

Snowmobile parking areas enlarged before 2016 season, Rabbit Ears Pass area, Highway 40, CO

GROOMED SNOWMOBILE ROUTES

Rabbit Ears north to Buffalo Pass – From one of the snowmobile parking areas on Rabbit Ears Pass, travel north on 1A Trail along the Continental Divide. This trail has many large areas to play off the groomed trail. When the 1A trail reaches the Communication Towers, it splits. 1D Trail goes to the west down the Buffalo Pass road toward Dry Lake parking area. 1E Trail goes east to the Grizzly West parking area. Return on 1A Trail.

Rabbit Ears to Grizzly Creek to Rabbit Ears East – This is the longest grooming loop and starts from Rabbit Ears Pass and travels north on 1A Trail. At the Communication Towers the trail splits. 1D Trail travels west to Dry Lake parking area and 1E Trail travels east to Grizzly West parking area. The grooming loop usually travels south on 1F Trail back to Rabbit Ears Pass. 1A trail has a lot of off-trail riding. 1E and 1F trail are mainly in the trees and quiet.

Steamboat Snowmobile Tours Loops – From the Dumont parking area, 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D Trails can be combined to cover a range of about 3 to 15 miles. There are sections that wind through trees and other sections that are more wide open. There is an approximately 150 yard steep hill that is downhill if travelling counter-clock-wise on 5A or uphill if travelling clock-wise. There is also a nice overlook on the east side of 5A. Expect to see heavy traffic from Steamboat Snowmobile Tours and cross country skiers.

Latigo Loop – From one of the snowmobile parking areas on Rabbit Ears Pass, travel south on 1A Trail, which is mostly in the trees. Buffalo Park is a large open area that can be a good area to have your packed lunch about half way to Latigo Lodge. Return on 1A Trail. This trail is very quiet throughout the season.

Routt Power Riders’ goal is to groom the above loops once a week. For recent grooming reports of Snowmobile trails check Routt Power Riders’ web site (routtpowderriders.com)

RELATED WEB SITES

- Medicine Bow/Routt National Forests www.fs.usda.gov/mbr
- Forest Service National Avalanche Center www.fsavalanche.org
- Colorado Avalanche Information Center avalanche.state.co.us
- National Weather Service www.weather.gov
- Local weather stations: Steamboat Springs, Rabbit Ears Peak, Buffalo Pass, Walden-Jackson County Airport
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife cpw.state.co.us
- Routt Power Riders routtpowderriders.com
- Colorado Snowmobile Association www.coloradosledcity.com

BE PREPARED

Back country weather can change rapidly. It is your responsibility to know weather & snow conditions and adjust plans accordingly. Carry the proper gear (appropriate clothing, food and water for emergency survival) and be prepared for self rescue. It is highly recommended that every individual travelling in or below avalanche terrain wear an avalanche transceiver and have a shovel and avalanche probe. Know where you are going, carry a map & compass and/or a GPS. Let someone know where you are going. Don’t travel alone.

There is no avalanche control. Be familiar with the Backcountry Avalanche Forecast and history of the season’s snowpack posted and discussed on Colorado Avalanche Information Center avalanche.state.co.us/index.php or www.fsavalanche.org websites. Avalanche Awareness training is provided by some FS permittees including Steamboat Powder Cats, Colorado Mountain College, and Ski Haus.

When riding on trails, always anticipate oncoming traffic and stay to the right.

Snowmobiling and alcohol and drugs do not mix.

Check ice conditions. No ice travel is ever completely safe.

Ride safe so you can ride again!

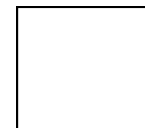
Best practices for riding Fat Bikes on Snowmobile Trails in HPBE RD

- ◇ Use only purpose-built Fat Bikes with enough flotation and traction allowing you to travel over snow safely without leaving ruts that may affect other users. Use wide tires — 3.5 inches or wider and tire pressure less than 10 pounds per square inch.
- ◇ Do not ride in soft conditions. If you leave a rut greater than 2 inches, it’s too soft. Hard pack conditions on trails with 2 inches of new snow is OK, with more than 2 inches you can’t climb or descend very well.
- ◇ Let tracks set-up in the mornings when trails are recently groomed.
- ◇ Other users may not be familiar with Fat Bikes and potential for collisions exist, especially in areas with snowmobile use. Be prepared & recreate at your own risk.
- ◇ When riding on snowmobile trails, use a front white blinker and a rear red blinker at all times. Wear reflective material on both the front and rear of your body.
- ◇ Be aware of trail grooming operations. Yield to snowcats and groomers.
- ◇ Stay to the far right of the trail and yield to snowmobiles. Oncoming snowmobiles may be travelling at fast speeds — BE ALERT.
- ◇ Use extreme caution when riding at night. Be visible, wear reflective clothing and use bright lights
- ◇ Be friendly! Fat bikers are the newest trail users. Trails are groomed with funds from snowmobile registrations. Be courteous and open to suggestions from snowmobile riders if you want their support.
- ◇ Support you local snowmobile club and consider donating to trail grooming and maintenance efforts.

Map



Brochure



Buffalo, Rabbit Ears, and Gore Passes Snowmobile Information

Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District
 Medicine Bow–Routt National Forests
 925 Weiss Drive
 Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
 970-870-2299

GENERAL INFORMATION

This snowmobile trail network is provided by the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears and Parks Ranger Districts. Grooming is done by Routt Powder Riders and is funded by snowmobile registration fees collected by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Snowmobile grooming requires at least 18 inches of base and is generally done from mid-December through the beginning of April. To insure a safe and pleasant experience for yourself and others, please observe these rules and suggested safety practices:

1. Park only in designated areas. These areas are clearly shown on the map on the other side of this brochure and identified by large trailhead parking signs.
2. Snowmobiles that are operated on public lands in Colorado must be registered with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (cpw.state.co.us). Registrations fees fund trail grooming, maintenance, construction, trailheads, parking areas, trail signs and maps.
3. **Do not operate motorized snow equipment** in the **Mount Zirkel** or **Sarvis Creek Wilderness** or in **designated non-motorized areas** in the **Buffalo Pass Area** or on the **West Summit of Rabbit Ears Pass**.
4. Snowmobiles are permitted on groomed snowmobile trails and off trail where there is a **minimum of a 12 inch base** in motorized areas.
5. Be sure snowmobiles are in top operating condition before you head out.
6. It is your responsibility to know where you are and understand the regulations. Failure to follow regulations could result in fines. Maps posted at trailheads are available at the Forest Service office in Steamboat Springs and on the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forests and Routt Power Riders websites (www.fs.usda.gov/mbr and routtpowderriders.co).
7. All winter recreationist within the Buffalo Pass Winter Backcountry Permit Area are required to obtain and carry with them either a free Day Use pass (available from Dry Lake Parking area) or a free Season Permit (available from Forest Service office in Steamboat Springs). Within the Combined Commercial/Mixed Use Area, all over-the-snow motorized vehicles must stay on designated routes.
8. Cross country skiers, snowshoers, and fat tire bikers: You are welcome to use snowmobile trails, but move to the side of the trail and be aware of other users.