

# TRAIL ETIQUETTE

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Surprised trail users. Fast moving users can startle others, especially when approaching from behind. Always ride under control, anticipate users around blind corners, and be exceedingly friendly and communicative.

## WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?

Mountain bikers yield to hikers, horses and uphill traffic.

## WHAT DOES "YIELD" MEAN?

Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary, and pass in a safe and friendly manner.

## PASSING HIKERS:

1. Greet hikers early.
2. Slow down to about the same speed as the hiker.
3. Pass slowly and be prepared to stop if necessary.
4. Expect the unexpected. Humans and animals can be unpredictable or easily spooked by cyclists.

## PASSING CYCLISTS:

1. Announce your intention to pass with a friendly "Let me know when it's safe to pass."
2. Use the singletrack yield on narrow trail – stop to the side, put one foot down, and lean away from the trail.

## PASSING HORSES:

1. Stop at least 30 feet from the horse.
2. Greet the equestrian and the horse to demonstrate that you are a human, and not a predator.
3. Ask for instruction on how to pass safely. Offer to get off your bike.
4. Pass slowly and steadily, but only after the equestrian gives you the go-ahead. Sudden movements can spook a horse.

## DON'T USE WET TRAILS.

If you are leaving prints (hoof, tire, or boot), the trail is too wet to use. When approaching muddy spots, go through the center of the mud to keep the trail narrow.

## STAY ON THE TRAIL.

Do not go off trail (even to pass), create new trails, or cut switchbacks. Narrow trails mean less environmental impact and happier critters.

## RESPECT.

It's a simple concept: if you offer respect, you are more likely to receive it. All user groups have rights and responsibilities to Boise's trails, and to each other.

## DON'T BLOCK TRAIL.

When taking a break, move to the side of the trail.

## SMILE. GREET. NOD.

Every user on the trail is a fellow nature lover. Be friendly and expect to see other folks around every corner.

