

Skiing and Snowshoeing Trail Guide

Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Kamas Ranger District



America's Great Outdoors

UTAH

2003

Wasatch-Cache NF Kamas RD

Skiing and Snowshoeing Trail Guide

The Kamas Ranger District offers a wide variety of ideal terrain for beginning to expert skiers and snowshoers. Whether you are looking for a leisurely family cruise or the challenges of going off-trail you will find it here. Before venturing off take into account your ability, be prepared, and check local weather and snow conditions.

Avalanches

Avalanches are a serious threat to winter travelers with snowmobilers now leading avalanche fatalities in North America. Nearly all avalanches that involve people are triggered by the victims themselves or a member of their party. Most avalanche accidents can be avoided with just a little bit of knowledge. Learn to recognize avalanche dangers and how to travel safely in avalanche terrain.

What to Look for:

- **Avalanche Terrain** - slopes without thick trees that are steeper than about 30 degrees. Terrain is most dangerous between 35 and 45 degrees.
- **Obvious Signs** - recent avalanches, cracking snow, collapsing snow, recent deposits of wind drifted snow, sinking into wet snow.
- **Avalanche Weather** - Recent strong wind, recent heavy snow, recent or prolonged melting of the snowpack.

Know Before You Go:

- **Call** - Contact the Forest Service Utah Avalanche Center hotline or read the advisory on the Internet for the latest critical information (see Information/Emergency contacts).
- **Carry Rescue Gear** - Always carry avalanche rescue gear including an electronic avalanche rescue beacon, a shovel, and a probe. Be sure to practice regularly.
- **It's Up to You** - By the time a rescue team arrives, it will probably be too late to save a life. The avalanche expert and the rescue team are YOU.

How to Travel:

- **One at a Time** - Only expose one person to the danger at a time. The rest of the party waits in a safe place so they can perform a rescue if needed.
- **Test the Snow** - Start on small test-slopes with less dangerous consequences and work your way up to larger, more dangerous slopes as you gather information about the stability of the snow.

If Caught in an Avalanche:

- **Ride to the Side** - Travel off the slab at a 45 degree angle before it breaks up and tumbles you.
- **Swim to Safety** - If you begin to tumble, grab trees or secure objects and FIGHT HARD using swimming motions to stay on top of the snow. As the slide begins to slow down, clear an air space in front of your face, thrust a hand toward the snow surface, and try to remain calm.

Trail Etiquette

- Skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers all use portions of the National Forest. For the safety and enjoyment of everyone on the trail, please be considerate of others.
- Litter and debris can mar the quality of a recreation experience, particularly when viewed against a mantle of white snow. Help others enjoy winter travel in National Forests by carrying out what you carry in. Pack out all trash.
- Dispose of human waste at least 100 feet from all open water and trails. Burn or pack out all toilet paper, or better yet, use snow. Keep "yellow snow" out of sight of trails. When dogs are permitted, pick up after your pet.
- Observe animals from a safe distance. State law prohibits the harassment of wildlife.
- Snowshoers, remember that snowshoes can ruin groomed trails for skiers. Please be considerate and walk on trail shoulders and do not walk on established ski tracks when possible.
- Please pause to let snowmobilers pass.
- Move off the trail when waxing, resting or recovering from a fall.
- Dogs can quickly ruin groomed ski tracks. For the benefit and enjoyment of others, consider leaving your pet at home. If you do take your dog consider skiing on non-groomed trails or in lightly used areas. The BEAVER CREEK, CEDAR HOLLOW, MINE, PINE VALLEY AND PLANTATION TRAILS are open to dogs on ODD-NUMBERED DAYS ONLY from Dec. 15 – Mar. 31.

Yurt Info

Trail Descriptions

GROOMED TRAILS

Beaver Creek

6.5 miles one way • 7,000 – 7,500' elevation
The Beaver Creek Trail parallels SR 150 between the Yellow Pine Trailhead and North Fork and may be accessed from several parking areas along the highway. This groomed trail provides access to the Mine, Taylor Fork, Plantation, Pine Valley and Cedar Trails. The trail travels along the south side of Beaver Creek passing through a patchwork of conifers, aspen groves and sage fields. The trail is popular with beginner skiers and is often crowded on the weekends. **DOG OWNERS: this trail is open to pets on ODD-NUMBER DAYS ONLY from Dec. 15 – Mar. 31.**

Pine Valley Beginner Loop

1.5 miles round trip • 7,500 – 7,460' elevation
When snow conditions permit, this groomed trail is an easy loop that is good for skating. The trail can be accessed by starting at the North Fork parking area. Begin by heading west on the Beaver Creek Trail and look for the orange markers. The trail will head south west, eventually connecting back into the Beaver Creek Trail.

NON-MAINTAINED TRAILS

Yellow Pine

Mileage varies, out and back • 7,000 – 9,700' elevation
The Yellow Pine Trail is unmaintained and is excellent for snowshoers looking for a challenge. Begin by crossing the bridge over Slate Creek, head east through the sage field eventually climbing slightly to the northeast into a stand of Ponderosa pines. The trail continues northeast following the Yellow Pine Creek passing through aspen and other common conifers such as subalpine fir, white fir, Douglas fir and Englemann spruce. After 2.5 miles the head of the drainage becomes steep, narrow and only recommended for skilled travelers.

Mine Trail

3.3 miles one way • 7,200 – 8,500' elevation
The Mine Trail is unmaintained and offers spectacular views of the Wasatch Mountains to the west, along with remnants of old mining machinery and a miner's cabin. Access the trail either by starting at the Yellow Pine Trailhead or at the Administrative Site parking. Follow the Beaver Creek trail until the turn-off. Begin by traveling through sage flats and small aspen groves. A short spur to the east is encountered soon, which can be used to loop back to Beaver Creek off-trail along Failure Creek. Follow the trail right into the thickly forested slopes above working towards Fir Peak. Once on top skilled users can create an off-trail route along the ridge to connect the unmaintained Cedar Hollow and Taylor Fork trails back to Beaver Creek.

Upper Setting Trail

6.8 miles one way • 7,400 – 9,400' elevation
The Upper Setting Trail is an unmaintained multiple-use road that is easy to follow into the western Uinta Mountains. On clear days there are spectacular views of the distant Wasatch Mountains and the nearby Beaver Creek and Coop Creek drainages. The upper 2 and half miles of the road can be more difficult to navigate as it becomes narrower and passes several other roads. For the advanced users, the trail provides unlimited opportunities for extended exploration of the high basins and canyons of the Uintas.

Taylor Fork Trail

3 miles one way • 7,400 – 8,500' elevation
The Taylor Fork trail is unmaintained and offers access to the Cedar Hollow Trail, Plantation Trail or stunning scenery on the Taylor View spur. Start at the Shingle Creek Campground and head west on the Beaver Creek Trail. At the turn-off the trail quickly begins to climb as it makes it way up the Taylor Fork drainage. At three quarters of a mile the spur to Taylor View will appear. Continue on the east fork, passing the Plantation Trail intersection and eventually arriving on a minor summit. The trail heads downhill for half-mile to the Cedar Hollow Trail. Advanced users who wish to connect to the Mine Trail can follow the ridge across to Fir Peak from the summit.

Plantation Trail

1.2 miles one way • 7,600 – 8,000' elevation
The Plantation Trail climbs wooded slopes to connect with the Taylor Fork Trail. This unmaintained trail can be accessed by parking at the Shingle Creek Campground and heading east on the Beaver Creek Trail. At just over a half-mile the Plantation Trail intersects. This trail is seldom traveled, offering solitude and views of the mountains to the north.

Cedar Hollow Trail

5.5 miles one way • 7,000 – 8,700' elevation
This unmaintained multiple-use trail begins off of SR 35 and follows the Cedar Hollow Road, climbing through oak brush and eventually intersecting the Pine Valley Trail. The trail runs along the Cedar Hollow Drainage passing by the Taylor Fork Trail and follows the ridge line allowing an off-trail connection with the Mine Trail. Several ATV roads can easily be mistaken for the trail and should only be traveled by those with good navigational skills.

Shingle Creek Trail

Mileage varies, out and back • 7,600 – 8,600' elevation
The Shingle Creek Trail follows Shingle Creek as it climbs to the head of the drainage. This unmaintained trail is steep, narrow and excellent for snowshoers. The trail climbs past several beaver ponds, through thick conifer and aspen forests and provides access to the high basins and canyons of the western Uinta Mountains.

Norway Flats

7 miles one way • 7,600 – 9,700' elevation
This unmaintained multiple-use trail begins near Pine Valley and climbs high into the western Uinta Mountains. The trail is easy to follow and eventually winds its way toward Little Elk Lake and the head of Boulder Creek. Skilled travelers may use this route to access the upper basins and peaks of the high Uinta country.

Pine Valley Trail

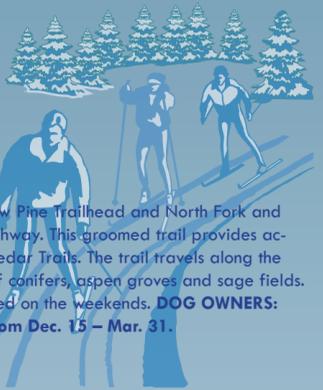
2.7 miles one way • 7,500 – 7,400' elevation
Pine Valley Trail travels the western edge of Pine Valley, connecting the Beaver Creek and Cedar Hollow trails. This unmaintained trail can be accessed by starting either at the Shingle Creek Campground or the Pine Valley Road parking area. The trail contours along the western side hills of Pine Valley with a few steep and narrow sections, offering a wonderful mix of winter scenery. Do not ski down into the valley as the National Forest Boundary is located just a few yards to the east of the trail.

North Fork Loop Trail

3.5 miles round trip • 7,500 – 7,800' elevation
The North Fork Loop Trail is an unmaintained trail that follows a two-track road for most of its length. Begin at the North Fork parking area and cross the highway to the Trail Head. Follow the trail as it winds through sage fields, aspen, Lodgepole pine and the occasional Ponderosa pine. At the crossing of the North Fork Provo River, follow the orange stakes tied to trees. In about half a mile, pass through a gate and head back down toward the Mirror Lake Highway. Cross the highway and join the Beaver Creek trail and head east back to the parking area.

Connector, Mirror Lake and Soapstone Basin

The Connector, Mirror Lake and Soapstone Basin Trails are all groomed for and heavily used by snowmobiles. Though these trails are open to all winter recreation, non-motorized travel is not recommended.



XX.XXX.XXX.XX/XX

Information/ Emergency

Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Kamas Ranger District
50 East Center Street
Kamas, UT 84036
www.fs.fed.us/wcnf/kamas
435-783-4338

Emergency 911

Utah Division of
Parks and Recreation 801-538-7221

Utah Division of
Motor Vehicles 801-297-7780

Utah Avalanche Center
http://www.avalanche.org
Salt Lake City 801-364-1581
Park City 435-658-5512
Provo 801-378-4333

**TREAD
LIGHTLY**

or

**LEAVE NO
TRACE**

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia occurs when physical and mental functions become impaired due to the lowering of the body's core temperature. Be aware of the signs and symptoms. Look for shivering and the "Umbles"-stumbles, fumbles and grumbles which indicate that there is a change in motor coordination and consciousness. Drink plenty of liquids, snack often, wear layers of clothing and stay dry. If severe hypothermia sets in, an external heat source must be used to rewarm the victim. Be aware of frostbite which can occur on ears, nose, fingers, toes or any exposed skin.

**Unmarked
Hazards**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.