

APPENDIX E

TREAD LIGHTLY!

The Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are involved with many education programs. **Tread Lightly!** is one of these. Based on the same premise as the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl education programs that focus on reducing the impacts of fire and litter, **Tread Lightly!** is dedicated to protecting public and private lands through education. Emphasis is placed on responsible use of off-highway vehicles, other forms of backcountry travel, and on low impact principles applicable to all recreation activities.

Initially begun by the FS in 1985 and adopted by the BLM, today **Tread Lightly!** is a non-profit organization uniting a broad spectrum of federal and state government agencies, manufacturers of recreational products, media, enthusiast groups and concerned individuals who share a common goal for natural resources.

Some of the education principles of **Tread Lightly!** are:

- Stay on designated roads and trails so new scars are not established. Avoid sensitive areas at all times, especially sensitive areas susceptible to scarring, such as streambanks, lakeshores and meadows.

- Cross streams only at fords where the road or trail intersects the stream.
- Hill climb only in designated areas.
- Be sensitive to the life-sustaining needs of wildlife and livestock.
- In deep snow, stay clear of game so vehicle noise and close proximity do not add stress to animals struggling to survive.

The **Tread Lightly!** Pledge is:

- Travel and recreate with minimum impact.
- Respect the environment and the rights of others.
- Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go.
- Allow for future use of the outdoors. Leave it better than you found it.
- Discover the rewards of responsible recreation.

There are other education programs designed for motorized recreationists, such as **Right Rider** and **Stay on the Right Trail** with similar principles: share the trail, be courteous to others, keep noise down, pack out your trash, respect wildlife, don't spread weeds, avoid wetlands, stay on the trail, and respect private lands.