

**Minutes of the
Equine Trails Subcommittee
July 26, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Equine Trails Subcommittee (ETS) was called to order by Chair Foote on July 26, 2017 at 1:18 p.m. at the MSU Veterinary Diagnostics Lab in Lansing. Members present were: **Chairman Foote, Dick Kleinhardt, Sarah Nicholls, Janet Holmstrom, Gabrielle Hume, and Kristie Walls.**

The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff was present: **Paul Yauk, Nikki Van Bloem, Barbara Graves, Jason Fleming, Nicole Toman, Elissa Buck, Tim Machowicz, Earl Flegler, and Scott Whitcomb.** Via phone: **Anna Sylvester, Jeff Kakuk, and Paige Perry.**

Business Items for Discussion

Gabrielle Hume moved to approve the corrected March 10, 2017 meeting minutes. Kristie Walls seconded and it carried unanimously.

Dick Kleinhardt moved the motion to approve the amended July 26, 2017 meeting agenda. Sarah Nicholls seconded and it carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Gabrielle Hume - Southeastern Lower Peninsula Report:

- In the first six months of the year, Waterloo Horsemen's Association has contributed over 225 hours of volunteer time, representing \$5,290 in effort.
- Leadership of the Polly Ann Trail Lapeer applied for a \$300,000 grant from the MNRTF for trail improvements and development. If awarded, they would need \$100,000 in matching funds. At this point, they have \$50,000 committed to them from local agencies. They will be conducting fundraisers.

Janet Holmstrom – Upper Peninsula Report:

- DNR and MI-TRALE (local multi user trail group in the western UP) are working on the planning of the Pike Lake EQ campground & trails. We have made a trip out to ride the trails between rain storms, but we did not avoid the hail and I was glad to have a helmet on! We plan to ride out there again to look at the remaining trails we did not have a chance to ride. So far it looks great and a really terrific location right on Pike Lake.
- The USDA/Ottawa National Forest has requested more information before making a decision on opening up a few campsites at the Courtney Lake campground to horses. MI-TRALE will be meeting and getting the information to them. A fall meeting is planned to further discuss this. Keep your fingers crossed; this would be a great addition to the Courtney horse trails and a good use for an under-utilized campground.

- Cathy Wainio (MI-TRALE) and I met with Jeff Kakuk (DNR) on 7/07/17 to look at the trails that could expand the Courtney area horse trails onto the DNR property on the North side of M-38. The trails are all logging roads except for a small logging trail we hope to use as a loop to access water. Mr. Kakuk seemed to think we could make this work, so stay tuned for a proposal.
- We are moving ahead with plans for the UP DNR Workshop October 6 or 7 at the Marquette fairgrounds. A survey is being prepared regarding topics and will be sent out to interested parties.
- I sent an email to Corey Butcher (DNR) and an interested party in working on the Pine Bowl trail, I haven't heard back yet. This is the trail located in the eastern UP in Chippewa County just above the Mackinaw Bridge.
- At Headquarters lake; the horse trail from the campground to the fire lines has been opened up, it was a grown in road that needed quite a bit of work, The confidence markers just need to be installed.
- Per Rob Katona, an update for the Thunder Valley Expansion and the Thunder Valley Connector: Approximately 60% of the new trail construction has been marked on the ground with the remaining planned to be marked by the end of August. MDOT crossing permit will need to be applied for and executed for the connector and routing around the new UPAWS (animal shelter) building will need to be completed before the connector opens. We will need to gather a group and schedule in one to several days (dependent on number of volunteers) to perform the brushing and tree cutting for the new trail. So far the marking has gone well the new trail will have some very nice segments of single track EQ trail!
- Also, from Rob; some of the concerns we received from the local residents living along a portion of the county road that will be used for the EQ connector. We held a meeting on June 21st with the local residents because of their concerns and came up with some action items to address most of them. I am fairly confident that we can satisfy most of the concerns and I do not foresee many issues with equestrians sharing the road.

Concerns from local residents:

- Need to minimize horses riding across driveways.
- Keep horses on pavement.
- Who will cleanup manure?
- Relocate trail away from residents and drives to the north.
- Need signage or barriers to keep horsed off of Blueberry Ridge.
- Keep ATVs off of new horse trail.
- Develop another parking area at Fairgrounds.
- For larger events (50-60) horses there is a concern with amount of manure on county road need to require mandatory cleanup.
- Shared use signage to warn motorists on county road of EQ use.

- At Republic, there is a new DNR camping grounds which is open to horses per Joan. I'm not aware of this one? Does anyone have some info on it? - will get more information to Anna so Anna can look into it.
- It looks like there is some interest in forming a "Friends Group" for the Thunder Valley trails. Keep your fingers crossed.

Sarah Nicholls – Tourism Report:

- The tourism industry is extremely busy right now. She has heard some communities talk about the idea of too many tourists, which for Michigan is a new problem and could potentially become a bigger issue over the next several decades in some parts of the state.
- The five-year State Strategic Tourism Plan expires at the end of this calendar year. At the beginning of next year they will have an evaluation period of the current plan and then there will be the development of the next plan.
- She has accepted a professorship back in the U.K. and will be leaving the country beginning of next summer. She will give the subcommittee recommendations for her replacement and bring them to the next meeting.

Dick Kleinhardt - Northern Lower Peninsula Report:

- They held an "eco-friendly" work bee at the Pigeon in May where maintenance was done on horseback.
- He is interested in the update on P.A. 288 and the impact on trails.

Mike Foote – Southwestern Lower Peninsula:

- Equine Economic Impact Study – Col. Don Packard reported that the survey for the Michigan equine industry has been extended until August 18. Their goal is to gather as much info as possible. He will forward the link.

Kristie Walls – Central Lower Peninsula Report:

- As usual there has been a lot of trail and campground maintenance in the Central region. Ft. Custer has had some major bridge rebuilding. Yankee Springs has put in three corrals in and all the sites with corrals are always reserved. They are putting two more in this weekend. Ionia has corrals on seven sites and those are primarily the first ones to get reserved.
- She continues to be frustrated when the DNR publishes their e-mail releases about making your trail vacation plans and it always is hiking, biking, kayaking; never horses. She was happy that Pure Michigan put out an ad campaign she saw on Facebook that included horseback riding.
- Jenny Cook would like her to say that they are looking forward to a pilot shoreline ride this fall after Labor Day, hopefully before the next meeting on October 18. The specific location has not yet been determined. She has been emailing back and forth with Paul. It is a pleasure to work both with ETS and the DNR. Warren Dunes State Park is ruled out because it is known as a popular dog park, voted top 10 in the

nation. Muskegon State Park is a possibility with two miles of canine friendly shoreline and it's flat with ample parking. Silver Lake State Park is another option. If that manager is amenable to the idea, she would like to hear about a pilot ride possibility.

Paul Yauk said Silver Lake is an option for the pilot, after ORV season. However, after talking to Jenny he understood there was some concern with riding the horses on the sand and dunes because of being extremely strenuous on the horses. Jason said there is quite a trek to the shoreline from the parking area and that they may want to take a day beforehand to work with the park to plan a route first. Elissa Buck suggested doing this plan day in August.

Elissa Buck requested Paul cc her on correspondence because this would be a special event that she would handle and she can work with the park manager on it. Jason Fleming suggested they do an event permit for this to set conditions. It will also be beneficial as a "blue print" for future similar events. Paul requested that Jenny keep in touch with him.

Updates

- P.A. 288 of 2016 – Scott Whitcomb from Forest Resources Division gave an update on the road inventory project. Background and timeline for the project can be found at www.michigan.gov/forestroads.
- Subcommittee Term Limit Protocol – Dick Kleinhardt was disappointed that he was not contacted by the Department before candidates were sought as possible replacements for his position on the committee. They would like to be notified prior to term expiration to provide feedback on whether or not they want to continue to serve, and to have the ability to provide feedback on other individuals they feel would be qualified and able to serve. Gabrielle Hume agreed.
- Draft Equestrian Camping Policy – Jason Fleming, Resource Protection & Promotion Chief, and Nicole Toman, Regulatory Unit Manager, discussed the draft equestrian camping policy and the proposed 2018 fee schedule. Nicole asked for feedback on specific criteria which should be included on allowable corrals and number of horses per camper. Jason stated the group camp fee portion of the policy could potentially be handled in a different manner; he would be looking to ETS as an advisory group to provide a recommendation if a change is needed. Please send questions or comments on the draft policy to Nicole. She will send out another copy of the policy to the group.
- Workshop Location/Dates - Jeff Kakuk and Janet Holmstrom are sending out the survey to groups in the U.P. for feedback on content. The date will be either October 6th or 7th. He currently has both dates reserved at the fairgrounds. The date and

agenda will be based on replies they receive from the survey. Registration will be open to statewide participation.

- Equestrian Trail Mapping – Nikki reported that 10 new maps are now published on the website; mostly state parks in the southern half of the state. The equestrian trails that are also rail trails need a different format for a different template because those are longer; Stuart Neils-Kraft will be working on this over the winter. He has 72 miles of the Shore-to-Shore mapped so far. There are a couple of parks that are not on the site yet because they are still ironing out some changes. Equestrian trail maps can be found at www.michigan.gov/dnrtrails, and then select the equestrian button.
- CIS Equestrian Trail – Nikki said that there is a MSU landscape architecture 300-level class that is going to do some preliminary engineering for them for routing between St. Johns and Owosso. Nikki has informed the professor that the Department, the friends group, and other involved parties will all need to be at the table to discuss equestrian needs, trail maintenance needs, and DNR needs.
- Marketing – Elissa Buck, Event Coordinator, gave an update on the marketing effort for the equestrian program. See attached for her presentation. She will forward the calendar event form to Barb to forward to the committee. This and other event forms can be found on the License, Applications & Permits page on the DNR website. Feel free to e-mail her with any ideas you may have for marketing at BuckE1@michigan.gov. She will make sure that equestrians are included in their marketing campaigns, and put in publications such as Michigan Trails Week. She also asked that people continue to send her pictures. She is working on an easier release for when people's faces are visible.

Public Appearance

- Don Packard, President of the Michigan Horse Council reported that they will go forward with planning and scheduling legislative days. Since the economic impact study date was extended, it will probably be sometime in December before the legislature's holiday break if he can get it approved by Sen. Joe Hune. Their goal is to put 500 equestrians in to the State Capitol on that date. He already has a lot of support from the equine industry.

He started a mini committee based on what happened last month over P.A. 288. He received phone calls from television stations in Traverse City whom he referred to Al Davis and Al made the broadcast the same night. Three public newspapers called him. Based on that he asked if they could have a special ad hoc committee to look into how they should respond as equestrians.

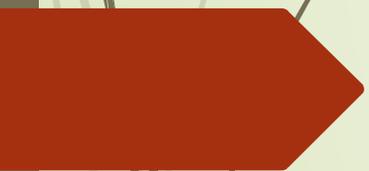
Action Items

Discuss Goals of the Trail Plan – Provide Top 3

Brief discussion was given on the goals of the Trail Plan. Gabrielle Hume and Kristie Walls provided brief synopsis of their top three (see attached). Due to running out of time, a more in depth discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Gabrielle Hume said she is concerned that the reporting of volunteer hours and other presented items to the subcommittee are not being reported to the Michigan Trails Advisory Council like they once were. She would like to see that happen again as well as a report from Chair Foote on what he presented to MTAC.

With no further business being discussed, Dick Kleinhardt moved the motioned to adjourn. Kristie Walls seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



Equestrian Marketing 2017-2018

Elissa Buck, Event Coordinator
Parks and Recreation Division



2017 Efforts

- Updating Website Content
 - Saddle Up! Magazine
 - Equestrian Showcase Article (October)
 - DNR Event Calendar
 - Social Media
 - Creating a 2018 Marketing plan
- 

Web Updates

- [Equestrian Trail Webpage](#)
- State Forest Campgrounds and Pathways
 - [Big Oaks](#)
 - [Black Lake Trail Camp](#)
 - [Goose Creek Trail Camp](#)

The screenshot shows the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Recreation Search interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "DNR Home", "DNR Reservations", "Contact", and "MI.gov". The main header features the DNR logo and the text "Recreation Search Michigan Department of Natural Resources". A search bar contains the word "Equest" and a search icon. Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Home", "List", "Map", and "Events". The main content area displays "Goose Creek Trail Camp" with its address (LAT 44.7614226687 LONG -84.839660985600005), phone number (989-348-7068), and a note that a "Recreation Passport" is required. Below this, there are tabs for "Overview", "Map", and "Events". A large photograph shows people riding horses in a wooded area. On the right side, a dropdown menu is open, showing search results for "Equestrian" activities, including "Equestrian", "Equestrian Camping", and various "DNR Units" like "Big Oaks Equestrian State Campground", "Brighton-Equestrian", "Brighton-Equestrian Trail", "Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground and Trail Camp", and "Highland-Equestrian Trails". Below the dropdown, there are "Place Search Results" for "Michigan (United States)" and "Lake Michigan, United States (United States)", with a "Make a Donation" button at the bottom.



Yankee Springs Recreation Area

Saddle Up! Magazine will feature a series of articles in 2017 dedicated to Michigan State Parks, which will be provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Give Yankee Springs a Try!

by Elissa Buck

Equestrians will be hard pressed to find a more beautiful trail system and campground than can be found at Yankee Springs Recreation Area. Located near beautiful Gun Lake, Michigan, this park is just 35 minutes south of Grand Rapids.

The Horseman's Camp is home to 25 campsites featuring vault toilets, a manure pit, a centrally located hand pump, a group fire circle and a nearby picnic shelter. In addition, picket poles, a picnic table and fire circle can be found at each campsite. The cost is \$18 per night and campsites can be reserved in advance.

Ten miles of trails wind through forests, alongside lakes and pass by creeks providing riders with a varied and challenging equestrian experience. The trails connect to an additional nine miles of trails that can be found in the neighboring Barry State Game Area (available to equestrian riders in the summer months). This varied and scenic trail system lends itself to rides of varying distances.

"The most popular feature at Horseman's Campground is the trail ride experience," said Ron Walker, president of the Yankee Springs Trail Riders Association. "The trails take riders through remote picturesque woodlands with many opportunities to see all kinds of wildlife. I like to think that the views are much like what the first settlers to the area must have experienced."

The Yankee Springs Trail Riders Association (YSTRA) was formed in 1997 to preserve, protect and improve the equestrian campground and trail system, and the park, has experienced numerous benefits as a result. The trail riders association has volunteered countless hours working in the park and has raised funds for a number of projects. These efforts have been instrumental in creating a unique equestrian experience that can only be found in Yankee Springs Recreation Area.

"I can't imagine that two organizations could better share such a focused and common goal as the YSTRA and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources," said Walker.

A number of recent improvement projects complement the scenic and natural features already found within the park. A newly constructed picnic shelter and group fire circle promotes visitor camaraderie and is one of the more popular amenities in the campground. The shelter area is also used to host special events, such as competitive horseback riding and the annual haunted trail ride in October. A new obstacle course provides riders with additional opportunities for riding, while honing their skills. Future plans include expanding and reclaiming trails and adding additional amenities to the campground, including a new solar powered well.

"We encourage new and past visitors to visit Yankee Spring and experience all of the exciting improvements that have come to fruition thanks to our partnership with the YSTRA," said Andru Jevicks, Yankee Spring Recreation Area manager.

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10 Mile Trail System with Adjoining 9 Miles

Located in Yankee Springs Twp., Barry County, Michigan, the park is 5,200 acres. It has 120 rustic, 200 modern and 25 equestrian camp sites, plus two cabins.



YSTRA - Dedicated to Preserve, Protect, Improve and Expand existing horse campgrounds and the horse trail network in the Yankee Springs recreation area and surrounding areas for use by horsemen, their families and the general public for horse riding and camping.

If you would like to learn more about the Yankee Springs Trail Riders Association, please visit them online at: www.ystra.org

Reservations can be made by visiting www.midnreservations.com or calling 1-800-44-PARKS (1-800-447-2757). More information about the park and campground can be found at www.michigan.gov/yankeesprings.

Saddle Up! Magazine will be working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to feature a variety of equestrian destinations in 2017. Stay tuned!

(66)

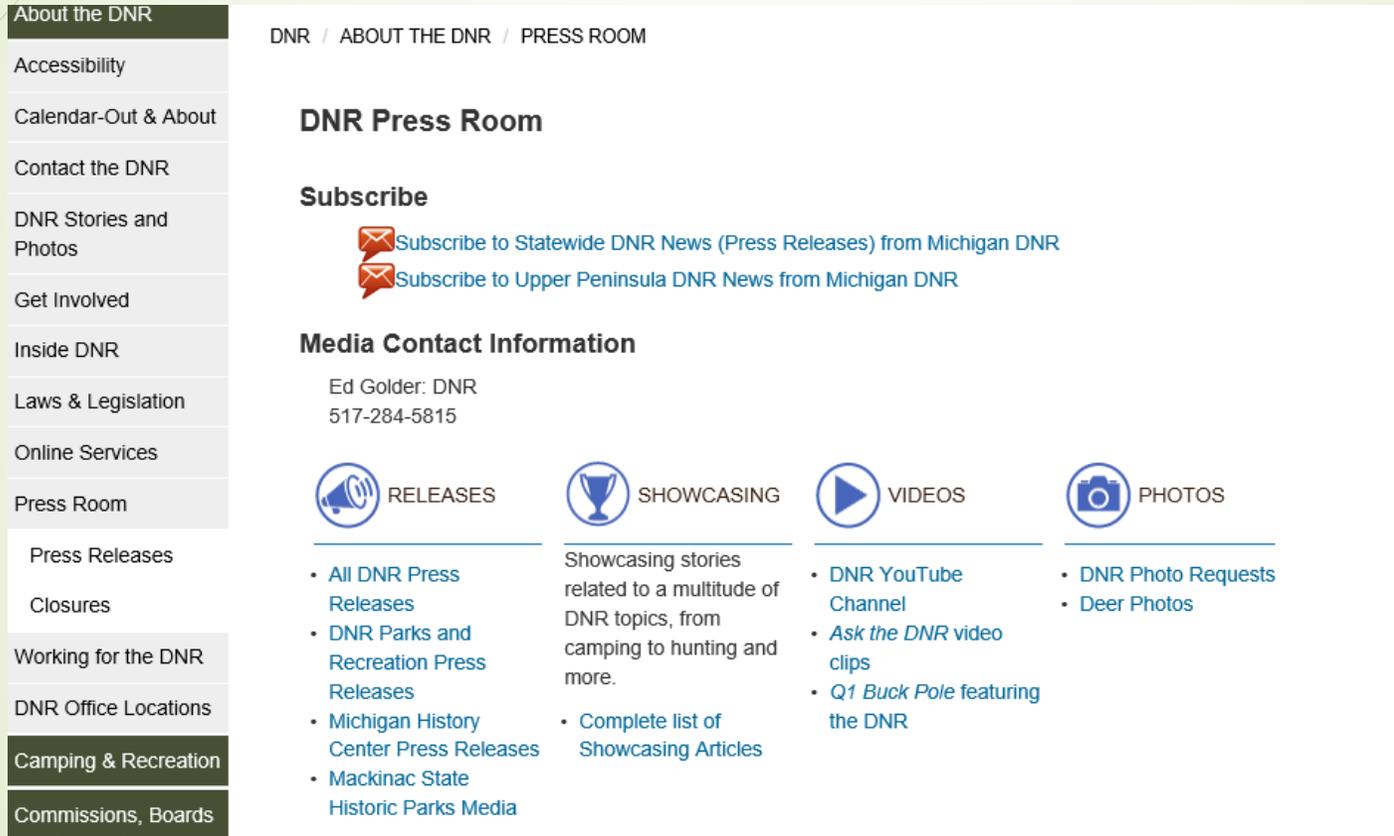
WWW.SADDLEUPMAG.COM



Articles to Date

- February - Sleepy Hollow State Park
- March- Yankee Springs Rec. Area
- May – Brighton Rec. Area
- June – Ionia Rec. Area
- August – NL State Forest Campgrounds

Showcase Article (October)



The screenshot shows the Michigan DNR website's Press Room page. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with items like 'About the DNR', 'Accessibility', 'Calendar-Out & About', 'Contact the DNR', 'DNR Stories and Photos', 'Get Involved', 'Inside DNR', 'Laws & Legislation', 'Online Services', 'Press Room', 'Press Releases', 'Closures', 'Working for the DNR', 'DNR Office Locations', 'Camping & Recreation', and 'Commissions, Boards'. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail 'DNR / ABOUT THE DNR / PRESS ROOM' and a 'DNR Press Room' heading. Below this is a 'Subscribe' section with two links: 'Subscribe to Statewide DNR News (Press Releases) from Michigan DNR' and 'Subscribe to Upper Peninsula DNR News from Michigan DNR'. The 'Media Contact Information' section lists 'Ed Golder: DNR' with phone number '517-284-5815'. There are four columns of media links: 'RELEASES' (All DNR Press Releases, DNR Parks and Recreation Press Releases, Michigan History Center Press Releases, Mackinac State Historic Parks Media), 'SHOWCASING' (Showcasing stories related to a multitude of DNR topics, from camping to hunting and more, Complete list of Showcasing Articles), 'VIDEOS' (DNR YouTube Channel, Ask the DNR video clips, Q1 Buck Pole featuring the DNR), and 'PHOTOS' (DNR Photo Requests, Deer Photos).

About the DNR

DNR / ABOUT THE DNR / PRESS ROOM

DNR Press Room

Subscribe

-  [Subscribe to Statewide DNR News \(Press Releases\) from Michigan DNR](#)
-  [Subscribe to Upper Peninsula DNR News from Michigan DNR](#)

Media Contact Information

Ed Golder: DNR
517-284-5815

 RELEASES	 SHOWCASING	 VIDEOS	 PHOTOS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">All DNR Press ReleasesDNR Parks and Recreation Press ReleasesMichigan History Center Press ReleasesMackinac State Historic Parks Media	<p>Showcasing stories related to a multitude of DNR topics, from camping to hunting and more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete list of Showcasing Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DNR YouTube ChannelAsk the DNR video clipsQ1 Buck Pole featuring the DNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DNR Photo RequestsDeer Photos

Social Media

- Instagram #MiStateParks
- Facebook #MiStateParks
- Pinterest - Michigan State Parks



DNR Event Calendar

(www.Michigan.gov/dnrcalendar)

DNR / CAMPING & RECREATION

Brighton Recreation Area - Brighton Trail Riders Association Picnic and Ride

Date: August 05, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM

Location: [Brighton Recreation Area](#), 6360 Chilson Road, Howell, MI 48843

Add to Calendar:  iCalendar  Google  Yahoo  MSN/Hotmail/Live

Contact: Brighton Recreation Area 810-229-6566

Join the [Brighton Trail Riders Association \(BTRA\)](#) for a picnic and trail ride. Riders should meet at the staging area. Registration and ride begins at 10 a.m., lunch will be served at 1:30 p.m. BTRA will be providing hotdogs, burgers, beverages, condiments and desserts. Guests, please bring a side dish to pass (salads, beans etc., no desserts please).

RSVP to Rose Clark by July 30 at rosehclark@att.net or call 517-304-3970.

Please Note: *The Michigan Department of Natural Resources makes every effort to provide the most up-to-date and accurate information on the web calendar. However, dates occasionally change and events may be canceled for any reason. Please call the unit hosting the event to confirm dates and times prior to your arrival.*

A [Recreation Passport](#) is required for entry into all Michigan state parks and recreation areas. Check "YES" when you [renew your license plate at the Secretary of State](#).

For camping reservations, visit www.midnrreservations.com or call 1-800-447-2757.

 [Subscribe to Inside Michigan's Great Outdoors newsletter](#)





2018 marketing (tentative)

- New Website
- Equestrian Event Calendar
- Spring & Fall Equestrian Guide - Gov. Delivery
- Track Metrics to compare to 2017– clicks, shares, re-posts, camp nights etc.



We need your help!

- Send high resolution photos that help tell your story!
- Submit public events to the DNR Calendar via the Event calendar form (PR4761)
- Send us updates about what your groups are doing!
- Submit suggestions to Elissa Buck at bucke1@Michigan.gov

Submitted to Equine Trails Subcommittee: July 26, 2017
 Top 3 from GOALS list in Implementation Plan

Goal #1 - Complete comprehensive EQ Trails and Facilities Inventory and Analysis.

<p>2. Once the inventory is adequate, provide a gap analysis of where infrastructure needs must be pursued to achieve the Vision and goals (e.g. abandoned county roads, utility corridors or user created trails). [Primary lead: DNR]</p>	<p>The DNR must complete the trails inventory. Then, collaborate with ETS representatives, who will also collaborate with local EQs and/or EQ associations for potential new or extended trails.</p>
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GOAL #2 - Improve and Expand DNR EQ Trails and Facilities

<p>2. Expand riding trails at non-linear state parks and recreation areas with EQ facilities so riders have access to a minimum of 10 miles of trail. Look for opportunities to configure trails so multiple loops are provided including connections to other trails nearby (including neighboring states). [Primary lead: DNR]</p>	<p>NOT ALL TRAILS must have a campground. Allow for the development of trails, with trailhead/parking, in rural areas where people keep horses! NOT ROADS. It's not safe.</p> <p>PERMIT ACCESS across state land for short distances for <u>adjoining property owners</u> to access DESIGNATED horse trails.</p>
<p>10. Develop uniform sign guidance covering design, content and location information for use on EQ trails, trailheads, and campgrounds. Partner with Friends Groups to place and maintain signs where needed. [Primary lead: DNR]</p>	<p>TRAIL MARKERS: There is currently inconsistent trail marking signage throughout the EQ trail systems. Blue dot, white markers in PRCSF., numbers at Waterloo & Ortonville, something different at Yankee Springs. Near Turtle Lake Campground, they are working with the local office and have designed yet another completely different trail marker!! Some trail markers are useless without a corresponding map.</p>
<p>TRAIL SIGNAGE CONTINUED: ADVISORY SIGNS at trailheads/ campgrounds, etc. Some parking areas for day-use are shared with others. There should be signage that tells the EQ what to do with manure. (where the dumpster is, scatter it in woods, or put it in the horse trailer and take home) Advisory signs are needed to remind EQs of campground ETIQUETTE to keep everyone safe. (Nothing faster than walk when people or horses are present; where to put poop; quiet hours; information for nearby veterinarians, farriers, food, shopping, etc. Information about where / what is safe for watering horses along the trails. Places NOT to use, to avoid damaging waterbed/aqua environment and to prevent entrapment, due to mud or fast moving water. WARNING signs IF areas are shared with other users. Advise others of their risk and the potential of their activity causing harm to others. See Genesee County P&R signs.</p>	

Goal #3 - Promote EQ Trails and Facilities to Users and Businesses
 Cannot be accomplished until after the trails inventory & gap analysis is finished. Then – work on TRAIL TOWNS.

Goal #4 - Collaborate with Partners and Governmental Agencies to Improve Communications, Expand Riding Opportunities, and Maintain Trails and Facilities

<p>1. Inform equine riders of DNR’s trail proposal process. This information would allow EQ users the ability to assist in the identification and development of connecting EQ trails on private and public land. [Primary lead: DNR]</p>	<p>This has been done through the DNR-EQ workshops that Gabrielle Hume (EQ) & Anna Sylvester (DNR) have instituted and conducted. Gabrielle and other ETS Reps share this information on social media and through emails to those who ask.</p>
<p>4. Inform the public on how they can effectively participate in the DNR’s land management planning processes. [Primary lead: DNR]</p>	<p>This is done through MDNR email to those who subscribe to the emails. However, the outreach to those who do not regularly use internet is virtually non-existent. I recommend the DNR post meeting notices in SADDLE UP news; Farm Bureau news; and similar publications available to EQs (and to those publications that cater to other outdoor enthusiasts). In addition, those associations who send delegates to Friends Meetings learn also.</p>
<p>5. Collaborate with riding associations to facilitate opportunities so that the equine community can learn how to initiate friends associations, perform trail maintenance activities, and achieve certification for chainsaw operations. [Primary lead: EQs]</p>	<p>This is being done. BCHMI has held chainsaw certification classes that were attended by EQs and others. There are 4 EQs (at least) in the state that have attended trail building school. There was not enough interest several years ago when BCHMI wanted to partner with DNR to host the 3-day class in Michigan.</p>

In response to comments about "unification" We should not need an individual from each group; however, the reality is, we do; and additionally, potential conflicts should be OPENLY discussed at the MTAC meetings.

Goal #6 - Develop a Conflict Resolution Process

1. Promote the establishment of a “friends group” for each State Park, Recreation Area, Forest, or Game Area which would consist of a representative from each user group and which can serve as the first step in resolving conflicts at a local level. [Primary lead: ETS]

Top 3 Priority Goals – Kristie Walls

The Comprehensive Trail Plan states as a goal that every home, in essence, should be a trail head. To make this happen the following needs to be accomplished:

- 1) Correct the interpretation of Pittman Robertson and Dingell Johnson rules as it applies to trails.
 - a. PR/DJ DOES NOT STATE NO TRAILS. It merely states trail use cannot interfere with the primary purpose of hunting / fishing.
 - b. The no trail usage “rule” is simply a policy of convenience for the DNR – not law.
 - c. Solution – no trail riding during large caliber hunting seasons, and keep equines a specified realistic distance away from users who are fishing.
- 2) Correct the interpretation of License Fee Acquired & Managed Lands.
 - a. This law only states that hunting and fishing fees cannot be used to support other activities. It does not say other activities cannot happen on these lands.
 - b. The no trail usage “rule” is simply a policy of convenience for the DNR – not law.
 - c. Solution – Don’t use license fees for improvements unless they directly benefit the licensees. Many hunters and fishermen would love their trails being kept open better by more consistent use. It also de-sensitizes game to human presence which actually accommodates the hunter well.

Following is copied from the Comprehensive Trails Plan.

Limitations on the Use of State Land

There are many sources of funding that are used to purchase state land for public purposes. All funding sources carry some criteria as to how the land can be utilized. Three primary sources of funding that include restrictions with respect to trail-related recreation on the acquired lands are: (1) Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration Funds (PR), (2) Dingell Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Fund (DJ) and (3) License Fee Acquired Lands (LF).

PR/DJ Grant Acquired and Managed Lands: DNR lands which are PR/DJ acquired and/or managed are distributed in a checker board pattern across the state. Many of these areas are desirable to a variety of recreation users. Trail use is not prohibited on PR/DJ purchased land. However, when it does occur, the intensity and frequency cannot interfere with the primary purpose of hunting and fishing. For example, PR/DJ funds cannot be used for enforcement of use restrictions or other non-PR/DJ purposes on PR/DJ lands. As an example, should the US Fish and Wildlife Service determine that the state is not adequately managing the frequency and intensity of EQ use on these lands and if a satisfactory resolution is not achieved, future PR/DJ funding is jeopardized. Since these funds have been significant-\$23.5 million in 2012-careful management of non-hunting and non-fishing activities is very important.

License Fee Acquired and Managed Lands: Some DNR lands were acquired and/or managed with hunting and fishing license fees. A provision of the PR (1937) and DJ (1950) Acts is that states must assent to only use state license fees for fish and wildlife services. Michigan assented in 1939. The state acceptance of these provisions is found in Section 324.40501 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994 where it states “...funds accruing to this state from license fees paid for by hunters shall not be used for any purpose other than game and fish activities under the administration of the DNR.” The DNR complies with the law by only allowing for trails that support fish and wildlife purposes.

- 3) Implement the promised DNR website with all trail maps completed so far, in pdf and other downloadable formats to link to common GPS equipment and GPS apps for smart phones.
 - a. This site should be prominently linked to/from the Pure Michigan website, as well as the DNR reservations website, and each map should be a link on the appropriate campground page if it is tied to or near a campground.
 - b. The Map Website should be promoted widely – in state, and regionally at the very least.