



"We connect people, nature, and communities through a world-class trail system."

Policy on Third-Party Trail Events and Activities

The unique Methow Trails system is only possible thanks to 200+ landowners who graciously allow trails to cross their land and who, by agreement, allow Methow Trails to use, manage, and maintain these trails.

Methow Trails does not own the trail system and cannot authorize any event or activity by a third party on land that we manage but do not own without first obtaining permission from the landowners. Unauthorized use jeopardizes these longstanding agreements that are crucial to the Methow Trails system's success.

The goal of this policy is to ensure the preservation of a high-quality trail experience for both the local community and visitors, while protecting these landowner agreements. **We will provide reasonable support to a third party to gain the needed landowner permissions, and may support an event, IF a third party does all the following:**

- Accepts the access and use requirements, best practices, and conditions of our landowners and partners.
- Supports the Mission and Strategic Priorities of Methow Trails through its event activities.
- Recognizes the vital role that landowners and Methow Trails play in making the experience possible.
- Contributes to a sense of place and community.
- Embodies responsible and respectful recreation activity.
- Does not jeopardize agreements or trust with landowners.
- Does not place undue stress on the community.
- Does not place undue stress on the trail network and infrastructure.
- Does not unreasonably displace everyday users.
- Does not require unreasonable staff time or resources of Methow Trails staff to manage or oversee the third-party event or activity.

Third Parties hoping to operate on trails or other areas managed by Methow Trails **SHALL:**

- Request and be granted permission from all necessary partners whose land the event or activity crosses **PRIOR** to advertising the event and opening the event for registration. Typical partners whose permission is required include: USFS, WDFW, DNR, Okanogan County, WSDOT, and private landowners, where appropriate.
- Inform Methow Trails of the desire to hold an event **at least 90 days** before the date of the proposed event. This is to ensure no other event, activity, or maintenance conflicts with the proposed event, or that the proposed event does not unreasonably displace everyday users, nor place undue stress on the community, trail network, and infrastructure at that time.

- Add Methow Trails, and those whose land the activity or event crosses, as additionally insured at a minimum level of 1 million dollars for single occurrence and 5 million dollars aggregate; and submit the certificate of additional insured to Methow Trails and any other landowner requesting such a certificate at least **1 week prior** to the event.
- Share user-day information and relevant customer information with Methow Trails and partners upon request.
- Recognize Methow Trails and other partners in event and activity marketing materials, subject to permission and guidance from Methow Trails.
- Pay the \$150 third-party administration fee.
- Remove all course markings within 24 hours after conclusion of the event (signs, flagging, arrows, etc.).
- Notify Methow Trails within 24 hours after conclusion of the event of any facility or trail that has been damaged in connection with the event and reimburse Methow Trails for costs incurred to repair such damage.
- Notify Methow Trails within 24 hours after conclusion of the event of any injuries to participants, altercations, requests for first responder assistance, or conflicts that arose from the event.

Winter Specific Policies (in addition to the above policies)

- Ensure all clients and instructors pay and display valid ski passes at all times, regardless of the length or type of lesson, while skiing, snowshoeing, or riding on groomed trails.
- Instructors shall qualify for annual ambassador passes if they pay \$50 and work or volunteer at least 40 hours instructing on the trails.
- Ensure all ski instructors are currently certified through either the PSIA, USSA, or equivalent.

Methow Trails Mountain Bike Skills Park Policies (in addition to the above policies)

- Inform Methow Trails of the desire to hold an event **at least 30 days** before the date of the proposed event, class, or clinic.
- Ensure instructors have the appropriate certifications and/or experience to instruct a class or clinic within the skills park.

RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED:

Business/Organization

Business/Organization Representative Signature

Date: _____