

Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment

mitrale

MI-TRALE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2022 Edition

<https://mi-trale.org>



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Welcome to the MI-TRALE Annual Newsletter. Our hope is that after reading this you will have an increased appreciation for all that MI-TRALE does for the summer riding community in the beautiful Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Our efforts are far reaching and as it is with many organizations a great deal is done by a few. As you read this, perhaps you will consider becoming more active by attending our meetings and / or volunteering for the many projects we undertake each year.

Your volunteer activity could be as simple as riding a trail for the purpose of inspecting its condition and recording tree and brush issues, signs that need repair or replacement and, of course, enjoying yourself in the process.

So, as you continue reading you will learn more about:

Trail maintenance

Courtney, the new equestrian campground

Geocaching

Trail counters

Safety training

Scholarship program

Upcoming events

Trail magnet program

Membership

We thank you for being a MI-TRALE member. Each one of you is very important to our success.

For non-members who are reading this newsletter, please complete the application on the last page. We need your membership. Thank you!

I wish you an enjoyable 2022 riding season!

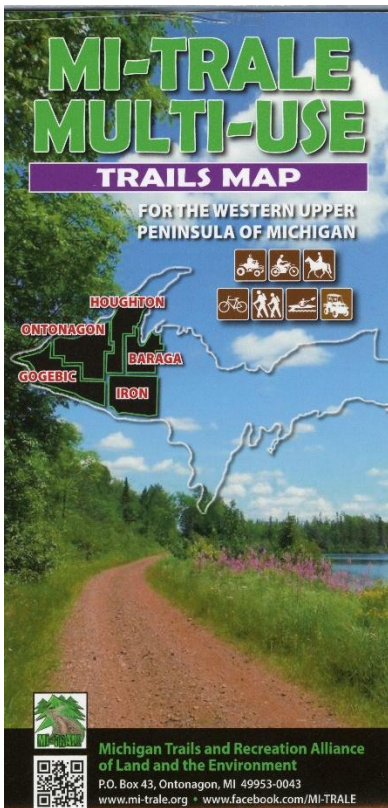
Russ Diethert

President, MI-TRALE

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MI-TRALE 2022 Map Release Announcement



Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment (MI-TRALE) has announced the release of their much sought-after Trails map and a substantial update to its free “Michigan UP Trails” map app.

Our MI-TRALE Trails map was last released in 2020. This new 2022 release contains over 300 miles of DNR Designated trails, 250 miles of club trails and another 2300 miles of trails open to ORV use on the Ottawa National Forest. It is a large map at “35 by 25” made on quality paper

The map includes ORV trails, Equestrian trails, Paddling water trails, and Hiking trails in the 5-county area. Ten points of interest are provided for the entire family to experience. The map also provides details for 19 water trails for the paddler to enjoy. This is a must have for the serious recreational trail user.

The map can be ordered at <https://mi-trale.org/>. It may also be purchased from any of our sponsors found on the next page or the website.

MI-TRALE’s FREE Map App “Michigan UP Trails”

Can be downloaded from your favorite app store. It is being updated (scheduled for Late May) to improved response time and functionality based on user’s comments. It will always have the very latest trail information.



Our wonderful App & Map Sponsors we can't thank them enough!

Please stop at any of the businesses below and show your support!

Sponsor	Town	Sponsor	Town
<u>Gold Sponsors</u>		<u>Bronze Sponsors</u>	
State Parks	Baraga	Chars Café	Bruce Crossing
Timberline Power Sports	Bergland	Joe's Auto Service	Bruce Crossing
Pat's Motorsports	Greenland	Loggers Alley	Bruce Crossing
Western UP CVB	Ironwood	Settlers Federal Credit Union	Bruce Crossing
Dutch's Bar	Marenisco	Sled Stop Lodging	Bruce Crossing
Swing Bridge Coffee Shop	Ontonagon	Twillys Bar & Grill	Bruce Crossing
Running Bear Resort	Paulding	Lyme Great Lakes Timbers	Escanaba
Sidnaw Station	Sidnaw	Ewen Building Supply	Ewen
Northers Waters Casino Resort	Watersmeet	Whitetail Tire Co	Ewen
Hamilton North Coast Adventures	White Pine	Adventure Mine Tours	Greenland
Konteka	White Pine	OHM engineering	Hancock
<u>Silver Sponsors</u>		Amsoil Michael Raffaelli	Hubbell
Bergland Bay Bar	Bergland	Hannula Insurance	Hubbell
Lake Gogebic Area Chamber	Bergland	Hoppys Bar	Kenton
Lake Gogebic Motel	Bergland	Two Rivers Motel and Cabins	Kenton
Timbers Resort	Bergland	Charlies Market	Land O Lakes WI
Big Powder Horn Lodging	Bessemer	Gateway BP	Land O Lakes WI
Settlers Co-op Grocery & Gas	Bruce Crossing	Gateway Lodge	Land O Lakes WI
Borseth Real Estate	Ewen	Tackle Box	Land O Lakes WI
Ironwood Chamber	Ironwood	Baraga Convention Center	L'Anse
UP Chucks Bar	Kenton	Marenisco General Store	Marenisco
Brews Pub	Land O Lakes WI	Root Cellar Lodging & Restaurant	Marenisco
Land O Lakes Recreation	Land O Lakes WI	Two Fat Guys Bar & Grill	Marenisco
Gogebic Lodge	Marenisco	906 Services Inc.	Ontonagon
Merritt's Travel Center	Mass City	Griswold's Lodge	Ontonagon
Citizens State Bank	Ontonagon	Ontonagon County	Ontonagon
Domitrovich Real Estate	Ontonagon	Ontonagon Theater	Ontonagon
East River Rental	Ontonagon	Peninsula Graphics	Ontonagon
JSP Contracting	Ontonagon	Syl's Café	Ontonagon
Ontonagon Historical Soc.	Ontonagon	RDC Rentals	Rockland
Ontonagon Township Park	Ontonagon	Rockland Depot Convenience	Rockland
Peterson Cottages	Ontonagon	Rousseau Bar	Rousseau
Scotts Superior Inn & Cabins	Ontonagon	4 Seasons Convenience	Toivola
Paulding General Store	Paulding	D's Base Camp Lodging	Toivola
Krupps Mini Mart	Twin Lakes	Mosquito Inn Bar & Restaurant	Toivola
Headwaters Polaris	Watersmeet	Vacationland Resort	Watersmeet
Wilderness Bay Resort	Watersmeet	Watersmeet Plaza/Gas/Grill	Watersmeet
Rogers Bar	Watersmeet	Jay's Resort	Watersmeet
<u>Bronze Sponsor</u>		Watton Country Store	Watton
Antonio's Restaurant	Bergland	North Ridge Performance	Black Earth WI
Trailside BBQ & Brew	Bergland		
C & M Oil Company	Bessemer		

State Forest Road maps available online



(Photo courtesy of Michigan Department of Natural Resources) By MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES March 29, 2022

Off-roading is a popular outdoor Michigan experience, and state forest roads provide a lot of access and room to ride. The Michigan DNR updates the state forest road maps once a year, after taking public input into consideration. New maps are available @ www.michigan.gov/forestroads

Thrilling ORV rides, outdoor exploring and forest adventures are waiting down one of Michigan's thousands of miles of state forest roads. Every year, the DNR updates maps of these roads to improve accuracy and protect the environment, and then notifies the public of any changes. New maps go up at Michigan.gov/ForestRoads Friday, April 1, in an interactive web format and as printable PDF maps.

Map changes are based on considerations that include changing road conditions, data cleanup and input received from residents around the state. Maps show where state forest roads are open or closed to off-road vehicle use and which roads are only open to conventional vehicles. It's important to stay on these roads when using motor vehicles to reduce erosion and damage to wildlife habitat.

The following mileages will be open to ORVs starting April 1:

In the Upper Peninsula, about 5,498 miles – roughly 98% of the total 5,594 miles.

In the northern Lower Peninsula, about 6,205 miles – roughly 85% of the total 7,317.2 miles.

In the southern Lower Peninsula, more than 9 miles – roughly 2.5% of the total 370.9 miles.

Review ORV rules, regulations, closures and more at Michigan.gov/ORVInfo. Find maps and other information at Michigan.gov/ForestRoads.

Questions? Contact Jason Caron at 906-235-4361

MI-TRALE is PROUD to be Partners with the Ottawa National Forest on the development of Equestrian Campground sites

COURTNEY LAKE CAMPGROUND – PRESS RELEASE -ONF



U.S. Forest Service - Ottawa National Forest

March 22 at 11:54 AM

Courtney Lake Campground Press Release:

KENTON, MI. March 22, 2022 – The Ottawa National Forest in partnership with MI-TRALE is excited to announce the opening of 6 new equestrian sites at Courtney Lake campground. “These new sites will complement the existing equestrian trail complex at Courtney Lake and create a high-quality recreation experience for all users.” stated District Ranger Barbara Van Alstine. “The Ottawa National Forest strives to offer a wide range of recreation opportunities for our visitors.”

The new equestrian sites at Courtney Lake Campground are expected to open on May 21, 2022. The sites will include infrastructure to support equine with each of the 6 sites including either a corral or highlines. Hitching posts will be located at bathrooms and information kiosk.

Special rules are required for equestrian campers. “As always, we request that visitors recreate responsibly,” stated Van Alstine. Currently, there is no manure disposal site at the campground, so all manure must be packed out. Additionally, you must use the highlines, hitching post, and/or corrals as available. For resource protection and the safety of other visitors the use of hobbles and electric fence is prohibited. Currently the campground is a first come first serve with plans to make reservations online in the future.

For more information on the new equestrian sites, please contact the Ottawa National Forest office in Kenton at (906) 852-3500 or visit our website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ottawa>.
[#OttawaNF](#) [#KnowBeforeYouGo](#) [#RecreateResponsibly](#)

USDA photo collage of images from Courtney Lake Campground

Off-road fun, and Free ORV & Fishing Weekends, not too far off!



Twice a year, residents and nonresidents legally can ride on DNR-designated routes and trails without purchasing an ORV license or trail permit. All other ORV rules and laws still apply.

This year, Free ORV Weekends take place June 11-12 and Aug. 20-21, 2022. Riders have access to the state's 4,000 miles of off-road trails and the state's six scramble areas (Bull Gap, Black Lake Scramble Area, Holly Oaks ORV Park, The Mounds, Silver Lake State Park, St. Helen's Motorsport Area). *There is an additional entrance fee at Holly Oaks ORV Park. Consider purchasing an ORV license or trail permit for the season. Fees generated through the sale of ORV licenses and trail permits are reinvested back into the ORV system. These important dollars help fund trail expansion, maintenance and infrastructure improvements, such as bridge and culvert construction and repair, as well as law enforcement and the offsetting of damage created by illegal use. The cost is \$26.25 for an ORV license and \$10 for a trail permit for a total of \$36.25.

"Three Free" Weekend (June 11-12, 2022) The first Free ORV Weekend also lines up with Summer Free Fishing Weekend, when fishing licenses and the Recreation Passport requirement are waived. Don't miss "Three Free" weekend - two full days when Michigan residents and visitors can grab a fishing pole, ride the off-road trails and visit state parks and boating access site - all free of charge.

MI-TRALE's DNR Funded Trail Maintenance Projects

Projects are managed by MI-TRALE and funded because of your ORV license and Trail pass purchase. MI-TRALE and every MDNR sponsored club can apply for grant money for projects. MI-TRALE usually applies for \$10,000 for Spot filling and other minor repairs, we always ask for about \$300,000 for grading so all the trails could be graded each year, we only receive at the most \$150,000, we look throughout the year for other items like culvert replacement, bridge repair, major brushing we could apply for.

Trail Maintenance Projects for 2022

2022 DNR Grant Funds \$150,000 for grading. \$1500 beaver control, \$1000 emergency.
Remaining 2021 DNR Grant Funds- 2021 \$14,621.30

Grand total to be spent this year - \$170,621.30

2022 – Grading – BN Route will be graded, and spot filled from Greenland Fair Grounds to Houghton. MI-TRALE is working with Michigan Technological University (Michigan Tech) Civil and Environmental Engineering Department to develop a Trail Surface Pilot Study. The pilot would define several grading methods and different surface material that would be applied and then studied for up to three years. We would be collecting data on surface wear, water drainage, maintenance requirements and associated costs. The objective of the project is to provide safer and more enjoyable trails for you and more cost-effective trail maintenance for MI-TRALE.

2022 – Plans for Beaver control includes trapping, clearing culverts, placing beaver guards on culverts, repairing trail damage. We have over 150 culverts throughout our trail system and the beaver keep us busy. We will be hiring a contractor to clean culverts removing debris, so the culverts have full flow. The contractor will also place some beaver guards on the end of problem culverts where there is a history of beaver activity. The guard keeps debris out of the culvert, but still allows water to travel through the culvert. The guards can be removed with a bucket tractor for cleaning.



Trail Maintenance Projects Completed in 2021

Total funds placed back into the trail system was \$155,324.65.

LL Trail, Bluff Creek bridge and hill repair \$600, steep hills on both side of the creek need grading each year, we also had illegal off trail riding through the creek

Pioneer Trail Culvert washout - \$1400, spring break caused the culvert to fail and move. We reset the culvert and added gravel

OR Trail culvert replacement \$1295.65, separated culvert needed to be replaced.

LL Trail Route Paulding Repair \$4999.00, wet forest and early spring use when the trail was closed made the trail almost impassable.



Any project over \$5000 requires a bid request be issued for the job. It is MI-TRALE's job to put a bid package together, put an ad in the local paper to solicit contractors to bid on the project, once bids are opened, we select a contractor, the final contract must be signed/awarded, then the contractor can start. MI-TRALE over sees the project traveling many miles inspecting/managing the project.

2021 Grading Project Summary

SL Grading 67 miles \$59,495 OR Route 14 miles Grading \$16,830

LL Route 10 miles Grading \$19,275 SB Grading 49 miles \$51,630



OR Culvert Cleaning \$400 – beavers fill culverts with debris causing a backup



Storm Damage – several storms had many of MI-TRALE members out clearing trails, one storm was so bad the trail was closed for about a week, we had to find a detour, and sign the detour. DNR came with heavy equipment and cleared the trail!



ORV Safety Training 2022

Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment (MI-TRALE) provided “hands on” training in addition to the 1 day of classroom study for the students of Ontonagon, Ewen Trout Creek, Lake Linden, and Dollar Bay Schools. Total students involved was about 130. The State required day long classroom instruction was completed at the respective schools. The hands-on training was done while the students attended the amazing Ottawa National Forest Camp Nesbit facility, located just south of Sidnaw. The Ontonagon and Ewen - Trout Creek schools were completed on May 11th and the Lake Linden and Dollar Bay schools were completed on May 19th.

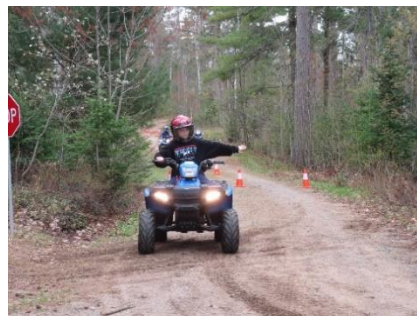
MI-TRALE provided the legally required classroom safety training by a State of Michigan certified instructor for our young riders to ensure that they have the opportunity to earn the legally required ORV Safety Certificate and expose them to the rules and responsibilities of riding an ORV in Michigan.

In the past 5 years MI-TRALE has sponsored the training of about 600 youths in the Ontonagon, Baraga, Watersmeet, Ewen - Trout Creek, Lake Linden, and Dollar Bay schools though a partnership with the schools and the Camp Nesbit Education Program. Without the support of the schools and Camp Nesbit this program would not be possible.

This training on safety, Michigan laws, and resource awareness is critical for the safety of our young riders and the continuation of our recreational sport in Michigan.

MI-TRALE would like to thank 906 Services in Ontonagon for loaning the program 2 youth ATVs for the hands-on training. This ensured the success of the program.

MI-TRALE encourages ORV safety training for all ORV riders. If you have any questions about ORV safety training, please contact mitraletrainer@gmail.com.



MI-TRALE Scholarships

In addition to safety training MI-TRALE supports our youth by offering scholarship opportunities. The Marvin Westerdahl Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Marv's family in his memory. Marv was a valued board member of MI-TRALE and an avid trail rider along with his wife, Jane.

Each year up to two seniors from both Ontonagon High School and Ewen-Trout Creed High School are selected to receive a \$250 scholarship to assist them with their continuing education. Students who want to apply submit an application containing information on:

1. Grade point average, course of study, subjects taken and activities participated in school.
2. A brief discussion of their future plans, career goals (why selected) and financial needs.
3. Discuss community service. Form of service, approximate hours volunteered to each, why chosen, feelings gained from serving and making a difference.
4. Lastly, any other information that the applicant feels would be important to the scholarship committee in making their decision.

This year's selected recipients are:

Senia Kolpack - ONT

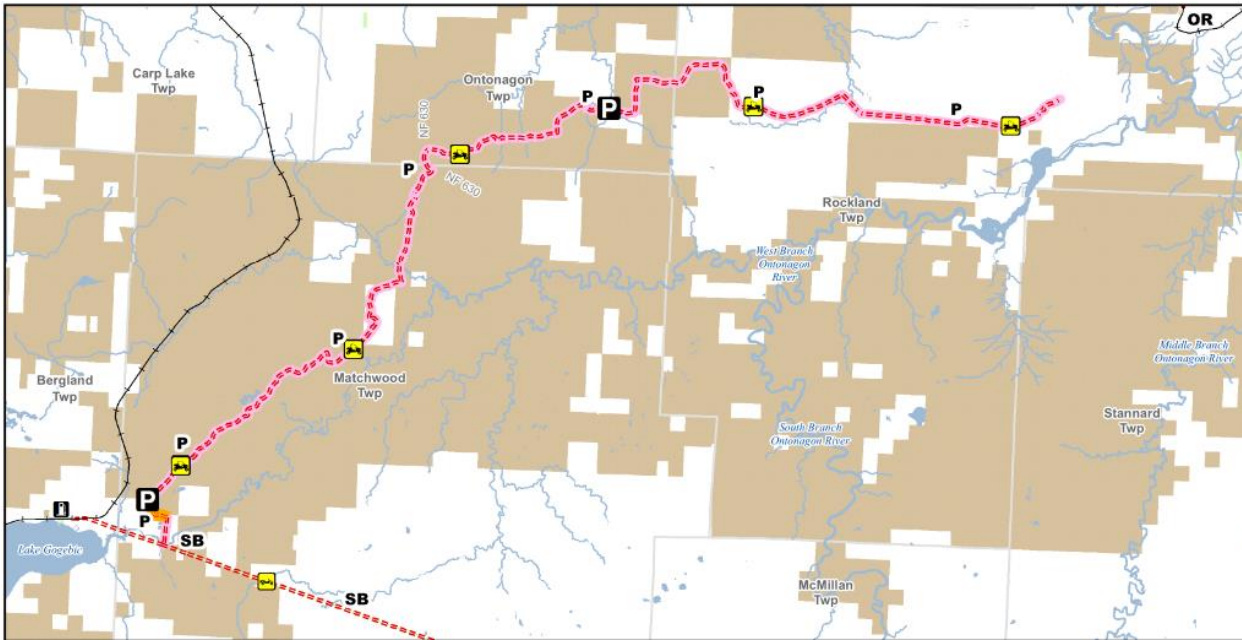
Madison Myhren - ONT

Jaden D Borseth - ETC

Brainna Schutz - ETC



Pioneer Trail – Everyone’s Favorite Trail - Before and After Story



The Pioneer (P) Trail is unique in the MI-TRALE trail system. It was created back in the early 1990's to provide access to the Ottawa National Forest for multi-use recreation. The only restriction was a width restriction of up to 65". The trail is about 24 miles long covering multiple terrain and elevations through heavy wooded areas of the forest.

The trail was very popular and heavily used. By 2004 it was experiencing erosion and several major mud sections that was causing many riders to not use the trail any longer. Others were glad to see the challenge. However, the mud sections continued to get wider as many riders wanted to avoid the deep mud. Rather than the permitted 10' trail width it was growing to more than 30'. After several meetings with the Ottawa National Forest, it was decided that remediation had to take place or lose the trail due to severe resource damage.

MI-TRALE developed a multi-year plan to remediate the trail back to the original condition and to improve it in several areas. We also worked with the Ottawa National Forest to completely reroute the last 3 miles of the trail at the Bergland end. This reroute effort was managed by the Ottawa National Forest. They also volunteered to create the trail head at the Bergland end for the recreational users.

MI-TRALE has now graded the entire length of the Pioneer on a maintenance schedule. We have also invested over \$389,000, and applied over 2,000 yards of gravel to provide a safer ride for all users over the last few years.

In addition, MI-TRALE managed the replacement of the bridge on the Pioneer Trail that collapsed over the West Branch of the Ontonagon River in 2019. This was completed at a cost of \$130, 000. This was considered a priority as it moved the ORV traffic from the MDOT ROW which ran along M28 to a safe distance from the highway.



MI-TRALE Magnet 2021 Diary

by Dave Bishop



Looking back at my notes for last year I see that we first took the magnet out on the SB trail March 20th. Things seem to be a little different this year. Clearly that was too early. The trail was too wet, so we picked up very few spikes and other stuff. I only went 5 trail miles and got 10 spikes and about 28 pounds of other trash.

The next time out was June 6th on the SB going East from Bergland about 5 trail miles, picked up 184 spikes. The next day I did the next 5 trail miles and got 134 spikes. On July 1st. I went West from Bruce Crossing on the SB did 24.2 miles of driving but that is only 8 trail miles of trail, because we must do three passes on the trail to cover the whole trail width, one on the right, one coming back on the other side and then the third pass up the middle. So, you drive three miles but only cover 1 trail mile. We picked up 267 spikes that day.

On July 2nd. I started from Bruce Crossing and went East, did about 7.5 miles to Agate Rd. and picked up 156 spikes. By the way I only drive about 5 mph.

July 11th. There was a short part "I thought" of the western SB that I needed to do. From Fair Oaks rd. west to East Shore Rd. about 36 miles of driving or 12 miles of trail. Picked up 313 spikes, long day. That finished the SB from Bruce Crossing to Bergland.

July 12th was another very long day. I started in Sidnaw and came West to Agate Rd., about 52 miles driving or 17.3 miles of trail, in 13.5 hours. We picked up 347 spikes.

September 6th I left home at 9:00 am arrived at Iron River at 11:30, headed West on the SL and stopped at Basswood Rd. at 6:00pm. Collected 358 spikes in about 7 miles of trail.

September 7th got back on the SL trail at noon. I live 80 miles from this end of SL trail. Did 31.6 miles of driving or about 10.5 miles of trail. Stopped at FR 16 at 7:30pm, 359 spikes collected.

September 11th I started going west on the SL from FR 16 and stopped at a private drive, about 26.6 driven miles, 180 spikes.

October 1st we started at the private drive and went West to US 45, about 16.4 driven miles, 70 spikes.

That was all for the year. In case you were not keeping track that was 1411 spikes from the SB trail. And 787 spikes from the East end of the SL trail. I didn't talk about all of the other stuff we picked up, about 2,000 pounds of Nails, screws, wire bits of steel, parts of snowmobiles, all of which could put a hole in your tire. To accomplish this I drove the MI-TRALE truck about 3,489 miles. I never checked the gas mileage.



2022 EQUESTRIAN NEWS – MI-TRALE

COURTNEY EQUESTRIAN CONVERSION PROJECT (see the above press release)

Volunteers are very proud of the accomplishments in 2021. The Courtney Campground Equestrian Conversion Project became a reality. A partnership agreement for this project between MI-TRALE and The Ottawa National Forest (ONF) set us up for success.

A special thank you goes out to Pat's Motorsports who donated use of bobcat with post hole digger for EQ campground!



The campground has 21 campsites available for the public, with the 6 set up for horses. This will be such a friendly place. Cannot wait to relax by the fire and ride the trails.

The Forest Service has developed the Firesteel River Crossing to connect and complete the trails.



TRAIL MAINTENANCE and CONTINUED WORK FOR 2022

Our plans and agreement for the Courtney EQ Conversion with the Forest Service will continue through the next several years. In early spring of this year, we plan to finish posting signs in the campground and nearby roads, install a new kiosk, and remove berms. As always, we will maintain the trails. We will also reinstall maps and confidence markers along the trails when able, as the final logging sales are closed.

TRAILS NORTH OF HWY M-38 CONSIDERED

We are still considering a proposal to develop horse trails north of highway M-38, across from The Courtney Equestrian Trails and Courtney Lake Campground. Most of the suggested routes are DNR roads, and will be quite easy to develop. Many of our local equestrians have already ridden there and given us a “thumbs up”.

If you have any questions about any of our projects or would like to join us to help, don't hesitate to let us know. Your support is appreciated.

THERE ARE LOTS OF NICE FOLKS OUT ON THE TRAILS. ENJOY!



Visit “mi-trale.org” for updates and more recreational opportunities. Happy trails everyone!

Cathy Wainio, EQ Director H# 906-988-2232 cndwainio@yahoo.com

Janet Miesbauer, Vice President, EQ Committee & Public Relations MI-TRALE Cell/Text: 906-231-6424 Email: MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM

Linda Schulz, EQ Committee and MI-TRALE Secretary Email: mitrale@runningbearresort.com

WEBSITE UPDATE

MI-TRALE is in the process of updating its website and we have been adding more information to provide you with a tool to keep you update on Club happenings, Trail news, as well as useful hints to make your time on the trails enjoyable. Bear with us and here are some current items you may find useful. Below you will see the main tabs of the website and under each tab there is a drop down of topics.



Each tab has interesting information or News you can use. For example, under CLUB STUFF you will find CALENDAR with the dates/location of club meetings, Events (including the DNR OHV free weekend), and Rides.

[HOME](#) [CLUB STUFF](#) [ATV ORV](#) [HORSE TRAILS](#) [NEWS BLOG](#) [WATER TRAILS OF MICHIGAN](#)

Calendar

2022 MI-TRALE Calendar for Meetings, Rides and Events
2022 Club Meeting Schedule

Meeting location: Standard Township building located 14927 State Highway M28 E, Bruce Crossing 49912

April 4 Club Meeting – Stannard Township building

May 2 Club Meeting – Stannard Township building

June 6 Meeting – Stannard Township building

July 11 Meeting – Stannard Township building

August 1 Meeting – Stadnard Township building

September 12 – Meeting – Stannard Township building

October – No meeting this month

November 7 Meeting – Stadnard Township building

This page will be updated often with locations and times as they become available.

You will also find under CLUB STUFF a Membership Tab where you can easily renew your membership or join anew.

[HOME](#)
[CLUB STUFF](#)
[ATV ORV](#)
[HORSE TRAILS](#)
[NEWS BLOG](#)
[WATER TRAILS OF MICHIGAN](#)

Membership

MI-TRALE continues to be one of the most active community-service organizations in the Western UP. In other words, MI-TRALE NEEDS MEMBERS LIKE YOU! So, a great big THANK YOU to you for your membership! Be sure and spread the "good word" about MI-TRALE along to other trail riders you know. We love to welcome new members!

Annual memberships – January 1st to December 31st

\$25.00/individual

With your membership you will receive a MI-TRALE Membership Card, MI-TRALE decal that we ask you to proudly display, yearly E-newsletter and updates

[Buy Now](#)

NEWS BLOG- here is where we are putting Announcements/News and Information/Reminders you can use.

Subscribe to receive an e-mail when events and news are published here:

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Also notice at the bottom of the BLOG page there is a links to take you additional Posts.

UPDATE: The Board of Directors has unanimously voted to change the term dates of the membership dues. Effective immediately, the membership year that was from the first of June 1 to May 31 is being changed to January 1 to December 31. We are doing this so the membership year is the same as our fiscal/calendar year. The renewal notifications will be sent out in February rather than April to better coincide with the riding season.

{ 0 comments }

[← PREVIOUS ENTRIES](#)

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You will also find useful Links and Resources located under ATV OHV and HORSE TRAILS as well as Updates and Alerts

Under the ATV OHV Tab, you will find information on our TRAFx trail counters. This information is forwarded to the local DNR Trail Representative to help MI-TRALE obtain Grant Monies to maintain and improve the trails. If you look closely, you will see how heavily the Twin Lakes are is used with traffic going back and forth and around and around. Twin Lakes is a great place to camp and enjoy the Great Outdoors that the UP has to offer.

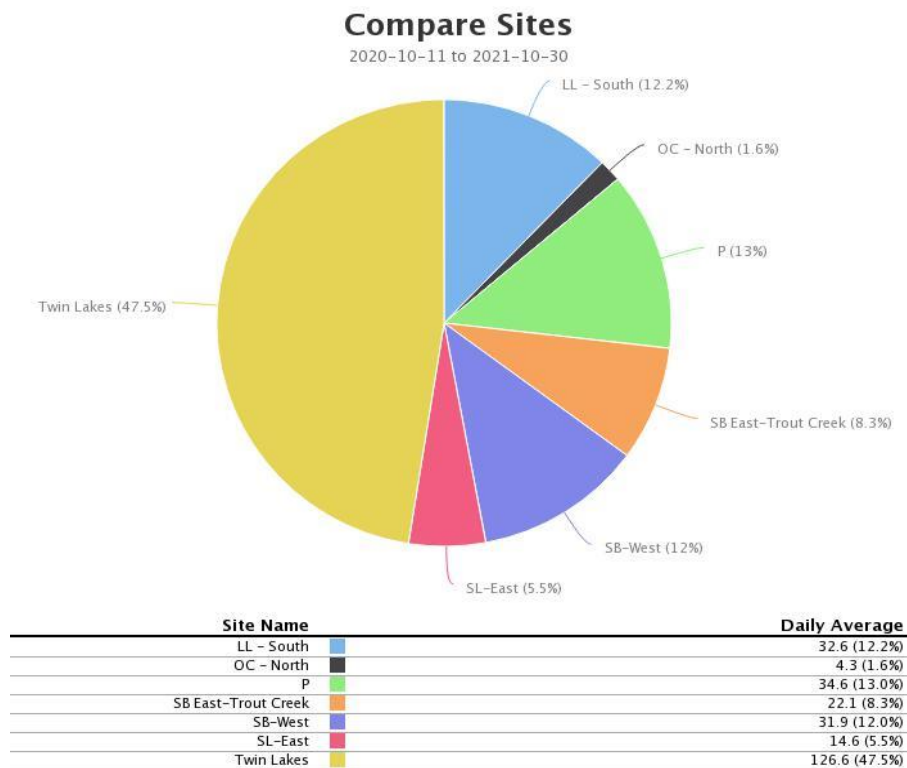
PLEASE come back to the Club Website-- **Again and Again**-- to keep updated on Club happenings. We hope you enjoy the website as we are renewing our effort to keep it and you updated. If you have any questions on the information provided or a suggestion on what you would like to additionally see, or just a comment, please feel free to reach out to any board member and we will get back to you.

TRAFx-Trail Counters

MI-TRALE is responsible for managing over 500 miles of designated and Club ORV routes in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Besides working with the MIDNR, and the Ottawa National Forest in developing, marking, maintaining the funded and club trails, MI-TRALE has worked to develop a management schedule for these trails. Besides visual observation the Club has invested in some traffic count (rider usage) data detectors to assist in the management of the trails. This system is manufactured in Canada by TRAFX Research Inc.

The major advantage of the installed TRAFx trail counters is that we can analyze rider use by time of day, day of the week, or many other formats to not only help schedule routine maintenance, but major grading projects as well. We also use this data to support Club **grant requests** and to show the economic benefits in real time to local communities, local business services, and to land owners. To learn more about the vehicle and trail counters we use visit our web page.

Below is a sample of the 2021 rider data we captured from the units we have placed. The Club has more counters to place and data from them will be collected in 2022. If you have any questions on how we collect and use the data or would like to know more about the units, please feel free to reach out to any club officer or director and we will get the right person to answer your questions.



GEOCACHING WITH MI-TRALE – JOIN THE GLOBAL ACTIVITY

Geocaching is a fun outdoor activity that can be enjoyed by the whole family. MI-TRALE has set caches along the trails, where they are easily found. Use your GPS receiver, cell phone or another device to find it's coordinates on geocache.com. You might find one of our micro caches or one of the larger ones. Enjoy the trinkets inside, exchange our trinkets for one of yours, move the travel bugs to a new location and leave us a note with the paper and pencil provided. Also, when you share your geocaching story on geocache.com, we will find it there.

It is always great to hear the fruits of our efforts, when we hear about the fun you have had. Here are some stories from fellow players:

-Out for a two-night trek from M64 to Forest Road 630 with some family members. We camped over by the stream for the night and found it to be a really nice spot with the mini waterfall right there. Backtracked in the morning and found the cache before completing the last 3/5 miles of the hike. Great segment of trail, super scenic with many overlooks and rock outcrops and even saw a couple of peregrine falcons near the hatching sight.

-First find ever. Going to love sharing this sport with our grandson.

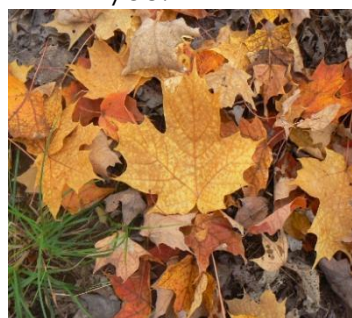
-Took the scenic route to this one. Fun Trails.

-A couple from Rochester started caching in Eau Clair, Wisconsin, making numerous stops on their way to Copper Harbor, Michigan. There they found Michigan's northernmost cache on the shore of Lake Superior. They circled back on another route to Wisconsin to join challenges there.

-Some came to visit popular water falls in the area or to visit family. Others came from South Carolina, Duluth, New York, Indiana, Wisconsin and more.

MI-TRALE has also sponsored "Travel Bugs". Register their "travel code" at geocache.com, where the information is shared with the world. These "Bugs" are on the move. One has traveled over 18,000 miles so far.

Check out our new copper tokens. Copper mines have been a big part of the history of the western Upper Peninsula. So we decided to share some of it with you.



We check on our caches regularly, but if you find any that need attention, please let us know. To meet the challenge of avid players, some of our caches will be moved into new locations.

Consider becoming a MI-TRALE member and engage in a mission of supporting trail recreation and the environment. We work and play, while enjoying the trails and the vast beauty of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Trail Etiquette for All Trail Users

All riders

- Stay on the trail – they are marked for a reason. Rocks, fencing and barbed wire are just a few examples of what could be hidden under the snow or long grass.
- Be aware of two-way traffic and trail groomers, and "Ride Right" by keeping on the right side of the trail.
- When you see non-motorized trail users coming from the opposite direction; please slow down, pull over and yield the right-of-way.
- Always yield to uphill motorized traffic. Uphill traffic may have difficulty starting again if stopped.
- If you stop on the trail, use designated stop areas and remove your helmet. Never stop side-by-side, in the middle, at the crest of a hill, on a corner or in the intersection of a trail. A helmet masks your features and can be intimidating.
- Leave no trace – pack it in; pack it out. If you see litter, please pick it up.
- If you love Michigan's trails, get involved and join your local trail organization!

Motorized Trail Etiquette

ORV riders

- Respect riding conditions and trail closures.
- During firearm deer season (Nov 15-30) a person cannot operate an ORV in an area where public hunting is permitted from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.
- During snowmobile season (Dec. 1-March 31), it's preferred that ORV riders use trails and/or open roads not open to snowmobiles.
- ORVs are not legal on snowmobile trails located on private and federal lands.
- Snowmobile trail groomers lay smooth paths for snowmobiles. If you encounter a groomed snowmobile trail, it's imperative that you ride slowly or choose another trail, so you don't undo the work of trail groomers or inadvertently tear up the trail.
- Make sure that you are riding trails with an ORV confidence marker. You can also view the ORV-snowmobile shared trail map.
- ORVs can tear up terrain easily (even when the ground is frozen). ORV grooves can pose a safety risk by causing snowmobile skis to be pulled into an ORV track. Reckless and careless operation are civil infractions, including fishtailing, doing donuts, locking up the brakes and riding in a manner that causes environmental damage.

Non-Motorized Trail Etiquette



Yielding

- Yielding right-of-way to a fellow trail user does not always mean stopping or stepping off the trail, yet sometimes that's the best way to ensure safe passing.
- The most important thing to remember when interacting with others on the trail is courteous communication is often the safest way to pass.
- Trail conditions and specific situations are always a little different, and will dictate whether you need to stop, step off the trail or simply smile and say "hello" as you pass each other.

Everyone

- Avoid using trails that are muddy, so you don't leave uneven bicycle ruts, deep footprints or hoof tracks. If you must traverse a muddy trail, go right through the center of the trail (even if it is muddy), rather than traveling around the mud and widening the trail.
- Stay on the trail, and respect trail conditions and trail closures.
- Say hello to other trail users and communicate. Trails are a great place to meet new people!
- Leave no trace - pack it in; pack it out. If you see litter, please pick it up.
- If you love Michigan's trails, get involved and join your local trail organization!

Horseback riders

- If you encounter a muddy trail, travel through the center of the trail so inadvertent trail widening doesn't occur.
- Communicate with other trail users about the safest way to pass on the trail.
- Keep at least a horse length back from other trail users.
- Clean up after your horse in staging areas and campgrounds.

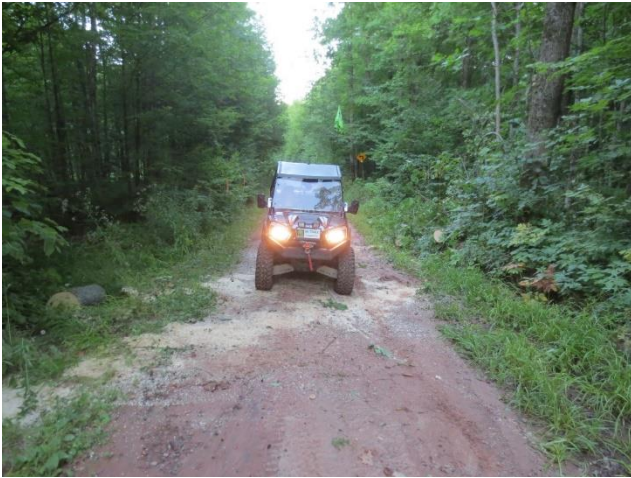
Bicyclists

- Although avoiding muddy trails altogether is best, if you do come across wet trail conditions, dismount and tiptoe down the center, not to the sides because it widens the trail.
- Before passing, alert other trail users of your intentions.
- Maintain a safe speed, especially near other trail users.
- Cyclists are expected to yield to all other trail users.
- Cyclists moving quickly and quietly can scare horses. Speak and communicate when encountering a horseback rider on the trail. The horseback rider will tell you the safest way to pass.

Hikers & runners

- If you must traverse a muddy section of trail, go right through the center of the trail, rather than traveling around the mud and widening the trail.
- Keep pets on a 6-foot leash and keep them close.
- When hiking in a group, please walk single-file and be aware of other passing trail users.
- If you're about to pass another trail user, a simple "hello" is often the best way to announce your presence.
- Don't block the trail and stay alert to other trail users, especially cyclists.
- Yield to horseback riders, and be sure to speak to the rider and ask the best way to pass their horse.

ORV Route Maintenance Pictures



Top 10 ORV violations conservation officers encounter

Contact: Katie Gervasi, communications representative, Michigan DNR Law Enforcement Division

One of the great things about off-road vehicles is, you can enjoy them year-round. However, spring and summer is when a lot of ORV activity ramps up throughout the state, as trail systems and ORV scramble areas open and people begin their summer vacations.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers manage the state's ORV recreational safety education and enforcement activity. It's their job to make sure ORV operators are operating safely.

TOP 10 ORV VIOLATIONS AND TIPS TO AVOID THEM:

OPERATING ORVS AT EXCESSIVE SPEEDS.

Speed was one of the primary contributing factors for ORV accidents reported in 2020. ORVs should be operated at a rate of speed safe for existing conditions and the capabilities of the rider and machine.

CARELESS OR RECKLESS RIDING.

Along with speed, careless or reckless riding were among the top contributors for ORV accidents reported during 2020. ORVs may not be operated in a careless manner, in attempt to kill an animal or bird, while transporting open alcoholic beverages. Reckless and careless operation of an ORV are civil infractions, including fishtailing, doing donuts, locking up the brakes and riding in a manner that causes environmental damage.

NO ORV LICENSE OR TRAIL PERMIT.

An ORV is required to be licensed when operated on public lands, including federal, state and county roads that are open to ORV use. ORV trail permits are required when operating on the state-managed trail system. Find federal and state areas to ride on the DNR's website; check with the county sheriff's office for county roads open for ORV use.

ALLOWING AN UNSUPERVISED MINOR TO OPERATE AN ORV.

Legal guardians and the owner of the ORV are required to maintain direct, visual supervision of youth under the age of 16 operating an ORV. The legal guardian is responsible for any violations a youth commits while operating an ORV.

NO ORV SAFETY CERTIFICATE.

In addition to being supervised by an adult, ORV operators under age 16 in Michigan must complete an approved ORV education course and carry their safety certificate anytime they are operating an ORV. The Michigan DNR offers ORV safety education as an online or classroom-based course.

RIDING WITHOUT A HELMET.

Helmets help prevent serious head injuries. A U.S. Department of Transportation approved helmet is required when operating an ORV on any roadway, trail system or scramble area. Although there are some exceptions to when certain protective equipment is legally required, the Michigan DNR always recommends the use of proper safety gear.

RIDING UNDER THE INFLUENCE.

It's illegal to operate an ORV while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any mind-altering substance, including prescription and over the counter medications.

RIDING WITH MORE PEOPLE THAN THE ORV WAS MANUFACTURED FOR.

Refer to manufacturer guidelines for the number of people your ORV can carry, and for safe and acceptable add-on modifications.

RIDING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF A ROAD OR TRAIL.

Just like driving a vehicle on the road, ride your ORV on the right-hand side of the road or trail. ORV paths are narrow. Riding in the middle, or on the wrong side, particularly when going around a corner, could cause a head-on collision with someone riding toward you. It's important to stay on marked routes to avoid trespassing or hitting a rock, downed tree, barbed wire or other obstacles.

TRESPASSING OR OPERATING IN A CLOSED AREA.

Stay on designated ORV routes. Routes are marked for a reason, primarily to keep ORV operators safe. Erosion on hills and trails, destruction of stream banks and beds and conflicts with other users or non-users could lead to more restrictive riding rules or loss of trails. Do not make illegal hill climbs and avoid federal, state, county, local and private lands not designated open to ORV use.



From The Desk of a Michigan Conservation Officer

The ORV Trespass Problem

One of the largest complaints related to ORV use in the state of Michigan has to do with trespassing. Whether accidental or intentional, law enforcement across the state has spent countless hours responding and following up on ORVs illegally operating upon lands of another person.

When the current ORV Act was written in 1995, there were multiple parts of the statute that were put in place to curb trespassing behavior. The law is unlike any trespassing law in Michigan. It requires the operator to possess written permission if they are on lands of another. Further, if a property owner confronts the operator and asks you stop and identify yourself - the operator is legally bound to do so. Failing to comply with either law is an arrestable 90-day misdemeanor in Michigan. It should be noted that there is no requirement that law enforcement provide a warning, nor is there anything requiring the property owner to post or fence the property. The responsibility is on the rider to know exactly where they are, at all times.

With the ORV sport booming, more and more people are buying machines and heading out to ride. If you're over 16 years of age, nothing in the state requires you to take an ORV Safety Course, so it's up to the new user to take the initiative to learn the laws and where to ride on their own. I would be willing to bet not many do.

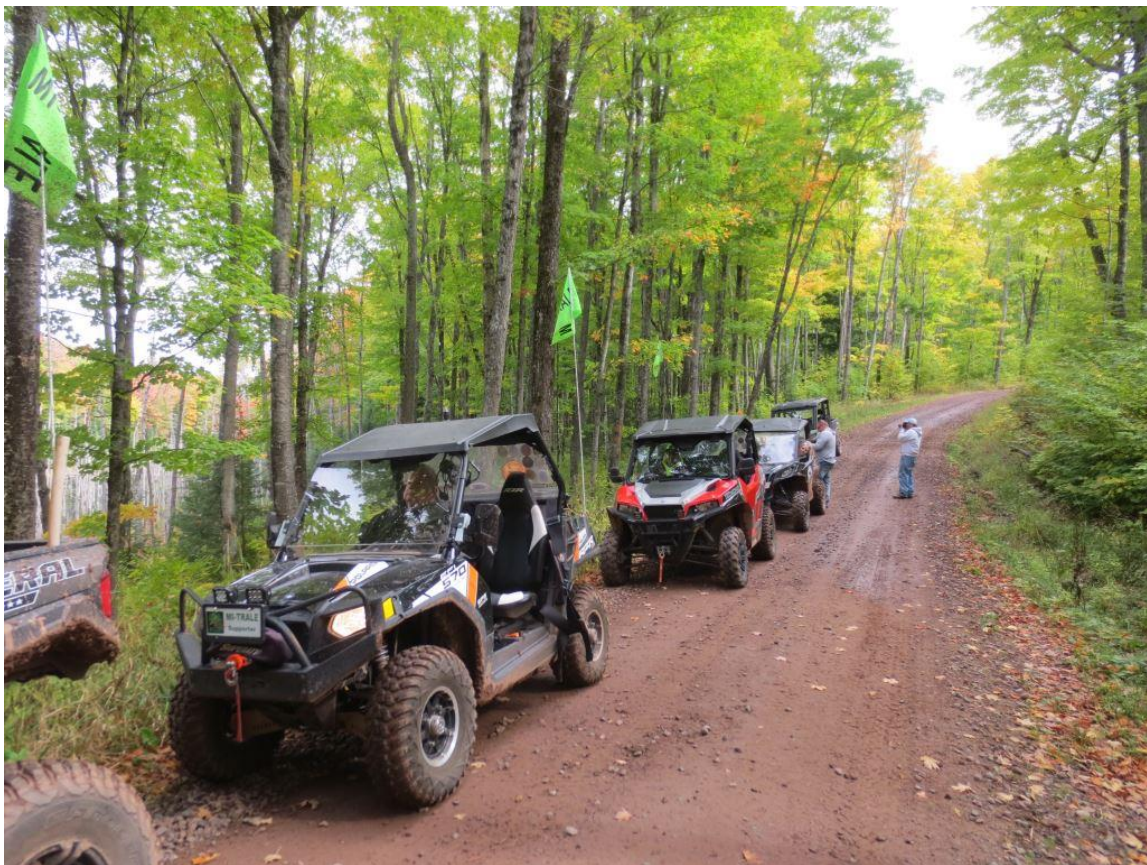
During my time as a conservation officer in the northern lower peninsula, I've responded to more ORV trespass complaints than any other complaint involving the sport. I'm reminded of a spot along a state designated ORV route that is owned by an individual plagued with constant ORV and snowmobile trespass issues. From the state trail you can see a sandy hill on his property that has significant erosion issues because of ORVs. The property is posted as private property and has no trespassing signs conspicuously placed along the perimeter. The owner has taken the effort to bulldoze a berm and place stumps parallel to the trail to keep machines out. No matter what he did, people still took it upon themselves to leave the trail and climb the hill. In an effort to help him, I personally went out and pounded in the red crinite signs that the state uses that say "No ORVs" in an effort to support him with state signage. The signs didn't make it through the first weekend before they came up missing.

While working the Saturday of Memorial weekend one year, I ended up conducting surveillance in the afternoon to enforce trespass at the site. In an hour I wrote over ten tickets – this was only writing the lead operator of the groups that trespassed. People were mad at me when they found out they were receiving a ticket. I vividly remember one gentleman telling me that if the person didn't want anyone on his property, then he should fence it and place barbed wire on top-an illogical proposal when the property owner has 120 acres of wooded land. The notable thing is that during that hour working the site, not a single group passed by without stopping to climb the hill.

It seems we have a societal change in mentality when it comes to the sport of recreation. To me, trespassing on land that does not belong to you is one of the most egregious things you can do as a sportsman. It shows a complete lack of respect for what others have worked for and earned in their life. Without a doubt the ORV laws can be confusing when it comes to where you can ride in relation to trails, county roads, forest roads, etc. There should be nothing confusing about operating on someone's property though. It should go without saying to not leave the designated trail system unless you know for a fact that you are allowed to operate there.

I would urge every instructor to push the importance of ORV trespass in their classes. Let the new riders know how strict the law is and that they are liable for any damage that occurs if they operate on someone else's property without permission. If you are not a property owner with this problem or a law enforcement officer responding to the complaint, most people have no idea how prevalent this problem is. We must take every opportunity to influence riding behavior before more restrictions are placed on the sport.

Cpl. Mike Hearn





Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment

Membership Application

Annual Memberships - January 1st to December 31st

To renew; if your *information has not changed in the past year*, you can mail a check (please mark check with "membership renewal") or use PayPal found on our website's membership tab to renew. If mailing, please mark "membership" on the envelope and use the P.O. Box address shown above. If your *information has changed in the past year*, please complete the application and mail with your check to the P.O. Box address shown above.

Check one

Individual \$25.00 _____ Family \$30.00 _____ (each family member will receive a decal be sure to list their names below)

Small Business \$50.00 _____ Large Business \$75.00 _____

Please make checks or money orders payable to **MI-TRALE**

With your membership you will receive a MI-TRALE Membership Card, MI-TRALE decal (that we ask you to proudly display on your ATV or at your business)

Please Print Clearly

Name(s) (family memberships include family members names)

Mailing Address

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Business Member website _____

☐ I would like to receive email updates ☐ I would like to receive the Email Newsletter

☐ I would like to purchase extra decals @ \$2.00 each # of decals _____

PLEASE send your membership dues to **Total Enclosed** _____

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Donations are received with enthusiasm!

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