

Welcome to the Bitterroot National Forest

The Bitterroot's glacier-carved peaks and canyons provide excellent opportunities for climbers of all skill levels. As visitors to these spectacular and unique lands, climbers should practice Leave No Trace techniques. Being responsible land stewards ensures future access to some of the best climbing Montana has to offer.

Climbing has inherent risks and hazards, and is a potentially dangerous activity. It is the individual climber's responsibility to assess each and every piece of fixed protection to assess its adequacy and safety. Climb safely, responsibly, and have fun!

Natural and Cultural History

From cottonwood-lined river bottoms to windswept alpine peaks, the Bitterroots are rugged and diverse - a priceless national treasure.

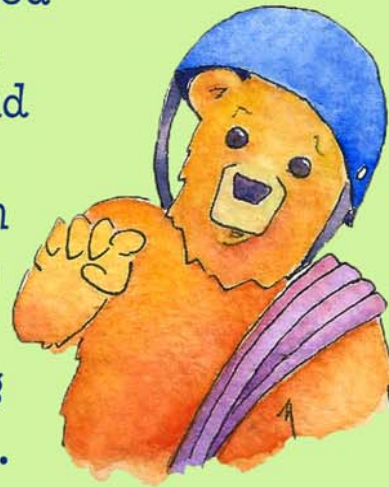
The peaks and crags are primarily granitic, and cliff bases are often composed of highly erosive soils. The fragile plant life that grows here is vulnerable to human impacts, so please tread lightly as you climb and explore.

The Bitterroot National Forest is home to abundant wildlife. You may encounter raptors, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, bears, and other species. These animals can be easily disturbed so respect them by observing from a distance.

The Bitterroot Valley and surrounding mountains are the traditional homeland of the Bitterroot Salish people. Cultural sites like pictographs, rock cairns, and stone circles may be hundreds or even thousands of years old. Respect and protect this irreplaceable cultural legacy by leaving them undisturbed. Report any vandalism to the nearest Forest Service office.

Please tread lightly, respect wildlife, and help educate others on Leave No Trace practices. Be a responsible member of the climbing community.

It's up to you
to know,
follow, and
educate
others on
leave no
trace
climbing
practices.



Climbing Access Depends On You!

Leave No Trace Seven Principles

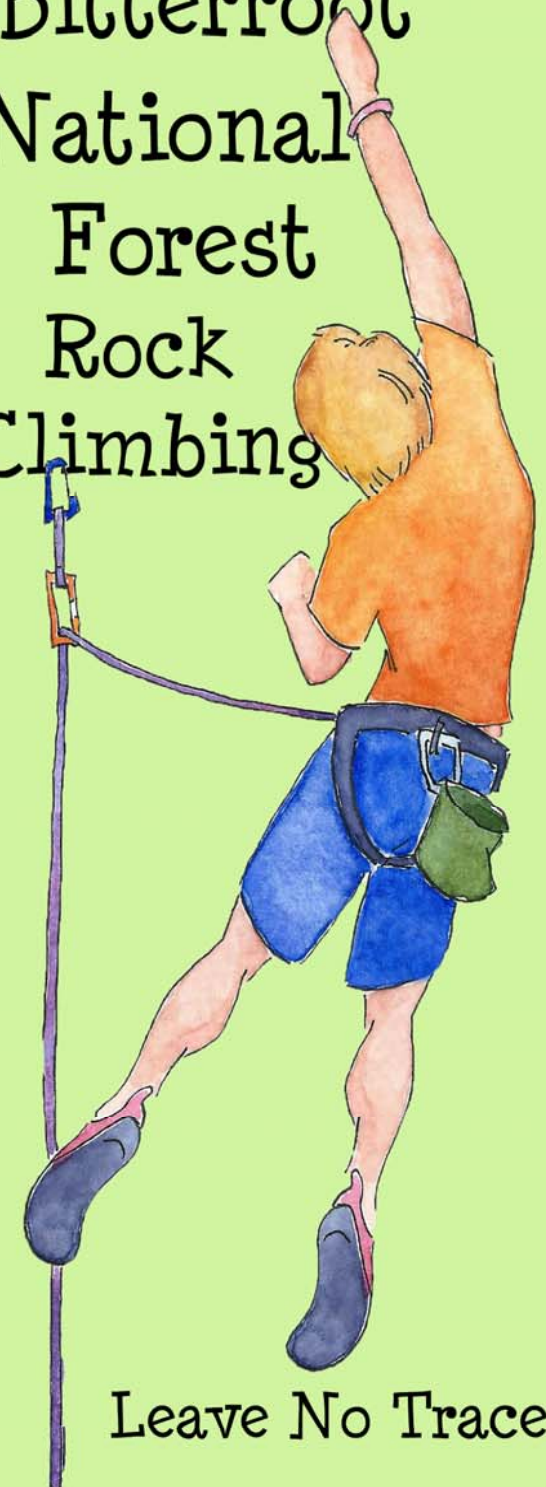
- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



Bitterroot National Forest:
(406) 363-7100 www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot/
Leave No Trace: <https://lnt.org>

Produced collaboratively by local Bitterroot residents, climbers,
and the Bitterroot National Forest

Bitterroot National Forest Rock Climbing



Leave No Trace

Wildlife and Closures:

Climbing areas and crags are home to raptors, goats, bats, and other wildlife. Know and respect closures. Be prepared to change your route to leave them space. Please report all nesting raptors and mountain goat sightings to the Bitterroot National Forest.

Visual impacts:

- Minimize chalk marks.
- Do chalk cleanups.
- Never create graffiti.
- Use camouflaged anchors.
- Consider removing draws at the end of the day. Remember it is illegal to leave equipment (draws or any other gear) on Forest Service land for more than 16 days.

Pack It In, Pack It Out!

That includes waste, trash, and abandoned gear. Know how to dig a cathole to deposit human waste. In high use areas, Pack It Out! When camping, minimize campfire impacts by using a stove. If you must have a campfire, use established fire rings.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

Be considerate of other recreational visitors. Avoid excessive noise such as yelling, loud music, or barking dogs.

Dogs

Dogs have significant impacts. Keep your dog under control at all times. No digging! If your dog is not well behaved, consider leashing him or leaving him at home. Pack out waste.

Durable Surfaces:

- Choose durable locations for staging and belaying.
- Concentrated climbing routes cause soil compaction, loss of vegetation, and erosion.
- Minimize rock cleaning and protect ecologically important lichens.

Caution:

Extreme weather, ticks, and poor cell reception are common in the mountains. Be prepared!

Before You Climb:

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area where you plan to climb.
- Consult with land managers regarding the installation and use of fixed protection.

Fixed Protection:

- Do not add to established routes.
- Do not use when removable protection is possible.
- When used excessively or thoughtlessly, their impacts may limit climbing access.
 - Power drills are prohibited in Wilderness and controversial in other management areas.

Trails:

- Use one existing, durable trail to access climbing areas.
- Avoid creating multiple trails or travelling on erodible surfaces.
- It is illegal to construct trails or build structures on Forest Service land without authorization. This includes use of flagging, placement of rock cairns, and the building of belay stations.

Be Neighborly!

Drive slowly, respect private property, and park in designated areas.

Take Note:

Read trailhead signs for information on closures and restrictions.