rather that the DNR wishes to seek “guidance” but hasn’t done so yet and has no timeline for doing so; no correction was made to the minutes so everyone but me presumably believes that a real legal issue exists and that the AG will weigh in on it soon.
- The provision currently in question reads as follows: “Members of the Advisory Workgroups and Subcommittees shall refer all legal, legislative, and media contacts to the DNR”. Nuances associated with the word “refer” yield multiple interpretations, but the bottom line is that, while employers may control political and other activity in the workplace, they cannot control what employees (to include uncompensated volunteers) do on their own time. The lack of limitation on subject matter incidentally makes this provision hopelessly overbroad as well – under a literal reading an advisory group member who is going through a divorce and contacts/is contacted by their attorney, would have to refer that contact to the DNR!
- That said, employers can also prohibit employees from using their positions/titles in a way that leads the public to believe they are speaking for their employer, and this is where the DNR should be focusing their efforts – on creating a rule of procedure which addresses that very limited issue. A good example of such language appears in the policy manual for MDARD’s main advisory group, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development, and reads as follows: **“While each Commissioner as a member of the public is free to contact their legislators and voice opinions during the legislative process or to the media, no Commissioner shall speak on behalf of the Commission to the media or on legislative matters unless done in coordination with the Director.”**

- In any event, the Right to Ride legislation presents a priceless opportunity for the DNR to engage with the legislature to accomplish some “while we’re at it” changes to the statute, namely to revise the ETS appointment process and eliminate both the chronically vacant “tourism rep” seat and the oddball OMA requirement, referring to the fact that the OMA by its own terms does not apply to advisory bodies with no decision-making authority. It could also be a segue into tackling the much-needed revision of the MTAC statute and its motorized-heavy set of demographics for its members.

Grand Island – Bay de Noc Trail/proposed northern loop & spur trail to water - this is a project mentioned in my first ETS report but not since due to agency inertia. The trail in question actually lies in the Hiawatha National Forest, but because it is both linear and dry I proposed a loop and spur trail to water, using existing 2-tracks connected to the northern half of the trail, so as to make it more user friendly. Because a small portion of the loop and the spur trail to water is now owned by the DNR, both agencies wanted all sorts of things from the other and I served as the middle person until the Forest Service stopped responding. I had all but given up on this proposal, made the better part of a decade ago, when another individual proposed loops involving the southern half of the trail and this seems to have motivated the Forest Service to re-engage with respect to my proposal.

- The DNR property in question is also part of a wildlife refuge and more specifically a waterfowl refuge because it lies on either side of a large artificial body of water known as the Autrain Basin. There is a campground and boat launch within the refuge which was established by the prior owner (the hydroelectric company which owns the dam at one end), and tends to attract campers who like “free”, “first come first served” and especially “anything goes” insofar as there is no one to enforce any rules, but the DNR has done nothing to close it and it remains active, indeed my proposed horse watering site is located at the southernmost end of the campground.
- I mention the above details because the DNR, after all these years of sporadic back and forth, just consulted the wildlife division about it and their position, without knowing anything more about the proposal, is “no horses in the refuge” despite the fact that the campground is vastly more disturbing to the wildlife than a few thirsty horses passing through might be. So, we are proceeding with the proposal over the objection of the wildlife division, kudos to Ron Yesney, and there is a meeting scheduled between both agencies and myself on June 13th.
- Coincidentally and ironically, the DNR is currently lobbying landowners in my community for permissions to establish a rail trail using recently purchased railroad

rights-of-way – this is necessary because some landowners own all or part of the adjacent right-of-way, are concerned about noise/dust/trespassing/litter, etc., and are unmoved by how connected trail systems benefit the community and the economy. This project involves exactly the same issue, i.e., the need to make connections to improve the usability and attractiveness of trails, and as equestrian users we need the water most of all because the Autrain Basin is the only viable source of water close to the northern half of the trail in question. Thus, this is an opportunity for the DNR to lead by example – to demonstrate flexibility so as to support the connectivity of trails and conversely to not expect citizens to support trail connections if the DNR won't do so themselves.

Stanley Lake proposal – there has been no response to this proposal, which I submitted last July, to re-purpose the closed Stanley Lake campground initially as an equestrian trailhead and ultimately, if/when the camping issue is resolved in favor of equestrians, as an equestrian campground connected by trail to the Headquarters Lake Equestrian Campground.

Karen Bahrman, UP ETS Rep

Northern Michigan Report

May 2020

Goose Creek – Did a visual inspection and noticed increased deterioration to the steps and retaining wall. Made contact WITH Greg Kinser to advise him of the conditions, and discuss the replacement project. I put out posts advising riders of the safety issue for the upcoming riding season.

Pigeon River Country Equestrian Committee – The PRCEC is holding their first meeting in two years on May 17th. I will pass on any information that was presented at the ETS meeting.

Pigeon River Country Trails – Both the PRCEC and Back Country are asking for any information regarding the connecting trail, new trails and the status of the Inspiration Point Trail. Both are asking if this is still a USFWS issue, if so what is being done to address the issue.

Camping and ORV issues – All groups still have issues with non-horse campers using the horse camps, along with ORV usage on the trails and in camps. They are well advised to report any issue.

Thanks to Scott Slavin for his assistance with the Tin Cup Trail, do to ORV issues and the re-route to the Shore to Shore Trail to bypass the Mayhem Swamp.

Dug Jordan
NM ETS Representative

WELCOMING PEOPLE WITH HORSES ON PUBLIC LANDS AND TRAILS

WHY?

Horses are therapeutic partners of every kind (emotional, mental, physical, and substance abuse) for people according to the U S House of Representatives H R 7608 **Equine Assisted Services (EAS)**. **Horses are healthy for people** and should be welcomed on public lands and trails.

According to the Michigan Horse Council, horses and horse owners bring in **\$2.6 BILLION in economic impact for Michigan annually**. This includes housing, boarding, caring, and enjoying horses daily, year around with the purchase of barns, camping supplies, equipment, feed, fencing, hay, land, property taxes, professional services, tack, tools, tractors, trailers, utilities, vehicles, year around weather related active clothing, and horses.

Horse owners and horse friends' groups **volunteer in partnership** with city, county, state, and federal management teams to provide trails maintenance for access with values of **800,000** annually.

<http://michiganhorsetrails.com/>

Horses are cultural, economic boosters, educational, healthy, historical, natural, recreational, show, sport, tourism, travel, and transportation opportunities.

Michigan Horse Council studies show 30.5% of people or **1.2 million households** in Michigan are horse enthusiasts.

There are over **180,000 horses in Michigan**, approximately the same number as Michigan snowmobilers.

Horses are considered **low impact, lightweight, passive trail users** in the most sensitive areas including nature preserves. <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/environmental-aspects-of-horses-on-trails>

Horses are perfectly designed to carry people. Horses have the size, shape, and strength to carry 20% of their weight or approximately 220lbs. Each of their strides (walk, trot, and run) simulate our gait patterns providing people excellent physical therapy partners.

Horses can pull twice their weight or approximately 2200lbs. They are very useful for transportation and industry.

Due to the natural pecking order of predator and prey, **horses expect people to be the leaders of our partnerships** providing excellent opportunities to practice leadership skills.

Horses like to work and have purpose. They are honored to partner with people especially when they are treated with respect.

Horses will mirror your energy and attitudes, giving us a reflection of how we are portraying ourselves to others. Horses are excellent emotional and mental therapy partners.

Horses prefer to be with other horses because there is safety in numbers. People on horses often travel in groups on the trails and camp together to keep horses calm and comfortable.

Horses have a four-beat hoof pattern and prey scent, so even with a rider on their back, **horses will disturb other wildlife less than all other trail user groups, including hikers.**

Horses can see, hear, and smell better than people so they are useful **Search and Rescue partners.**

People with horses **need safe access** to public lands and trails. **There have been several deaths of people with horses and horses killed by people with vehicles in Michigan from 7/2020 -3/2022.**

July 2020 Allegan County, **ONE PERSON KILLED:**

<https://wwmt.com/news/local/two-hit-by-car-one-killed-while-riding-horses-in-leighton-township>

December 2020 Wayne County, **ONE PERSON KILLED AND ONE HORSE KILLED:**

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2020/12/21/man-horse-die-single-vehicle-crash-rural-wayne-county/3992470001/>

January 2021 Branch County, **ONE PERSON KILLED, SIX OTHERS INJURED:**

<https://www.fox17online.com/news/local-news/south-mi/branch/7-hurt-in-buggy-when-horse-hits-pickup-truck-in-branch-county>

April 2021 Muskegon County, **TWO HORSES KILLED WHILE SAVING THE LIVES OF TWO 12-YEAR-OLD GIRLS:**

<https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2021/04/girls-injured-horses-dead-after-car-hits-riders-in-muskegon-county.html>

August 2021 Van Buren County, **ONE PERSON KILLED:**

<https://wkzo.com/2021/08/13/woman-and-her-horse-injured-after-being-struck-by-vehicle-in-van-buren-county/>

October 2021 Branch County, **TWO PEOPLE INJURED, ONE CRITICALLY, TWO HORSES KILLED:**

<https://www.woodtv.com/video/1-critically-injured-2-horses-killed-in-crash-near-coldwater-driver-sought/7078303/>

October 2021 Mecosta County, **ONE PERSON AND HORSE KILLED** by vehicle:

<https://bigrapidsdailynews.com/breaking-news/491762>

March 2022 Montcalm County, **ONE HORSE KILLED, THREE PEOPLE INJURED:**

<https://www.wilx.com/2022/03/10/michigan-state-police-truck-injures-3-kills-horse-head-on-collision/>

HOW?

Welcome people with horses the freedom to proceed on public trails.

Develop two **separate** single track biking trails from hiking/people with horses/people with dogs/hunting trails. Post educational **TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN: STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK** signage.

Share two track, long vision, destination trails and rail trails by posting educational **TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN: STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK** signage and/or provide a parallel, natural surface trail for people with dogs, people with horses, and people who prefer natural surface trails.

Educate the public and public land managers about the benefits of horses for people with introductory educational public safety announcements before making a camping reservation, when purchasing a bike and an ORV, and include in drivers' training. Learn more about the **TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN: STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK** and **Horse Information** here: <https://elcr.org/trails-safe-passing-plan/>

Encourage public land managers to welcome people with horses and **volunteer horse friends' groups** to help maintain and sustain trails in partnership with management teams. There are over 50 horse friends' groups in Michigan that donate over \$800,000.00 in volunteer services and donated materials annually so people with horses can have access to public lands. <http://michiganhorsetrails.com/>

Post horse friendly signs of:

THESE ARE HORSE FRIENDLY TRAILS AND AREAS.

Horses are prey animals and naturally can be afraid of unfamiliar people and objects.



ALL TRAIL USERS PLEASE:

STOP, SPEAK and STAND BACK while people with horses pass at a walk.

SPEAK - Please announce yourself and say "Hi" when we pass by each other.

STAND BACK with your whole group on the same side of the trail.

Please do not hide or stand behind a tree as this may cause horses to fear you are a predator planning an attack.

Please contain children and dogs.

Thank you and enjoy the happy trails.

Thank you for welcoming people with horses on public lands and trails.

Thank you for helping Michigan be a better place to travel, live, work, and play.

Jenny Cook
Michigan Equine Trails Representative (MTAC)
SW Michigan Equine Trails Representative (ETS)
mi.trail.rep@gmail.com



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: State Parks and Recreation Areas, prohibited conduct
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2022
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

Periodically, the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) reviews its Land Use Orders to determine whether any updates are necessary due to operational needs, changes in statutes and/or clarifications to existing Land Use Orders. This proposed Land Use Order of the Director is a result of such efforts.

Specifically proposed to be addressed in the Land Use Order is clarification on operational requirements relating to camping in a state park equestrian campground and a requirement to have at least one horse per campsite. Historically within state park equestrian campgrounds, there have been operational requirements to have a horse while camping at an equestrian campsite. While there have been changes to the Central Reservation System to separate horse camping from other types, there are still concerns about having the appropriate tools in place to address issues. Due to an increase of users camping without horses, the safety concerns this presents to all users, and an increase in conflict reported between equestrian and non-equestrian users of these campgrounds, PRD recommends specifying the requirement in a Land Use Order. This action would ensure that individuals utilizing an equestrian campground do so while camping with a horse and would be directly related to only those equestrian campgrounds at Brighton, Fort Custer, Ionia, Ortonville, Pontiac Lake, Waterloo and Yankee Springs Recreation Areas.

This proposed Land Use Order would also provide clarification on operational issues relating the prohibition of electric skateboard use in state parks, which is currently prohibited by statute but does not provide any mechanism for enforcement by Commissioned Park Officers. Inclusion of this prohibition in this Land Use Order would allow for a maximum penalty of a civil infraction and up to a \$500 fine; however, education and voluntary compliance typically resolve any issue.

Additionally, the proposed Land Use Order clarifies that launching of an unmanned aircraft from state managed lands and conducting any activity within subsection (5) would not be an allowed use. Since Commissioned Park Officer's authority is land based, once an unmanned aircraft has launched enforcement of any activity identified in subsection (5) has been difficult.

Therefore, providing clarification regarding a land-based offense is believed to provide better enforcement capabilities.

Finally, this proposed Land Use Order provides clarification of the Administrative Rule that makes it an offense to use state land for a commercial purpose without securing the required permit.

Again, while enforcement is typically sought first through education and voluntary compliance, establishing these operational incompatible activities in a Land Use Order provides necessary authority for ceasing these unwanted activities.

State Parks and Recreation Areas, Certain Conduct Prohibited

Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2022

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April 18, 2022

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item will appear on the Department's May 3, 2022 calendar and may be eligible for approval on June 9, 2022.

Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division

David Shaw, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 4 of 2022

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

5.1 State parks and recreation areas, certain conduct prohibited.

Order 5.1 A person shall not do any of the following in any **state park (SP)** or **recreation area (RA)**:

(1) Have more than 4 **one** horse for each registered camper at any designated horsemen's campground without first obtaining proper written permission from the department.

(a) There must be at least one horse registered to a camper per campsite in order to camp at the following equestrian campgrounds within a SP or RA:

(i) Brighton RA.

(ii) Fort Custer RA

(iii) Ionia RA.

(iv) Ortonville RA.

(v) Pontiac Lake RA.

(vi) Waterloo RA from May 1 through October 31.

(vii) Yankee Springs RA.

(2) Enter, use or occupy a designated mountain bike trail when posted closed except with written permission from an authorized representative of the department.

(3) Operate **either of the following**:

(a) An electric bike in conflict with MCL 324.72105.

(b) An electric skateboard in conflict with MCL 257.660.

(4) Use, in any way, a sky lantern.

(a) "Sky lantern" means an unmanned hot air balloon made of paper or other lightweight material that is launched into the atmosphere and has a flame inside the balloon.

(4) Launch an unmanned aircraft from state managed lands in conflict with 5.1(5).

(5) Operate an unmanned aircraft in conflict with the unmanned aircraft system act (PA 436 of 2016), and as follows:

(a) In a manner that knowingly and intentionally interferes with department employees and their designees performing official duties.

(b) In a manner that interferes with department staff when conducting search and rescues.

(c) Within 100 yards of a cultural or historical site or structure.

(d) Upon or over the viewing platform at Tahquamenon falls.

(e) Upon or over the platform at Palms Book SP.

(ef) Over an occupied beach area.

(fg) Over an equestrian facility.

(gh) Over a campground.

(hi) Over a restroom or open-air changing court.

(ij) Over an area subject to an aerial right-of-way.

(jk) For a commercial purpose without first obtaining written permission from an authorized representative of the department, **pursuant to administrative rule 299.922(dd)**.

This order shall be posted on or after the 10th day of June 2022.

Issued on this 9th day of June 2022.

Daniel Eichinger
Director

TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN: STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK





The Trails Safe Passing Plan



TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN: STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK

STOP:

Horses are prey animals and naturally can be afraid of unfamiliar people and objects. Horses have natural "flight" survival instincts and prefer to move their feet towards an exit route. Therefore, people with horses should pass at a walk while other trail users remain STOPPED until passed.

SPEAK:

Please ANNOUNCE your presence.
Please SAY "Hi" when we pass by.
This helps a horse identify you as a person and will help keep a horse calm.

STAND BACK:

Please STAND BACK with your whole group on the same side of the trail.
Please contain children and dogs.
Please do not hide or stand behind a tree, as these actions may cause horses to fear you are a predator planning an attack.

SMILE:

Enjoy the trails!

Staying Safe



According to a study by the *Outdoor Industry Association*, 8.1 million more Americans hiked in 2020 than in 2019.

The dramatic increase in outdoor recreation adds increased pressure on trails and emphasizes the need for a trails safe passing plan for all trail user groups on public and private lands.

The TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN: STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK is an educational resource developed to help all trail users understand the importance and action plan of yielding to people with horses since horses are prey animals and naturally can be afraid of unfamiliar people and objects.

Horses Are Our Partners



Horses are cultural and historical. They carved their place in history and carried us into the future on their backs.

Today, horses are declared health partners as Equine Assisted Services (EAS) providing emotional, mental, physical, and substance abuse therapy and should be welcomed on public lands.

Photo courtesy of
J. Klein Photos
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Horses Are Prey Animals

Due to the natural pecking order of predator and prey, horses are more afraid of you than you are of them.

Horses expect us to be the leaders of our partnerships, providing opportunities to practice confidence, empathy, empowerment, kindness, leadership skills, patience, verbal and nonverbal communication skills, and self-discipline.

Horses appreciate when they are treated with respect.



Photo courtesy of
J. Klein Photos
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Horses Mirror Our Attitudes

The size, speed, and strength of horses hold us immediately accountable for our attitudes and actions. Horses will mirror our attitudes, providing us a reflection of how we are portraying ourselves to others.

Horses improve balance, flexibility, muscle strengthening, stamina, and more for people.



Photo courtesy of Pure Michigan
Silver Lake State Park, Mears, Michigan

A Horse's Body

The horse's body structure is designed to carry people perfectly.

Horses can carry up to 20% of their weight (approximately 220 pounds) and pull up to twice their weight (approximately 2,200 pounds).

Each of their gaits (walk, trot, and run) simulate our gaits, providing us essential industry, therapy, and transportation partners. 7



Photo courtesy of Joe Gall Photography
Silver Lake State Park, Mears, Michigan

A Horse's Senses

Horses can hear better than people as they can rotate each ear independently in nearly all directions.

Horses have a stronger sense of smell than people, so they will notice people, other wildlife, and objects before people.

Horses are exceptional search and rescue partners.



Photo courtesy of J. Klein Photos
Muskegon State Park, Muskegon, Michigan

Horses Have Blind Spots

Horses have eyes on the sides of their heads so they can look for predators and danger in a 350-degree radius.

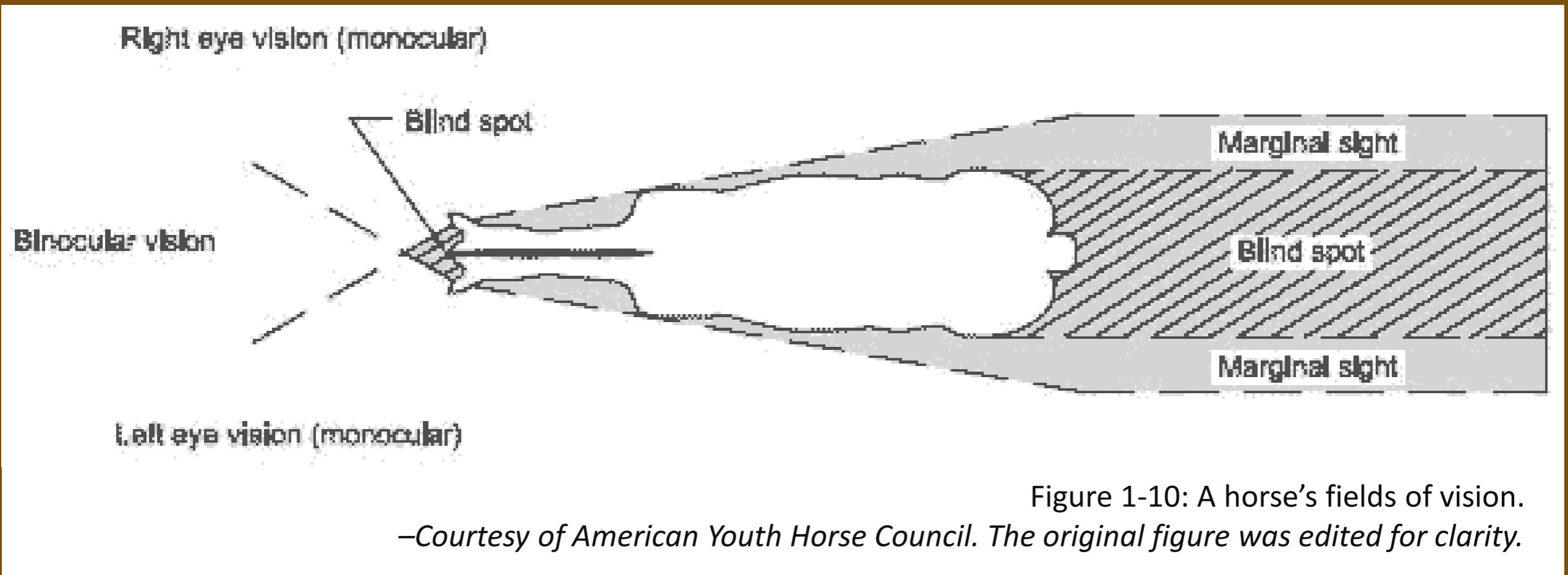
Horses have blind spots up close, between their eyes, and directly behind them.

Always ask horse owners before approaching their horses. Please approach horses at their sides, not directly at their faces or behind them.



Photo courtesy of Pure Michigan
Fort Custer Recreation Area, Augusta, Michigan

A Horse's Field of Vision



For more horse behavior, characteristics, and information, please refer to this helpful resource:

Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads and Campgrounds

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/
fs_publications/07232816/page03.cfm#visi](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232816/page03.cfm#visi)

A Horse's Sense of Sight

Horses can see movement, such as a bike approaching better than people.

Horses only have one-dimensional vision, so they have difficulty with depth perception, such as how far away a bike is or how deep the water is at water crossings.



Photo courtesy of Pure Michigan
Fort Custer Recreation Area, Augusta, Michigan

Horses Communicate

Horses provide clear communication through their physical body language of ears, head, and tail positions, and eye expressions.



Photo courtesy of J. Klein Photos
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Horses Are Transportation



Photo courtesy of Sally Aungier
Staunton River State Park, Virginia

Horses provided our first autonomous modes of transportation. They have excellent situational awareness and self-preservation skills. They will take care of both themselves and their rider.

Horses can react a quarter of a second faster than people, putting people with horses at risk of injuries when swift, semi-silent bikes are approaching, which could simulate the speeds and sounds of potential predators.

Horses Are Herd Animals

Horses prefer to be in a herd because there is safety in numbers.

People with horses often camp and travel in groups on the trails to keep their horses calm and comfortable.



Photo courtesy of Pure Michigan
Waterloo Recreation Area, Michigan

Horses Are Low Impact



Photo courtesy of Best of America by Horseback
Mackinac Island State Park, Michigan

Horses have a four-beat hoof pattern and prey scent, so even with a rider on their back horses disturb other wildlife less than all other user groups, including hikers.

Horses are as passive, lightweight, and low-impact trail users in even the most sensitive environments.

Risk of Injury



People with a horse have more risks of injuries as they are in sitting positions, on live creatures, over eight feet above the ground. Bikers and hikers are in upright positions, on objects, or on the ground, and are less likely to fall or have injuries.

The Trails Safe Passing Plan



TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN: STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK

STOP:

Horses are prey animals and naturally can be afraid of unfamiliar people and objects. Horses have natural "flight" survival instincts and prefer to move their feet towards an exit route. Therefore, people with horses should pass at a walk while other trail users remain STOPPED until passed.

SPEAK:

Please ANNOUNCE your presence.
Please SAY "Hi" when we pass by.
This helps horses identify you as a person and keep them calm.

STAND BACK:

Please STAND BACK with your whole group on the same side of the trail.
Please contain children and dogs.
Please do not hide or stand behind a tree, as these actions may cause horses to fear you are a predator planning an attack.

SMILE:

Enjoy the safe and happy trails!

Thank You



Thank you for following the TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN of STOP, SPEAK, and STAND BACK and learning about the natural instincts and gifts of horses.

Understanding these horse facts will drive out fears of horses, give compassion and respect for horses and people with horses, and provide a plan of action when you encounter horses and people with horses.

Equine Land Conservation Resource would like to thank the following:

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mi.trail.rep@gmail.com Jena Cook, and Lynsey Cook for developing the TRAILS SAFE PASSING PLAN of STOP SPEAK, and STAND BACK educational presentation **<http://michiganhorsetrails.com/>**

Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council of Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado, for the use of the Stop, Speak and Stand Back sign <https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/>
rfvhc.Colorado@gmail.com

For more information on equine access to public trails, visit **www.elcr.org**