

Doing Your Part

There are things everyone can do to help care for BLM lands when they visit. Follow the Leave No Trace principles, listed below. You can learn more about how to Leave No Trace by visiting the website at www.lnt.org.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the rules and learn about the area you'll be visiting.

2. Travel and Camp on Hard Surfaces

Using hard surfaces prevents damage to soil and plants. Hard surfaces are established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, and snow.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

Use trash cans for your garbage. If you are visiting an area where there are no trash cans, then take all trash away with you, including leftover food, litter, and toilet paper, in a sealed plastic bag.

Human waste should be buried in a small hole 15-20 cm (6-8 inches) deep and at least 60 meters (200 feet) from water, camp, and trails.

4. Leave What You Find

Leave rocks, plants, arrowheads, and other objects so that others can enjoy them, too. Do not build structures or dig trenches.

5. Be Careful With Fire

Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light. Where fires are allowed, use fire rings that are already there and keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Be sure to burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, and then scatter cool ashes. (And remember: Adults should always be involved in building, burning, and putting out campfires.)

6. Respect Wildlife

Watch wildlife from a distance and don't follow or approach animals. Never feed animals. Control pets at all times, or better yet, leave them at home.

7. Be Considerate of Others

Respect other visitors and remember that they want to enjoy the outdoors, too. Take breaks and make camps away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds—not radios or music players—be the ones heard. Avoid loud voices and noises.