

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Check local regulations regarding your planned Amateur Radio operation. Obtain permission from appropriate communications authorities and the landowner or manager.
- Gather all of the radio equipment needed for an operation.
- Prepare clothing and temporary shelter for possible extreme weather conditions.
- Use a map and compass and GPS waypoints instead of rock cairns, flagging or marking paint.
- Schedule an outdoor operating event to avoid times of high use. When popular times are unavoidable, choose backcountry locations which are too obscure to attract crowds.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Durable surfaces include established roads, trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- 60 m rule (Think of the 60 m band.): When possible, operate an outdoor station at least 60 m from a trail or water source. Perform toilet functions at least 60 m away from a trail, a camp, a water source, and a food and trash storage site. Use water at least 60 m away from a water source.
- Good campsites and operating positions are found, not made. Avoid site alternations.
- Protect private and public property, including livestock; leave gates as found.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy, instead of unnecessarily widening the track.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Keep campsites small. Focus operating activities in areas without vegetation.
- On popular SOTA summits, take advantage of the 25 m elevation rule to operate below the actual summit and away from usual climbing routes.

In pristine areas:

- Disperse operating positions to prevent the creation of campsites or trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- Pack it in; pack it out. The only lasting evidence of your presence should be a tidier landscape.
- Consider packing out solid human waste using an approved method.
- If allowed, deposit solid human waste in cat-holes dug 15 cm to 20 cm deep and at least 60 m from water, camp and trails.
- Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Preserve what you find: observe and photograph, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants or other natural objects as you find them.
- If tree branches are used to support your antenna, erect and disassemble it gently.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Consider building no campfire at all. Campfires can cause lasting impacts.
- Consider using portable stoves for cooking, and use headlamps for light.
- *If you must build a campfire:*
 - Where campfires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans or build temporary mound fires which leave no permanent trace.
 - Keep fires small and short-term. Use dead sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
 - Don't bring firewood with you. It may be contaminated with tree-killing insects or diseases. Instead, buy local wood near your operating site or gather it upon your arrival.
 - Burn all wood to cool ashes; put out fires completely, then carry ash home with other garbage.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

- **Observe and photograph wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach wildlife.**
- **Never feed wildlife, which damages their health, alters natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers.**
- **Radio sounds, especially from CW or digital modes, may interfere with natural sounds which are a part of the environment; consider using headphones.**
- **If bringing pets where allowed, ensure they're under control; consider leaving them at home.**
- **Avoid wildlife completely during sensitive times: mating, raising young or during winter or draught.**

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER OUTDOOR VISITORS

- **Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.**
- **Step to the downhill side of a trail when encountering pack stock.**
- **Let nature's sounds prevail. Use headphones to keep radio sounds silent; turn the AF gain down and unplug headphones only if other visitors express an interest in your Amateur Radio activity.**
- **Think about your impact. Will your radio event or DXpedition be welcome in the community?**

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