Trail Etiquette

Educating public land users about multiple uses and what to do when encountering other users.

Motorized Users

- Slow down around other users.
- Use hand signals when traveling.

ATV/Motorcyclers

- Always yield the right-of-way to non-motorized trail users.
- When encountering hikers or horses on the trail, pull over and shut off your engine. With horses, remove your helmet (horses are sometimes startled by them) and let them pass out of sight before restarting.
- Whenever you're riding near a parking or camping area keep your speed way down. Don't kick up dust or make a lot of noise with your engine.

Snowmobilers

- Be aware of different types of tracks on trails to avoid collisions.
- Keep to the right on trails.

Horseback Riders

- Locate camp away from trails and 200 feet from water.
- Do not tie stock to trees. Use electric fence or highline.
- Give right-of-way when possible.
- Saddle horses should give way to pack stock.
- When overtaken, let them pass at first opportunity.

Hikers

- Talk to make your presence known to other users and wildlife.
- Keep noise to a minimum to respect users and wildlife.

All Trail Users

- Be respectful and use common sense.
- Stay on trail—don't take shortcuts.
- When possible, downhill users yield to any users (motorized included) who are traveling uphill.
- Say hello to other trail users. Not only does this add to your experience, but you may also get valuable information about the trail conditions. Plus, they'll remember you in case of emergency.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Travel only where permitted.
- Pack out what you pack in.
- Leave all gates as you found them. Abide by all signs and posted areas.
- Respect all property—know where you are.

Trail Safety

- Always leave word of your route and destination.
- Know weather conditions.
- Plan your trip.
- Use a map.
- Wear proper attire.
- Never ride alone.
- Carry survival gear– be prepared for self-rescue.
- Stay hydrated.

Weeds

- Certified noxious weed seed free forage is required when horses or pack animals are used on public lands in Montana.
- Please clean and inspect: vehicles, equipment, stock, pets, and yourself. Dispose of seeds properly.
- Help prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

What if we meet on the trail?

- Horse
  - ◊ Pass horses on the downhill side.
  - ◊ Hikers:
    - ⇒ Speak out so the horse knows what you are.
  - ◊ Motorized vehicle riders and cyclers:
    - ⇒ Be careful on corners and with speed.
  - ◊ Helmet wearers:
    - ⇒ Slowly remove your helmet and talk.
- Motorized vehicle
  - ◊ If on foot, mountain bike or horse:
    - ⇒ Make yourself known and visible.
    - ⇒ You will hear them before they see you.
    - ⇒ Move to the side.
- Hiker/cross-country skier
  - ◊ Horseback riders:
    - ⇒ Give the hiker directions on what to do, because you know your horse.
  - ◊ Motorized vehicle riders:
    - ⇒ Reduce speed to give users time to move to the side of the trail.
  - ◊ Cyclers:
    - ⇒ Slow down on corners and when approaching from the rear.