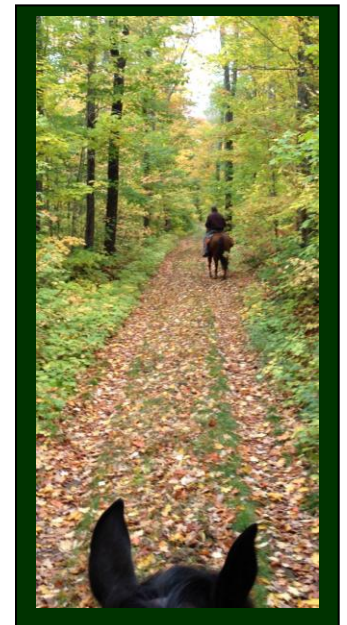
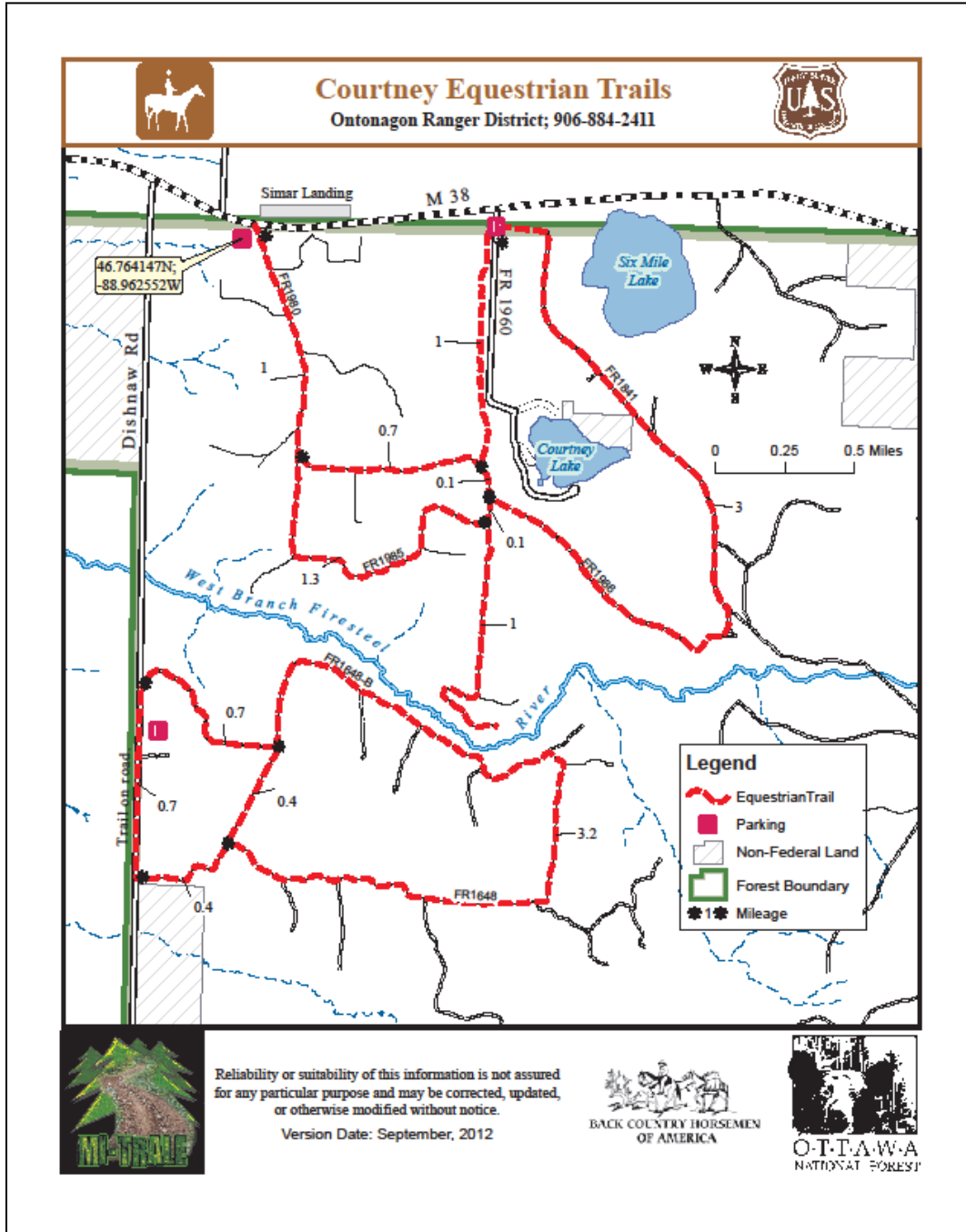


# Equestrian Trails



The Courtney Equestrian Trails are a little known attraction in Northeast Ontonagon County in the Ottawa National forest. These beautiful trails lie on both sides of the West Branch Firesteel River with access points from HWY M-38 and the Dishneau road. Northeastern loops are enjoyed by cross country skiers, snowshoer's and intersects with hiking trails. Here you will enjoy approximately 14 miles of horse trails on diverse forest landscapes that carry you through areas of hardwood, pine, mixed foliage and forest vegetation. Trails are near Courtney Lake Campground which is seasonally open to the general public but closed to horses. This is a peaceful retreat with well-marked trails cared for by MI-TRALE, local skiers and the Ottawa National Forest.

CONTACT CATHY WAINIO EQUESTIAN DIRECTOR AT #906-988-2232

# Equestrian Trails

## Horseback Riding on The Ottawa National Forest

The nearly one million acre Ottawa National Forest also provides a wide variety of equestrian opportunities ranging from well maintained and signed roads and trails to the more challenging cross country travel. Except for the Sylvania Wilderness and specifically designated hiker only trails, including the North Country National Scenic Trail, the entire Forest is open to horses including open roads, closed, gated and blocked roads unless the road is specifically signed as closed to horses. Horses are not permitted in developed recreation areas such as the Courtney Lake Campground, however camping is allowed in the forest. Many of the roads and trails on the Ottawa are open to other uses including motor vehicle travel, ATV's, ORV's, hikers and mountain bikes unless otherwise specified. Roads and trails travel through a variety of management areas across the Ottawa National Forest. These areas are managed for a wide range of multiple use activities including recreation, threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife, water quality and wood products. To help prevent erosion and impacts to threatened and endangered species, please stay on the roads and trails.

### MDNR Multi-Use Routes & Horses

Equestrians have use of the multi use routes maintained by MI-TRALE and found in this book:

Bill Nicholls Route  
Ottawa East Connector Route  
Sidnaw-Bergland Route  
Iron River-Marenisco Route

These routes are open to other uses including motor vehicle travel, ATV's, ORV's, motorcycles, hikers and mountain bikes so be prepared and stay alert!  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



Go to

[www.mi-trale.org](http://www.mi-trale.org)  
for links on supply  
locations, vets,  
events and more



### Equestrian Safety and Trail Courtesy

- 1) Always ride with others in remote areas and leave word of your travel plans with someone
- 2) Maintain control of your horse at all times and approach turns with anticipation of someone around the bend.
- 3) As you approach another trail user, help them out by turning your horses hind quarters away from them. This will greatly reduce the risk of incident and will allow your horse to be aware of their presence
- 4) Greet other trail users in your normal voice well ahead when approaching from behind

### Equestrian Camping

#### Simar Landing Strip

HWY M38 across from Courtney Equestrian Trails trail head, allows Camping with a permit and parking for "Day Use". For permit info contact DNR at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

#### Ottawa National Forest (ONF)

Horsemen can pack and camp in the Ottawa National Forest except at all established recreation sites for an example; campgrounds and boat launches and also where specifically posted closed to horses. Contact ONF at # 906-932-1330 or visit them on the web.