

From: nhhctrails@aol.com
To: [Bryce, Philip](#); [Young, Sandy](#); [Lyons, Johanna](#); [Rennie, Craig](#)
Cc: nhhctrails@aol.com
Subject: For Sept 18, 2021 CONNECTICUT LAKES HEADWATERS CITIZENS COMMITTEE meeting
Date: Friday, September 17, 2021 2:35:28 PM

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Attn:

Philip Bryce, Director of NH Division of Parks and Recreation
Sandy Young, Regional Supervisor, Division of Parks and Recreation
Johanna Lyons, State Park Planning and Development Specialist, Division of Parks and Recreation
Craig Rennie, Chief Supervisor of NH Bureau of Trails, Division of Parks and Recreation

From NH Horse Council Trails Committee

c/o Debbie Briscoe

I am apologizing that this is short notice, as I just found out about the meeting.

I writing to you asking that our comments be presented to the Sept 18, 2021 CONNECTICUT LAKES HEADWATERS CITIZENS COMMITTEE meeting. In particular, we respectfully request Committee members to please consider continuing to develop trail opportunities for equine use on the property.

The 2007 Plan mentioned the public requested non-motorized trails and that these trails would be discussed yearly. As a non-motorized trail user, equestrians hope to seek out opportunities for trail use in this area. With the thought on more ATV trails noted in the June 2021 meeting minutes, please also consider providing more trails for equine use with parking for horse trailers. This would enhance the actions stated in the 2007 Plan and 2012 Plan's amendments and create equity for recreational horse use.

Suggestions:

- Amend the Plan to continue to work with local individuals, towns and businesses interested in equestrian use to expand equine trails.
- Encourage locals to host overnight camping with horses with access to trails.
- Create opportunities for individual volunteerism and memberships in an established group. This may be more helpful than requiring an equestrian organization for planning and maintaining trails.
- Allow dispersed horse use on designated roads unless posted closed.
- Provide 20 miles minimum of a trail network for horses that allow for loops of different lengths.
- Map non-motorized and other trails that allow horse use. Make maps publicly available online.

Trends: This may be helpful for developing a trail system for horse use.

- The Equine Industry contributes significantly to the NH economy. The equine industry puts daily demands on many other industries and its ripple effects spreads wide.
- Equestrians tend to seek the quieter trails.
- Equestrian organizations centered around trails are not numerous and tend to be small.
- Equestrians have expressed the willingness to pay a reasonable fee for trail use.
- Equestrians seek short day use trails that allow for loops of different lengths within a loop trail system. I.e. 5-8 miles, 9-15 miles, 16-22 miles.
- Equestrians seek out long distance trails to go point to point to facilities with overnight stays.

--Horse use has been only 7% of the trail use. It is a limited, low impact, nature based outdoor recreational use that is categorized as not having any significant negative impact to trails.

Conclusion

Trail riding is a top activity in our industry and horses have impact on human health. [See article. https://elcr.org/horsesandhumanhealth/](https://elcr.org/horsesandhumanhealth/)

It will surely be exciting to see expanded trails for horse use, and visiting opportunities that can benefit economics and the well-being of citizens.

Sincerely submitted,
Debbie Briscoe
NHC Trails Committee
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