

# Big Belt Hut

## Information Inside



Welcome to the Big Belt Hut! Here are some things to know about the hut to help facilitate your stay. Please don't hesitate to give us feedback on anything that needs attention. We hope you have an excellent trip and enjoy your stay!

Cheers!

Owners: Kyle Perkins, Jennings Anderson, & Brad Maddock

Please call or text 406-848-4232 if you have any issues or questions.

*Last Updated January 2022*

### **In The Event of An Emergency:**

- **CALL 911 or use a PLB (personal locator beacon) in the case of an emergency needing an evacuation!**
- **When contacting emergency services, tell them you are at the Big Belt Hut near Mount Baldy at the intersection of FS Trail 151 and FS Road 4023.**
- **The GPS Coordinates of the Hut are:**

**46.4645, -111.2419**

(46°27'52" N, 111°14'30" W)

- **Use your First Aid kit and backcountry first aid skills to stabilize the patient**
  - **You are likely 5-10+ hrs from a hospital. An evacuation with a severely injured or sick patient could take a very long time.**

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## **Lights and Power**

The hut is equipped with a Goal Zero solar panel and battery system. We cannot guarantee that the battery will be charged when you arrive, so please come prepared with headlamps or flashlights, and portable power banks for any phones, cameras, speakers that might need charging.

The battery is located on the metal shelving behind the door as you enter the hut. The battery will not operate in freezing temperatures, so please be sure to keep it in the soft-sided cooler for additional insulation.

- The lights operate on the 12-volt circuit controlled by the "12V" button on the left-side of the battery.
- Each light has a high/lo/off switch on the top of the light, next to the cord. We find that the low setting is adequate and will allow the battery to last much longer.
- 5W USB power is available in the center of the battery for charging phones, speakers, etc.
- There is a backup propane lantern with extra mantles as well in case the battery is empty.
- *Make sure to seal the battery back up in the soft-sided cooler when you leave to keep it insulated for as long as possible to ensure some battery life for the next guests upon arrival.*

## Wood Stove

The wood stove is the primary source of heat and the most convenient method for melting large quantities of snow for drinking water.

- We find that if it is windy out, it is best to start the fire with lots of paper and kindling in the BACK of the stove.
- You may burn paper trash in the woodstove, however, the woodstove is not an incinerator. Please pack out corrugated cardboard, food-waste, and trash.
- The woodshed is located to the South East of the hut. Please only burn the provided wood in the woodstove, do not use it for outside campfires. If you plan to have a campfire, please gather your own firewood.
- NEVER leave the wood-stove door unlatched when the fire is unattended (especially when leaving the hut or going to sleep—Logs can roll against the door and fall out.
- Please shovel the ash from the wood stove into the provided metal bucket. Ash can be deposited into the latrine along with the greywater.
- **PLEASE DO NOT SPLIT WOOD OR KINDLING INSIDE THE HUT OR ON THE DECK**

## Water

All surface water (spring, creek, or snowmelt) can potentially contain harmful pathogens, should be consumed at your own risk, or treated with your favorite method (boiling, UV, filter, chemical etc.)

## Winter

- There is a large pot with a spigot that sits atop the wood stove for melting snow. Use other pots to gather snow to add to the pot.
- If the stove is roaring, the melt pot can get very hot during your stay. Keep adding snow to prevent it from boiling.
- The large melt pot has a spigot on the bottom to easily obtain water.
- **PLEASE ENSURE TO DRAIN THE MELT POT AND ALL WATER JUGS COMPLETELY BEFORE YOU LEAVE!**

## Summer

- There is a spring located uphill from (east of) the hut. Use the metal dipper cup and a 5-gallon jug to transport water to the hut and treat as appropriate.
- In late summer/fall when the Spring runs dry, use the water in the plastic jugs located underneath the bunks. Note the labels on the jugs. The refillable jugs are for dish-washing and unopened fresh jugs are for immediate consumption.

# Kitchen

The hut is equipped with a complete backcountry kitchen. This includes a 3-burner propane stove, pots, pans, utensils, cups, mugs, and flatware for 15. There is no oven.

- Propane to the stove is controlled by a large yellow knob under the counter in front of the stove. The knob must be turned to “ON” (in-line with the pipe) when cooking.
  - **Please turn the knob to “OFF” (horizontal, orthogonal to the pipe) before leaving the hut!**
- Bon Appetit!

# Dishes

- There are 3 gray bins under the sink. Please use a 3-bin wash system:

Scrape	Bin 1 Wash	Bin 2 Rinse	Bin 3 Bleach	Air-Dry
Scrape all food-waste into the garbage.  The woodstove is not an incinerator, please pack out food-waste.	Wash dishes with hot water and soap.  New sponges and extra soap are located in the bins under the counter.	Rinse off soap with hot water	Cold/Room temp water and a cupful of bleach.  (Bleach will evaporate faster in warmer water, neutralizing your efforts)	Utilize the drying rack to the left of the sink.  This lets the bleach rinse evaporate, leaving the dishes properly sanitized.

- The sink drains into a greywater bucket through a mesh strainer. Pour the wash-bins down the sink through the strainer when finished, using any left-over bleach water from Bin-3 to rinse bins 1 and 2.
  - Keep an eye on the bucket to make sure it does not overflow!
- Finally, scrape the food-waste from the mesh strainer into the trash, and empty the greywater into the latrine.

## Sauna

A wood-fired sauna is located on the northside of the hut, between the hut and the latrine.

- Wood-fired saunas operate best with small wood. Continually feeding lots of kindling every 20 minutes will heat the sauna up quickly.
- The woodstove has a water reservoir on the right-hand side. Filling this with snow when you begin the sauna should provide some warm rinse water for the end of your sauna.
- The sauna drains any excess water through drain holes under the rocks below the stove.
- Know your heat limits—especially when dehydrated at elevation, sauna responsibly, and enjoy.

## Latrine/Outhouse 🍌

- The latrine is located to the North of the hut about 100 yards away.
- Please wash your hands! We provide lots of hand-sanitizer. The #1 way people get sick on group trips is poor hygiene.
- PLEASE do not pee from the deck. There is a marked area next to the woodshed that is sheltered from the wind. Please don your boots and use this location.

## Extra Supplies

- There are bins under the kitchen counter and underneath the bunks labeled “Extra Supplies - Please Use!” This is where you’ll find paper towels, toilet paper, soap, sponges, lantern mantles, mouse traps, etc. We try to keep these bins stocked at all times, don’t be afraid to break into these supplies. Use plenty of soap, throw out gross sponges, and wipe everything clean with fresh paper towels. The next guests will be grateful!

# Check Out Procedure

**Check out time is 12pm noon.** It is possible that another group is coming in on the day you're leaving. If you plan to ski/recreate, please ensure the hut is cleaned and emptied by noon so the next group can get settled. *You don't have to leave the area, but you can't stay here :)*

- Don't forget to write in the guest book!
- Empty all drinking-water containers
  - Kettles
  - Any insulated water coolers
  - 5 gallon jugs
  - Snow melt pot on stove (winter)
- Wash all dishes. Soap, rinse, and bleach.
  - Strain and dump dishwater/greywater down the latrine in the winter and far away from the hut in the summertime.
  - Clean food-scrap from mesh strainer into trash.
- Wipe all tables and counters with cleaning spray or a bleach water solution to sanitize hut clean for the next group.
- Turn the cook-stove propane valve to **OFF** position.
- Pack out all trash.** Put clean liner in trash can
- Clean ash from wood stove. Dump ash down the latrine with the greywater.
- Restock firewood and kindling
- Goal Zero Solar Battery System
  - Turn off all outputs (12V, 5V USB, etc) and check that solar input is still connected
  - Tuck the battery back into the cooler in the winter.
- Sweep floor and fold up mattresses.
- Check for left belongings. Please do not leave **ANY** food, including oils, spices, alcohol, etc.
- Lock door in summer. Please **DO NOT** lock the door in the winter.

THANK YOU!

PLEASE PUT THIS BOOK BACK ON THE COUNTER BEFORE DEPARTING