### Camp Establishment and Usage

### **Camp Site Selection**

- Good campsites are found, not made.
- Select established sites, or durable surfaces.
- Pick a location with water, grass/feeding area, and a good containment location.
- Observe camping setbacks from lakes, streams, trails, other campsites, and historic and cultural sites and structures.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas previously impacted.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- Do not picket stock in wet meadows.
- Tie stock so they cannot chew on the tree bark or eat the leaves of woody vegetation. A high line between trees is recommended. Use tree saver straps to protect trees.
- Fill in all holes and return all trampled areas to their natural state.

#### Disposing of Camp, Human and Stock Waste Properly

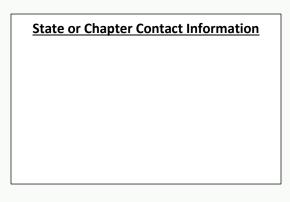
- Pack out everything you pack in.
- Do not throw left over food into campfires. It won't burn completely and is an attractant to bears and other animals.
- Deposit solid human waste in holes dug at least six inches deep at least one hundred feet from water, camp, and trails (check regulations for distance). Cover and disguise/naturalize the hole when finished.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, use tiny amounts of biodegradable soap.
- Rake or scatter manure when breaking camp, especially around highline.

## **Minimize Campfire Impacts**

- ALWAYS be aware of local fire restrictions.
- Campfires can cause lasting damage-do not have a campfire if you cannot control it.
- Be aware of your surrounding area and make sure you have a safe location for your camp- fire.
- Consider using a lightweight propane stove for cooking to replace or reduce campfires.
- Use established fire rings or use a fire pan.
- Build a mound fire using fire retardant material underneath (old fire shelter).
- Keep fires small use sticks that can be broken by hand when possible.
- Sawing and splitting logs should be done in a manner that minimizes visual impacts to the other visitors.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash and put out campfires completely. DEAD OUT!

### Learn more at BCHA.org/education







"Light On The Land" is the Back Country Horsemen of America educational platform of ACTIONS and ETHICS to perpetuate the common- sense use of saddle and pack stock and encourages the wise and sustainable use and enjoyment on our public lands.

The 5 Guidelines of Light on the Land

- 1. Plan Your Trip
- 2. Use Trails Responsibly
- 3. Minimize Camp Impacts
- 4. Minimize Wildlife Impacts
- 5. Preserve the Integrity of Wilderness, Front Country and Backcountry

# For more info go to: BCHA.org/education

## Plan Your Backcountry Trips

Preliminary preparation will provide the means to ensure safety and enhance the experience while minimizing the impact on natural and cultural resources.

- Know the regulations, special concerns, and restrictions for the land resources you are using.
- Communicate with others who have experience in your destination.
- Use print and/or offline maps and study routes before you leave.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use, if possible.
- Plan for emergencies, considering communication, weather, hazards, and medical for both humans and animals.
- Plan and practice stock containment such as hobbles or highlines.
- Take only animals that are fit, calm, and experienced.
- Always use familiar tack and gear.
- Take only equipment you need to reduce the weight.
- Predetermine how you will feed stock graze, pellets, hay, etc. and don't introduce new feed during the trip.
- Plan your menu.
  - -Repackage human food to minimize waste. -Utilize bear resistant containers for food.
  - -Pack extra light-weight meals in case of losing packs or unexpected delays.
  - -Avoid cans, bottles, double packaging on dry goods, etc.



## **Minimize Wildlife Conflicts**

- Observe wildlife from a distance do not follow or approach.
- Become familiar with animal signs that could indicate which type of animal is in your area – tracks, scat, rubbings, etc.
- Be familiar with proper response when encountering an aggressive/predatory animal in different situations.
- Be prepared for encounters on the trail with dogs, moose, bear, deer, elk, snakes, etc.
- Carry bear spray when necessary and transport in a proper container - bear spray is considered the best deterrent in preventing an attack.
- Never feed wild animals feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors (habituates), and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing/hanging rations, grain, and trash in approved bear-resistant methods - remember some personal hygiene items may be misinterpreted as food by some animals.

### Preserve the Integrity of the Backcountry

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not disturb cultural or historical structures and artifacts.
- Leave natural objects as you find them - check local regulations as removing these items may be illegal.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native plant species and check local weed-free public land requirements.

# Trail Usage, Etiquette and Safety

- Know trail designations of planned routes.
- Travel in small groups with the minimum number of animals necessary.
- Concentrate use on existing trails, do not create or utilize social trails.
- Avoid muddy trails if possible.
- Ride or walk single file in the middle of the trail, especially when wet or muddy.
- Do not cut corners or switchbacks.
- In pristine areas, disperse use to prevent the creation of new trails.
- Carry a saw and clear obstacles, especially those over sixteen inches above trail tread.
- Human restroom stops should be done off trail and no signs (trail lilies) should be left.
- Scatter manure at all rest stops.
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
  - -When taking breaks or setting camp, do so away from trails and other visitors.
  - -Be courteous. Just because you have the right of way does not mean you should always take the right of way.
- Communicate and cooperate with other users
- Report a negative occurrence if necessary to local officials.

