



Wagon Wheel Trail System Northeast



- ### Tread Lightly! Principles
- Travel Responsibly** on land by staying on designated roads, trails and areas. Go over, not around, obstacles to avoid widening the trails. Cross streams only at designated fords. When possible, avoid wet, muddy trails. On water, stay on designated waterways and launch your watercraft in designated areas.
- Respect the Rights of Others** including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed. Leave gates as you found them. Yield right of way to those passing you or getting uphill. On water, respect anglers, swimmers, skiers, boaters, divers and those on or near shore.
- Educate Yourself** prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies. Plan for your trip, take recreation skills classes and know how to operate your equipment safely.
- Avoid Sensitive Areas** on land such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams. Stay on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitats and sensitive soils from damage. Don't disturb historical, archeological or paleontological sites. On water, avoid operating your watercraft in shallow waters or near shorelines at high speeds.
- Do Your Part** by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species and repairing degraded areas.

- ### Safety
- Never travel alone. Let a responsible person know where you are going, what route you are taking, when you expect to return. Leave a map and plan in your parked vehicle so rescue teams can gain access to this information in case of emergency. Know what general weather to expect. Be prepared with proper clothing and equipment for all potential weather conditions. Don't push yourself beyond your limits. Group members should watch out for one another.
- Always carry these essentials:
- Extra fuel
 - Map and compass
 - Repair tools
 - Raincoat, poncho
 - First aid kit
 - Nylon cord
 - Extra water
 - Extra food
 - Dark glasses
 - Flashlight (spare bulb, batteries)
 - Survival kit
- Purify drinking water: Water may be contaminated with Giardia lamblia, a protozoan which can cause intestinal disease. This can be treated, but may prove fatal if left untreated. Purify stream or lake water by boiling or filtering water before drinking.
- Plot your progress on the map as you travel. It is always best to travel with your headlights on, especially in towns or where other vehicles may not be expecting OHVs. Wear a helmet, boots, long sleeves, eye protection and gloves. When traveling on paved roads within town limits, stay in control of your OHV and obey speed limits.
- Obey all local regulations when traveling on public and private land. Vehicles should be equipped, at a minimum, with factory mufflers. This is to prevent sparks from starting fires, to permit others to enjoy the tranquility of this beautiful land, and to be sensitive to the residents in the communities that allow access.

- ### Livestock Etiquette
- Rio Blanco County is a large agricultural region and livestock is a common sight. These animals are the property of local ranchers and farmers and are commonly under the protection of trained guard dogs which ensure the safety of their livestock. These dogs are trained, working dogs, commonly found amongst sheep herds, and will attack if they feel their herd is threatened or if a passerby comes too close.
- Mountain bikers can inadvertently appear to be a threat to livestock protection dogs because they are fast, quiet, present a strange profile, and can startle a protection dog resulting in a defensive attack. People approaching on foot, horseback, ATV/OHV, or by other vehicles are more recognizable by the dogs and will usually be left alone. The following actions are recommended if you come across livestock:
- If livestock are being trailed on the road, stay inside of your vehicle and drive forward slowly, do not push the livestock out of the way with your vehicle;
 - Keep your dog on a leash and do not allow them to harass the livestock or protection dogs;
 - If a livestock protection dog approaches, tell the dog to "go back," or say "no" in a firm voice, don't make any quick or threatening movements, and remain calm;
 - Do not try to run from the livestock protection dogs;
 - Do not throw things at the livestock protection dogs or try to harm the dogs in any other way;
 - Do not attempt to feed, befriend or pet the livestock protection dogs;
 - If you are on a mountain bike, get off the bike and place the bike between you and any livestock protection dogs which may be present. Walk your bike until well past the livestock protection dogs;
 - Keep your distance from the livestock and choose a route that is the least disruptive;
 - If livestock are using the same road as you, move slowly and either keep your distance behind them or slowly pass.

- ### Preserve Our Trails!
- OHV trails are a privilege in this area and it is important for each rider to act as a steward of the land so this privilege continues for future generations. The OHV's ability to accelerate and maneuver quickly can be exhilarating, but can pose problems on trails shared with hikers, horseback riders, cyclists, or other OHV riders. Every OHV rider must be an ambassador for the sport at all times. Here are a few tips to keep you and other trail users safe:
- Keep in mind that all trails are open to two-way traffic, and blind corners can be dangerous should you meet another rider or trail user. Always use precaution!
 - Ride only on roads and trails "open" for use. Don't cut switchbacks or take shortcuts, as this destroys the integrity of the road and trail.
 - When encountering others on the trail, yield to the passing group or those traveling uphill.
 - On the trail, when you meet horses or pack animals, look and listen for any instructions from the handlers. Stop on the outside edge of the trail and turn OFF your engine. Remove your helmet and speak in a quiet, calm voice so the animals can recognize you as a person. Try not to stop in a position that puts you above a horse or pack animal and remember sudden movements can startle animals and cause injury either to the animals or their riders/handlers.
 - Try to stay in the middle of the trail to avoid widening it. This will preserve the natural, more primitive character of the trail. Widening of a trail is expensive to repair, costly to the environment, and one of the primary reasons for shutting off access to certain areas.
 - Leave gates as you find them (open or closed) unless posted otherwise. Seasonal closures can occur due to wet conditions, snow, and summer fire hazards.
 - Be courteous when passing hikers or other trail users.
 - Even a quiet OHV can sound noisy to others, so keep your speed and engine rpm low and steady when near houses, cabins, campgrounds, or anytime you are around non-riders.
- Careless operation of OHVs can cause damage and may result in the closing of areas to riders. Respect the environment and other trail users. By using common sense and courtesy, what is available today will be here to enjoy tomorrow.

- ### Local OHV Regulations
- Meeker, Rangely and Rio Blanco County are proud to be "OHV Friendly Communities." Local government officials have adopted regulations permitting the operation of off-highway vehicles within the town limits, not including state highways, and on designated county roads. Within town limits snowmobiles are not included in these regulations.
- Operators must obey all speed limits, exercise safe driving practices, and are subject to the Model Traffic Code regulations and applicable laws of the State of Colorado.
- Within the County, OHV operators are required to maintain at least the minimum liability insurance coverage of \$25,000.00 per person, \$50,000.00 per accident, and \$15,000.00 property damage.
- Within Meeker Town limits, the OHV maximum speed limit is 25 miles per hour unless a sign designates a lesser speed limit.
- On designated County roads, OHV riders shall not exceed speeds of 35 miles per hour, or the posted speed limit, whichever is less. On un-posted County roads, OHV riders shall not exceed speeds of 25 miles per hour.
- Within Meeker Town limits operators must be in possession of a valid Colorado driver's license or a valid driver's license from another state. Within the County, riders 16 years or older must have a valid driver's license, and riders over the age of 10 must be operating under the supervision of a person with a valid driver's license. Riders under the age of 10 shall not operate an OHV.
- Within Meeker Town limits, OHVs are allowed on all roads and alleys, with the exception of State Highway 13 (Market Street). Riders crossing State Highway 13 (Market Street) shall do so at an angle of approximately ninety (90) degrees to the direction of the highway, and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- Within Meeker Town limits, no person shall operate an OHV while carrying another person or riding in any position that may interfere with the operation or control of the OHV or the view of the operator.
- All off-highway vehicles must be equipped with and have in use:
- at least one headlamp,
 - at least one red tail lamp,
 - functioning braking system,
 - spark arrester,
 - muffler
 - current Colorado Parks and Wildlife registration decal which can be obtained at www.parks.state.co.us
- Note: This is not a complete record of the government regulations and differences may exist which could result in your non-compliance. Please contact the Meeker Chamber of Commerce for a complete copy of the regulations.*

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, Geobase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community