



Welcome!

The Dave Wood Winter Recreation Area is located 15 miles southwest of Montrose, Colorado on the gentle slopes of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Elevations range from 8,000 feet at the forest boundary to 8,400 feet at the highest point on the cross-country ski trail system. The area is dominated by aspen and ponderosa pine trees, with thick pockets of gamble oak and sage brush in the lower elevations.

The Dave Wood Road is plowed to the parking area and passable to most vehicles. Four-wheel drive is recommended. Trails on this guide are marked (blue diamonds) but *ungroomed*.

There is no fee or permit required to use the trails on this guide. Please register, where a box is provided, and help ensure safe and enjoyable experiences for all by observing the following:

- 1) Do not enter private property or closed areas.
- 2) Avoid stopping on hills or obstructing the trail.
- 3) Pack it in, pack it out!
- 4) Yield to faster skiers and those coming downhill.
- 5) Do not disturb wildlife. They must conserve energy to survive winter.



Snowshoeing is permitted in this area, but please avoid damaging established ski tracks by walking along side them, not on top of them.



Dogs are permitted in this area, but please consider leaving them at home. They can be hazards to other users, stress wildlife, and damage established ski tracks. Your dogs must remain under your control at all times, and you are expected to remove their waste from the trail.



The trails in this area are managed primarily for cross-country skiing. Some other uses are incompatible with this activity. Hikers and horses punch holes through the surface of the snow and make travel difficult for skiers. Please do not hike or ride horses on trails in this area during the winter. Snowmobiles ruin ski tracks, disturb the silence, and may present hazards to skiers. To protect the quality and safety of skiing experiences in this area, *snowmobiles are expressly prohibited*.



Understanding the Risks

Winter travel in the backcountry has inherent risks associated with weather, snow conditions, and terrain. Though the Dave Wood Winter Recreation Area is relatively close to town and well visited, dangerous situations can arise very suddenly and help may take a long time to arrive or locate you. **You are responsible for your own safety!**

There are no avalanche prone areas along any of the trails on this guide. However, icy crusts and patches, drifting snow, hidden or exposed objects, and terrain traps where snow can suddenly settle under or around you can present hazards.

Hypothermia is the greatest threat to winter travelers in the backcountry. When conditions are right, it can overtake you very quickly and is potentially deadly. Stay warm and dry at all times!

Here are some basic safety tips that may help you avoid trouble in the backcountry:

- 1) Dress in unrestrictive layers made of synthetics or wool. Never wear cotton. Add or subtract layers to remain dry and warm.
- 2) Keep an eye on the weather. Winter weather is extremely variable and potentially dangerous. Leave when storms threaten.
- 3) Carry adequate food and water. Eat and drink to maintain body temperature.
- 4) Do not exceed your abilities or fitness level and always ski under control.
- 5) Travel with friends and inform someone at home of your plans.
- 6) Remain on marked trails to avoid off-trail hazards or getting lost.
- 7) Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Reflected sunlight can burn badly.
- 8) Pack extra clothing and a survival kit with essentials like a lighter, compass, whistle, chemical warmers, and an emergency shelter.



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DAVE WOOD

WINTER RECREATION AREA

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE



US Department of Agriculture
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre,
& Gunnison National Forests

Thank You For Your Cooperation