

Bucks Lake Snowmobile Trails

Mt. Hough Ranger District
Plumas National Forest



Contour interval 200 feet

LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY

EASY: Groomed snow trails suitable for the beginning snowmobile rider. Terrain consists of flat to gently rolling, with short stretches of steeper hills. Generally trails are well maintained and there are limited obstacles. After storms, expect obstacles such as snow drifts, downed trees and branches.

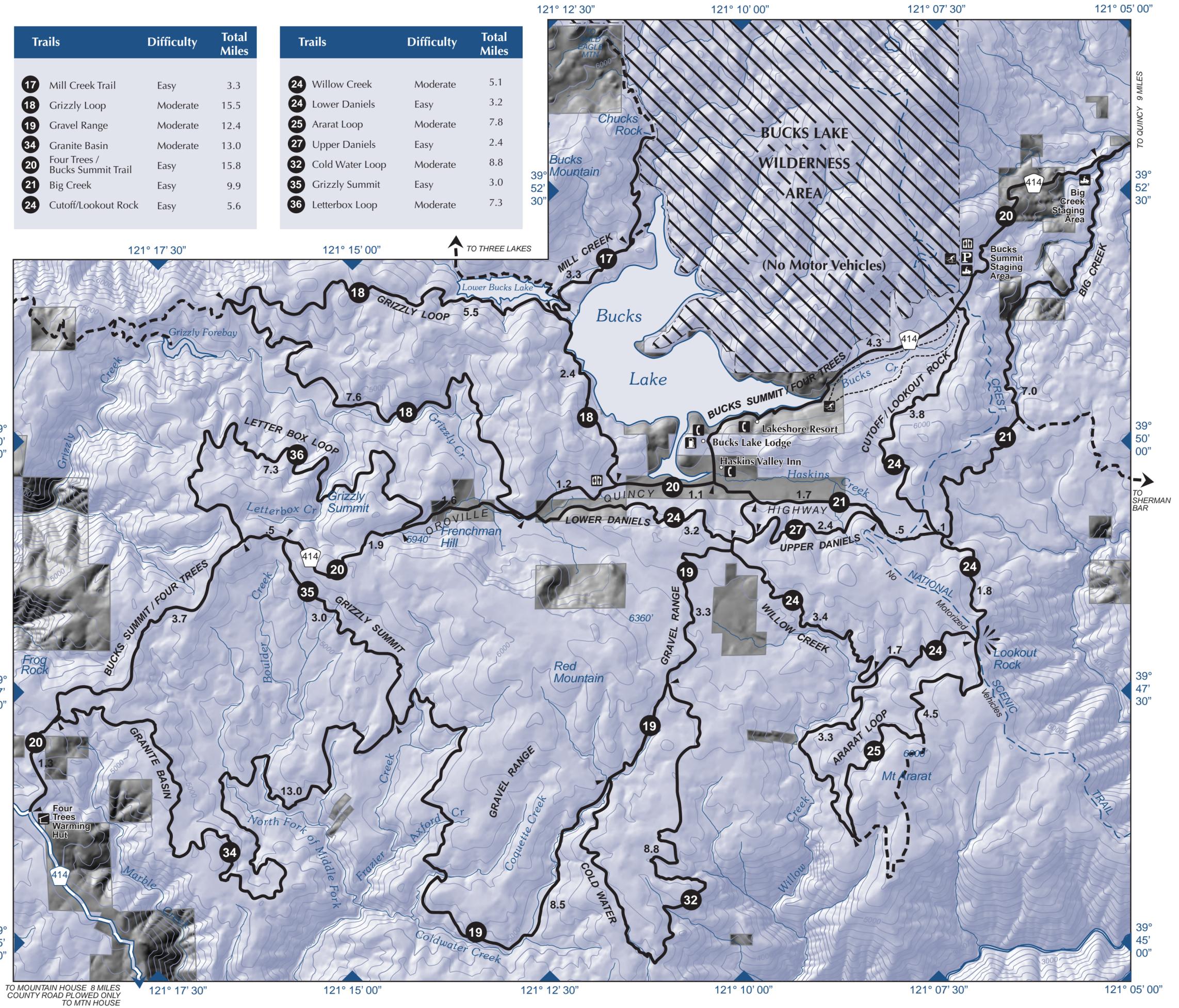
MODERATE: Groomed snow trails suitable for the intermediate snowmobile rider. Terrain and surface includes rolling hills with occasional steep hills and side-hill trail. May not have been recently groomed, and/or consist of unpacked, un-groomed snow accumulations.

DIFFICULT: Backcountry travel off the groomed snow routes requires expert technical skills, while riding highly powered snowmobiles. Be aware of existing, non-posted hazards such as rocks, trees, cliffs, steep, icy slopes, side-hills, and possible avalanche areas.

- Groomed Trails
- Ungroomed Trails
- Cross Country Ski Trail
- Trail Segment Mileage
- Pacific Crest Trail (NO MOTOR VEHICLES)
- Wilderness Land (NO MOTOR VEHICLES)
- National Forest Lands
- Private Land
- County Road
- Snowmobile Staging Area
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Warming Hut
- Trailhead Parking
- Restrooms
- Telephone
- Gas

Trails	Difficulty	Total Miles
17 Mill Creek Trail	Easy	3.3
18 Grizzly Loop	Moderate	15.5
19 Gravel Range	Moderate	12.4
34 Granite Basin	Moderate	13.0
20 Four Trees / Bucks Summit Trail	Easy	15.8
21 Big Creek	Easy	9.9
24 Cutoff/Lookout Rock	Easy	5.6

Trails	Difficulty	Total Miles
24 Willow Creek	Moderate	5.1
24 Lower Daniels	Easy	3.2
25 Ararat Loop	Moderate	7.8
27 Upper Daniels	Easy	2.4
32 Cold Water Loop	Moderate	8.8
35 Grizzly Summit	Easy	3.0
36 Letterbox Loop	Moderate	7.3



TO MOUNTAIN HOUSE 8 MILES
COUNTY ROAD PLOWED ONLY
TO MTN HOUSE



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



A Guide to Bucks Lake Snowmobile Trails

Plumas National Forest



For more information:
USDA Forest Service
Mt Hough Ranger District
39696 Hwy. 70
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-0555
(530) 534-7984 TTY
www.fs.fed.us/R5/plumas



Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) opportunities on this forest are made possible through a partnership between the Forest Service and the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation. The "Green Sticker" grant program provides funding for operation and maintenance of OHV trails and staging areas, planning and development of new areas and trails, resource management and law enforcement carried out by U.S. Forest Service employees.

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Welcome to the Bucks Lake Snowmobile Trails

Winter is a beautiful time to explore the Plumas National Forest. Miles of roads and trails offer excellent opportunities for fun and enjoyment of the forest.

One hundred miles of groomed snowmobile routes are maintained throughout the winter season. Grooming efforts are sponsored through California State Off-Highway Vehicle funds. These trails are maintained for snowmobile use only. ATV's and all other wheeled vehicles are prohibited on groomed snowmobile routes. The Bucks Lake Snowdrifters Club and the Forest Service work together to provide the grooming service.



Winter Travel Manners

In some areas, skiers, snowshoers and snowmobiles must share the same trails and routes. Be courteous and respectful to allow all trail users to safely enjoy winter travel.

Please follow these Winter Travel Manners:

- * Operate snowmobiles at a minimum speed near skiers and snowshoers.
- * Maintain this minimum speed until you are well past those traveling on foot.
- * The noise of a snowmobile usually makes it difficult for its operator to hear other trail users. To get their attention, use gestures.
- * On steep ground, snowmobiles are generally limited to the developed trail surface. Step out of the way to let snowmobiles pass.
- * Groomed travel routes are closed to wheeled vehicles.
- * Park vehicles off the road.
- * Respect the property and privacy of others.
- * In campgrounds, avoid hitting tables, stoves or other improvements covered in snow.
- * Please pack out what you pack in.
- * Signs and trail markers are for direction and use of the area. Please protect them.
- * Vegetation can be damaged if you ride over small trees and bushes.
- * If you encounter animals, stop and allow them to move off the trail. The energy needed to survive in cold and snow can make unnecessary disturbance harmful or fatal to wildlife.
- * Avoid leaving human waste near any water course.
- * Never travel alone.
- * Speed limits enforced.

Services Available

Several restaurants, a general store, fuel, lodging, a snowmobile shop, and a specialty shop are available in La Porte. For more information on local services, contact the Plumas County Visitors Bureau, 1-800-326-2247 or www.plumascounty.org.

Risks and Hazards

The forest environment is hazardous by nature. Conditions in the forest may change unexpectedly, creating unforeseen hazards. The forest visitor is responsible for knowing and accepting the risks of operating a motorized vehicle. When doing so on public lands, the visitor has the added responsibility of accepting the hazards inherent in a forest environment. Be aware of changing conditions, and watch for hazards such as fallen trees, ice, and avalanche areas. Remember that the most hazardous avalanche terrain has the following characteristics: steep slopes that are long and open, with possible cornice build-up. Snow on north facing slopes, or on the leeward side of the prevailing wind direction, is more likely to slide in midwinter; south facing slopes are most dangerous in the spring and on sunny days. Snowmobilers are advised to stay on groomed, marked trails to minimize potential risks.

Cooling Power of Wind
Expressed as "Equivalent Chill Temperature"

Wind Speed (mph)	Temperature (°F)									
	40	30	20	10	5	0	-10	-20	-30	
Calm										
	Equivalent Chill Temperature (°F)									
5	35	25	15	5	0	-5	-15	-25	-35	
10	30	15	5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-60	
15	25	10	-5	-20	-25	-30	-45	-60	-70	
20	20	5	-10	-25	-30	-35	-50	-65	-80	
25	15	0	-15	-30	-35	-45	-60	-75	-90	
35	10	-5	-20	-35	-40	-50	-65	-80	-100	
40	10	-5	-20	-35	-45	-55	-70	-85	-100	
				Danger		Increasing Danger			Great Danger	

Four Trees Warming Hut

A warming hut is available for use and enjoyment. It was built with California state green sticker funds. Please help keep it clean and pack out what is packed in. Bring firewood.

Access to Bucks Lake

From Quincy, follow county road 414 to Bucks Lake. During winter months, this road is maintained as far as Bucks Summit, three miles away from the resorts. The remaining three miles may be traveled by snowmobile, snowcat or cross-country skiing. If transportation service is needed from any of the lodges, make arrangements in advance. Staging areas are maintained year round at the Big Creek (7 miles) and Bucks Summit (3 miles) trailheads.

County Roads

All Off-Highway Vehicles must be street legal to operate on county roads. Only county roads closed to public traffic by snow may be used by green sticker registered vehicles.

The Oroville/Quincy county road from Four Trees to Bucks Lake will be closed to public traffic when it receives 18 inches of snow. The road from Four Trees to Mountain House is also closed when it receives 18 inches of snow.

Travel Information

When traveling in California, call 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) or visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/>. This site provides current information regarding the condition of the California State Highway System.

Winter Safety

Outdoor recreation in winter requires extra planning and caution for a safe and pleasant trip. It is the responsibility of the OHV operator to be aware of Federal and State OHV restrictions and regulations. Make sure the snowmobile is registered and the green sticker is clearly displayed on the vehicle. It is a good idea to bring along the items on this safety list when traveling in winter:

- ☐ warm clothing (extras in case clothing get wet)
- ☐ drinking water
- ☐ snowshoes or skis (a pair for each person)
- ☐ lunch, snacks, and emergency food
- ☐ tools and extra gas in a safety can
- ☐ first aid kit
- ☐ map and compass
- ☐ hatchet or hunting knife
- ☐ rope or avalanche cord
- ☐ emergency flares
- ☐ tarp (for temporary shelter)
- ☐ pocket knife
- ☐ space blanket
- ☐ survival kit

Survival Kit

A few simple items can help keep an emergency situation from turning into a tragedy. A pocket-sized survival kit may be made at home. It should contain items for makeshift sled repair and personal survival. Some items to include are:

- mirror
- safety pins
- salt
- energy foods
- whistle
- wire
- paper clips
- aluminum foil
- waterproof matches
- heavy tape (duct tape)
- candle
- bouillon cubes
- razor blades
- space blanket
- fishing line
- sandpaper

911 Emergency

Plumas District Hospital
1065 Bucks Lake Rd.
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-2121

Leave No Trace

Remember to take out of the forest anything that is brought in. Whenever possible, make the extra effort to remove trash that less thoughtful persons have left behind. Leave live vegetation and cultural and historic features as found for others to discover and enjoy, and for a return visit.



Snowmobile Trail Descriptions

Mill Creek (Route 17) 3.3 Miles

This trail branches off the Grizzly Loop Trail at the Bucks Lake dam. It is the access trail to the Bald Eagle area. Only the first part of the trail is groomed to Chuck Rock. Bald Eagle offers an area of dispersed riding with open areas, hill climbs, and great views of the Sacramento Valley and Lassen Peak.

Grizzly Loop (Route 18) 15.5 Miles

Grizzly Loop begins 1.1 miles west of the intersection of the Bucks Summit/Four Trees and Big Creek. The trail follows along the shoreline of Bucks Lake and lower Bucks Lake. Great views of the lakes and the Feather River Canyon.

Gravel Range (Route 19) 12.4 Miles

The route begins off the Big Creek Trail 0.6 miles east of Bucks Summit/Four Trees intersection and ends at the junction of Grizzly Summit Trail. This route offers backcountry riding and a chance to get away from the crowd.

Granite Basin (Route 34) 13.0 Miles

This trail is at lower elevations with southwest facing slopes. This often results in areas where the snow becomes scarce. Check on conditions before traveling this route. The trail begins at the intersection of Gravel Range and Grizzly Summit trail and ends near Frog Rock on the Bucks Summit/Four Trees route

Bucks Summit/Four Trees (Route 20) 15.8 Miles

This trail begins at the Bucks Summit Staging area and ends at the Four Trees Warming Hut. This is the main route offering connections to many of the loop trails and provides access to the resorts at Bucks Lake. These resorts offer the only services in the area which include food, fuel, and lodging.

Big Creek (Route 21) 9.9 Miles

Big Creek Trail begins at the Big Creek Staging Area and ends where it intersects the Bucks Summit/Four Trees route. This is one of the main access routes into the Bucks Lake Trails. This route and the Big Creek Staging Area serve as primary access to the Bucks Lake area when low elevation snow closes the road to Bucks Summit.

Cutoff/Lookout Rock (Route 24) 5.6 Miles

This trail begins 0.2 miles west of Bucks Summit Staging Area and ends near Lookout Rock at the intersection of Ararat Loop and Willow Creek Trail. The first segment of the trail serves as a link between the Bucks Summit/Four Trees Trail and Big Creek Trail. Scenic views of the Sierras and the Feather River Canyon are visible at several spots along the last segment between Big Creek Trail and Lookout Rock.

Willow Creek (Route 24) 5.1 Miles

This trail branches off the Gravel Range loop in an easterly direction, and ends near Lookout Rock. Along the trail there are open areas and ridge access offering cross country riding opportunities.

Lower Daniels (Route 24) 3.2 Miles

This trail branches off the Gravel Range loop in a westerly direction, and ends at the Bucks Summit/Four Trees Trail. There are open areas and ridge access along the trail and a scenic view of some rocky bluffs.

Ararat Loop (Route 25) 7.8 Miles

This trail begins near Lookout Rock at the intersection of the Cutoff/Lookout Rock Trail and Willow Creek Trail. Ararat Loop ends where it intersects Willow Creek Trail. A short cross-country detour off this route will lead you to the top of Mt. Ararat. Mt Ararat offers large open spaces and spectacular views of the Middle Fork of Feather River Canyon, the Sierras, and the Sacramento Valley. This is a favorite destination/play area for many snowmobilers.

Upper Daniels (Route 27) 2.4 Miles

This trail branches off the Gravel Range loop in an easterly direction, and ends at the Big Creek Trail. Many visitors use this as an alternate route or shortcut back to the Staging Areas.

Cold Water Loop (Route 32) 8.8 Miles

This trail is a loop off the Gravel Range loop offering backcountry travel away from the crowds.

Grizzly Summit (Route 35) 3.0 Miles

This trail offers a cutoff route connecting the Gravel Range Loop with the Bucks Summit/Four Trees Trail. When time is an issue or when snow is sparse in the lower elevations, this is a very popular alternate route for the Gravel Range Loop.

Letter Box Loop (Route 36) 7.3 Miles

Letter Box Loop begins and ends off the Bucks Summit/Four Trees Trail. The east end of the trail is located 3.9 miles west of the Bucks Summit/Four Trees intersection. The trail follows mid slope on northern aspects offering plenty of snow and spectacular views of the Feather River Canyon.



I Pledge to Tread Lightly by:

- T**raveling only where motorized vehicles are permitted.
- R**especting the rights of hikers, skiers, campers, and others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.
- E**ducating myself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies; complying with signs and barriers; and asking owners' permission to cross private property.
- A**voiding streams, lakeshores, meadows, and muddy roads and trails, steep hillsides, wildlife, and livestock.
- D**riving responsibly to protect the environment and to preserve the opportunity to enjoy my vehicle on wild lands.