

Ski Trails In Yellowstone's Northwest Corner

There are several great Yellowstone National Park ski opportunities accessible from trailheads along US Highway 191 between West Yellowstone and Big Sky. Here are a few suggestions:

Telemark Meadows: Look for a plowed parking area on the west side of Highway 191 in the vicinity of milepost 18. This is a great spot to practice your telemark turn. The slopes vary from gentle to steep and offer views of the Gallatin and Madison Ranges.

Bighorn Pass Trail: Look for a small plowed parking area on the east side of Highway 191 in the vicinity of milepost 20. This trail heads east across wide open flat areas and then heads into the woods along the Gallatin River. A perfect spring crust cruising destination.

Fawn Pass Trail: Look for a large plowed parking area on the east side of Highway 191 in the vicinity of milepost 22. This popular trail crosses the Gallatin River and winds through forest and meadows as it slowly gains elevation. It's a great spot to see wintering elk. This trail intersects the Bighorn Pass Trail after 8 km. Another perfect spring crust cruising destination!

Specimen Creek Trail: Look for the turnout to this trailhead on the east side of Highway 191 in the vicinity of milepost 27. This enjoyable trek follows Specimen Creek as it gradually rises through forest and meadow. Look for standing petrified trees on the exposed ridges above.

Other Trails Around Hebgen Lake

Red Canyon Trail: Difficult walk; trail is all uphill from its trailhead in Red Canyon to the Cabin Creek Divide. A short trail but has many switchbacks. Trail stays in the canyon until it reaches the divide, then opens up into meadows.

Kirkwood Trail: Difficult walk; trail stays in the canyon for awhile then breaks out onto open hillside, then into the timber on top. The first 3 miles of the trail may be used for motorcycling but only for skillful bikers. After 3 miles the trail enters the Cabin Creek Management Area of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness (no vehicles)

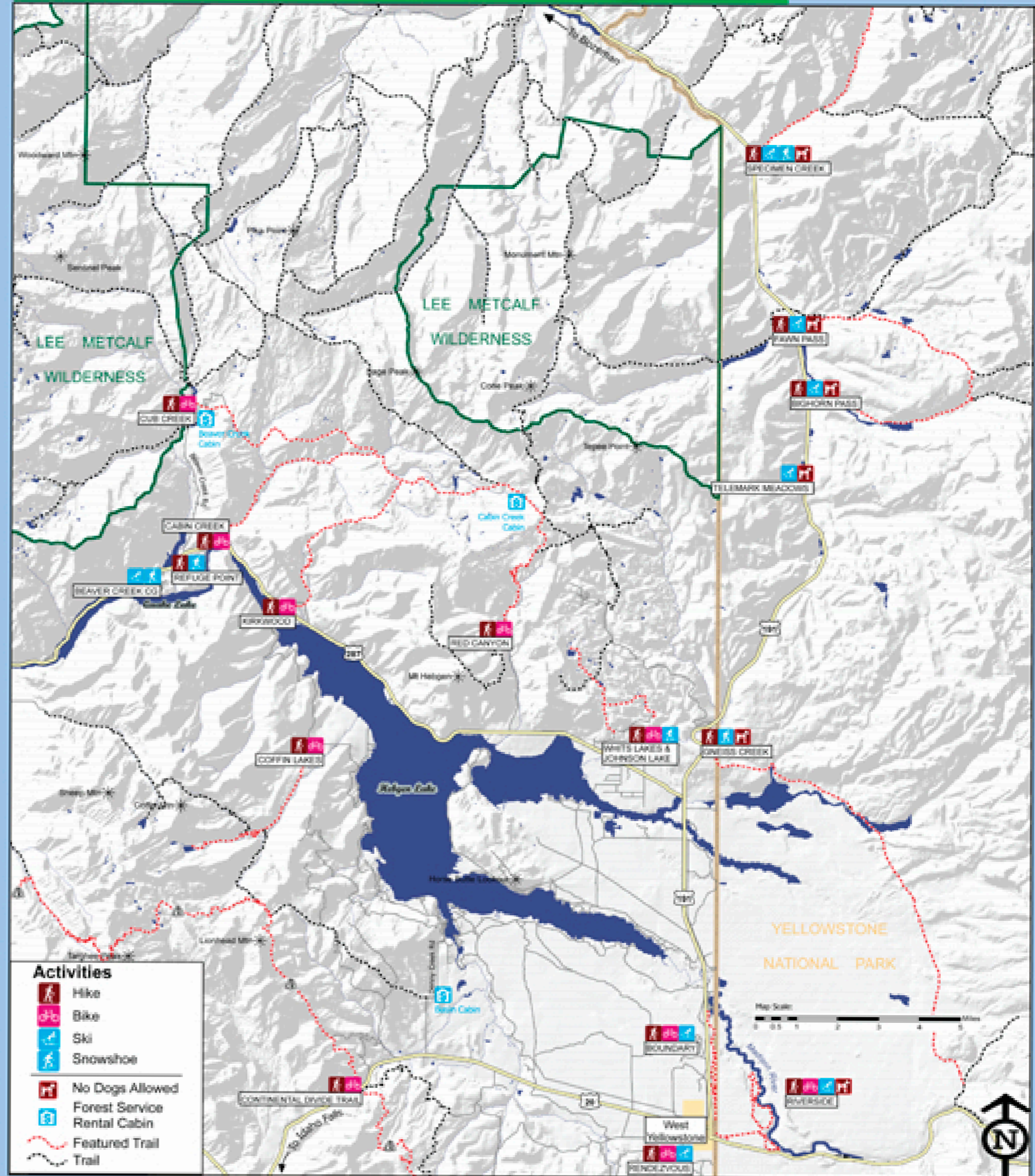
Cabin Creek Trail: Moderate walk; trail starts at the Cabin Creek campground and stays in a canyon following Cabin Creek. After about one mile the trail enters the Cabin Creek Management Area portion of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The trail is poorly marked where it goes through the meadows and at creek crossing.

Cub Creek Trail: Moderate walk; trail starts just above the Beaver Creek Cabin, at the Timber Creek Road. It follows this road awhile then leaves the road. The trail is well marked and signed where it leaves the road. Trail stays in the timber most of the time, but has some open meadow and hillsides.

Coffin Lake Trail: Easy walk; half-day walks. Trail leads to Coffin Lakes at 7500 feet elevation. Trailhead is at Watkins Creek. First 2 1/2 miles follows old road.

Continental Divide Trail: Easy walk; trail starts at Basin Station. Excellent for half-day or full-day walk. Lots of open meadows, wildflowers, and wildlife. Trail comes out on Targhee Pass at the old Lionhead Ski Hill Road.

North of West Yellowstone & Around Hebgen Lake



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Madison Lake District of the Gallatin National Forest

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West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation (WSEF)

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8. Visitor Information Center

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce

www.fishbase.org

Contact Information

This annual weekend in early March offers classic and freestyle races of 5-50K lengths for a variety of age classes. The following morning, the Youth Ski Festival offers kids their own special ski games and activities.

Yellowstone Rendezvous Race & Youth Ski Festival
The annual weekend in early March offers classic and freestyle races of 5-50K lengths for a variety of age classes. The following morning, the Youth Ski Festival offers kids their own special ski games and activities.

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Held annually during Thanksgiving, the best of fall wildlife and scenery in Yellowstone. Round-trip supported tour from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful offers the best of fall wildlife and scenery in Yellowstone.

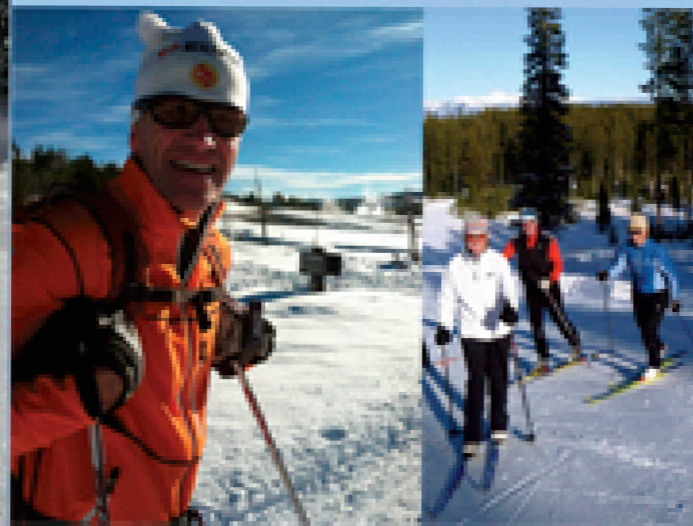
West Yellowstone to Old Faithful Fall Cycle Tour
This 60 mile round-trip supported tour from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful offers the best of fall wildlife and scenery in Yellowstone. Round-trip supported tour from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful offers the best of fall wildlife and scenery in Yellowstone.

West Yellowstone "Muscle Powered" Events
Yellowstone Spring Cycle Only Days. Bicycle into Yellowstone. Round-trip supported tour from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful offers the best of fall wildlife and scenery in Yellowstone.

Ski • Snowshoe • Bike • Hike

Trails

West Yellowstone
Montana



Riverside & Boundary Trails

Riverside Ski Trail

The Riverside Trail is groomed for touring or classic skiing. There are also large portions of the trail that are "skier-defined". You can access the Riverside Trail from the east side of Boundary Street approximately one half-block north of Yellowstone Avenue (look for trail signs visible through a gap in the snow bank). The trail provides skiers with access to Yellowstone National Park. Treat yourself to the splendor of the Gallatin Range and keep your eyes open for elk, bison and moose grazing along the Madison River.

The trail has three sections. The first section winds through the trees and then runs along a power line for close to a mile. This part of the trail is completely flat and straight. At the eastern end of this section is an open area that gives you a great view of the Madison River and Mt. Holmes. This is the point at which the other two sections of the trail start.

Upriver Loop: The shorter upriver loop is to the right and the longer downriver loop is to the left. Both loops offer great views and the chance to see eagles and other wildlife. The upriver loop takes you down a hill,

into the trees and eventually winds to the right, climbs a hill and returns you to the clearing at the end of the first section. This part of the trail is not groomed.

Downriver Loop: The downriver loop takes you down a hill, brings you across an open meadow to the Barns Pools (where grooming stops), winds along the Madison, swings to the left, climbs a hill and also returns you to the clearing at the end of the first section.

The Boundary Trail

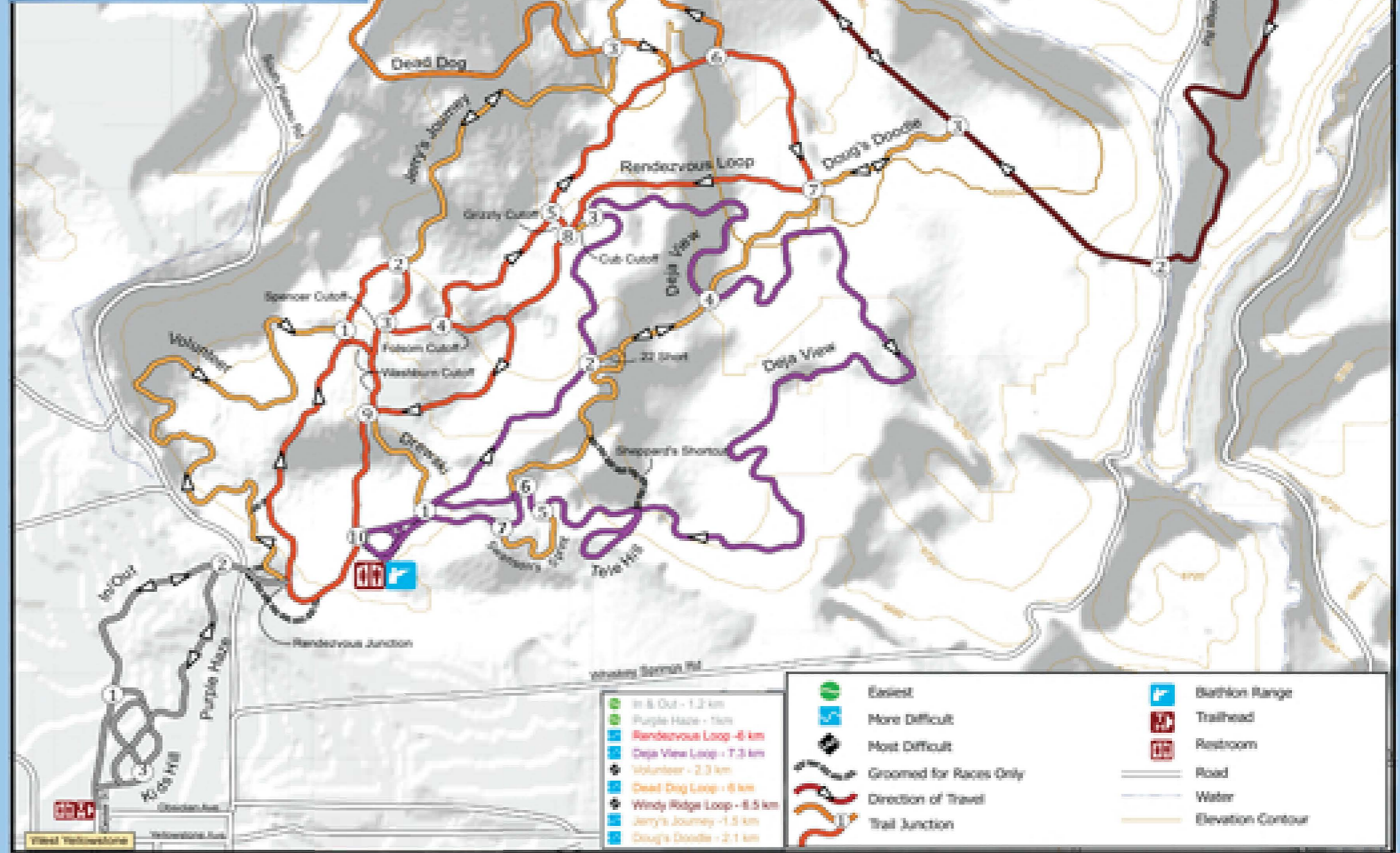
Running 7.9 km parallel to Yellowstone Park's western border, this easy trail is groomed to accommodate classic cross-country skiers and snow-shoers alike. The Boundary Trail can be accessed from Boundary Street in West Yellowstone, the truck pull-out on Highway 191/287, and Baker's Hole Campground. Note: though this trail is pet-friendly, dogs must be under control and picked up after.



Rendezvous Ski Trail System



Dogs Restricted on Groomed Snow Trails



The Rendezvous Ski Trails

The Rendezvous Ski Trail System includes between 55 and 50 kilometers of professionally groomed cross-country ski trails. Winding through the Gallatin National Forest, this premier trail system is groomed from early November through late March and often into April. All trails are groomed for classic and skate skiing.

Approach Trail (The In And Out) - 1.2 KM: This trail is totally flat and starts at the distinctive Rendezvous Ski Trails archway. The archway is located on the southern edge of West Yellowstone where Geyser and Obsidian Streets intersect. The In and Out is a great area for warming up and for practicing your technique. Follow this trail out across the South Plateau Road to the main trailhead.

Kids Loop/Purple Maze - 0.9 KM: This section of the trail system is mostly flat and parallels the Approach Trail until they come together

before crossing the South Plateau Road. Cutoffs link the two trails at several different points. The kids play hill can be accessed from this trail.

The Rendezvous Loop - 4 KM: This loop is highly recommended for beginner and intermediate skiers. The trail includes several climbs and descents and offers four chances to shorten the loop at cutoff points. The first, Washburn Cutoff, is at .9 km; the second, Spender Cutoff, is at 1.4 km; the third, Folsom Cutoff, is at 1.6 km; the fourth, Grizzly, is at 2.2 km. The Rendezvous Loop is a great choice on windy or snowy days as the thick timber offers plenty of protection from the elements.

Deja View - 7.3 KM: This trail is best for intermediate and advanced skiers. Deja View also offers access to the tele hill - a favorite play area for locals.

Volunteer - 2.3 KM: This twisting, turning, dynamic trail continuously climbs and drops and boasts spectacular views of Mt. Holmes and the

Gallatin Range in Yellowstone National Park.

Dead Dog - 4 KM: Dead Dog starts at the top of Hill 191 on the Rendezvous Loop. This challenging loop takes you through forest and meadow with rewarding views of the Gallatin Range and Yellowstone National Park. Dead Dog rejoins the Rendezvous Loop at Intersection 10 at the base of Hill 191.

Windy Ridge - 8.5 KM: Windy is a regional favorite that is generally groomed from late December (snow conditions permitting) through the end of the winter. This trail winds through the timber and includes some challenging climbs, descents and turns. On a clear day, it also offers incredible views of Lionhead and the Madison Range.

Interconnecting Loops:

Jerry's Journey - connects Rendezvous Trails to Dead Dog Loop
Doug's Doodle - connects Windy Ridge to Deja View Loop.