AFFIDAVIT OF OF MARK L. JOHNSON

1. My name is Mark L. Johnson. I reside at 2655 Smith Lake Road in Kila, Montana.

2. Since December of 1988, I have hiked, cross-country skied, and winter camped in the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area of the Kootenai National Forest. Approximately 95 percent of my visits to the area have been during the winter months. I estimate that during the past 10 years, I have made 225 day-use visits and 30 overnight visits to the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. For three years, from November 1, 1990, to November 1, 1993, I held a special use permit from the Fortine Ranger District to guide clients on backcountry skiing outings in the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. My business was called Galton Guides.

3. During the ten years that I have used the Ten Lakes WSA in the winter, I have observed increased snowmobile use of the Wilderness Study Area. I estimate that since 1988, snowmobile use in the Ten Lakes WSA has increased approximately 50 percent every winter. In 1988, I occasionally observed snowmobile tracks in the Therriault Pass basin of the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area, but by 1995, I was regularly observing snowmobile tracks in the Therriault Pass basin.

4. I began guiding backcountry skiing outings in the Ten Lakes WSA in 1990. When I first began guiding, I was usually able to provide my clients with the primitive wilderness experience that they expected and desired. However, as snowmobile use of the Ten Lakes WSA increased during the three years I held the special use permit, it became difficult for me to promote the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area as primitive wilderness. In addition, the development of Therriault Pass as a major snowmobile route created a serious conflict for my guiding business, because Therriault Pass is also the most available access for mountaineer skiers to experience the Ten Lakes WSA. The increase of snowmobile use in the Ten Lakes Study WSA contributed to my decision to no longer guide winter outings in the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area.

5. I have routinely witnessed snowmobiles accessing the Ten Lakes WSA via the Stahl, Clarence, and Therriault snowmobile roads groomed by the Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club. On March 29, 1997, a friend and I counted 47 snowmobiles entering the Ten Lakes WSA via the Stahl Creek Road, which is groomed by the Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club. The Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club grooms this route to provide the shortest snowmobile route to Therriault Pass in the Ten Lakes WSA. From the end of the road, trees were cut down in a mile-long swath to clear and mark a snowmobile route up to Therriault Pass. In addition, I have seen orange blazes painted on trees to mark a snowmobile route to the Wolverine Basin in the Ten Lakes WSA. When in the Wolverine Basin, I have routinely seen snowmobile tracks. Wolverine Cabin, located in Wolverine Basin, invites snowmobile use in the Ten Lakes WSA. According to a Kootenai National Forest memo, this old cabin was supposed to be allowed to deteriorate, but the Forest Service and local snowmobilers have

maintained it.

6. On April 25, 1991, I participated in a meeting called by Mark Svoboda, president of the Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club. At the meeting, the Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club proposed to eliminate Therriault Pass, Mt. Wam, Stahl Peak, Wolverine Lake Basin, and Bluebird Lake Basin within the Ten Lakes WSA from pending Wilderness legislation (S. 72) that was introduced by Sen. Baucus and endorsed by Libby millworkers.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated this 7th day of July, 1998.

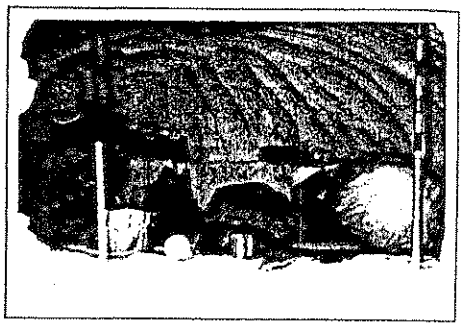
MARK L. JOHNSON

Galton Guides is a ski touring service offering guided adventures in the spectacular ialton Mountain Range of the Northern Rockies of Montana. We guide on a variety of terrain variations for all ability vels, ranging from leisurely outings to advanced alpine expeditions. Our tours provide telemark and backcountry ski istruction, nourishing foods, hot drinks, and help in arranging proper equipment for your desired trip. Galton Guides ccommodates individuals or small groups on short ski tours or customized overnight trips designed especially for you.

Therriault Pass Guest House near Eureka, Montana is the base for Galton Guides. This finely furnished retreat provides comfortable lodging and is ideal for ski tour departures. The interior is uniquely styled and special care is given to details making the house a welcome haven to return to. Since only one guest party is scheduled at a time, you will have ultimate privacy at the house and on trails that begin outside the door. Glide through evergreen forests on marked ungroomed trails that weave around beaver ponds and over Therriault Creek.

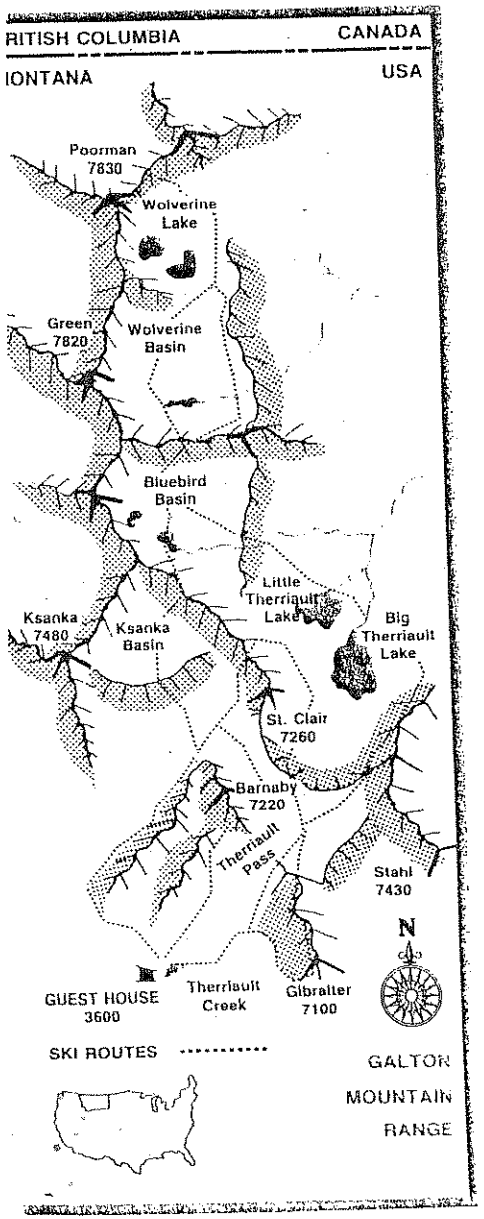
A distinguishing feature for telemark skiers is several runs of 175 vertical feet on our own "ski mountain." Galton Guides is conveniently located so that special attention can be given to novice skiers interested in ski touring, learning backcountry skills, or experiencing winter camping. The choices are yours!

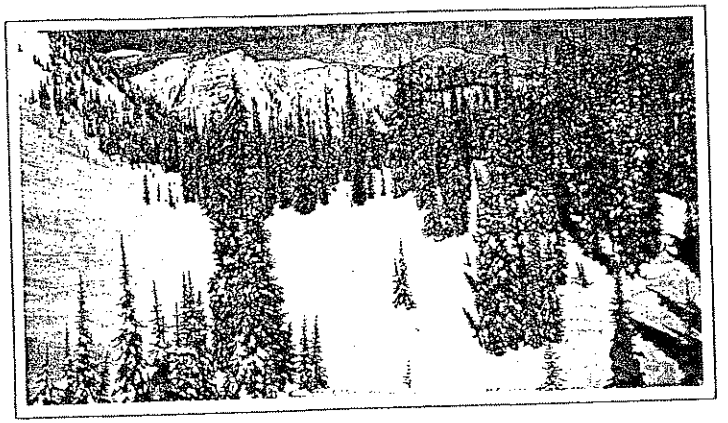
National Forest land is adjacent to the Guest House property providing easy access to thousands of acres of backcountry skiing. Novice skiers can appreciate the gentle terrain and picturesque beauty of lower elevations. Nearby Therriault Pass is "our gateway" to exceptional glade skiing and top of the world views. Enjoy telemark skiing in a true wilderness environment in high basins at 7000 feet. Dynamic mountain vistas of the Canadian Rockies, the Continental Divide, and the encompassing Galton Range are the scenic rewards at upper elevations.



Winter camping trips let you feel the captivating forces of the surrounding alpine setting. A special treat is to view a beautiful display of alpenglow on the mountain summits. Nights will be spent in the comfort of a well constructed snow shelter lit by candles, creating the illusion of a chandelier palace. Come venture into this extraordinary landscape and experience winter's magic.

Climate in this region is influenced by warm Pacific fronts bringing daytime temperatures of 20-35°F in our base area at 3600 feet. Here the snow base averages 24 inches mid season with frequent snowfalls accumulating to over 60 inches throughout winter. In the high basins snow depth averages over 100 inches. Our ski season starts mid December and lasts through March, with spring skiing at higher elevations into May.





Galton Guides are dedicated to your safety and comfort while providing quality backcountry ski adventures. We are professionally trained in ski instruction, ski mountaineering, avalanche safety and rescue, CPR, and winter emergency care. As members of a backcountry Nordic Ski Patrol, we update our training annually. Galton Guides operates under a special use permit from the United States Forest Service in the Kootenai National Forest.

Inquire for rates on Guiding Services and Guest House Brochure.

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