

**Brimstone & Buffalo River Cross Country Ski Trail Guide
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Ashton/Island Park Ranger District**

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

*** BUFFALO LOOP:**

2.1 miles. This trail winds eastward from Highway 20 on the south bank of the Buffalo River. At Tom's Creek the trail goes south and then west through lodgepole pine forests back toward the Island Park Ranger Station. Numerous species of waterfowl can be seen along the river. Parking is available at the Island Park Ranger Station, but you need a Park N' Ski permit.

*** MOOSE LOOP:**

2.5 miles. This loop offers an easy ski over gentle terrain along the banks of the Buffalo River. Watch for trumpeter swans, mallards, and Canada geese as you ski along the river.

*** EAGLE TRAIL:**

4.4 miles. This trail takes you from Moose Loop, across the Island Park Dam to a small Loop on the west side of the Henry's Fork River. Please be careful as you cross the Island Park Dam as vehicles and snowmachines share this part of the road.

*** BOGGY SPRINGS LOOP:**

6.2 miles from Highway 20. This loop is southwest of the Eagle Loop. This loop skirts a large spring area which slowly opens up and becomes boggy as spring approaches.

*** ANTELOPE PARK LOOP:**

7.7 miles from Highway 20. This loop with its gentle terrain is not technically difficult to ski, however at its farthest point it is 4 miles from the parking lot, thus you should be prepared for a long day trip. This loop reaches its southern extreme at a small waterfall which drops into the Henry's Fork.

*** THURMON RIDGE LOOP:**

5.8 miles from Highway 20. From the trail junction you make a steady climb up Thurmon Ridge. At the south end, you can take a 200' plunge off the ridge to the volcanic caldera below. The return loop takes you over rolling terrain back to the trail junction. This trail is not always groomed.

*** BOX CANYON TRAIL:**

Tour along the brim of Box Canyon. Below you see spectacular views of the Henry's Fork of the Snake. This trail connects two loops.

*** BRIMSTONE CONNECTOR TRAIL**

10.8 miles total from Pond's Lodge to Harriman State Park Visitor's Center. This trail is flat and long, providing a mixture of open and forested areas. CAUTION: The distance is 10.8 miles ONE WAY. Most difficult due to length.

SNOWSHOERS and PEOPLE with SLEDS

Snowshoers and people pulling sleds should stay to one side of the groomed trail in order not to destroy the set track.

PETS PROHIBITED

Dogs are prohibited on ski trails. They damage groomed trails and tend to scare off the wildlife.



**USE COMMON SENSE
AND COURTESY WHEN
ENCOUNTERING OTHERS**



LEAVE NO TRACE

Winter time presents unique challenges in minimizing your impact on the land. Please follow these recommendations during your ski trip.

Human Waste

In winter, with snow covered ground, utilize toilets where available. Where toilets are not available deposit fecal material on the snow surface at least 200 feet from all water sources in areas not likely to be discovered by others. Burn or pack out used toilet paper. Yellow snow creates a visual impact, always cover urine stains with snow.

WILDLIFE

Give animals the right of way. Deer, elk, and moose work hard to survive during the winter.

They also may become aggressive and charge at you if disturbed.

Observe them from a distance.

FROSTBITE

Frostbite is caused by exposure of skin to subfreezing temperatures. It can be recognized by loss of feeling and a dead white appearance of the skin. If affected, DO NOT RUB. Restore body temperature as rapidly as possible, preferably in a water bath of 105° or less. Seek a location, as soon as possible, where treatment can be obtained.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Ashton Ranger Station	(208) 652-7442
Island Park Ranger Station	(208) 558-7301
Harriman State Park	(208) 558-7368
Sheriff	911
Ambulance	911
Idaho State Police	(208) 525-7277
Cellular	Dial *ISP

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- * Leave word with someone on your destination and time of return.
- * Proper clothing to suit weather conditions. Use layers of clothing.
- * Extra food
- * Matches
- * First Aid Kit
- * Candle and Lighter
- * Flashlight and Whistle
- * Tarp for temporary shelter
- * Map and Compass
- * Hatchet
- * Water
- * Know the weather forecast!

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is the mental and physical breakdown from overexposure to cold and/or wet conditions. Signs may include shivering, disorientation, stumbling, and drowsiness. To treat; restore body temperature with warm drinks, body contact, and blankets. Prevent hypothermia by eating before you leave, staying warm and dry and avoiding exhaustion.