

By practicing the Tread Lightly! principles you not only protect the outdoors but you protect access to recreation opportunities for years to come.

Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to proactively protect recreation access and opportunities in the outdoors through ethics education and stewardship initiatives. Not only is Tread Lightly! the nation's signature ethics message for outdoor enthusiasts that use motorized vehicles while enjoying the outdoors, Tread Lightly! offers unique training and restoration programs strategically designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them.

- T** TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY
- R** RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS
- E** EDUCATE YOURSELF
- A** AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS
- D** DO YOUR PART

treadlightly!®
ON LAND AND WATER



To learn more contact Tread Lightly! at
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Or visit us on the web at www.treadlightly.org

Thanks to our partners!

HUMMER

energy **API**



POLARIS

RAMSEY WINCH

GEO CACHING



TREAD LIGHTLY!'S
RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Travel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas.

- ✔ If traveling by vehicle, stay on designated roads and trails.
- ✔ Follow best practices for negotiating terrain with your vehicle.
- ✔ Don't create new routes or expand existing trails.
- ✔ Cross streams only at fords where the road or trail crosses the stream.
- ✔ If hiking, walk single file to avoid widening the trail.
- ✔ Spread out in open country where there are no trails. Spreading out, rather than following each other's footsteps, disperses impact and avoids creating a new trail. If possible travel on hardened surfaces such as gravel, slick rock or in sand washes.
- ✔ Use the "track back" feature on your Global Positioning System (GPS) unit rather than flagging and marking trails.
- ✔ Comply with all signs and barriers.
- ✔ Buddy up with two or three geocachers. Traveling solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Respect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- ✔ Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- ✔ Leave gates as you find them.
- ✔ If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- ✔ Keep the noise down.
- ✔ If hiking, be especially cautious around horses, bikes, and motorized vehicles. Stay to the right of the trail and let them pass.
- ✔ If traveling by vehicle yield the right of way to those passing you or traveling uphill. Yield to mountain bikers, hikers, and horses.
- ✔ Keep the noise and dust down.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

- ✔ Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to your type of travel.
- ✔ Make a realistic plan, and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- ✔ Familiarize yourself with restrictions and prohibitions in your area before you decide where to place a cache.
- ✔ The National Park Service (NPS) has strict geocaching regulations. Obtain permission first before leaving a cache on NPS lands.
- ✔ Check the weather forecast for your destination. Plan clothing, equipment, and supplies accordingly.
- ✔ Dressing in layers allows easier changing to meet unexpected weather conditions.
- ✔ In addition to your GPS receiver always carry extra batteries, a map, compass, and know how to use them.
- ✔ Carry water and emergency supplies even on short trips.

AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes.

- ✔ Avoid placing caches in sensitive habitats including wetlands, caves, steep slopes, cryptobiotic soils of the desert, tundra, and seasonal nesting or breeding areas.
- ✔ Avoid placing a cache or disturbing historical, archeological, and paleontological sites.
- ✔ Avoid "spooking" livestock and wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- ✔ Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in areas designated Wilderness.

DO YOUR PART

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

Cache Placers

- ✔ Avoid burying a cache in the ground.
- ✔ It is the cache owner's responsibility to maintain the cache and the surrounding area. If a cache's area is impacted, confer with the land manager on how you will mitigate the impacts and seek their advice as to whether to relocate the cache.
- ✔ Never place food items in a cache.
- ✔ Don't modify the environment for any reason, even when hiding a cache.

Cache Seekers

- ✔ Use maps to find a route that will minimize impacts. Note waypoints during your journey to assist you on your return trip.
- ✔ If you notice a path has started to wear in the vicinity of a cache, notify the cache owner via email.
- ✔ Practice "lift, look, replace" technique, if you lift a rock to look under it then replace it exactly as you found it.
- ✔ After you've finished searching for a cache, the area should look as though you were never there or better than when you arrived.

Minimizing Other Impacts

- ✔ Carry a trash bag on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
- ✔ Pack out what you pack in.
- ✔ Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- ✔ Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- ✔ Following a trip, wash your gear and support vehicle to reduce the spread of invasive species.