

## Equestrian Use on CLHWF (090623)

Secondary Use means any new natural resource based public use which is not explicitly allowed under the terms of the Grant of Conservation Easement or permitted under the most current Recreation and Public Access Plan; or any additional primary use<sup>1</sup> which is different in scale, technology, environmental impact, or aerial extent than existed at the time of the Grant of Easement. Equestrian Use is considered a secondary use per the Grant of Conservation Easement since it was an activity that did not occur on the property when the easement was acquired. In the 2007 Plan secondary uses considered were;

- ATVs
- Camping
- Equestrian (general public)
- Hiking Trails (extended or new)
- Special Use Permits (commercial use/group use)

The 2007 Public Access and Recreation Management Plan (pgs. 69-72) set a direction to permit equestrian use as a secondary public use on the property and was predicated on having an equestrian organization come forward to develop and manage the use in partnership with DPR. During the planning process the equestrian community expressed the desire for a 10–20-mile loop be created separated where possible from motorized trails. No individuals or groups volunteered.

The 2012 amendment directed the agency to identify and work with local individuals to build a volunteer organization. In 2013 a committee of was convened and a Pilot Equestrian Trail Plan was developed.

- Two trail systems were identified, both relied on private landowners and municipalities opening their road systems and trails to equestrian use.
  - Park Trail
  - Town Trail
- DPR secured private landowner permission for two years for the pilot program.
- Parking lots for trailers were identified.
  - Deadwater/High Bridge Brook Lot
  - Connecticut Lakes Headwaters, Perry Stream gravel pit
  - Lake Francis State Park
  - Coleman State Park
  - Ramblewood Cabins and Campground
- Routes were flagged, however, with limited manpower and no funding the effort fell apart.

The 2017 amendment did not bring forward any alternatives or action items to accommodate equestrian use and at this point equestrian use is not permitted on the roads and trails on the property.

Comments were received on 8/3/23 from the NH Horse Council to allow horses on designated roads and trails and carriage use by special use permit. No routes or locations other than a trailhead at Coleman State Park were identified. They also propose to allow use on the designated road system without the need of a sponsoring organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Primary Use means any Natural Resource-based Use which is explicitly allowed under the terms of the easement or documented to have been a permitted, public, non-commercial use at the time of the Easement. P.51 2007 Plan