

## Cattle Etiquette

Throughout the summer, chances are you will meet cattle in the Little Belt Mountains. It is stressful for cattle to be chased, so please keep your pets under control when around herds and don't harass them with your vehicles. Leave every gate how you find it. These gates control where the cattle can and cannot go and help to protect the natural resources. If you see injured animals, keep your distance and report their location to the Forest Service.



## Reasons for Seasonal Closures

Seasonal closures of roads and trails are implemented for various reasons, including to reduce user conflict, provide security for wildlife species, and to prevent resource damage. The reasons shown table below shows a generalization of the reasons for each set of closure dates. The reason for individual route's closure dates may differ. "Big game security" involves preventing displacement of animals (including elk and deer) from forest land, winter range, or calving grounds.

Open code	Dates closed	Reason for closure date / opening date
C	Sep 1 - May 15	Big game security / Resource (erosion) protection
D	Oct 15 - May 15	Big game security / Resource (erosion) protection
E	Dec 1 - May 15	Big game security / Resource (erosion) protection
E1	When signed "Closed to Wheeled Vehicles"	Winter trails (snowmobile, ski, snowshoe) closure managed to prevent user conflict
F	Dec 1 - Jun 1	Big game security / Elk calving
H	May 1 - Jun 15	Elk calving
K	Sep 1 - Jun 30	Big game security / Elk calving
M	Oct 15 - Jun 30	Big game security / Elk calving
N	Dec 1 - Jun 30	Big game security / Elk calving
P	Sep 1 - Jul 14	Big game security / User conflict (Smith River floating season)
S	Sep 1 - Dec 1	Big game security
T	Oct 15 - Dec 1	Big game security

## Young Riders

- Always supervise your children when they are riding.
- Camping areas are not riding areas. Riding near or around campgrounds can impact soils and plants and is disrespectful of other campers.
- Riding OHVs in or around campgrounds and dispersed campsites is prohibited. Ride on designated routes only!
- Kids are allowed to ride on all Forest Service Trails.
- Kids between 12 and 16 are allowed to ride on Forest Service "Roads Open to All Vehicles" (see legend) if:
  - They have an OHV Safety Training certificate AND
  - Are accompanied by a licensed operator
- Kids under the age of 12 may not operate an OHV on public roads.
- Always be sure your kids are in proper safety gear
- Kids under 18 are required to wear USDOT certified helmets while operating motorcycles

## Invasive Species

Forest users can help prevent the spread of noxious weeds by not driving, parking or walking through infestations. All vehicles, including mountain bikes, OHVs, cars, and trailers should be washed thoroughly to remove weed seeds before entry. Use only weed-seed-free certified animal feed products.

Prevent weed infestations, including location, species, the size of infestation and if it was pulled, to the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

### Weeds Common in Central Montana Mountains

**Sulfur cinquefoil:** This is a common yellowish-white flower along roadsides and trails and in meadows adjacent to them. The brittle hairs on the leaves distinguish it from the native northwest cinquefoil.

**Spotted knapweed:** Spotted knapweed grows in a branched pattern with several stems. The flower is up to one-inch wide with narrow pink to purple petals. It thrives in dry and disturbed soils, and produces a chemical that kills nearby plants.

**Oxeye Daisy:** This white daisy is so common that many people may not recognize it as a weed. It is an extremely aggressive plant that escaped from cultivation and now is present in all 50 states.

**Leafy spurge:** This plant is an extremely aggressive, long-lived perennial. Flowers are yellowish-green and arranged in numerous small clusters, under that are often mistaken for flowers. The entire plant contains white, milky latex. Spurge occurs in most habitats in Montana.

**Houndstongue:** This weed is common in disturbed soils, and is toxic to cattle and horses. It spreads by seeds which are buried and stick to clothing, hair and fur. Help control the spread of houndstongue by removing seeds from clothing, shoes, animals, and gear and burning them or disposing in landfill-bound garbage.



## Camping Rules & Etiquette

Respect your camping neighbors

Riding OHVs in campgrounds is prohibited. Use designated routes for your OHV recreation.

Keep your pets on a leash in campgrounds, and under control where ever you are.

Store your food in a bear-resistant manner

Food, Refuse, and Attractant Storage in Developed Campgrounds covering the following campgrounds and camping areas in the Little Belt Mountains:

Logging Creek, Aspen, Many Pines, Kings Hill, Dry Wolf, Russian Flat, Indian Hill, Hay Canyon, Jumping Creek, Moose Creek, Jellison, Haymaker, Daisy Dean, Spring Creek, Basin Creek, Whitetail, Hunters Camp, and Upper and Lower Lion Creek (and Crystal Lake, Thain Creek, Timber Creek, Grasshopper, Richardson, and Forest Lake in other mountain ranges)

As per special order LC06-02 (amendment 3) of 18 May 2007, in the above listed campgrounds all food, refuse, and attractants must be either directly attended by an adult or stored in a bear-resistant manner during the day, and always stored in a bear-resistant manner at night, regardless of attendance. In addition, attractants (garbage, food leftovers, e.g.) shall not be burned in an open fire, buried, or discarded on Forest. Store all food (including canned food), pet food and other attractants including garbage in a hard-sided vehicle (with windows closed) when you are out of camp during the day and always at night except when you are preparing food! In addition, wildlife carcasses within 1/2-mile of the campground must be stored in a bear-resistant manner during nighttime hours. Please remember that very few containers are truly "bear-resistant". In other words, coolers, food cans, bottles, and other things that are not specifically tested as bear-resistant are not appropriate storage for attractants. Put them in your vehicle or camper!

Although these food storage rules are only required in the listed campgrounds, we suggest following these rules wherever you camp! This will protect you, the bears - and your food.

### Roadside Camping

Roadside (also called dispersed camping) is allowed in the Little Belt Mountains, except near developed campgrounds and at trailheads signed as closed to camping. You may drive up to 70 feet from the road to reach your camp, but please try to use existing routes. Be sure you are on National Forest land before you camp. Do not build new fire rings - use existing ones. Do not cause resource damage - to trees, soils, streams, or vegetation. Camp at least 200 feet from streams. Hobbie or high line stock rather than tying them to trees. Clean up your campsite when you leave.

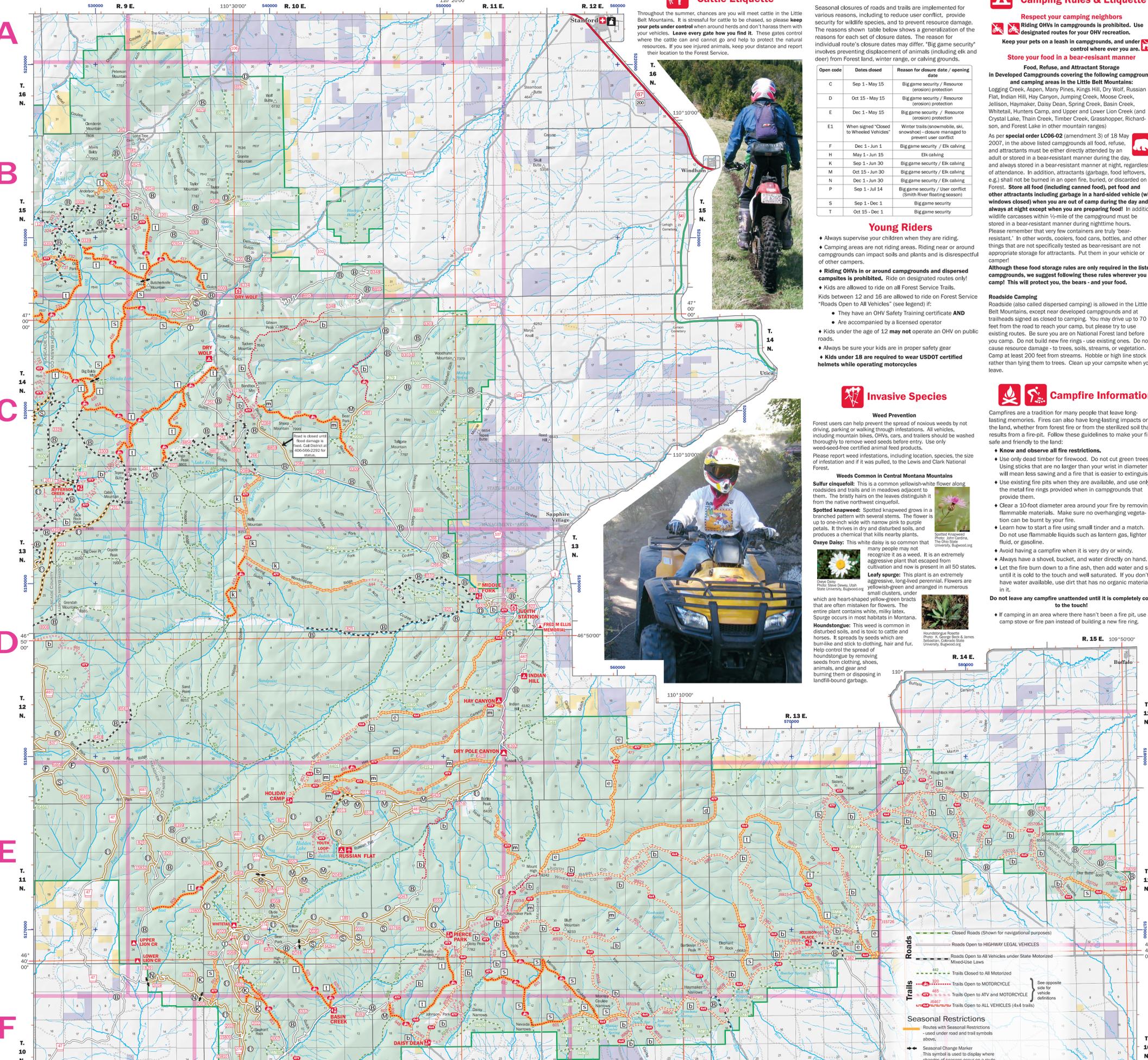
### Campfire Information

Campfires are a tradition for many people that leave long-lasting memories. They are also for long-lasting impacts on the land, whether from forest fire or from the sterilized soil that results from a fire-pit. Follow these guidelines to make your fire safe and friendly to the land:

- Know and observe all fire restrictions.
- Use only dead timber for firewood. Do not cut green trees. Using sticks that are no larger than your wrist in diameter will mean less sawing and a fire that is easier to extinguish.
- Use existing fire pits when they are available, and use only the metal fire rings provided when in campgrounds that provide them.
- Clear a 10-foot diameter area around your fire by removing flammable materials. Make sure no overhanging vegetation can be burnt by your fire.
- Learn how to start a fire using small tinder and a match. Do not use flammable liquids such as lantern gas, lighter fluid, or gasoline.
- Avoid having a campfire when it is very dry or windy.
- Always have a shovel, bucket, and water directly on hand.
- Let the fire burn down to a fine ash, then add water and stir until it is cold to the touch and well saturated. If you don't have water available, use dirt that has no organic material in it.

Do not leave any campfire unattended until it is completely cold to the touch!

If camping in an area where there hasn't been a fire pit, use a camp stove or fire pan instead of building a new fire ring.



### Road Open Dates

Symbol	Dates Open to Motorized
(B)	OPEN Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
(C)	OPEN May 16 - Aug. 31
(D)	OPEN May 16 - Oct. 14
(E)	OPEN May 16 - Nov. 30
(E)	OPEN when not signed as "closed to wheeled vehicles." Call 406-236-6511 for route status.
(F)	OPEN Jun. 1 - Nov. 30
(H)	OPEN Jun. 16 - Apr. 30
(K)	OPEN Jul. 1 - Aug. 31
(M)	OPEN Jul. 1 - Oct. 14
(N)	OPEN Jul. 1 - Nov. 30
(S)	OPEN Dec. 1 - Aug. 31
(T)	OPEN Dec. 1 - Oct. 14

### Trail Open Dates

Symbol	Dates Open to Motorized
(b)	OPEN Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
(d)	OPEN May 16 - Oct. 14
(e)	OPEN May 16 - Nov. 30
(f)	OPEN Jun. 1 - Nov. 30
(h)	OPEN Jun. 16 - Apr. 30
(k)	OPEN Jul. 1 - Aug. 31
(m)	OPEN Jul. 1 - Oct. 14
(n)	OPEN Jul. 1 - Nov. 30
(p)	OPEN Jul. 15 - Aug. 31
(s)	OPEN Dec. 1 - Aug. 31
(t)	OPEN Dec. 1 - Oct. 14

## Sharing our Trails

Many of the trails in the Little Belt Mountains are shared by horseback riders, OHV riders, bicyclists and hikers. Even though how these people choose to get around may differ, these users all have at least one thing in common: they are sharing an appreciation of what our public lands have to offer and enjoying being in the outdoors.

It is therefore important that all users, motorized and non-motorized alike, respect each other on the trails and work cooperatively to keep the trails safe and fun for all users. These are some basic guidelines for all trail users:

- Respect all trail restrictions and use only trails open to your mode of transportation.
- Be considerate of others on the roads and trails, and keep a watch out for other users.
- Slow down and stay aware when approaching corners, blind hills, and other areas where your line-of-sight is poor. Always keep your ears open for others - don't wear headphones or ear buds.
- Particularly in areas where there are other recreationists keep your speeds low, and keep the noise and dust down.
- Keep your pets under control and keep an eye out for other people's pets when near other users.

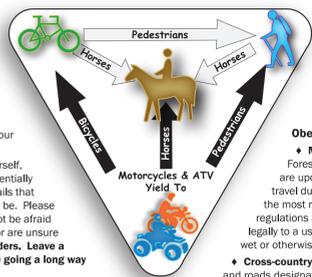
### Yielding to other users - etiquette

Everyone yields and gets off the trail for horses. Motorized vehicles yield the trail to mountain bikes, pedestrians, and horses. Yield the right-of-way to those passing you from behind or travelling uphill. Cooperate and be polite with all trail users, and be aware that the more you understand trail etiquette. The more positive experiences other users have when meeting OHV users on the trail, the less inclined they will be to complain about OHVs.

### If you meet a horse on the trail:

- As soon as you see a horse, pull to the side of the trail (downhill side if possible) far enough for horses to pass safely.
- Shut off your motor as soon as possible and remove your helmet.
- Talk to the rider and horse in a friendly, relaxed tone.
- Even if you see that a horseback rider has pulled off the trail, stop your engine and wait for the rider's instructions before you pass.

Remember that a horseback rider is dealing not just with himself or herself, but also with the personalities and unpredictabilities of a large and potentially dangerous animal. Some horses and riders are well-experienced on trails that have OHV use, but others, particularly those new to the area, might not be. Please be both careful and polite when sharing the trail with horses, and do not be afraid to ask for instructions from horseback riders if you do have questions or are unsure about the situation. Remember that your actions speak for all OHV riders. Leave a good impression with everyone you meet on the trail, and you will be going a long way to preserving your privilege to ride on public lands.



### On the Right Trail

The On the Right Trail brochure is available for free at Montana FWP offices, U.S. Forest Service offices and by calling 1-877-535-8421.

On the Right Trail is a program that challenges OHV users to enjoy the outdoors in a controlled manner to protect the natural resources of our mountains and prairies. Failing to protect Montana's lands is a common reason for public land being closed to OHV travel, and it is essential that OHV enthusiasts learn to minimize their impact on the land and respect trail and road restrictions.

### Know the Laws

- To be legal while riding your OHV on public lands in Montana, you need:
  - An OHV registration decal, available from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and a spark arrester.
  - A license plate if the ATV or motorcycle is to be used on public roads. The vehicle must also be driven by a licensed driver and follow all regulations relating to Montana traffic laws, and the vehicle must be "street legal" - that is, equipped with dual-beam headlights, taillights and reflectors, brake lights, one operable brake, horn, rear-view mirror, a muffler with no modifications, and a spark arrester.

### Obey all Trail and Road Restrictions

- Maps: Travel route restrictions for motorized uses on the Lewis and Clark National Forest are managed with Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM). Free map publications that are updated regularly and which display what roads and trails are open to motorized travel during various seasons, and what uses are allowed on each route. Please obtain the most recent copy of the MVUM for the area in which you are travelling, and follow all regulations as stated therein. Remember, too, that even when trails and roads are open legally to a use, damaging resources can result in fines, so stay off trails and roads that are so wet or otherwise fragile that travel may damage them.

- Cross-country motorized travel is illegal on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Stay on trails and roads designated for motorized use during the season in which you are riding.

### Vehicle Definitions: Be sure that your vehicle and equipment meet the definitions of allowed uses on Lewis and Clark National Forest trails (see definitions on this map). Some motorized trails are open only to motorcycles (and non-motorized users). Others are open to ATV (and also motorcycle and non-motorized users). Trails open to ATV are also open to motorcycle, but are not open to vehicles commonly known as UTVs (similar to ATVs but with side-by-side seating or a bench seat), no matter their width. UTVs are welcome on 4x4 trails (those trails open to all vehicles), and on Forest Roads if they meet the Montana State Law definition of "street legal". National Forests have different definitions of these vehicles. Please read the definitions carefully and comply with them.

### Ride Responsibly and Ethically, Caring for People, Wildlife and the Land

- Before you leave, check weather conditions and be prepared. Trail conditions can change depending on elevation, terrain, soil types, and weather. Drive responsibly, be mindful, and stay in control. Be honest about your skill level and other peoples skill levels. Plan your trip based on the lowest skill level. Supervise children on OHVs carefully and set a good example. Ensure children have been trained in OHV safety and teach them by your example respect for the land.
- Stay on the trail. Use switchbacks rather than cutting them. While climbing hills avoid wheel spin, and avoid brake-sliding when descending steep grades and switchbacks to prevent gouging of the trail, which leads to greater water erosion damage.
- Ride quietly, and by doing so respect other users as well as the wildlife along your route.
- Ride slowly with a minimum of throttle and low RPMs, particularly in areas of camps, campgrounds, in areas of poor visibility, and in areas where there are many trail users.
- View wildlife from a distance. You will have a longer viewing time and cause less stress to animals if you view them with binoculars instead of chasing them with your vehicle. Chasing and harassing wildlife is both unethical and illegal.
- Stay on the trail when crossing streams. If a trail travels through riparian areas, the ribbons of vegetation found along waterways and in spring and seep areas, take it easy and don't spin your tires.
- When you come to a gate, leave it as you find it. If you open it, close it immediately. Never leave a closed gate open. Respect livestock and leave past slow, giving them time to get out of the way.

## Respect • Courtesy • Responsibility

