

Elements associated with risk management for backcountry access

The use of the backcountry in AAMW wildlife reserves is at the risk and responsibility of the individuals who venture into it, and they are solely responsible for their safety. Access to these areas is often undeveloped and can be problematic, while isolation complicates evacuations and emergency interventions, leading to additional delays in case of emergencies.

It is important for users to inform themselves about the specific features of the area they plan to visit, be aware of the risks, and adequately prepare for them.

Safety

Venturing into the backcountry requires specific technical and physical skills to ensure personal safety and the safety of accompanying individuals. Those wishing to explore the backcountry should ensure they possess the skills, autonomy, and physical fitness suitable for the activity's difficulty level. Users must complete the *Self-assessment of participant's skills and health status*, which should be submitted to the Corporation along with the backcountry access request.

Users must provide an *Exit Plan*, available on the Corporation's website or provided during a backcountry access request. This exit plan should detail, among other things, planned sleeping locations with GPS coordinates, the intended route, participants' medical conditions, and their skills and training, including first aid training. In addition to providing this exit plan to the Corporation, an external contact person (guardian angel) should also have a copy, be informed of these elements, including the itinerary, and serve as a contact in case of emergency. The Exit Plan, including the established route and communication protocol, must be consistently followed by users.

Search and rescue situations mobilize several employees and responders, as well as specialized equipment. If search, and rescue operations incur costs, these are the responsibility of the user. In case of emergency, users should contact the Corporation's emergency number or emergency services directly in high-critical situations.

Users must ensure they have the appropriate equipment for the planned activity. To adequately prepare, it is recommended to use the *Equipment checklist* and ensure critical safety equipment, including a satellite communication device, first aid kit, and a geolocation beacon, is available.

Note that campfires may be prohibited during the stay, especially depending on the current fire index. Normally, campfires are allowed in the backcountry only when the fire index is low.

Users must have bear-resistant containers or possess the necessary equipment and skills to install a 'bear bag' and properly manage odorous substances and waste.

Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult; the ratio to be observed is one adult for a maximum of three children. For safety reasons, groups of at least three people are encouraged.

To apply for backcountry access, users must follow the Backcountry Access Request Procedure and provide the Corporation with all required documents.

Backcountry access request procedure

Users wishing to access the backcountry, whether for a multi-night stay or daily access, must follow the steps outlined in the respective procedure and provide the Corporation with all required documents.

At least one month before the start of your expedition, contact the Nibiischii Corporation to provide:

- Complete the 'Exit Plan' document
- Complete the Risk acknowledgement and acceptance form
- Complete the self-assessment

Before Departure

Before departure, users must ensure they are well-informed and well-prepared for their stay. Among other things, they must:

- Obtain information on the current state of the site, territory, water plan, etc.
- Perform an equipment check, paying particular attention to critical equipment and safety gear, ensuring their proper functioning.
- Test communication devices and ensure they are in working order.
- Check weather forecasts before departure.
- Stop at the Rupert reception upon arrival at the site to collect necessary documents, including maps of the area and their access rights if needed.
- Keep site maps and emergency numbers safe during the stay.
- Always adhere to the exit plan or the determined route and notify the Corporation of any changes if necessary.