In the Kootenay Region as well as over much of British Columbia, the rapid expansion in the resource road network and the growing popularity of four-wheel drive and off-road vehicle use has resulted in a dramatic increase in public use of the forest roads and adjacent forest land. This increase in public use has resulted in physical and human-access related impacts on sensitive ecosystems, fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, as well as a loss in diversity in traditional hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational experiences. Additional impacts on fish and wildlife habitat through the spread of invasive plant species, soil erosion and sedimentation of fisheries streams can also be directly related to unmanaged motorized access. The provincial Wildlife Act provides Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) with the ability to manage access within sensitive areas or areas of high habitat value for the purpose of wildlife management, including the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Ministry of Environment encourage you to enjoy these areas and respect the non motorized experience that they provide.

While travelling on a Forest Service Road, operators of ATVs are required to hold a valid driver's licence, wear an approved safety helmet, registered and carry a minimum of $200,000 third-party liability insurance.

*Vehicle Use Prohibited* signs are posted throughout the Access Management Areas (AMA). Do not drive into trails/roads that have these signs posted. Motor vehicle use is prohibited and illegal in these areas. Research maps before recreating in AMA's, do not become dependent on signs.

Please note: It is an offence under the Wildlife Act to remove, damage, alter or destroy any sign legally posted in support of the Ministry Access Management Program.

This is not a legal document.

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**ETIQUETTE**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

Backcountry recreation activities should be conducted in a manner that does not compromise the distribution or sustainability of wildlife populations, the integrity of habitats or impede the activities of other user groups.

**BE RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL NATURAL LANDSCAPES to ensure their sustainability for future generations.**

- Leave what you find - Don’t disturb wildlife, livestock, crops, plants, rocks, archaeological artefacts and other objects of interest. Leave all fences and gates as you found them. Do not cut down or remove live trees or any natural vegetation.


- Be courteous and respectful • Respect the rights of other users. Share the trail. Travel slowly and yield to non-motorized users.

- Take extra care with campfires • Keep your campfire small and never leave it unattended. Before you leave, soak your fire, stir it and then soak it again. Prevent wildfires. Keep your engine and exhaust system free of mud, vegetation and debris.

- Plan ahead and be prepared • Know your route, terrain, ground and weather conditions, and applicable regulations.

- Control pets at all times to avoid conflicts with wildlife. Watch out for wildlife.

- For the safety of both wildlife and humans, please do not feed the wildlife.

- Wash vehicles between uses to prevent weed transfer between areas. Never wash your vehicle in a creek, river or lake.

- Use “Weed Free” feed for horses to avoid the introduction of noxious weeds.

- Avoid spinning or skidding your tires to reduce the established ruts.

- Ride motorized vehicles when roads and trails are dry and avoid riding after heavy rainfall or snowmelt.

- Keep motorized vehicles out of streams and wetlands; ride only on designated roads or trail approved for motorized use.

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**BC Government Access Management Website:**
[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/eco/access.htm](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/eco/access.htm)

**Wild Safe BC:** [http://www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)
Access Management Areas
Details: designated areas where vehicle use is managed to reduce damage to fish and wildlife habitat and/or to protect fish and wildlife populations from harassment or over harvest and to protect road infrastructure.

Alexander Creek AMA

Alexander Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area AMA. Roads shown as green are open year round, roads shown as brown are closed April 1-June 15, roads shown as yellow are closed year round, roads shown as dark purple are closed Sept 1-Nov 30, roads shown as light purple are open to ATV only Sept 1-Nov 30. Snowmobiles are allowed only on the year round open roads and on the seasonally open roads. Orange area is closed year round to snowmobiles.

Barnes Lake AMA

Barnes Lake Motor Vehicle Closed Area AMA. Roads shown in red are closed. Snowmobiles allowed. Located southeast of Sparwood off of the Flathead FSR.
Corbin Creek AMA

Roads shown as green lines are open year round.

Chauncey Todhunter AMA

Chauncey-Todhunter Motor Vehicle Closed Area AMA (situated in MU 4-23). Roads shown as green are open year round, roads shown as purple are open June 16 to Aug 31.
East Flathead motor vehicle closed area (situates in MU 4-1). Closed year round to the operation of motor vehicles, except roads shown as green are open year round, roads shown as purple are open to snowmobiles only Nov 1 to May 31, road shown as brown is open June 7 to Sept 9.

**MOUNTAIN BIKERS**
- Ride only on open and approved trails.
- Building of ramps and permanent structures is prohibited except where written permission and permits has been granted.
- Ride in control.
- Never skid and always slow down when approaching other users.
- Yield the trail to other non-motorized users.
- Indicate how many are in your group when passing other users.
- It is illegal to build new unauthorized trails.

**EQUESTRIAN USERS**
- Use weed free supplemental feed to prevent overgrazing and non-native plant infestation.
- Avoid soft or marshy banks when riding or watering horses.
- Locate holding areas at least 100 metres (328 feet) from water.
- Avoid tethering horses to live vegetation to prevent damage.
- Be alert for other trail users.
- Indicate how many are in your group when passing other users.

**BACKCOUNTRY SKIERS**
- Know about avalanche safety. Always carry an avalanche beacon, shovel and probe.

**HUNTERS / ANGLERS**
- Discharge firearms away from areas frequented by other users and residents.
- Don’t leave a carcass or entrails near trails or roads. Be alert for large predators such as bears and cougars when packing out your quarry.
- Be respectful of land owners and other hunters.
Galton Range AMA

Galton Range Motor Vehicle Closed Area (situated in MU 4-2). Roads shown in solid green are open year-round, roads shown as dashed green are closed June 15-August 31.

Grave Prairie AMA

Grave Prairie Motor Vehicle Closed Area (situated in MU 4-23). Roads shown as green are open year-round; roads shown as blue are open May 15 to Sept 30. If you have a motor boat please clean, drain and dry to keep BC free from aquatic invasive species.
Upper Elk Valley - Fording River Motor Vehicle Closed Area AMA (situated in MU 4-23). Snowmobiles are allowed except in the orange 1900 metre restriction. Roads shown as green are open year-round. Big Weary Ridge Trail shown as a green dashed line is open July 1 to Aug 31 to ATV use only. The Elkford ATV Club is a group of volunteers responsible for maintaining the Seasonally Open Big Weary Ridge Trail.

Sheep Mountain AMA

Sheep Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area AMA (situated in MU 4-22). Roads shown as green are open year round.
Upper Flathead AMA

Upper Flathead Motor Vehicle Closed Area (situated in MU 4-1). Closed year round to the operation of motor vehicles, except that snowmobiles are allowed Nov 1 to May 31. Roads shown as green are open year round.

Upper Wigwam AMA

Upper Wigwam Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 4-2, except roads shown as green are open year round.)
**Weigert Creek AMA**

Weigert Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area AMA (situated in MU 4-23). Snowmobiles allowed. Roads shown as green are open year round. Roads shown as purple are open June 15 to Aug 31 to ATV use only.

**Wigwam Flats AMA**

Wigwam Flats - Mt. Broadwood/ Sportsman Ridge Motor Vehicle Closed Area (situated in MU 4-2), except roads shown as green are open year round, roads shown as orange are open June 15-July 15 and roads shown as purple are open June 15-Aug 31.
The Elkford non-motorized hiking trails are legally established trails under sec 56 of the Forest and Range Practices Act. There is a management agreement between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Hornaday Wilderness Society. The Hornaday Wilderness Society is a group of volunteers responsible for maintaining the trails. Recreation Sites and Trails BC website: www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca.

### Elkford Sparwood Recreational Trails

**Boivin Creek Recreation Trail**

Boivin Creek Trail – The objective is to manage the Boivin Creek Recreation Trail for a forested, semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience. Maintain the trail and day use shelters; conserve the adjacent vegetation through a management agreement with a user group. Provide opportunities for cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses. Provide non-motorized recreation access on designated trails except for trail maintenance, grooming or track setting activities. Conserve adjacent vegetation. There is a management agreement between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Elkford Nordic Club. The Elkford Nordic Club is a group of volunteers responsible for maintaining the Boivin trails.

**Hornaday Pass Recreation Trail**

Hornaday Pass Trail – the objective is to manage the Hornaday Pass Recreation Trail for a forested, semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience. Maintain as a heritage trail; conserve the adjacent vegetation. Provide opportunities for hiking, viewing, mountain biking, equestrian use and primitive camping.

**Frying Pan Creek Recreation Trail**

Frying Pan Creek Trail – the objective is to manage a non-motorized recreation experience.
Aldridge Creek Recreation Trail

The objective is to manage the Aldridge Creek Recreation Trail for a forested, semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience during snow free periods and motorized during the winter. Maintain the trail; conserve the natural vegetation. Provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and mountain biking during the spring, summer and fall and snowmobiling in the winter.

Weary Creek Recreation Trail

The objective is to manage the Weary Creek Recreation Trail for a forested, semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience during snow free periods and motorized during the winter. Maintain the trail; conserve the natural vegetation. Provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and mountain biking during the spring, summer and fall and snowmobiling in the winter.

Fernie Recreation Trails

The Fernie non-motorized hiking trails are legally established trails under sec 56 of the Forest and Range Practices Act. There is a management agreement between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Fernie Trails Alliance. The Fernie Trails Alliance is a group of volunteers working with outdoor recreation groups, government and private land owners to enhance and maintain the non-motorized trail access on Crown lands and private lands in the Fernie area. FTA website: http://www.fernietrailsalliance.com/
The Fernie non-motorized recreation trails are legally established trails under sec 56 of the Forest and Range Practices Act. There is a management agreement between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Fernie Trails Alliance. The white section is crown land with non-motorized FLNRO permitted trails. The yellow sections are private land where the trails are under agreements with the private land owners to manage as a non-motorized trail system. The FTA also has an agreement in place with BC Parks (green section) to manage the non-motorized trail system in Mount Fernie Provincial Park.