# VAIL PASS Winter Recreation Area
# WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

## WELCOME TO THE VAIL PASS WINTER RECREATION AREA

***This recreation area is managed by the USDA Forest Service as part of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004. The purpose of this program is to collect fees that help maintain and manage recreational areas and enhance visitor services and experiences on some public lands that receive high visitor numbers anduse. Ninety-five percent of fees collected remain at the site for these purposes instead of returning to the Federal Treasury. The remaining five percent is distributed among other fee sites and used for administrative purposes.***

### WHY A FEE?

Recreation fees provide crucial resources that allow federal agencies to respond to increased demand on federal lands. For over 20 years the Forest Service, working with the Vail Pass Task Force (a citizen's group) has surveyed the users, listened to their concerns and observed what has occurred in the backcountry. This has enabled both entities to formulate a plan of management that aspires to meet the visitor's demands as well as the area's needs. Beginning in 1990 with the first signs, each subsequent year has seen improvements that reflect the changing needs and suggestions of winter recreationists in the Vail Pass backcountry.

### VAIL PASS FACTS

- Total Area – 55,000 acres.
- Highest elevation – Elk Mountain, 12,693 feet.
- Lowest elevation – Camp Hale, 9,200 feet.
- Total length of motorized trails – 67 miles.
- Total length of groomed trails – 50 miles.
- Total length of non-motorized trails – 52 miles.
- Total area of motorized-assisted ski terrain – 3,300.

### FEE SCHEDULE

- Day Use Pass - $6 per person per day.
- Season Pass - $40 per person (*non-transferable*).
- Senior Interagency Pass' receive 50% discount (*cardholders only*).
- Please make checks payable to: US Forest Service.
- Self pay fee stations are located at Vail Pass, Red Cliff, and Camp Hale Main trailheads.
- Fees collected 7 days a week.
- Please pay the day use fee before entering the area. Retain proof of paying with you while recreating within the area.
- Violations punishable pursuant to 16 USC 551, 36 CFR 261.17.

### KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!

The Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area is comprised of motorized, non motorized, and hybrid ski designated areas. It is each user's responsibility to know his or her location in relation to the map. Carry a topographic map or GPS and keep track of landmarks such as mountain peaks, valleys, rivers and numbered non-motorized or multiple use routes. Please observe and obey all signage as these restrictions are in place to protect wildlife, wilderness, huts, ski area boundaries, and historic ski routes in the area.

### LOOK FOR THESE SIGNS!

- No snowmobiles, blue diamond, orange diamond, stay on trail.
- Trails and routes may also be marked with orange or blue snowpoles .
- Pay attention to additional informational signs posted by USFS rangers.

### BACKCOUNTRY ETHICS

- Pack out your trash.
- Stack your tracks. Allow everyone to enjoy a trackless powder experience.
- Be respectful to wildlife. Pass quietly or detour if you encounter animals.
- Respect each other's rights to be here and enjoy thebackcountry.

### SAFETY TIPS

**Here are some basic backcountry tips that could help prevent an accident or increase the of survival of a buried partner should an avalanche occur.**

- Check the local avalanche and weather forecast before entering the backcountry.
- Travel with experienced partners.
- Carry and know how to use avalanche rescue gear.
- Expose only one person at a time to potential avalanche danger.
- Plan an escape route.
- Never cut above anyone below you when crossing steep terrain.
- Be aware that avalanches can be triggered from the bottom of a slope.
- Look for recent avalanche activity and cracking and collapsing snow that signal an unstable snowpack.
- Take an avalanche course from a qualified instructor.
- ***Safe backcountry travel requires training and experience. You control your own risk by choosing where, when, and how you travel.***

### IN AN EMERGENCY!

**Any of the following may help in the event of an emergency:**

- Designate a leader and make a plan.
- Ask highest trained medical responder at the scene to provide care for patients.
- Use a cell phone to call 911. If cell phone service is unavailable, designate someone to travel to an area where cell phone service is available. Cell phone service is typically available at higher elevations in the area (ex: Ptarmigan Pass and Shrine Pass). There are also phones in Camp Hale at Nova Guides, in the town of Redcliffand at the Vail Pass Rest Area.
- Be prepared to provide description of location of the accident and injuries of those involved to 911 dispatcher.
- The remaining members of the group should remain at the scene and pursue rescue and first aid of those involved in the accident.
- Exercise caution with victims of high speed accidents. Improperly moving a patient with neck or spinal cord trauma can lead to further injury.
- Search and Rescue in the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area is a collaborative effort of the Summit County Rescue Group, Vail Mountain Rescue Group, and the United States Forest Service.

**Local Avalanche and Weather Forecast**
**Colorado Avalanche Information Center**
**Vail and Summit Zone Forecast**

**www.colorado.gov/avalanche**
**970-668-0600**

## MULTIPLE USE ROUTES

**TRAILS AND ROUTES ARE FOR MULTIPLE USE AND ARE SIGNED USING SNOWMOBILE SYMBOLS, ORANGE DIAMONDS AND ORANGE SNOWPOLES. PLEASE EXPECT AND RESPECT OTHER USERS.**

### 1 Shrine Pass Road
**Length:** 2.5 miles to Shrine Pass
**Use:** Heavy
**Difficulty: Easiest**
**Comments:** This is a multiple use trail from Vail Pass to Shrine Pass. Please use caution on this route as it sees heavy use from motorized and non motorized users. Non motorized users are encouraged to use the Shrine Pass Ski Trail to access the Shrine Mountain Huts. The drainage to the south of Shrine Pass Road is non motorized.

### 7 Resolution Creek Road / 4-Mile Road
**Length:** 6 miles / 4 miles
**Use:** Heavy
**Difficulty: Easiest**
**Comments:** This route is a popular multi-use trail from Camp Hale to Ptarmigan Pass with a four-mile dead-end spur at Pearl Creek junction. Please stay on designated routes in the Ptarmigan Pass hybrid ski areas. Be prepared to encounter snowcats on this route and give them the right of way.

### 4 Turkey Creek Road
**Length:** 5.75 miles
**Use:** Heavy
**Difficulty: Easiest**
**Comments:** This route is a very popular multi-use trail. There is limited parking at the Redcliff trailhead. The town of Redcliff has a restaurant and convenience store, but no gas station. There are two miles from the Forest Boundary to the town of Redcliff that are not groomed - variable conditions exist please use caution.

### 6 Wilder Gulch
**Length:** 3 miles
**Use:** Heavy
**Difficulty: Easiest**
**Comments:** This route is a very popular multi-use trail from the Vail Pass Rest Area to Ptarmigan Pass. The west side of Wilder Gulch is non motorized - please observe the signage. This route is subject to early and late season closures due to snowpack conditions. Please avoid the south ridge of the gulch where the non-motorized terrain begins.

### 2 Shrine Bowl Trail
**Length:** 2 miles
**Use:** Heavy
**Difficulty: More Difficult**
**Comments:** The Shrine Bowl motorized area is defined by the treeline of Shrine Bowl. Part of this route is through the non-motorized area of the Shrine Meadows, stay on the groomed route and follow the orange poles into Shrine Bowl.

### 12 Fowler / Hilliard Loop
**Length:** 7.7 miles
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** This route is part of a motorized access ski area. Stay on the marked route and be courteous to other users.

### 11 Hank's Gulch Roads
**Length:** 3.7 miles
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** These trails are accessible from Turkey Creek Road. After Turkey Creek Road, follow old timber sale roads.

### 3 Lime Creek Road
**Length:** 3.7 miles
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** Beginning at the upper Turkey Creek Road intersection, 5 miles of this wide flat road are groomed. Portions of the north side of the road are non motorized - please look for the signage and know where you are at. Once the grooming ends you can continue into the Lime Creek drainage. Once in the drainage, the north and west side of the road are non motorized. As you continue down the drainage the trail becomes steep, icy, rocky, and includes several water crossings depending on the snow conditions. It is recommended to ride this trail from the upper intersection.

### 5 Wearyman Creek Road
**Length:** 4.5 miles
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** This route connects Redcliff to Ptarmigan Pass. Be prepared for sidehill riding and several creek crossings. This route is not maintained; variable conditions may exist.

### 8 Wearyman / Hornsilver Connector
**Length:** 4.5 miles
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** This route starts at the Wearyman Road / Turkey Creek Road junction and then forks to the right after .7 miles. Follow the logging roads marked with orange diamonds to Hornsilver Mountain, than down towards the top of Wearyman Creek. The last section of this trail is shared use with skiers.

## HYBRID - MOTORIZED ASSIST SKI ACCESS

**THESE ROUTES ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SKIER ACCESS WITHIN PRESCRIBED AREAS. MOTOR VEHICLES MUST STAY ONDESIGNATED ROUTES.**

### 10 Boss Basin - Hybrid Route
**Length:** 1.1 miles
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**

### 9 Queen Bee / BBQ - Hybrid Route
**Length:** .7 miles
**Use:** Moderate
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**

### 13 Black Lakes - Hybrid Route
**Length:** .7 miles
**Use:** Moderate
**Difficulty: More Difficult**

**Comments (for ALL HYBRID ROUTES):** These routes provide motorized access into hybrid ski areas. Motorized users stay on the designated route. Be prepared to encounter snowcats on this route and give them the right of way. Snowcat operators please give the right away to snowmobiles when it is safe to pull over and stop. Snowmobiles stow ropes when not towing skiers/riders.

## NON-MOTORIZED ROUTES

**TRAILS AND ROUTES FOR NON-MOTORIZED USE ARE SIGNED USING CROSS-COUNTRY SKIER SYMBOLS, BLUE DIAMONDS AND BLUE SNOWPOLES.**

### 2 Shrine Pass Ski Trail
**Length:** 2.5 miles
**Time:** 2 to 4 hours
**Use:** Heavy
**Difficulty: Easiest**
**Comments:** This route starts from the Vail Pass Rest Area and follows the Shrine Pass Road to the first switchback where there is a trailhead information board. The non-motorized route begins to the left of this sign and continues west along the north side of West Ten Mile Creek. The trail leads to the headwaters of the drainage, parallel to the Shrine Pass Road. The Shrine Mountain huts of Jay's, Chuck's, and Walter's are located about .2 miles south of Shrine Pass.

### 1 Corral Creek
**Length:** 2.5 miles
**Time:** 2 to 4 hours
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: More Difficult**
**Comments:** Walk east across the I-70 bridge from the parking lot.The trail begins just off the highway and climbs .5 miles to a bench. The area offers excellent touring terrain in open meadows and forested hillsides. The south-facing drainage allows for a loop trip down to the Vail Pass bike path and back west to the Rest Area.

### 5 Fowler-Hilliard Hut via McAllister Gulch
**Length:** 5.25 miles
**Time:** 4 to 7 hours
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: More Difficult**
**Comments:** From the Pando Trailhead at the north end of Camp Hale, ski east across the Eagle River, then north .5 miles to the McAllister Gulch jeep road. The route follows the road to Resolution Mountain and the Fowler-Hilliard Hut. The route across Camp Hale is shared with motorized users then the jeep road is non-motorized for winter use. Be cautious of steep slopes and avalanche terrain on Resolution Mountain.

### 9 Jackal Hut via Ranch Creek
**Length:** 3.5 miles
**Time:** 4 to 6 hours
**Use:** Moderate
**Difficulty: More Difficult**
**Comments:** From the South Camp Hale trailhead, travel east across the Camp Hale flats and across the Eagle River to the Ranch Creek Road. Follow the road as it climbs to the Jackal Hut.

### 8 Janet's Cabin via Guller Creek
**Length:** 5.5 miles
**Time:** 3 to 5 hours
**Use:** Heavy
**Difficulty: More Difficult**
**Comments:** The trail begins at the Union Creek base of the Copper Mountain Ski Area. It follows the Vail Pass bike path west to the Colorado Trail at Guller Creek. The route then continues up Guller Creek to its headwaters and Janet's Cabin.

### 11 Jackal Hut via Cataract Creek
**Length:** 5.5 miles
**Time:** 5 to 7 hours
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** From the Camp Hale trailheads, travel east across the Eagle River and follow the East Fork Road to the south and then south-east for 2.25 miles. Then travel north along Cataract Creek on the Colorado Trail. The trail climbs 1.8 miles up the Colorado Trail to the Jackal Hut.

### 10 Jackal Hut via Pearl Creek
**Length:** 7.25 miles
**Time:** 5 to 8 hours
**Use:** Moderate
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** The lower section of the trail crosses the Camp Hale flats and follows the Resolution Creek Road which is all multiple-use. The ski trail begins at the confluence of Pearl Creek and Resolution Creek where the 4-mile Road begins. From here the trail climbs up the Pearl Creek drainage 4.3 miles to the Jackal Hut.

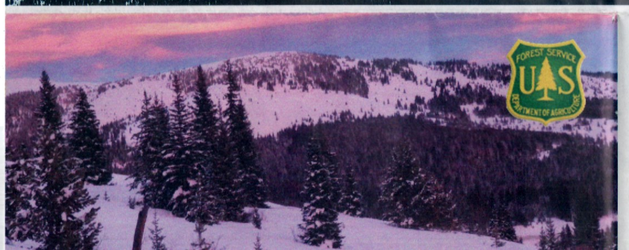
### 7 Janet's Cabin via Wilder Gulch
**Length:** 4.5 miles
**Time:** 4 to 7 hours
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** The route heads south off of the Wilder Gulch Road, across the gulch and into Smith Gulch. The route then traverses west up to treeline and continues south right at treeline to Janet's Cabin. The route requires route finding ability and is recommended for experienced skiers.

### 6 Resolution Mountain to Resolution Creek Road
**Length:** 2 miles
**Time:** 2 to 4 hours
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** This route will take the user down to the south aspect of the Resolution Mountain, then back to the road through a series of switchbacks and dense forest. Once on the road, be aware of shared motorized use.

### 3 Shrine Mountain to Fowler-Hilliard Hut
**Length:** 6.8 miles
**Time:** 5 to 8 hours
**Use:** Low
**Difficulty: Most Difficult**
**Comments:** This is the recommended route from the Shrine Mountain huts to the Fowler-Hilliard hut. The section of this trail from Wearyman Creek to the Fowler-Hilliard turn-off is multiple-use.

*for information on huts visit www.huts.org*

The Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) is the legal document that identifies designated routes and open play areas for over the snow motor vehicle use for the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area pursuant to 36 CFR 212(c) and for the purpose of enforcing the prohibition at 36 CFR 261.13 and 36 CFR 261.14. Over the snow vehicles are defined as: "a motor vehicle that is designed for use over the snow and runs on tracks and/or ski or skis while in use over the snow."



## WHAT ARE YOUR FEES USED FOR?

- Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area maps.
- Signage and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails.
- Groomed trails.
- Managed parking.
- Visitor information services.
- Trail and backcountry monitoring, separation of use, and enforcement by uniformed Forest Service rangers.
- Snow removal at trailheads

## NOTICE TO BACKCOUNTRY TRAVELERS

It is your responsibility to know the hazards involved in your activities and to use the proper safety procedures and equipment to minimize the inherent risks and hazards related to your activity.

As a user of National Forest System Lands, you have significant responsibility for your personal safety during any activity you might pursue. The Forest Service installs signs and other information devices at various locations where site conditions warrant. However, the size of the National Forest and the variety of natural and human-made conditions limit placement of signs or other specific warnings and necessitate the use of more general education efforts.

Hazards are not limited to, but include: changing weather conditions; snow; avalanches; landslides caves; overlooks; falling trees or limbs; high or rushing water; contaminated water; wild animals; becoming lost or over exerted; tunnels; shafts, decaying structures and a variety of equipment; and changing road and trail conditions. You may also be exposed to unreasonable acts of others.