

Mt. Baker Outfitter and Guide

Leave No Trace Best Management Practices

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Ensure that guides are familiar with permit requirements and applicable regulations.
- Plan a route and campsite destination that is appropriate for your group's skill level and size.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Cell phone reception is non-existent or unreliable.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Group size for overnight trips in the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area are limited to 36 individuals and trips in the Mt. Baker Wilderness are limited to 12 individuals and/or stock.
- **Climbers:**
 - Register at Sedro-Woolley Visitor Center (south side climbs and activities) and Glacier Public Service Center (north side climbs and activities) before proceeding to trailhead and upon leaving. Alternative administrative form identifying dates of trip, number of students/instructors and camps and route location may be used.
- **Stock users:**
 - Take only animals that are fit, calm, and experienced. Bring the minimum amount of animals needed.
 - Feeding weed-free certified feed at least one day prior to your trip will prevent the transport of weed seeds in horse manure.
- **Snowmobilers:**
 - Be familiar with wilderness boundaries and winter wildlife closure areas. Carry a GPS unit and know how to use it in order to avoid riding into prohibited areas.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, and snow.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary. Do not create windbreaks.
- In the National Recreation Area, large groups (up to 36) should camp at Sandy Camp, Mazama Camp, or on snow.
- Walk single file in the middle of trails, even when wet or muddy.
- In pristine trailless areas, disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.
- **Stock users:**
 - Fill in all holes and return all trampled areas to their natural state.
 - Do not hitch stock to trees, except for rest or loading and unloading.
 - Do not hitch or tether stock directly to a highline or tree for more than 30 minutes unless the front feet of the animal are constrained, or unless the tie point to the highline is more than 8 feet from a tree.
 - Do not hitch any pack and saddle animal to a tree under 6 inches in diameter.
 - Do not hitch any pack and saddle animal to a tree for more than 4 hours.

- Tie stock so they cannot chew on tree bark or eat the leaves of woody vegetation. A high line between two trees (at least 8" diameter) is recommended. Use wide "tree saver" straps or several loops of a lash rope to spread constricting force to protect bark.
- The use of weed-free processed and pelletized feed is required and can minimize the need to graze. Use a nose bag or feed bag to reduce damage to the ground.
- Do not picket stock in wet meadows.
- Water horses at established fords or low rocky spots in the bank where little vegetation damage can occur.
- **Snowmobilers:**
 - Do not travel over areas with less than 24" of snow cover. Do not ride where young trees and plants are visible.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Toilets are not available. All solid human waste must be bagged, packed out, and disposed of properly.
- Pack out toilet paper and personal hygiene products.
- Urine attracts mountain goats and other salt-loving animals. Urinate on durable surfaces such as rock or snow, away from established campsites.
- To wash yourself or dishes, carry water 100 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain food scraps and pack out waste. Scatter strained dishwater.
- **Climbers:**
 - Burying waste or blue bags in the snow or throwing waste into a moat or crevasse is not acceptable.
- **Stock users:**
 - Kick apart and scatter piles of manure away from campsites and rest stops to hasten decomposition and lessen aesthetic impact for other users.
- **Hunters:**
 - Entrails are unsightly and attract wildlife. Drag piles at least 200 yards from trails, water sources, and highly visited areas.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- Examine gear and footwear for debris from previous trips. Use clean gear to avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- **Climbers:**
 - If your party uses wands for the ascent, make sure to remove them as the last member of the group descends.
 - Do not move rocks to create tent anchors or wind breaks.
- **Hunters:**

- Use portable manufactured blinds rather than constructing them out of branches or native vegetation. Do not build structures. Do not leave blinds or any materials unattended for more than 48 hours on National Forest System lands.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Instead, consider using a lightweight stove for cooking and a candle lantern for light.
- Where campfires are allowed, use established fire rings or fire pans. Outfitters and guides must pack in firewood, as they are prohibited from collecting firewood.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing toiletries and food in approved bear-resistant containers.
- **Stock users:**
 - Store rations, grain, and trash in bear-resistant panniers.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.
- **Stock users:**
 - Some backcountry users are unfamiliar with stock. When exercising the general rule of livestock right-of-way over hikers, the hiker should politely be asked to step off the trail on the uphill side in plain view and remain quiet until stock has passed.
- **Snowmobilers:**
 - Ride in single file and keep to the right on trails. Pass on the left once other riders are aware you are coming and have waved you on.
 - Be aware and courteous of other visitors enjoying the snow. Avoid riding above skiers.