

# BLACKFOOT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA

## PUBLIC USE & RECREATION POLICY FOR THE CORE

Recreation has been identified by the community as a key historic and existing use of the BCCA Core. The overall goal is to provide for responsible use at sustainable levels to benefit the public and the health of the resource. The following regulations exist for use on the BCCA Core:

- 1) Non-motorized public access is allowed on the BCCA Core, at all times of the year.
- 2) Motorized access is limited to open, established roads. Some roads may be seasonally closed due to sensitive wildlife areas, road conditions and to accommodate grazing lessees.
- 3) No unauthorized motorized use of closed roads or trails is allowed. Closed roads and trails are posted as such. A closed gate or other closure device (such as a log barricade or earthen berm) with no sign is closed to all motorized vehicles. Road restrictions apply even if a sign, gate or closure device has been vandalized or damaged.
- 4) Gates and roads must not be blocked. Administrative or emergency traffic may need to pass through.
- 5) No off-road or off-trail motorized use is allowed by the general public; however,
- 6) Snowmobiles are allowed from December 1 through May 1, except where signed closures exist. If resource damage occurs on soils, vegetation or wildlife, the BCCA Council may require that snowmobilers stay on groomed or signed snowmobile routes.
- 7) Hunting, fishing, trapping and all forms of legal animal harvest in accordance with relevant law are allowed; however, trapping requires a permit for use by the BCCA Council and numbers may be limited.
- 8) Personal-use plant, berry and mushroom harvesting are allowed.
- 9) Personal-use firewood gathering of dead or down wood is allowed; a \$15 permit is required with a 5-cord limit. Personal-use Christmas-tree cutting is allowed; a free permit is required. Vehicles must stay on established, open roads for wood and tree retrieval.
- 10) Camping is limited to 16 days per campsite. During this time, the campsite must not be left unattended for more than 3 consecutive days. Camping beyond 16 days requires relocating to a new site at least 5 miles from the original site. To minimize conflicts with bears, human, pet and livestock food, garbage and all other attractants shall be acceptably stored at all times (see Lolo Nat'l Forest Food/Attractant Order #F06-003-LOLO-D6). Attractants shall not be buried, discarded or burned in an open campfire. During campsite occupation, firewood may be cut only for use within the campsite. No live trees may be cut by campers.
- 11) The use of certified weed-seed-free livestock hay, forage and bedding is required for all livestock users. Do not tie livestock to trees; instead use a post, high-line or hitch-rail.
- 12) Pack out all garbage. Leave the BCCA Core lands as clean or cleaner than you found them.
- 13) Avoid polluting with human waste. Pack out or bury all human waste at least 6" deep. Toilets located within 300 feet of water must be self-contained. Groups of 4 or more campers are requested to build and use a common latrine.
- 14) Special use permits may be allowed on a case-by-case basis for education, commercial or administrative use.
- 15) Hazards exist, so recreationists must use caution and enter at their own risk. The Blackfoot Challenge and BCCA Council assume no liability or responsibility of any kind with respect to any of the activities described above or otherwise.

It is your responsibility to know whose property you are using and that property's regulations. Avoid trespassing on private property. Please report violations or vandalism to the Blackfoot Challenge at 406-793-3900, or Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 406-542-5500 or 1-800-TIP-MONT.

For more information or to purchase a permit, please contact the Blackfoot Challenge at 406-793-3900.