

Protocol for Managing a Trail Clearing Initiative

Project Manager

- the primary contact between the Land Management Agency (LMA) & ATRA
- establishes the specific parameters of the project with the LMA and officially signs off on any permits and/or field authorizations required for project
- prepares and submits a budget to the ATRA Board and requests approval for defined expenditures prior to implementation of any agreement
- determines the # and composition of crew(s) required for project
- selects crew members based on the specific needs of the project
- develops a logistic plan including equipment needs, camping requirements, etc.
- ensures that one member of the work party has human & horse first aid skills.
- if project is in backcountry, remote communication equipment is available and that all members of the work crew are briefed on use of equipment
- develops and schedules a site work plan and assigns crews to work plots
- prepares a final report on the project including a breakdown of claimed expenses & submits to ATRA President
- submits copy of the completion report (less financial component) to the LMA

Field Crew(s)

- Each field crew should have a wrangler, chainsaw operator, and debris clearer.
- The chainsaw operator must be certified and possess the physical skills to operate and maintain a chainsaw for an extended period each day. They must discuss with the remaining members of the crew safety expectations.
- The debris clearer should understand and display recognition of safety measures while working in partnership with the chainsaw operator.
- The horse wrangler needs to have horsemanship skills required to advance the contingent of horses as the trail clearing is ongoing.
- If the use of horses is a requirement of the project, each crew member must provide a suitable horse that is safe, quiet and can cope with the ongoing activities associated with trail clearing.

ATRA meets at 7pm the third Thursday of Jan-Apr and Sept-Nov at Kirk United Church, 13535-122 Ave, Edmonton. Visitors are welcome at any meeting. Membership for the calendar year is \$20 single, \$35 family. Riding members must be current ATRA & AEF members.



Trail Riding & Stewardship Guidelines

ATRA is a non-profit family oriented organization that encompasses a variety of equestrian activities that promote safe horsemanship, ongoing education and responsible use, maintenance and development of trails.

Horse Sense—Are You Ready?

For the safety and enjoyment of riders and horses, participants in the upcoming trail rides to the mountains must be able to say “Yes” to the following questions:

- 1) Does your horse have the ability, temperament, and maturity to negotiate a variety of obstacles such as steep hills, water crossings, roots, rocks, bogs, etc.?
- 2) Do you, as the rider, have confidence that you can control your horse through the obstacles noted in 1?
- 3) Does your horse have enough training and conditioning for rides of 5–6 hrs?
- 4) Are you conditioned to sustain yourself for rides of 5-6 hours in duration?
- 5) Has your horse been trained to highline, hobble or tethering if required?
- 6) Is your horse accustomed to the use of saddle bags and rain slickers?
- 7) Has your horse been exposed to trail rides consisting of larger groups of horses and if, yes, was its behaviour positive (No kicking, ear pinning, etc.)? If negative, can you cope & deal with it?
- 8) Is your horse accustomed to a busy campground setting with tents, tarps, traffic, campfires, etc in close vicinity?
- 9) Are you willing to perform scheduled chores in and around camp according to your interest and ability? Do you have camping experience?

Campground Etiquette

- Take all garbage out with you, when garbage facilities are not available, and leave your campsite clean.
- Manure must be cleaned up from your site & taken to the designated manure site.
- Bring your own firewood, don't cut trees.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash in camp. Provide the necessary comforts to keep your dog happy and quiet while you are out riding. Please clean up after your dog.
- The use of alfalfa/grass cubes and grain/complete feed rather than hay is encouraged. This stops the introduction of noxious weeds and non-native plants to the camping area and trails.
- Never tie a horse to a tree in the camping area; use hitching rails, highlines or trailers.
- Ensure you highline your horse properly. A horse should not be able to stand under a tree as this compacts soil or exposes the roots of the then dying tree. Highline to highline poles or between trailers ensuring the horse cannot stand under “drip line”.
- In bear country alleviate problems by keeping excess feed (horse, dog & human) & cooking utensils out of a bear's reach.
- Don't run/race horses in the campground.
- Read/abide by posted camp rules. Be a good neighbor in the camping area. Most campgrounds quiet time is 11pm-7am.

Trail Riding Etiquette

- When group riding, be ready on time.
- Realize the capabilities of you and your horse and ride to the abilities of the least experienced horse and rider. Extend help to riders in trouble or less experienced.
- Make sure everyone is mounted/ready.
- Join or be a riding “buddy” with a single rider in the group if they need to leave the ride. We do not recommend riding alone on any trail.
- Proceed at a walk in heavily congested areas, let others know before passing.
- Never pass the trail boss.
- Have control of your horse at all times and keep a safe distance between horses.
- Do not allow your horse to nuzzle, scratch, threaten, or run up on others.
- Respect private property & other users.
- Always flag your horse with a red ribbon on the tail if it is likely to kick horses.
- If you spot a hazard let others know.
- Do not run up or down hills.
- Know the trail. Take a map, compass, and/or GPS and emergency supplies.
- Riders are encouraged to wear helmets.
- Ride on designated or established trails. Do not cut between or take short cuts. Minimize environmental damage.
- Avoid riding after heavy rains.
- Do not bring dogs on the trail, except for overnight rides ok if everyone agrees.