

# SEVEN SLOT SOCIETY: TRAIL USE INFO

As a member of the *Seven Slot Society of SWLA*, you are agreeing to uphold the principles of the *Tread Lightly!* organization. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following principles as they are an excellent guide to both respect and maintain the trails we all enjoy. Following these principles ensures that the trails will be here for years to come. It also encourages both private and government entities to not only continue to allow the use of existing trails but to develop more trails in the future. Keep in mind that our club is representative of the Jeep community as a whole. Let's strive to be positive ambassadors to these entities of others like us.



## TREAD PRINCIPLES

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**T** **Travel Responsibly** on land by staying on designated roads, trails and area. 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.

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**R** **espect 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 going uphill. On water, respect anglers, swimmers, skiers, boaters, divers and those on or near shore.

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**E** **ducate 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.

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**A** **void Sensitive Areas** on land such as meadows, lake shores, 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.

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**D** **o 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.

Additional educational resources on the *Tread Lightly!* organization can be found at [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)

# TRAIL RIDING TIPS & ETIQUETTE

ALWAYS give your Jeep a mechanical check and perform any required maintenance before a trail ride.

- Adhere to the *Tread Lightly!* principles at all times. Be considerate of the environments and ecosystems that we are passing through. Things like leaving the trail, excessive throttle, littering, avoidable damage to trees/vegetation, leaking of vehicle fluids due to improper maintenance, etc. WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
- If you plan on attending a ride let us know so we know how many people to expect.
- Please be considerate. If you are expected on a trail ride and decide not to go, please call a member who is participating to inform them the group that you will not be attending. If possible call or post on the Facebook group in advance. We do not want to hold up the ride by waiting for someone who is not going to show up.
- Keep an eye on the Jeep behind you. If it falls out of sight or seems to need help, slow down or wait and inform the Jeeps in front of you that they need to do the same. You can use the CB or (if you don't have one) honk your horn. This applies for on the trail as well as on the highway when traveling in a group. And vice versa if YOU are falling behind and need the Jeep in front of you to slow down.
- Feel uncomfortable about an obstacle? Let someone know and we will get someone to spot you. If you are asked to spot someone but are not sure what line they should take, ask for help from someone who is more experienced. There is ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG with taking a bypass or being winched to get past an obstacle. We would much rather avoid a problem when possible. Never attempt something that will put yourself and other people/rigs in danger.
- There should only be ONE person spotting a vehicle over an obstacle. Different people giving the driver different instructions while attempting an obstacle can be both confusing and dangerous. If you have ideas on how to get a vehicle over the obstacle, talk to the person spotting the vehicle about them.
- Give the vehicles around you plenty of room to maneuver on the trail. Do NOT tailgate. If the vehicle in front of you is going up/down a steep hill climb, wait until they are at the top/bottom before you start your turn on the hill.
- Vehicles on our rides may range from highly modified with experienced drivers to completely stock with brand new drivers. The amount of time and help different vehicles will need getting over some of the obstacles will vary greatly. Always be helpful and **patient**.
- Be courteous on the CB! Remember that some people will have their kids with them who can hear the CB as well. Foul language or inappropriate comments are not allowed. This is also a direct violation of FCC CB usage Rule 13.
- Use the CB to let the Jeeps in back of you know when there is oncoming traffic on the trail. If there is not enough room for them to pass let the Jeeps behind you know whether the other vehicles are pulling over to let us by or if we need to pull over to let them by.
- Do not litter. If you pack it in, pack it out. This includes cigarette butts.
- Dogs are welcome on the trail if they are behaved and controllable. Be sure to bring a leash, food, and water for them. Does your dog not get along with other dogs? Check to see if anyone else is bringing a dog with them first.
- Be courteous to other riders on the trail. If they need help, help them out if possible.
- If a Jeep breaks down, the group will stop until they are repaired. We will never leave someone behind. When you attend a ride, be aware of this possibility. Please be patient. It may be you next time!
- Be aware that a trail ride may take longer than planned due to breakage or unforeseen problems. Bring more food and water than you think you will need and be prepared to get home late.
- Safety always comes first. Please know your vehicle limitations and think of your safety and the safety of others before attempting that insane obstacle. We are on the trails to have a fun time, not to get hurt or total our Jeeps. For most of us, our trail rig is also our daily driver! Be safe and considerate.
- When leaving the trail and heading home, make sure to leave extra distance between you and Jeep in front of you. Tires will throw rocks and mud and have the potential for damaging other Jeeps.