

## Dispersed Camping on the Bitterroot National Forest

There are many opportunities for dispersed camping on the Bitterroot National Forest. The general guidance is as follows:

- Our Forest stay limit is 16 days. After 16 days you must move 5 miles away from your camp site, as the crow flies
- Camp in an already used site, do not create a new site
  - For fire rings (rocks usually), use existing rings before making a new one. Scatter once done and leaving.
  - Do not burn trash or other items in fire rings to avoid pollution and to not attract animals.
  - Collect dead and down wood for firewood.
  - Ensure your campfire is OUT before you leave
- Camp 100 feet away from water
- Do not rinse and wash dishes/etc. out of the creek or river. Do it on land.
- There is not a set distance for how far you need to be off a trail, but keep in mind other people are hiking and want to enjoy the area as well, so the further away from the trail the better.
- Practice Leave No Trace 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
  - For more information on LNT, visit: <https://lnt.org/>
- Do not damage live trees (nails, carving, etc.)
- Motorized access to dispersed camping is allowed within 300 feet of most roads.
- Know where you are and ensure you are on public lands. Make sure you have an updated map or app on your phone.
- Be bear aware and store your food properly.
  - For the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, bear food storage is required. For more information, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/bitterroot/news-events/?cid=STELPRD3804561>
- Pack it in, pack it out.
  - Do a "micro trash" search and pick up at the end of your stay.