



Mica Meadows

The area around Mica Meadows has a rich history of use by Native Americans, homesteaders, prospectors and timber harvesters. All of these uses have brought changes to this beautiful area, such as the building of the logging flume which diverted water from Mica Creek during the early 1900's.

Today, Mica Creek is one of the most carefully monitored free flowing streams in North America. In 1990 Potlatch initiated an extensive, long-term study of the effects of modern forest practices on this stream resource in cooperation with the University of Idaho. The data collected from this study helps guide forest practices ensuring that forest practices have the lowest impact possible on water quality.

What about the “human factor”?

With our forest management partners, doing all that they can to protect this historically and environmentally rich area, it is time that we turn to those who enjoy recreating in Mica Meadows and ask them to do their part. Certain types of recreation activities have contributed to negative impacts within the meadows so it has become necessary to establish special rules to protect this resource.

Many of these negative factors can be greatly reduced by simply pulling land use back away from the stream banks, which act as a filter to protect water quality.

Rule #1 – No camping, motorized or wheeled vehicles will be allowed within 75' of any open water.

By simply moving your campsite back from the stream banks and restricting your use of ATV or other motorized vehicles within the 75' zone, we can help ensure the balance that is necessary to keep Mica Creek and Mica Meadows healthy.

Rule #2 – No privies may be located within 75' of any open water.

While we recognize the need for facilities to capture human waste and maintain sanitation throughout the area, it is imperative that these facilities be pulled away from areas where waste byproducts could leach into the streams feeding Mica Creek. We request that visitors make use of self-contained recreational vehicles or locate privies a minimum of 75' from any stream.

We love this area, so are there other ways we can be helpful?

The spread of invasive noxious weeds is a great concern. Some of these weeds will crowd out native vegetation if they are left unchecked. You can help by making sure that you do not contribute to the spread of noxious weed seed through ATV use or equestrian use of trails throughout the area. The use of weed free hay and a simply visual inspection of your ATV undercarriage can help to protect this valuable resource.

Please practice “Tread Lightly” principals by packing out all trash or personal belongings that you bring with you. Also make sure your campfire is “dead out” before you leave your campsite. This includes those times you may temporarily leave your campsite to hunt or recreate during your stay.

More information will be forthcoming as we continue our efforts to protect this special place. Your cooperation and compliance are greatly appreciated.