A GUIDE TO MONTANA'S STATE PARKS, FISHING ACCESS SITES, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

This brochure summarizes those provisions of the Administrative Rules of Montana regulating recreation areas administered by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The specific rules and penalties for violation may be obtained by writing:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

TAKE A MINUTE TO READ THESE IMPORTANT REGULATIONS

WEAPONS

a. No person may discharge any firearm, fireworks, explosives, air or gas weapon, or arrow from a bow, on or over either land or water, from April 1 to the opening date of archery season each year, unless the designated area is otherwise posted.

ANIMAL CONTROL

b. Pets are not permitted on swimming beaches, in sanitary facilities, or in any other area posted to exclude them. From April 1 through September 15, unless otherwise posted, all pets must be on a leash not over 10 feet long. Persons brining or allowing animals in designated recreation areas shall be responsible for proper removal and disposal of any waste produced by these animals.

c. Livestock are prohibited in all areas, except where authorized by lease.

MOTOR VEHICLES

d. All laws applying to the operation of motorized vehicles, trailers, campers, and bicycles apply in public recreation areas. Operators must obey posted speed limits and other traffic regulations.

e. Licensed drivers must operate properly registered and equipped vehicles only on authorized roadways, trails, or parking areas.

CAMPING

f. Camps may be established and camping vehicles parked in designated areas only. Camping is prohibited in shelter buildings.

g. Camping in designated areas is limited to 14 days in any 30-day period, except in areas posted for a 7-day limit.

h. An established camp or camping vehicle may not be left unattended for more than 48 hours. If left unattended, vehicles or camping equipment may be impounded and held pending payment of towing and/or impoundment costs.

i. Groups of more than 30 persons must obtain a permit from the Department to use or camp in a state recreation area.

FIRES

j. Fires may be built only in established fireplaces, grills, fire rings, or camp stoves.

k. FIRES MUST BE ATTENDED AT ALL TIMES AND COMPLETELY EXTINGUISHED WHEN USERS LEAVE AN AREA.

PROPERTY DISTURBANCE

l. No persons may destroy, deface, injure, remove, or otherwise damage any natural or improved property or willfully or negligently cut, destroy, or mutilate any tree, shrub, or plant, or any geological, historical, or archaeological feature, not including flowers, berries, cones, or fallen dead wood.

m. Disturbance of the topsoil cover is prohibited. No person may bury garbage, dig for worms, or allow pets to dig holes.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

n. Disorderly conduct, such as, but not limited to, quarreling, challenging to fight or fighting; using threatening, profane or abusive language; drunkenness; rendering vehicular or pedestrian traffic impassable; indecent exposure; public urination; operation or a motor vehicle in a manner as to create a nuisance or any annoyance or danger to others; loud or noisy behavior; is prohibited.

o. No person may interfere with or fail to comply with a lawful order of a department employee.

NIGHT CLOSURE AND RESTRICTED AREAS

p. Checkout time for posted fee camping areas is 4:00 p.m. Day use recreation areas are open from sunrise to sundown, unless otherwise posted. No one may enter an area posted as closed to the public.

q. Quiet hours shall be maintained in all recreation areas as posted. Portable generators may not be operated during these hours.

WASTE DISPOSAL

r. No litter, pollutants, or other refuse, including fish entrails and other animal parts, may be disposed of except in refuse containers provided. Sewage wastes from portable toilets or recreational vehicles may not be disposed of in recreation site toilets.

GLASS CONTAINERS

s. Glass bottles or containers are prohibited on all swimming beaches and other areas posted to exclude them.

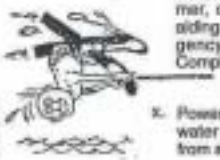
COMMERCIAL USE

t. Recreational lands may not be used for any commercial or political purpose without written authorization from the director or his agent.

BOATING AND SWIMMING

u. Boats may be launched only at established launching areas, where provided. Boat trailers must be kept in areas designated for their parking or storage.

v. Swimming area buoys may not be disturbed, defaced, or relocated. Swimming is not permitted beyond these buoys. Boats may not be operated or beached in swimming areas.



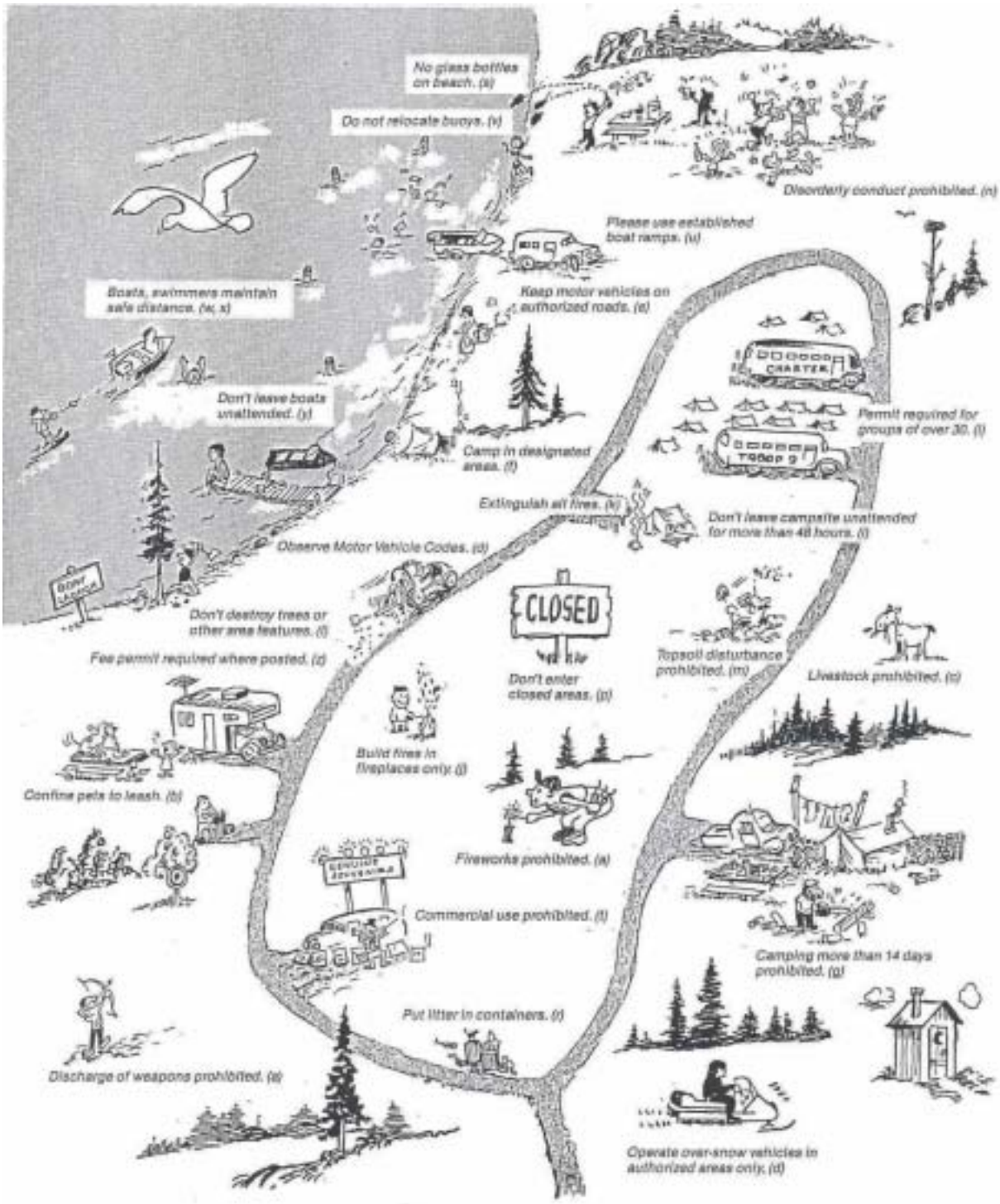
w. Power boats may not approach closer than 50 feet to any swimmer, or fisherman, except when aiding water skiers or in an emergency or life-saving situation. Comply with no wake restrictions.

x. Power boat operators may not tow water skiers closer than 50 feet from any swimmer or fisherman.

y. Unless posted to allow mooring, boats and other watercraft may use public boat docks for loading and unloading only. Boats may not be left unattended at public docks.

RECREATION USE FEES

z. No one may camp at or enter a state park or fishing access site at which use fees are collected without first paying the appropriate use fee.



This is what could happen in recreation areas if the public use regulations were not followed. Letters refer to the rule description on the other side of this brochure. Violators are subject to expulsion from an area, a fine, imprisonment, or all three.

PROTECT MONTANA'S RECREATION RESOURCE — OBEY USE REGULATIONS!

Violations of these regulations should be reported to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. If a local officer cannot be reached, telephone this toll-free number in Helena: 1-800-847-6668, TIP-MONT.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks receives federal funds and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age national origin, or handicap. For information or concerns regarding discrimination, contact the Personnel Officer, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620, (406) 444-5653, or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

MONTANA STATE PARKS

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