



### Did you know?

Grasslands cover less than 1% of British Columbia but support more than 30% of the threatened and endangered species of plants and animals found in our province.

Grasslands are also the backbone of our cattle industry and provide valuable habitat for wildlife.

Grasslands have provided First Nations with food and medicinal plants for millennia.

### The health of our grasslands

Soil compaction, the spread of invasive plants, and disturbance of cattle and wildlife affect the health of our grasslands.

### More information on trails and local clubs:



Quad Riders ATV Association of BC  
[atvbc.ca](http://atvbc.ca)



BC Snowmobile Federation  
[bcsf.org/](http://bcsf.org/)



Four Wheel Drive Association of BC  
[4wdabc.ca](http://4wdabc.ca)



BC Off-Road Motorcycle Association  
[bcorma.ca](http://bcorma.ca)



Recreation Sites and Trails BC  
Interactive Map  
[sitesandtrailsbc.ca](http://sitesandtrailsbc.ca)

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Grasslands Conservation Council  
of British Columbia

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[bcgrasslands.org](http://bcgrasslands.org)  
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Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep  
- critical winter range

PHOTO: T.J. Gooliaff

# OFF-ROAD VEHICLE

GUIDE TO B.C.'s GRASSLANDS

- G** GO PREPARED
- R** RIDE RESPONSIBLY
- A** AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS
- S** SNOWMOBILE ON DEEP SNOW
- S** STAY ON THE TRAIL





American Badger – an endangered species

PHOTO: GCC



B.C.'s cattle industry employs over 8,000 people

PHOTO: Liz Twan

## GO PREPARED

- Obtain maps and information from public agencies before you leave home; know the location of designated riding areas and trails.
- Know how to operate your vehicle safely and take outdoor travel essentials.
- Park, stage and re-fuel in designated parking areas or turnaround sites.
- Always check for fire hazard closures and have a fire extinguisher available.
- Keep your vehicle properly tuned and muffled to reduce noise.

## AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

- Avoid wetlands and riparian areas, because they are important for controlling the flow of water over grasslands and are easily damaged.
- Rock bluffs, talus slopes, silt cliffs and hoodoos are also important areas for many rare and endangered species.
- Do not disturb or damage First Nation cultural sites, such as petroglyphs, or pick plants used for traditional purposes.

## SNOWMOBILE IN DEEP SNOW

- Only snowmobile where snow is more than 30 cm deep to avoid crushing, freezing or uprooting native grassland plants, compacting the soil, or spreading weeds.
- Stay on managed or established trails, or within designated areas.
- Avoid spilling fuel or oil while travelling over frozen waterways, to prevent damage in the spring.

## RIDE RESPONSIBLY

- Do not cross private land without permission and stay off hayfields and forage crops.
- Leave gates as you find them, and do not scare or make cattle or wildlife run.
- Remove seeds and vegetation from tires, vehicles, clothes, and footwear after riding to prevent the spread of invasive plants.
- Keep dry vegetation away from exhausts and engines to prevent fires.
- Accelerate slowly to avoid spinning wheels and damaging the soil.

You can help to ensure continued access to the backcountry:

Ride responsibly.

Pack out what you pack in.

## STAY ON THE TRAIL

- Go over obstacles (not around them) to avoid widening the trail; cross streams at designated fords and, when possible, avoid wet, muddy trails.
- Do not create switchbacks, shortcuts, or new paths that others will follow.
- Stay in the middle of trails and avoid trails that are narrower than your vehicle.
- Help prevent erosion by avoiding trails on steep slopes and in wet or muddy areas.