By practicing the Tread Lightly! principles, you not only care for the environment and reduce conflicts among recreationists, you help protect access to recreational opportunities for years to come.

Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible recreation through ethics education and stewardship. It is considered the nation’s signature ethics message for outdoor enthusiasts that use motorized vehicles while enjoying trails and waterways. Tread Lightly! offers unique training and restoration programs strategically designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them.

To learn more contact Tread Lightly! at
Phone: 800-966-9900
Email: treadlightly@treadlightly.org
Or visit us on the web at www.treadlightly.org
TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY...

on designated road, trails, and areas.

- When traveling to shooting sites always stay on designated roads and trails.
- Never shoot alone. Shooting alone leaves you vulnerable to accidents.
- Never mix drugs and/or alcohol with shooting.
- Don’t shoot upon or across roads, waterways or trails.
- When traveling with firearms always make sure they are unloaded and in a secure location.

EDUCATE YOURSELF...

prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to operate your equipment safely.

- Practice target shooting only in areas open to recreational shooting.
- Handle any firearm as if it is loaded and ready to fire.
- Never point a firearm at something you don’t want to shoot.
- Prepare for the unexpected by packing a small backpack full of emergency items.
- Take the time to contact land managers to learn about permit requirements and potential shooting restrictions.
- Never shoot in area that has a high fire danger rating.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire.
- Always wear proper safety gear such as; hearing protection and safety glasses.
- Take a shooting safety course.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS...

including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- Be considerate of others while enjoying shooting sports activities.
- Do not shoot in or near developed recreation sites such as, campgrounds, trailheads, parking areas or boat launches.
- Never shoot if you do not have a clear view of your target and beyond.
- Only shoot if you have a solid backstop.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Never shoot on or across private property without land owner’s written permission.
- Signs, kiosks, buildings and plants are never targets.

AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS...

such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and steams. Stay on designated routes.

- Never use toxic shot in wetlands or other sensitive areas like rivers, lakes, and streams.
- While shooting be aware of sensitive areas like desert soils, tundra, and seasonal nesting and breeding areas.
- Never shoot historical, archeological, or paleontological sites. They can never be replaced.
- Avoid spooking wildlife and livestock you may encounter while shooting.
- Trees, cactus, and other living objects should never be used as backstops or targets. The impacts leave a negative image about shooters’ relationship with nature.

Pack out trigger and target trash

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 restoring degraded areas.

- Respect the shooting community by only shooting legal targets. Check your local area for restrictions.
- Pack out all target trash including spent shotgun shells, spent rifle or pistol casings, ammunition boxes and all targets. Items left behind leave a negative image about shooters.
- Carry a trash bag in your vehicle and pick up trigger trash and litter left by others.
- Do not shoot house hold appliances or other objects dumped in shooting areas. It can be misconstrued that shooters are the dumpers.
- Practice minimum impact shooting by shooting in established shooting areas or at local shooting ranges.
- Notify authorities if you see illegal behavior while shooting.

Practice target shooting only in areas open to recreational shooting.