

Grand Teton

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway

National Park
PO Drawer 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012
307 739-3300

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing



Winter Safety

In an Emergency
Call 911 or 739-3300 (Park Dispatch).

For Your Safety

- Be cautious about skiing on frozen lakes. Thin ice, overflow slush and holes present hazards throughout the winter.
- Wind makes you colder. Take the chill factor into consideration and dress accordingly. Carry extra clothing.
- Know your limitations.
- Tell someone where you will be and when you expect to return.
- Prepare your car for winter travel with a shovel, chains, a tow rope, a sleeping bag or blanket, extra clothes and food.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is caused by exposure to cold and is aggravated by wind, exhaustion and wet clothing. Watch for the warning signs of hypothermia: uncontrollable shivering,

incoherent speech, lethargy and apparent exhaustion. Help the victim immediately. For mild cases, give the victim warm, non-alcoholic drinks and dry clothes. For serious cases, keep the victim warm, dry and awake. Put the victim, unclothed, in a sleeping bag with another person, also unclothed, and give warm drinks.

Avalanche Hazard

Steep slopes are subject to avalanches, depending on wind loading and the stability of the snowpack. All backcountry travelers should use good route selection and avoid known avalanche paths, steep canyons and gullies. For current avalanche conditions, check at the Moose Visitor Center (8a-5p) or call 733-2664 for the 24-hour Bridger-Teton National Forest backcountry avalanche report and weather forecast.

Regulations

- ✓ Pets are not allowed in the backcountry. Dogs on a leash or in harness pulling a dog sled or skier may travel on unplowed portions of roads open to snowmobiles and on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake.
- ✓ Overnight ski tourers, ski mountaineers and snowshoers must register at park headquarters in Moose and obtain a free permit.

- ✓ Wildlife harassment is prohibited. Winter is stressful on wildlife. Approaching too close to wildlife increases their stress. Retrace your steps or detour to avoid disturbing an animal.

Winter Checklist

Do you have the following?

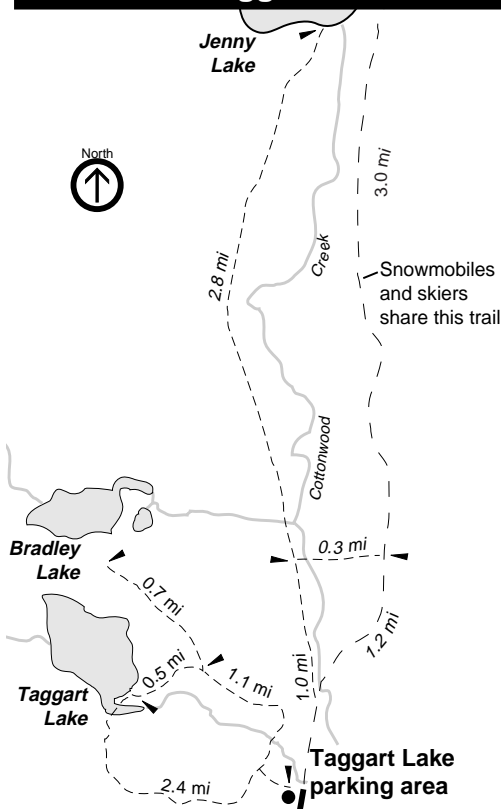
- Water First Aid Kit
- High energy snack food
- Layered clothing (wool or synthetics—no cotton)
- Hat and mittens or gloves
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Map and compass
- Extra clothing (gloves, socks, sweater)
- Extra food
- Extra ski tip and pole basket
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Watch (be aware of how long your trip will take and allow enough time to return before dark)
- Fire starting materials
- Whistle
- Additional waxes and scraper
- Knife, tools or tape for repairs
- Mylar space blanket
- Check out the avalanche conditions at <http://www.sisna.com/jackson/bcaf>

Closed Areas

Areas closed to all oversnow travel to protect wildlife

- ✗ Snake River bottom from Menor's Ferry at Moose north to Moran Junction
- ✗ Buffalo Fork of the Snake River in the park
- ✗ Willow Flats, Kelly Hill, Uhl Hill and Wolff Ridge

Trails from Taggart Lake Parking Area



Taggart Lake Parking Area

Drive 4.5 mi. northwest of Moose Junction on the Teton Park Road to the Taggart Lake parking area at the end of the plowed road.

Jenny Lake Trail

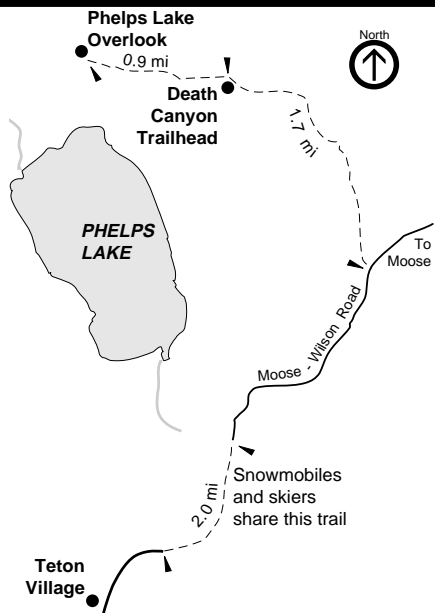
Easy. Roundtrip: 7.6 mi., Elevation change: 100'. Follow the unplowed road 1/4-mile to Cottonwood Creek (be alert for snowmobiles), then ski north along the creek. The trail follows the west side of the creek and crosses several large meadows, then gently climbs a low ridge of glacial moraine and ends at an overlook of Jenny Lake. On clear days, the trail provides close views of the snow-draped peaks as it skirts the base of the Teton Range. The terrain is mostly level and is excellent for beginners. Skiing on Cottonwood Creek is not recommended. Return via the same trail. Another option is to follow the unplowed road (not flagged) to the east side of Jenny Lake (be alert for snowmobiles). To reach the flagged ski trail from the unplowed road, cross the bridge over Cottonwood Creek and head west along the edge of Jenny Lake.

Taggart Lake-Beaver Creek Loop

Difficult. Taggart Lake and return – roundtrip: 3.2 mi., elevation change: 277'. Taggart Lake/Beaver Creek Loop – roundtrip: 4 mi., elevation change: 397'.

This loop through a forest that burned in 1985 has steep sections. From the parking area, ski directly toward the mountains. Turn north (right) and follow the trail as it climbs over the moraine (ridge of glacial debris). The trail forks in about one mile. The right fork climbs 0.7 mile for a view down to Taggart Lake. The left fork takes you directly to Taggart Lake nestled at the foot of the Tetons. If you return the way you came, you will encounter a steep, treelined section that is at times icy and treacherous, requiring downhill skiing ability. Another option from Taggart Lake is to turn south, cross the bridge over the lake outlet, and follow the trail that climbs the moraine. Then ski down the steep open slope and follow the trail to the east to return to the parking area.

Moose-Wilson Road Area



Moose-Wilson Road Area

The Moose-Wilson Road connects Moose and Teton Village, but plowing of the road ends one mile north of Teton Village. The trailhead for Phelps Lake is located 3.1 mi. south of Moose on the (west) right side of the Moose-Wilson Road and is accessible by vehicle only from Moose at the north end. The skiable section of the Moose-Wilson Road starts 6 mi. south of Moose and may also be reached by driving one mile north of Teton Village.

Phelps Lake Overlook

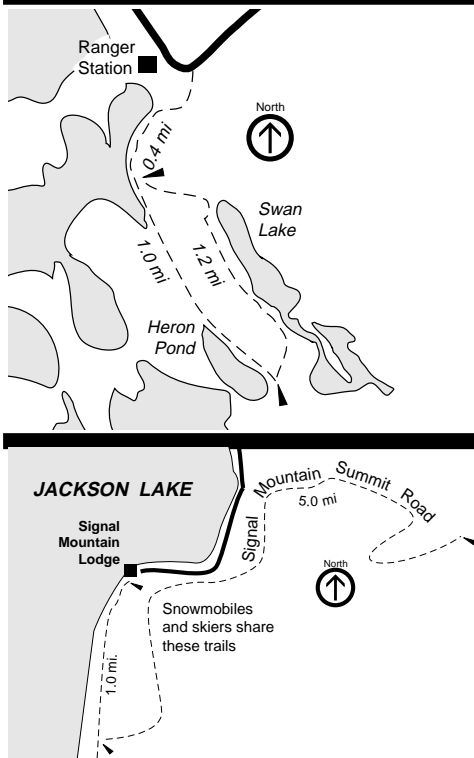
Moderate. Roundtrip: 5.2 mi., elevation change: 520'. The trail follows a narrow unplowed road through a forest of mixed conifers for the first 1.7 mi., making a

gradual ascent to the Death Canyon trailhead. Then the trail climbs westward through a lodgepole pine forest and over an open slope to reach the overlook of Phelps Lake framed by towering Douglas firs. Do not continue beyond the overlook because of high avalanche hazard. The return trip is all downhill. When the trail is well packed, skiing can be fast.

Moose-Wilson Road

Easy. Roundtrip: 4 mi., elevation change: 100'. Park at either end of this unplowed portion of road. The trail follows a winding unplowed road (be alert for snowmobiles) and is mostly flat but has enough changes in terrain and scenery to make it interesting. This trail through conifer and aspen forest is a good choice for beginners.

Colter Bay and Signal Mountain Areas



Colter Bay Area

Colter Bay is 10 mi. north of Moran Junction. Trailhead is located 300 ft. south of the Colter Bay Ranger Station. Park in front of the Ranger Station or near the trailhead on the spur road from the main highway.

Swan Lake-Heron Pond Loop

Easy. Roundtrip: 2.6 mi., elevation change: 40'. The trail first crosses an unplowed parking area, then passes the summer Hermitage Point Trailhead. Continue to the right of the trailhead sign and follow an old road for the first 0.4 mile. The trail then forks to either Swan Lake or Heron Pond. Ski 2.2 mi. in either direction on the gently sloping loop trail to return to this junction. Skiing on the ponds is not recommended. View the jagged Teton Range and Jackson Lake from the edge of Heron Pond. Beyond Heron Pond, unflagged trails lead to Hermitage Point; this loop adds 5.8 mi. (60' elevation) to the trip.

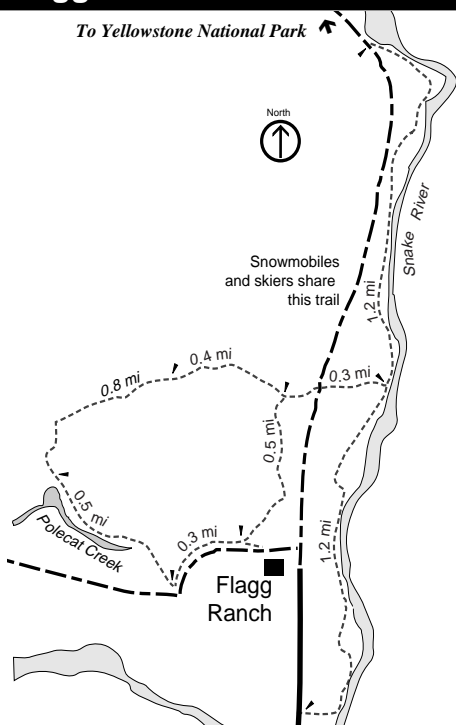
Signal Mountain Area

Signal Mountain is located 26 mi. north of Moose Junction (8 mi. west of Moran Junction). To reach the trailhead, follow Highways 26-89-191 north to Moran Junction, then 5.0 mi. west to Jackson Lake Junction and south 3.0 mi. on the Teton Park Road.

Signal Mountain Summit Road

Moderate. Roundtrip: 12 mi., elevation change: 700'. Park near Signal Mountain Lodge (closed in winter). Ski the unplowed road (be alert for snowmobiles) southward for approximately one mile until you reach the unplowed road that goes eastward (left) to the summit of Signal Mountain. The Signal Mountain Summit Road winds gradually uphill through conifer forests. The summit affords panoramic views of Jackson Hole and the Teton Range. The return trip is all downhill.

Flagg Ranch Area



Flagg Ranch Area

Flagg Ranch is 26 mi. north of Moran Junction. The trailhead is located near the northwest corner of the Flagg Ranch parking area.

Polecat Creek Loop Trail

Easy. 2.5 mi., elevation change: 50'. Take the loop in either direction. The south side of the loop parallels the Grassy Lake road, which is open to snowmobiles. The west side of the loop follows a bench above Polecat Creek, kept open by thermal activity. The north and east sides of the loop traverse a dense conifer forest of lodgepole pines, sub-alpine firs and Engelmann spruce.

Flagg Canyon Trail North

Difficult. Roundtrip 4.0 mi., elevation change: 120'. Follow the east side of the Polecat Creek Loop Trail and travel north for 0.5 mi. Turn east (right) at the marked trail junction. The trail crosses the groomed snowmobile trail; use caution and

watch for snowmobiles and snowcoaches. The flagged trail continues on the east side of the road and leads to the Flagg Canyon Trail, which follows the Snake River. Take the Flagg Canyon Trail north (left) to reach the South Gate of Yellowstone National Park. This section of trail contains a few short steep sections that can easily be avoided. **Use caution and avoid cornices where the trail follows the edge of the cliff above the Snake River.** Return via the same route or take the groomed snowmobile trail.

Flagg Canyon Trail South

Easy. Roundtrip 4.0 mi., elevation change: 40'. Reach the Flagg Canyon Trail as described for Flagg Canyon Trail north. At the junction with the Flagg Canyon Trail, turn south (right). The southern half of the Flagg Canyon Trail leads 1.2 mi. to end at the highway near the bridge over the Snake River. The trail follows rolling terrain and is suitable for beginners. Return via the same route.

Please Remember!

For the safety and enjoyment of all...

- **Do not walk on ski trails.** If a section of trail is too steep for you to ski down safely, leave your skis on and side-step down or detour around the steep section.
- Yield to faster skiers and those skiing downhill.

- Step out of the track when taking a break.
- Orange flagging, orange metal tags or orange blazes on trees mark most trails. Unplowed roads are not flagged. Trails are not groomed, but are usually well packed except when new snow has obliterated all signs of travel. Be sure to follow trail

markers—other skiers may leave tracks to destinations of their own choosing. As you ski or snowshoe, look around to familiarize yourself with the surroundings for the return trip.