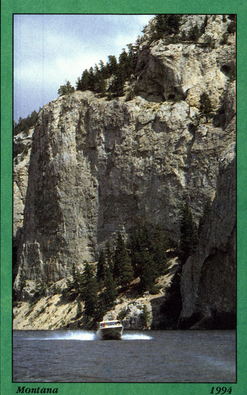
Helena National Forest

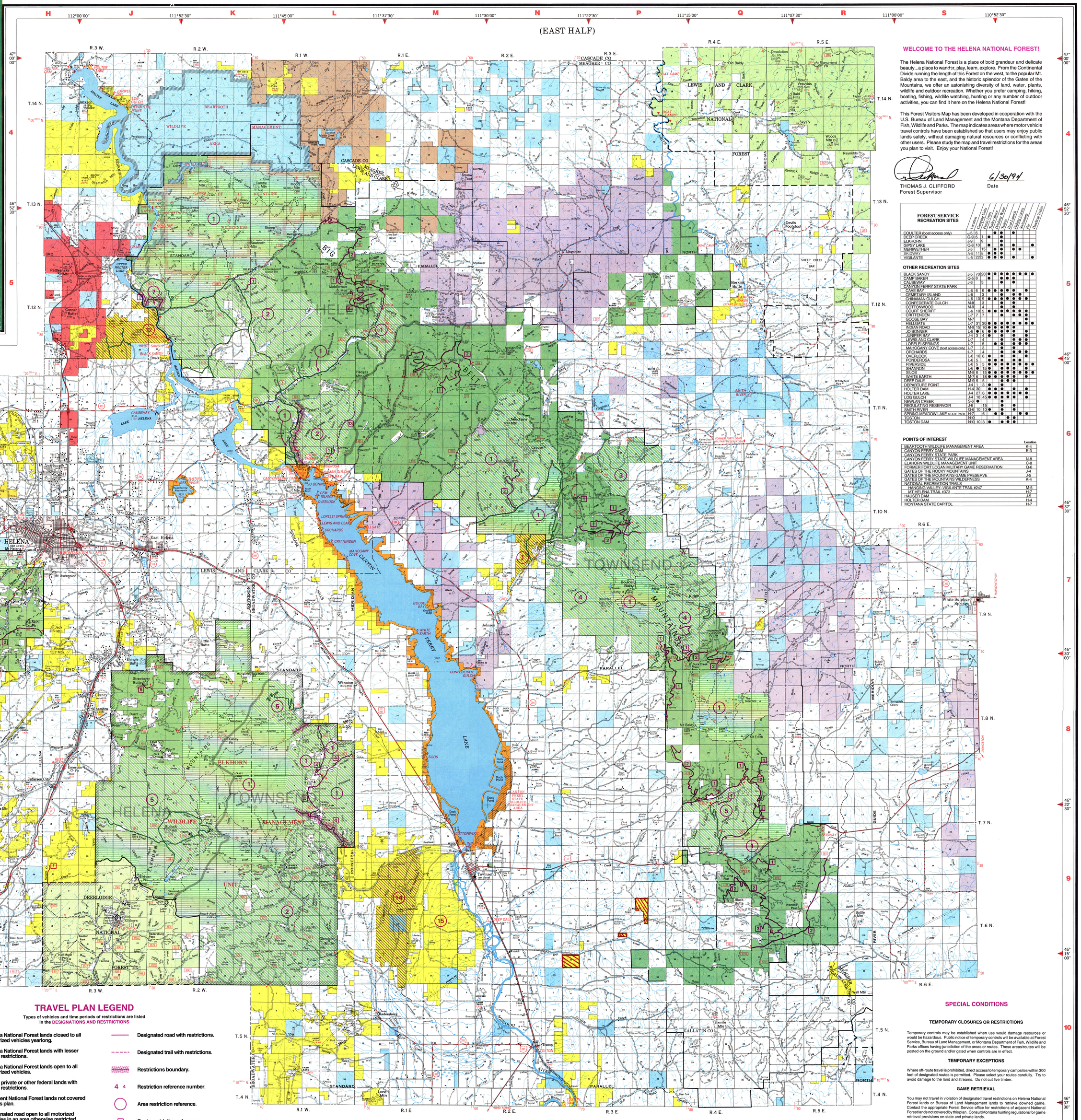


Montana 1994

America's Great Outdoors

Forest Service

United States Department of Agriculture



WELCOME TO THE HELENA NATIONAL FOREST!

The Helena National Forest is a place of bold grandeur and delicate beauty...a place to wandr, play, learn, explore. From the Continental Divide running the length of this Forest on the west, to the popular Mt. Baldy area to the east, and the historic splendor of the Gates of the Mountains, we offer an astonishing diversity of land, water, plants, wildlife and outdoor recreation. Whether you prefer camping, hiking, boating, fishing, wildlife watching, hunting or any number of outdoor activities, you can find it here on the Helena National Forest!

This Forest Visitors Map has been developed in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The map indicates areas where motor vehicle travel controls have been established so that users may enjoy public lands safely, without damaging natural resources or conflicting with other users. Please study the map and travel restrictions for the areas you plan to visit. Enjoy your National Forest!

THOMAS J. CLIFFORD
Forest Supervisor

6/30/94
Date

FOREST SERVICE RECREATION SITES		Lookout	Camping Units	Picnic Units	Picnic Tables	Trailer Space	Drinking Water	Toilets	Boat Launch	Swimming	Supply Access	Interpretive	Fee	Heritage Orders
COULTER (boat access only)	J-5		6		●	●			●					
DEEP CREEK	Q-9		6	1		●								
ELKHORN	J-9		16			●								
GIPSY LAKE	Q-8		10			●		●						●
MERIWETHER	J-5			15		●		●			●			
SKIJOWAY	A-9		11	8	●	●		●						
VIGILANTE	L-5		22	3	●	●			●					

OTHER RECREATION SITES

BLACK SANDY	J-5	70	20	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	
CAMP BAKER	Q-5	8			●		●	●	●					
CAUSEWAY	J-6		5			●		●						
CANYON FERRY STATE PARK														
CAVE BAY	L-6	6	6	●	●	●	●	●			●			
CEMETARY ISLAND	L-6		3				●					●		
CHINAMAN GULCH	L-6	10	5	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		
CONFEDERATE GULCH	M-8		3				●							
COTTONWOOD	M-8		4				●							
COURT SHERIFF	L-6	10	5	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		
CRITTENDEN	L-7	7	7				●					●		
GOOSE BAY	M-7													●
HELLGATE	L-7	31	30	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
INDIAN ROAD	M-8	15	10	●	●	●	●	●						
JO BONNER	L-6	●	6	●	●	●	●	●			●			
JUNIPER BAY	J-4	3	4	●							●			
LEWIS AND CLARK	L-7		4				●				●	●		
LORELEI SPRINGS	L-7		5				●				●	●		
MAHOGANY COVE (boat access only)	L-7		3				●				●			
ORCHARDS	L-7		4				●				●	●		
OVERLOOK	L-6	10	8	●			●				●			
PONDEROSA	L-6	5		●			●				●			
RIVERSIDE	L-6	5	5	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	
SHANNON	L-6	●	15	●	●	●	●	●			●			
SILOS	M-8	6	15	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
WHITE EARTH	M-7	6	18	●	●		●					●		
DEEP DALE	M-9	5	5											
DEPARTURE POINT	J-4	1	3	●										
HOLTER DAM	H-4	30		●	●		●				●			
HOLTER LAKE	J-4	27	6	●	●		●	●	●		●			
LOG GULCH	J-4	18	45	●	●		●	●	●					
NEWLAN CREEK	S-6	●			●				●					
REGULATING RESERVOIR	J-6		15		●				●					
SMITH RIVER	Q-6	10	10	●	●				●					
SPRING MEADOW LAKE STATE PARK	H-7		6		●		●	●	●			●	●	
TOSTON	N-10				●	●	●							
TOSTON DAM	N-10	10	3	●	●	●	●	●						

POINTS OF INTEREST

	Location
BEARTOOTH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA	K-4
CANYON FERRY DAM	E-3
CANYON FERRY STATE PARK	
CANYON FERRY STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA	N-8
ELKHORN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT	C-8
FORMER FORT LOGAN MILITARY GAME RESERVATION	Q-6
GATES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS	J-4
GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS GAME PRESERVE	J-5
GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	K-4
NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS	
HANGING VALLEY–VIGILANTE TRAIL #247	M-5
MT HELENA TRAIL #373	H-7
HAUSER DAM	J-5
HOLTER DAM	H-4
MONTANA STATE CAPITOL	H-7

TRAVEL PLAN LEGEND

Types of vehicles and time periods of restrictions are listed in the DESIGNATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Helena National Forest lands closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong.
- Helena National Forest lands with lesser travel restrictions.
- Helena National Forest lands open to all motorized vehicles.
- State, private or other federal lands with travel restrictions.
- Adjacent National Forest lands not covered by this plan.
- Designated road open to all motorized vehicles in an area otherwise restricted.
- Designated trail open to vehicles under 50 inches wide in an area otherwise restricted.
- Other private lands not covered by this plan.
- Designated road with restrictions.
- Designated trail with restrictions.
- Restrictions boundary.
- 4 4 Restriction reference number.
- Area restriction reference.
- Route restriction reference.
- Barrier, locked gate or route closure.

DESIGNATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

AREA RESTRICTIONS

Routes within restricted areas that are open for travel are shown in green or purple on the map. Vehicles may not travel off green routes during periods shown below. Designated routes shown in purple are restricted during the dates shown in the Route Restrictions table.

Map Code					Purpose of Restrictions
1	No restrictions	Yearlong	Yearlong	Yearlong	Wilderness, nonmotorized recreation, wildlife security, winter range or elk calving
2	No restrictions	Dec. 1—May 15	Dec. 1—May 15	Dec. 1—May 15	Wildlife winter and spring range
3	No restrictions	Oct. 15—June 30	Oct. 15—June 30	Yearlong	Wildlife security, winter range and elk calving
4	No restrictions	Oct. 15—May 15	Oct. 15—May 15	Oct. 15—May 15	Wildlife security and nonmotorized recreation
5	No restrictions	Yearlong	Yearlong	Oct. 15—Nov. 30	Wildlife security
7	Feb. 1—Aug. 30	Feb. 1—Aug. 30	Feb. 1—Aug. 30	Feb. 1—Aug. 30	Protection of eagle habitat area
14	Yearlong	Yearlong	Yearlong	Yearlong	National Guard firing range
15	Periodic	Periodic	Periodic	Periodic	National Guard training area

ROUTE RESTRICTIONS

The following routes are closed to vehicle travel during the periods shown These routes are shown on the map in solid or dashed purple lines.

Map Code				Purpose of Restrictions
1	Yearlong	Yearlong	Yearlong	Wildlife security
2	April 15—June 1	April 15—June 1	No restrictions	Wildlife security
3	Oct. 15—Nov. 30	Oct. 15—Nov. 30	Oct. 15—Nov. 30	Wildlife security
4	Dec. 1—May 1	Dec. 1—May 1	Dec. 1—May 1	Wildlife security
5	Sept. 1—June 30	Sept. 1—June 30	Sept. 1—June 30	Wildlife security
6	Yearlong	Yearlong	Oct. 15—Nov. 30	Wildlife security
13	Yearlong	No restrictions	No restrictions	Motorized recreation

WHY IS THIS ROAD CLOSED?

And why are some modes of travel restricted on public lands? The reasons are not always well-understood, especially when you encounter restrictions or closures unexpectedly. Here are the reasons:

Wildlife Habitat Protection–Many closures are for protection of critical areas where big game animals live. Such sensitive areas may include winter ranges, calving grounds or security areas. Some are closed only seasonally. These are often open to vehicle use at other times of the year when animals are less likely to be disturbed. On lakes, wake action and motorboat noise may harm aquatic life and shoal areas. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks cooperates in the protective effort.

Water Quality and Erosion Control–some **routes** (roads or trails) are closed in wet weather to prevent rutting and other roadbed damage. This reduces erosion and the amount of sediment washed into streams. Sediment is a serious threat to trout spawning and rearing grounds. Maintenance costs are substantially reduced when routes are closed during wet conditions.

Public Safety–In some specific cases certain kinds of travel are prohibited to insure user safety. Even so, you should use caution on **every** route. Many have heavy traffic, others are on steep hillsides or are slippery when wet, and some have logging truck or other heavy equipment use.

Conflict of use–In a few cases it is necessary to give preference to one use over another to resolve problems between competing user groups, insuring of course, that there is enough opportunity elsewhere for the use prohibited. This is common between motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation where, for example, a popular horseback trail might also be frequented by motorbike riders, or where motorboats on small lakes might disturb campers.

Legal Mandates–Some areas are given special protection by federal law. For example, you may not possess or operate any motorized equipment within an area classified by law as wilderness.

LEGAL MANDATES

The controls (closures and restrictions) covered under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart B, Section 261, Subsections 261.53, 261.54, 261.55 and 261.56, apply to areas and routes (roads and trails) described on and within this Forest Visitors Map and Travel Plan during the periods shown, effective October 1, 1984 and until otherwise extended or rescinded. They supplement those in 36 CFR 261, Subpart A, and are issued under authority of Title 16 United States Code 551 and 36 CFR 261.50.

Violators of these regulations are subject to a fine of not more than FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($5,000.00) or imprisonment for not more than SIX (6) MONTHS or both (16 USC 551).

The following are prohibited by 36 CFR 261.16 (16 USC 551) and 36 CFR 261.50 in all National Forest wilderness areas within the boundaries of the Helena National Forest: (a) Possession or use of a motor vehicle, motorboat or motorized equipment; (b) possession or use of a hang glider or bicycle; (c) landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up of any material, supplies or person by means of aircraft, including a helicopter; (d) use of the area by parties or groups consisting of over 15 persons (36 CFR 261.58f); (e) camping in an area or storing equipment, personal property, or supplies for more than 14 consecutive days within a 45 day period. For purposes of this restriction, an area or campsite is defined as any given location and the area surrounding for a distance of 5 miles. This does not prohibit outfitter base camps authorized under special permit. (36 CFR 261.57f) (36 CFR 261.58a); (f) possessing or using a wagon, cart, or other vehicle. The only exceptions to these prohibitions may be made under circumstances specifically prescribed by the Chief of the Forest Service under provisions of 36 CFR 293.6.

Temporary exceptions to the above controls may be authorized for any federal, state or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty, and any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Forest Service under a permit, license or contract.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

TEMPORARY CLOSURES OR RESTRICTIONS

Temporary controls may be established when use would damage resources or would be hazardous. Public notice of temporary controls will be available at Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices having jurisdiction of the areas or routes. These areas/routes will be posted on the ground and/or gated when controls are in effect.

TEMPORARY EXCEPTIONS

Where off-route travel is prohibited, direct access to temporary campsites within 300 feet of designated routes is permitted. Please select your routes carefully. Try to avoid damage to the land and streams. Do not cut live timber.

GAME RETRIEVAL

You may not travel in violation of designated travel restrictions on Helena National Forest lands or Bureau of Land Management lands to retrieve downed game. Contact the appropriate Forest Service office for restrictions of adjacent National Forest lands not covered by this plan. Consult Montana hunting regulations for game retrieval provisions on state and private lands.

OTHER ROUTES NOT SHOWN ON MAP

Some roads on National Forest lands may not be shown on this map. If they have locked gates, barriers or route closure devices on them, they are closed in accordance with posted regulations.

DURING FOREST FIRE SEASON

Montana fire season, on both state-owned and federal lands, is from May 1 to September 30.

You are required to have a shovel and bucket when lighting camping or warming fires in areas other than designated, improved campground.

Motorcycles and pack-trains must carry a shovel and bucket unless travelling on federal or state highways or paved public roads.

When operating a power saw you must have an eight-ounce liquid-chemical or one-pound dry-chemical fire extinguisher and a shovel in your immediate possession. The saw must have a screen-type spark arrester installed.

All vehicles must be equipped with baffle-type mufflers and tail pipes or serviceable Forest Service-approved spark arresters.

SNOWMOBILES

State law prohibits the operation of snowmobiles on plowed roads. If you need to cross a plowed road, do so directly at a place with good sight distance.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

Off-road travel on trails or across undeveloped country is subject to the obvious and inherent hazards associated with the type of travel and changing natural conditons. Individuals must be responsible for having proper skills, equipment, knowledge, and assuming the inherent risks.

Universal Transverse Mercator grid, Zone 12, 10,000 meters
Polyconic Projection 1927 North American Datum