

1A West Summit Loop A

Length: 3.7 miles (Loop from trailhead)
Level of Difficulty: Moderate
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner, Walton Peak, Blacktail Mountain

Access: Travel east of Steamboat Springs on Highway 40 approximately 13 miles to the West Summit Trailhead on Rabbit ears Pass.

Route Description: Begin on the north side of the road. Skiing the route in a clockwise direction is less difficult, with gentler climbs and steeper descents through open and wooded areas. Views of the Yampa Valley and the Flat Tops are spectacular. The West Summit Loops and surrounding terrain are the most popular skiing areas on the Hahns Peak District.

1B West Summit Loop B

Length: 3.6 miles (5.4 mile loop from trailhead)
Level of Difficulty: Most Difficult
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner, Walton Peak

Access: This route is reached by skiing counter-clockwise on 1A. Ski past the first junction with 1B and climb to the top of the ridge. At the second junction, on the ridge top, ski 1B to the east. This route is best skied in a clockwise direction.

Route Description: This route has several steep ascents and descents through heavy timber and open meadows.

1C South Summit Loop

Length: 3.0 miles (Loop from trailhead)
Level of Difficulty: Most Difficult
USGS Maps: Walton Peak

Access: This route begins at the West Summit Trailhead. Park on the south side of the highway.

Route Description: Travel counter-clockwise for the best downhill runs. The route begins by following an old road. Woods, open meadows, and some steep descents are encountered. This route connects with route 3B midway around the loop. Past this junction, the route follows the telephone lines and old highway, paralleling Highway 40. The final portion follows the meadow edge back to the West Summit, then retraces the first segment of the old road back to the trailhead.

1D Bruce’s Trail

Length: 3.1 miles (5 kilometers)
Level of Difficulty: Moderate
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner

Access: Travel east of Steamboat Springs on Highway 40 approximately 14 miles to the parking area on the north side of the highway. A short spur connects the parking lot to the main trail.

Route Description: Designed wide to accommodate both skating and traditional skiing techniques. The trail is machine groomed in the early season. The upper loop provides easy skiing, while the lower loop is moderate. The tight loop design and proximity to the highway make this trail a good choice for a ski workout, a short day, or for skiers wishing to remain relatively close to their vehicles.

2A Hogan Park Route

Length: 6.5 miles (One way)
Level of Difficulty: Most Difficult-EXPERTS ONLY
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner, Walton Peak

Access: Travel east of Steamboat Springs on Highway 40 approximately 18 miles to the Walton Peak Trailhead.

Route Description: This route is recommended for EXPERTS only. If you plan to descend Mt. Werner through the Steamboat Ski Area, safety straps are required. Begin on the north side of the highway just west of the large cut bank. The route crosses large open meadows and many streams. Steep ascents and descents will be encountered. During heavy snowfall or whiteout conditions, the route is very difficult to follow across the large meadows. Carry emergency/survival gear.

2B Fox Curve Loop

Length: 3.6 miles (Loop from trailhead)
Level of Difficulty: Moderate
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner

Access: Travel approximately 17 miles east of Steamboat Springs on Highway 40 to the Fox Curve Trailhead on Rabbit Ears Pass. Parking area is on the north side of the highway.

Route Description: This route has varied terrain including steep ascents and descents, timber, open meadows, flat stretches, and rolling hills. Use caution when crossing Walton Creek.

3A Walton Creek Loop

Length: 1.9 miles (Loop from trailhead)
Level of Difficulty: Difficult
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner

Access: Travel east of Steamboat Springs on Highway 40 approximately 18 miles to the Walton Creek Trailhead on Rabbit Ears Pass. The parking area is on the south side of the highway.

Route Description: Begin at the knoll south of the parking lot and follow the power line a short distance to the west. Turn south across Walton Creek and through Walton Creek Campground. The junction of route 3B is reached in the meadow south of the campground approximately 1/2 mile in. Past this junction, the route makes a steep ascent over a ridge, down an open slope to Walton Creek, and the junction of route 3C. Follow Walton Creek back to the parking area.

3B Par-a-llel Route

Length: 2.3 miles (One way from 1C junction to 3A junction)
4.2 miles (One way from West Summit Trailhead to Walton Creek Trailhead)
Level of Difficulty: Most Difficult
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner, Walton Peak

Access: This route can be accessed from route 1C, beginning at the West Summit Trailhead on the south side of the highway, or from route 3A, beginning at the Walton Creek Trailhead.

Route Description: This route connects routes 1C and 3A. Skiing it west to east provides more exciting downhill runs; skiing east to west involves more climbing, though much of it is gentle. Starting at the junction of 1C and 3B (west end), the route goes up a gentle slope and drops into a stream valley. Use caution when crossing streams and beaver ponds on this route as they may be only partially frozen. The route goes through heavy timber and open meadows.

3C North Walton Peak

Length: 2.5 miles (3.25 miles one way from Walton Creek Trailhead)
Level of Difficulty: Moderate
USGS Maps: Mt. Werner, Walton Peak

Access: Travel east of Steamboat Springs on Highway 40 approximately 18 miles to the Walton Creek Trailhead.

Route Description: This is the most popular route for telemarking. Begin at the knoll to the south of the trailhead and head southeast and downhill through the trees following route 3A. The route crosses Walton Creek and travels through wooded areas and open meadows. Approximately 2/3 mile from the trailhead is the junction of 3A and 3C. It continues south to Forest Road #302 and follows it to the top of North Walton Peak. Opportunities for steep runs exist on the slopes of this peak. (Note: A snowmobiling area is adjacent to part of this trail and you may see or hear them).



Rabbit Ears Pass Cross Country Ski Routes

**Hahns Peak Ranger District
Medicine Bow – Routt National Forests
925 Weiss Drive
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
(970) 870-2299**

GENERAL INFORMATION

This cross country ski route network is provided by the Hahns Peak Ranger District for your winter enjoyment. To insure a safe and pleasant experience for yourself and others, please observe these simple rules:

1. Park only in designated areas. These areas are easily identified by the large trailhead parking signs.
2. Skiing is recommended in areas north and south of Highway 40 from the West Summit east to Walton Creek. Snowmobile use occurs north and south of the Highway from Walton Creek to Muddy Pass.
3. Dramatic weather changes can occur in minutes. Always carry extra clothing, space blanket, sunscreen, matches or lighter, extra food and water. A compass and topographic maps are highly recommended, as whiteout conditions can occur at any time. Leave word with friends or family about your destination and expected time of return.
4. Be aware of avalanche terrain and conditions if leaving marked routes.
5. Routes are marked with blue diamonds on trees. Posts or bamboo poles are placed in open areas along the routes when snow depth permits. After heavy snowfalls, the posts and poles may be covered with snow and not be visible.
6. Routes are not groomed and have sections of steep ascent and descent. Skiers should have developed the skills to handle varied terrain and snow conditions before attempting these routes. (The exception is Bruce’s Trail, which is groomed in the early season).
7. Dogs are permitted, but not encouraged. Please be considerate of others and pick up after your pet. Be mindful that dogs’ foot prints damage ski tracks.
8. **SNOWSHOERS: You are welcome to use these marked routes, but please travel parallel to the ski tracks, not in them. Snowshoes damage ski tracks.**