



Trip Tips

Reduce Your Recreation Impacts

As a CMC Trip Leader, you provide incredible recreation experiences to members on hikes, climbs, skis, scrambles and more. But with that recreation comes a **responsibility to help minimize the impacts** to public lands inherit in all outdoor activities and a group of 4+ can have a much greater impact than you do as an individual. The club helps get people outside to adventure in the mountains, please help us preserve these spaces so we can continue to host our trips around the state.

Here are a few tips to help in planning and implementing a minimum-impact trip!

- **Know whose land you are traveling on** and any regulations that may pertain to group size limits, allowable activities, dispersed camping, etc. Call the local land manager if you have questions.
- **Avoid Hot Spot Areas** (listed on back) where land managers have specifically requested that CMC NOT lead group trips due to resource degradation
- **Identify other local Hot Spots** that you and your fellow leaders may want to avoid. These could include:
 - Off-trail hikes where social routes, erosion and other resource damage is occurring
 - Dispersed camping areas where waste is prolific
 - 14ers or climbing crags that are inundated with people
 - Trailheads where parking is overflowing
- Mid-week and off-season timing will help you avoid crowds
- **Always review LNT** with your group before departing!



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Agency-Identified Hot Spots to Avoid

Location	Agency	Issue
Harmonica Arch	USFS – South Platte Ranger District	Off-trail hiking: multiple social routes, erosion & resource damage
Mt. Bierstadt	USFS – South Platte Ranger District	High volume of users: parking issues, human waste

Other High-Traffic Areas

Location	Agency	Issue
Conundrum Hotsprings	USFS – Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness	Backcountry camping: human waste, resource damage, and bear activity
West Maroon Pass Trailhead	USFS – Crested Butte Area	High Use = crowding, unsustainable trail
Monarch Crest Trail	USFS – Salida Ranger District	Mountain Bike Traffic = high volume and user conflict
Blue Lakes	Mt. Sneffles Wilderness	Hiking & Camping = resource degradation, fire hazards & impacts, crowding
South Colony Lakes	Sangre de Cristo Wilderness	Dispersed Camping = human waste near water
Guffey Gorge	BLM – Guffey, CO	Day use = trash, human waste & user conflicts