

**My name is Don Wagner, I am the trail chairman for the Ohio Horseman's Council, which is a volunteer equine group in the state of Ohio with 4000 members in 65 county chapters. We are a 501C3 and focus on education, conservation and recreation. We raise funds and donate our time and resources to maintain trails and horse camping facilities in Ohio parks and forest as well as US forest, national parks, metro parks and other public lands where horse trails are actively used. My role as trail chairman is to link the horse community with the land managers and nonmotorized trail users. Ohio Horseman's Council supports the budgets put forth for ODNR fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Without the appropriate funding, the impact will be felt by all horse riders, including those we encourage from outside the state to join us on our trails as well as impact to local economy where trails and camping are located.**

- 1. There are 1,800 miles of horse trails in Ohio more than all the neighboring states combined. In 2022 OHC logged labor hours of 16,558, equipment hours of 5,507 and material expenses of \$11,252. OHC did not send a bill to the state.**
- 2. In 2022, OHC members logged 265,000 trail riding miles which Hocking State Forest, Oak Openings Metro Park and Mohican Memorial State Forest were the top 3 locations for riding.**
- 3. Per an American Horse Council economic impact study, Ohio ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in horse ownership behind Texas (767,000 horses). In 2022 Ohio ranked 6<sup>th</sup> clustered with Oklahoma, Missouri and Pennsylvania with 200-250,000+ horses in each state.**
- 4. Ohio is a major recreational market for horseback riding and camping.**
- 5. Equine Affaire, held every April in Columbus Expo Center is a premier North American equine exposition and equestrian gathering celebrating the horse through educational and entertainment activities. Attendees came from 37 states this year and OHC is an exhibitor promoting trail riding and camping in Ohio. OHC vigorously promotes Ohio as a destination for riding and camping with horses.**
- 6. If trails and campgrounds are not maintained, conditions will deteriorate and it takes just a few Facebook post about these deteriorating conditions to steer recreational pursuits to somewhere else.**
- 7. The direct economic impact for Ohio is around 3.1 billion dollars. There are approximately 45,000 jobs in the horse related industry, 70% of this is in trails and camping.**