

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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**

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## 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.



