

Background

The Back 40 consists of 111 hectares (275 acres) of forested provincial crown land in parts of the W1/2 and the SE ¼ of Section 12, Township 27, Range 7, W5M.

This region is steeped in history. The First Nations considered it an important winter hunting ground and the Simpson and Palliser Expeditions of 1841 and 1858 mention the area. In the past 100 years, ranching, logging by the historic Eau Claire Lumber Company, and homesteading all emerged. The cabin communities of Benchlands and SV of Waiparous, and Highway 40 (Forestry Trunk Road), were built in the early 1950's.

The MD of Bighorn and SV of Waiparous, with the active participation of local residents, jointly secured the present 21-year lease on September 6th, 1995. The intent of the lease was to preserve the natural characteristics of the land for future generations. Since that time, area residents have worked hard to maintain this treasured local amenity.



Support Our Trails

- Become a member of GWTA. Annual membership fees are \$5 per family.
- Participate in volunteer trail maintenance and woodlot management days.
- Be a good steward by using the trails responsibly.
- Contact the GWTA for more information on how you can become involved.

Contact Information

Ghost Waiparous Trails Association Box
533, Cochrane, AB T4C 1A7
gwta.ab.ca@gmail.com

Municipal District of Bighorn
(403) 233-7678

Summer Village of Waiparous
(403) 652-4636

**Alberta Environment and Sustainable
Resource Development**
Woodcutting Permits (403) 297-8800

Report a Fire: 310-3472 (FIRE)

Report a Poacher: 1-800-642-3800

Emergency: 911

Brochure produced April 2013

Woodlot Management

In order to reduce the hazard of fire in the Back 40, a limited wood cutting program is allowed for Residents of Benchlands, SV of Waiparous, Ghost River Subdivision and adjacent residents who have obtained a wood cutting permit through Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Motorized vehicles must have a Government of Alberta "Lands Temporary Field Access Permit".

Piles of branches are discouraged as will create a fire hazard. The recommended practice is to spread the debris on the forest floor as flat as possible to create opportunity for decomposing.

Each year the woodlot management operations will be reviewed to assess the volume of firewood removed, its impact upon the intended use of the lease and the continuation of the program.

Tree Cutting and Transplanting

As there is not a substantial Christmas tree inventory within the Back 40, cutting of Christmas trees are not be allowed. In addition, removal of native seedlings for transplanting is not permitted.



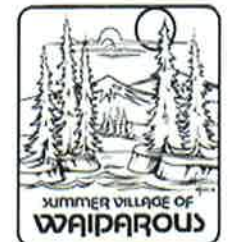
Ghost Waiparous Trails

THE BACK 40

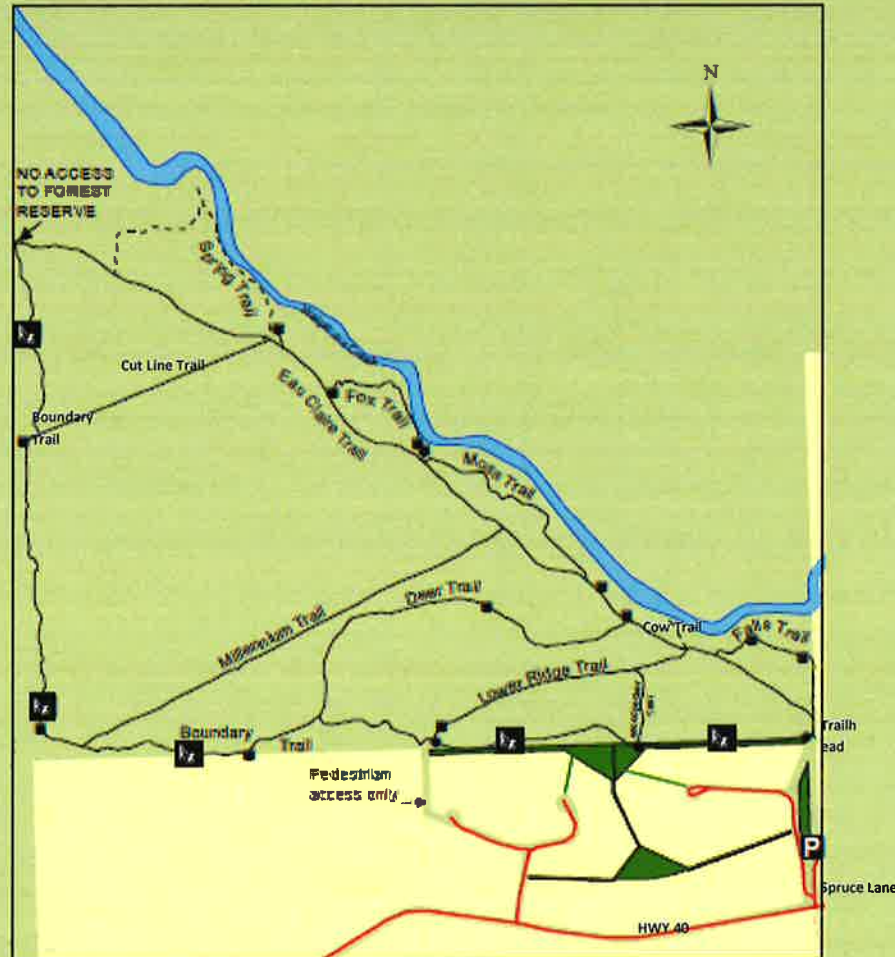
The Ghost Waiparous recreation lease area and trail system, known as the Back 40, is provided for the enjoyment of all, through a partnership between the Municipal District (MD) of Bighorn, the Summer Village (SV) of Waiparous and the Ghost Waiparous Trails Association (GWTA) under an agreement with the Government of Alberta, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

These facilities are maintained by community volunteers.

Your respect of the area and other users will ensure that this area continues to be available in the future.



GHOST - WAIPAROUS TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Deer Trail 859 m	Lower Ridge Trail 584 m
Spring Trail 683 m	Woodpecker Trail 166 m
Falls Trail 355 m	Millennium Trail 994 m
Fox Trail 347 m	Boundary Trail 2827 m
Moss Trail 490 m	East Clove Trail 2588 m

	Trail Uses
	Trail Access
	Bench
Trails	
	Trail Maintained by G.W.T.A.
	Non Maintained Trail
	Dogs on Leash Area
	Parking

Trails

- Trails are planned and constructed with consideration for usage, topography, variety, and the natural environment. Benches have been placed to offer rest areas and opportunity to appreciate the beauty and quiet of the Alberta Rocky Mountain foothills.
- Enjoy hiking and wild flower viewing in the summer, listening to the Waiparous Creek in the spring, vista viewing in the fall and cross country skiing in the winter.
- Motorized vehicles and equestrian activities are not permitted in the lease area.
- Users are asked to stay on designated trails to prevent deterioration of the natural environment.
- In areas where wet conditions or deterioration occurs, trail closures or limitation may be necessary to reduce impact.



Day Parking off Spruce Lane in SV of Waiparous

Garbage

Users are required to pack out whatever they pack in and dispose of it off-site in a regulated manner.

Human Impacts

Users of the lease area are expected to act with respect and consideration for both the resources of the lease area, other users, and adjacent landowners and leaseholders.

Wildlife

Hunting is strictly prohibited in the Back 40. It is recommended users of the lease educate themselves and follow safety practices in regards to chance encounters with large predators.

Sightings are to be reported to the local Fish & Wildlife Office, (403) 932-2388 Cochrane.

Dog Control

In order to minimize the impact on the natural environment, wildlife and the potential for conflict, users of the lease are expected to adhere to the following:

- Dogs must be under control and within sight of the owner at all times.
- Owners are responsible for their dog's behaviour and actions.
- Owners must remove defecation immediately.
- Where the trail borders private or leased land, these sections are "on leash areas" and are marked accordingly.

Recreation Campfires

Campfires are not permitted within the Back 40 at any time.