

SKIING STEMPLE PASS

At an altitude of 6376 feet, Stemple Pass offers some of the best cross-country skiing in west-central Montana. Here on the southern rim of the Blackfoot Valley, the snow lies deep from early December until late March, often reaching depths of four to five feet. This brochure is an introduction to cross-country skiing opportunities at Stemple Pass, and describes the four marked trails available there.

SKIER SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- Although several of the ski trails at Stemple Pass are marked, they are not groomed. Skiers must be alert for branches, rocks and other obstructions, especially on the sides of trails. Ski under control at all times.
- Check the weather forecast and plan your trip accordingly.
- Dress appropriately by wearing layers of clothing which can be adjusted to prevailing conditions. Avoid tight-fitting clothes and boots which may restrict circulation. Keep dry.
- Set the pace to suit the least able member of your party.
- Beware of hypothermia – the mental and physical collapse that accompanies the chilling of the body's core.
- Check your watch frequently and be conscious of the time required to cover trail distance. Allow time for unseen problems that may slow your pace, such as deep snow and windfall.
- Be courteous; yield to approaching skiers – skiers climbing a hill should yield to skiers descending the slope.

LITTER AND SANITATION

- Litter and debris can detract from the quality of a recreation experience. Help others enjoy the Stemple Pass area by carrying out what you carry in.
- Avoid leaving human waste near any water course. If you are in a group, avoid concentrating wastes.
- Dogs ruin ski tracks and are sometimes a nuisance to skiers; please leave them at home.

USER RESPONSIBILITY: Backcountry travelers may encounter a variety of dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to inform yourself about these inherent risks and take appropriate precautions to prevent injury or damage.

Although the ski trails are not located within an avalanche area, skiers should be cautious. No one can predict avalanche conditions with certainty. During periods of high or extreme avalanche hazards, backcountry travel is not recommended and should be confined to avalanche-free areas. **PLAY SAFE!** Stay on marked trails.

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL THE LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT 911.

Skiers needing other assistance may call 447-8293. The nearest public telephones are in Lincoln and Canyon Creek.

Any comments about this trail system would be appreciated, and should be directed to:

District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest
1569 Highway 200
Lincoln, MT 59639
(406) 362-7000

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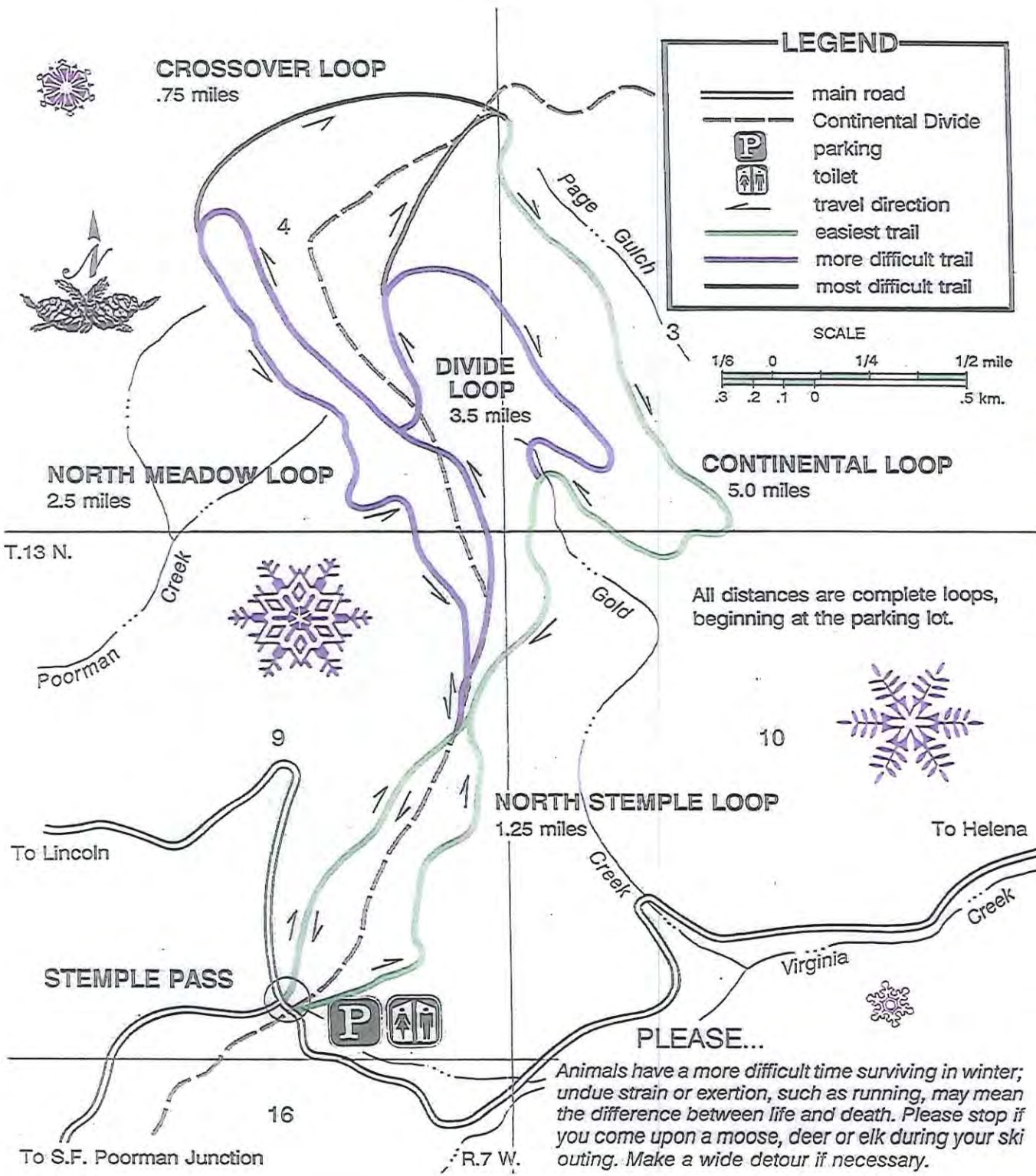
CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

STEMPLE PASS



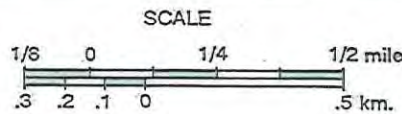
HELENA NATIONAL FOREST
Lincoln Ranger District





LEGEND

- main road
- Continental Divide
- parking
- toilet
- travel direction
- easiest trail
- more difficult trail
- most difficult trail



MARKED TRAILS OF STEMPLE PASS

- NORTH STEMPLE LOOP (1.25 mi.) Easiest**- with an easy, gentle grade. Maximum elevation gain is 35 feet.
- NORTH MEADOW LOOP (3.5 mi.) More difficult**- elevation gain of 584 feet. Opportunities for telemark practice in the meadows returning to Stemple Pass.
- DIVIDE LOOP (3.5 mi.) More difficult**- steep areas. For intermediate skiers who like a little more challenge.
- CONTINENTAL LOOP (5.0 mi.) Most difficult**. Stemple's longest and most challenging trail, with a few steep pitches and sharp turns.
- CROSSOVER LOOP (.75 mi.) Most difficult**- steep slopes and long distance from the trail-head. Excellent opportunity for telemark skiers in heavy snowpack and large rolling drifts.

RATING THE TRAILS

Trails are rated using Forest Service guidelines for normal snow conditions. Ratings are relative to this area. Trails rated "Easiest" may be difficult for some.



Easiest - Suitable for beginners. Gentle grades and easy turns.



More Difficult - Suitable for intermediate or advanced skiers. Steeper grades and sharper turns.



Most Difficult - For expert or advanced intermediate skiers. Requires endurance and/or ability to turn abruptly and stop on all kinds of terrain.

PLEASE...
Animals have a more difficult time surviving in winter; undue strain or exertion, such as running, may mean the difference between life and death. Please stop if you come upon a moose, deer or elk during your ski outing. Make a wide detour if necessary.