

# Muddy Trail Etiquette

**Improper use of muddy trails can cause serious damage.**

This may include widening the trail, improper drainage, accelerated erosion, adding sediment to streams, safety concerns, and harming plants. Repairing damaged trails can cost lots of time and money \$\$.

**Please help prevent trail damage during mud season.**

1. **RESPECT CLOSURES** - Vulnerable trails are closed due to steep slopes, soil type, narrow tread, switchbacks, and other sensitive resource conditions. Thank you for keeping off of closed trails.
2. **TURN AROUND** – If you make tracks, please turn back. Avoid the muddy trails and find different ones. This is the best way to keep trails in good shape for the rest of the year.
3. **GO THROUGH, NOT AROUND:** If you encounter muddy patches, just go through them. Never go around them as this widens the trail and causes erosion.
4. **GO SLOW:** Going quickly causes rutting and erosion.
5. **EMBRACE THE COLD:** Take advantage of when we get a hard freeze and the mud is frozen. But, use caution in icy conditions: avoid steep slopes and use traction devices and walking sticks on icy trails.



**BAYFIELD  
AREA TRAILS**

**Thank you for helping to keep our trails in great shape!**

Check for alerts and closures on [bayfieldareatrails.com](http://bayfieldareatrails.com) or [facebook.com/bayfieldareatrails](https://facebook.com/bayfieldareatrails)