

Umatilla National Forest
Recreation Opportunity Guide

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TRAILS

BACKCOUNTRY ETHICS – YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Enjoying the National Forests is becoming more popular, and the wear and tear on the backcountry, even by careful users, is becoming more evident. The following **no-trace** camping techniques are designed to increase your enjoyment of the backcountry while minimizing impacts and permitting increased use of the resources.

Things to think about while you are in camp –

SITE SELECTION: Locate camps at least 200 feet from water, trails, other campers and meadows. Select a spot where you won't have to clear vegetation or level a tent site.

IMPROVEMENTS: Rock walls, log benches, lean-tos and other "improvements" detract from the natural landscapes. Dismantling such "improvements" is encouraged; permanent placement of structures in a designated wilderness is prohibited.

SANITATION: Human waste and toilet paper must be disposed of properly. Placed in a six-inch-deep "cat hole", the wastes will quickly be recycled by soil micro-organisms. Burn tissue in the "cat hole" **only** if there is no fire hazard. **When in doubt, do not burn**, but bury the tissue.

SOAPS AND DETERGENTS: Keep soaps and detergents (even biodegradable brands) out of lakes and streams. Wash dishes, hands, face and brush teeth in a specified container. Dispose of the wastewater in that container at least 200 feet from water sources.

PACK AND SADDLE STOCK: Confine stock at least 200 feet from streams, lakeshores, trails and camping areas. Rotate them through the area to reduce trampling and over grazing. Place a picket line between two trees, being of 8 inches in diameter or greater, on hardened ground where vegetation damage can be avoided. Use a highline or hobbles to restrain stock and prevent trampling of tree roots. Move your pickets frequently to avoid grazing an area to below three inches of stubble height. Pack in supplemental feed, processed grain, haycakes or pellets to cut down on grazing time. Use a nosebag to feed supplemental grain.

FIRES: Cook on lightweight stoves, or if fires are allowed, keep them small and use only dead, down and small diameter wood. Attend all fires while they are burning; make sure they are "dead out" before you leave.

BREAKING CAMP: Pack out all unburnable trash. Remember, aluminum foil will not burn completely. Scatter rocks used for fire rings and any ash, charcoal and unused firewood. Break up and scatter horse manure, fill in any pawed holes and return the site to its natural state by broadcasting a covering of needles and cones.

When on the trail –

TRAIL SWITCHBACKS: Stay on the trails. Cutting across switchbacks causes erosion and could cause injury.

TRAIL COURTESY: During fire season, **NO SMOKING WHILE TRAVELING**. Stop and smoke only in safe spots. Consider carrying a shovel, axe and water container. Observe the basics of trails right-of-way:

- 1) Hikers should yield to animal traffic.
- 2) A loaded pack string has the right-of-way.
- 3) In steep, rough country, downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic.

"Caring for the land and serving people."

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