

Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area White River National Forest



WELCOME TO THE VAIL PASS WINTER RECREATION AREA
This recreation area is managed by the USDA Forest Service as part of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004. The purpose of this program is to collect fees that help maintain and manage recreational areas and enhance visitor services and experiences on some public lands that receive high visitor numbers and use. Ninety-five percent of fees collected remain at the site for these purposes instead of returning to the Federal Treasury. The remaining five percent is distributed among other fee sites and used for administrative purposes.

WHY A FEE?
Outdoor recreation is more popular than ever before. Increasing numbers means the need for increased management. Recreation fees provide crucial resources that allow federal agencies to respond to increased demand on federal lands. For over 15 years the Forest Service, working with the Vail Pass Task Force (a citizen's group) has surveyed the users, listened to their concerns and observed what has occurred in the backcountry. This has enabled both entities to formulate a plan of management that aspires to meet the visitor's demands as well as the area's needs.

Beginning in 1990 with the first signs, each subsequent year has seen improvements that reflect the changing needs and suggestions of winter recreationists in the Vail Pass backcountry. Prior to the 2005/2006 winter season, these services were funded by money collected under the Fee Demonstration Act of 1996 or through grants and donations. These funding sources are either no longer available or are no longer adequate to properly manage the area.

VAIL PASS AREA FACTS:
Total Area – 55,000 acres.
Highest elevation – Elk Mountain, 12,693 feet.
Lowest elevation – Camp Hale, 9,200 feet.
Total length of motorized trails – 67 miles.
Total length of groomed trails – 50 miles.
Total length of non-motorized trails – 52 miles.
Total area of motorized-assisted ski terrain – 3,300 acres.

SEE SCHEDULE
Day Use Pass - \$6 per person, per day.
Season Pass - \$40 per person (non-transferable).
Golden Age and Golden Passports receive 50% discount (cardholders only).
Please make checks payable to: US Forest Service.
Self pay fee stations located at Vail Pass, Corral Creek, Red Cliff, Pando, Camp Hale Main and Camp Hale South trailheads.
Fees collected 7 days a week.
Passes must be displayed.
Violations punishable pursuant to 16 USC 551, 36 CFR 261.17.

KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!
It is each user's responsibility to know his or her location in relation to designated non-motorized or motorized only areas. Carry a topographic map and keep track of landmarks such as mountain peaks, valleys, rivers and numbered non-motorized or multiple use routes.

LOOK FOR THESE SIGNS!
No snowmobiles, no ski, blue diamond, red diamond, stay on trail, Trails and routes may also be marked with orange, brown or blue snowpoles. Pay attention to additional informational signs posted by USFS rangers.

FOREST SERVICE PATROLS:
Holy Cross and Dillon Ranger District forest officers patrol the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area on snowmobiles and skis. They make contact with users to provide information, record visitor numbers, check day passes, verify snowmobile registration. Rangers also offer assistance in emergencies.

RULES OF THE TRAIL:
Pass left and stay single file on the right for all multiple use-trails.

BACKCOUNTRY ETHICS:
Pack out your trash.
Stomp your tracks. Allow everyone to enjoy a trackless powder experience.
Be respectful to wildlife. Pass quietly or detour if you encounter animals.
Respect each other's rights to be here and enjoy the backcountry.

SAFETY TIPS
Here are some basic backcountry tips that could help prevent an accident, or increase the chance of a live rescue should an avalanche occur.

- Call your local avalanche hotline.
- Travel with experienced partners.
- Carry and know how to use avalanche rescue gear.
- Expose only one person at a time to potential avalanche danger.
- Plan an escape route.
- Never cut above anyone below you when crossing steep terrain.
- Be aware that avalanches can be triggered from the bottom of a slope.
- Look for recent avalanche activity and cracking and collapsing snow that signal an unstable snowpack.
- Take an avalanche course from a qualified instructor.

IN AN EMERGENCY
Any of the following may help in the event of an emergency. If someone is buried in an avalanche it is recommended that everyone in the group stay and search for the victim. Go for help only when search efforts have been exhausted.

- Use a cell phone to call 911.
If someone does go for help they should:
1. Look for personnel from the US Forest Service, Colorado State Parks, or a snowmobile or snowcat guide working in the area.
 2. Tell people on the trail that there is an accident. Someone may have a cell phone or rescue gear.
 3. Proceed to the USFS entrance station at Vail Pass.
 4. Use the pay phone at the Vail Pass rest area.

Web Site: www.geosurvey.state.co.us/avalanche
AVAILANCHE HOTLINE NUMBERS
Denver/Boulder (statewide) 303-275-5360
Fort Collins (Northern Mtns.) 970-482-0457
Colorado Springs (statewide) 719-520-0020
Summit County (and surrounding areas) 970-668-0600
Buena Vista (Central Mtns.) 719-395-4994
Durango (Southern Mtns.) 970-247-8187
Aspen (local) 970-920-1664
Crested Butte (local) 970-349-4022

Motorized Only Route



TRAILS AND ROUTES FOR MOTORIZED USE ARE SIGNED USING SNOWMOBILE SYMBOLS, ORANGE DIAMONDS AND ORANGE SNOWPOLES.

- 1 Shrine Pass Road**
Length: 2.5 miles to Shrine Pass
Use: Heavy
Difficulty: Easiest
Comments: This is a motorized route only. To access the Shrine Mountain Huts use the Shrine Pass Ski Trail.

Multiple Use Routes

TRAILS AND ROUTES ARE FOR MULTIPLE USE AND ARE SIGNED USING SNOWMOBILE SYMBOLS, ORANGE DIAMONDS AND ORANGE SNOWPOLES.

- 7 Resolution Creek Road / 4-Mile Road**
Length: 6 miles / 4 miles
Use: Heavy
Difficulty: Easiest
Comments: This route is a popular multi-use trail from Camp Hale to Ptarmigan Pass with a four-mile dead-end spur at Pearl Creek junction. Be courteous to others and stay on marked routes to access the large snowplay area at Ptarmigan Pass.
- 4 Turkey Creek Road**
Length: 5.75 miles
Use: Heavy
Difficulty: Easiest
Comments: This route is a very popular multi-use trail. Be courteous to other users. The trailhead east of Redcliff has limited parking. The town of Redcliff has restaurants and public phones, but no gas station. The trail is not maintained past the Forest Boundary, two miles from town.
- 6 Wilder Gulch**
Length: 3 miles
Use: Heavy
Difficulty: Easiest
Comments: This route is a very popular multi-use trail from the Vail Pass Rest Area to Ptarmigan Pass. Be courteous to others and stay on the marked route to access the snowplay areas in the gulch. Please avoid the south ridge of the gulch where the non-motorized terrain begins.
- 2 Shrine Bowl Trail**
Length: 2 miles
Use: Heavy
Difficulty: More Difficult
Comments: The Shrine Bowl snowmobile play area is defined by the treeline of Shrine Bowl. Part of this route is through the non-motorized area of the West Ten Mile Creek drainage; follow the orange poles to Shrine Bowl.
- 6 Fowler/Hilliard Loop**
Length: 7.7 miles
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route is part of a motorized access ski area. Stay on the marked route and be courteous to other users.
- 4 Hank's Gulch Roads**
Length: 3.7 miles
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: These trails are accessible from Turkey Creek Road. After Turkey Creek Road, follow old timber sale roads.
- 6 Lime Creek Road**
Length: 9 miles
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route connects Vail Pass to Redcliff. The area to the north of the road is non-motorized, so please stay on trail and watch for skiers the first two miles. The trail section three miles north of the Lime Creek / Turkey Creek junction is steep and sometimes icy and may not be passable traveling uphill.
- 6 Wearyman Creek Road**
Length: 4.5 miles
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route connects Redcliff to Ptarmigan Pass. Be prepared for sidehill riding and several creek crossings. There is a snowplay area at the top of Wearyman Creek. This route is not maintained; variable conditions may exist.
- 6 Wearyman / Hornsilver Connector**
Length: 7 miles
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route starts at the Wearyman Road / Turkey Creek Road junction and then forks to the right after 7 miles. Follow the logging roads marked with orange diamonds to Hornsilver Mountain, then down towards the top of Wearyman Creek. The last section of this trail is shared use with skiers.

Hybrid—Motorized Assist Ski Access

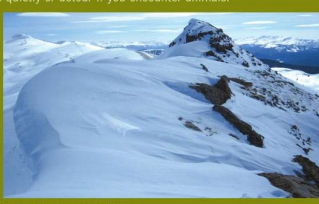
THESE ROUTES ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SKIER ACCESS WITHIN PRESCRIBED AREAS. MOTOR VEHICLES MUST STAY ON DESIGNATED ROUTES.

- 10 Boss Basin—Hybrid Route**
Length: 1.1 miles
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route is part of a motorized access ski area. Stay on the marked route and be courteous to other users.
- 9 Queen Bee / BBQ—Hybrid Route**
Length: 7 miles
Use: Moderate
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route is part of a motorized access ski area. Stay on the marked route and be courteous to other users.
- 18 Black Lakes—Hybrid Route**
Length: 1.9 miles
Use: Moderate
Difficulty: More Difficult
Comments: This route is part of a motorized access ski area. Stay on the marked route and be courteous to other users.

Non-Motorized Routes

TRAILS AND ROUTES FOR NON-MOTORIZED USE ARE SIGNED USING CROSS-COUNTRY SKIER SYMBOLS, BLUE DIAMONDS AND BLUE SNOWPOLES.

- 2 Shrine Pass Ski Trail**
Length: 2.5 miles
Time: 2 to 4 hours
Use: Heavy
Difficulty: Easiest
Comments: This route starts from the Vail Pass Rest Area and follows the Shrine Pass Road to the first switchback where there is a trailhead information board (non-motorized traffic is allowed on Shrine Pass Road past this point). The non-motorized route begins to the left of this sign and continues west along the north side of West Ten Mile Creek. The trail leads to the headwaters of the drainage parallel to the Shrine Pass Road. The Shrine Mountain huts of Jay's, Chuck's, and Walter's are located about .2 miles south of Shrine Pass.
- 1 Corral Creek**
Length: 2.5 miles
Time: 2 to 4 hours
Use: Low
Difficulty: More Difficult
Comments: Walk east across the I-70 bridge from the parking lot. The trail begins just off the highway and climbs .5 miles to a bench. The area offers excellent touring terrain in open meadows and forested hillsides. The south-facing drainage allows for a loop trip down to the Vail Pass bike path and back west to the Rest Area.
- 5 Fowler-Hilliard Hut via McAllister Gulch**
Length: 5.25 miles
Time: 4 to 7 hours
Use: Low
Difficulty: More Difficult
Comments: From the Pando Trailhead at the north end of Camp Hale, ski east across the Eagle River, then north .5 miles to the McAllister Gulch jeep road. The route follows the road to Resolution Mountain and the Fowler-Hilliard Hut. The route across Camp Hale is shared with motorized users then the jeep road is non-motorized for winter use. Be cautious of steep slopes and avalanche terrain on Resolution Mountain.
- 9 Jackal Hut via Ranch Creek**
Length: 3.5 miles
Time: 4 to 6 hours
Use: Moderate
Difficulty: More Difficult
Comments: From the South Camp Hale trailhead, travel east across the Camp Hale flats and across the Eagle River to the Ranch Creek Road. Follow the road as it climbs to the Jackal Hut.
- 8 Janet's Cabin via Guller Creek**
Length: 5.5 miles
Time: 3 to 5 hours
Use: Heavy
Difficulty: More Difficult
Comments: The trail begins at the Union Creek base of the Copper Mountain Ski Area. It follows the Vail Pass bike path west to the Colorado Trail at Guller Creek. The route then continues up Guller Creek to its headwaters and Janet's Cabin.
- 4 Jackal Hut via Cataract Creek**
Length: 5.5 miles
Time: 5 to 7 hours
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: From the Camp Hale trailheads, travel east across the Eagle River and follow the East Fork Road to the south and then south-east for 2.25 miles. Then travel north along Cataract Creek on the Colorado Trail. The trail climbs 1.8 miles up to the Jackal Hut via Pearl Creek.
- 4 Jackal Hut via Pearl Creek**
Length: 7.25 miles
Time: 5 to 8 hours
Use: Moderate
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: The lower section of the trail crosses the Camp Hale flats and follows the Resolution Creek Road which is all multiple-use. The ski trail begins at the confluence of Pearl Creek and Resolution Creek where the 4-mile Road begins. From here the trail climbs up the Pearl Creek drainage 4.3 miles to the Jackal Hut.
- 7 Janet's Cabin via Wilder Gulch**
Length: 4.5 miles
Time: 4 to 7 hours
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route heads south off of the Wilder Gulch Road, across the gulch and into Smith Gulch. The route then traverses west up to treeline and continues south right at treeline to Janet's Cabin. The route requires route finding ability and is recommended for experienced skiers.
- 6 Resolution Mountain to Resolution Creek Road**
Length: 2 miles
Time: 2 to 4 hours
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This route will take the user down to the south aspect of the Resolution Mountain, then back to the road through a series of switchbacks and dense forest. Once on the road, be aware of shared motorized use.
- 6 Shrine Mountain to Fowler-Hilliard Hut**
Length: 6.8 miles
Time: 5 to 8 hours
Use: Low
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Comments: This is the recommended route from the Shrine Mountain huts to the Fowler-Hilliard Hut. The section of this trail from Wearyman Creek to the Fowler-Hilliard turn-off is multiple-use. Please respect this joint use.



Mount Elbert 14,433 Mount Massive 14,421 Homestake Peak 13,201 Mount of the Holy Cross 14,003

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WHAT ARE YOUR FEES USED FOR?

Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area maps.
Signage and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails.
Groomed trails.
Managed parking.
Visitor information services.
Trail and backcountry monitoring, separation of use, and enforcement by uniformed Forest Service rangers.

Public comments about the fees and the program are critical to evaluating the success of the program. Contact us for comments and further information at:
Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District
P.O. Box 150
Minturn, CO 81645
Office: (970) 827-5715
Fax: (970) 827-9343



NOTICE TO BACKCOUNTRY TRAVELERS

It is your responsibility to know the hazards involved in your activities and to use the proper safety procedures and equipment to minimize the inherent risks and hazards related to your activity. As a user of National Forest System Lands, you have significant responsibility for your personal safety during any activity you might pursue. The Forest Service installs signs and other information devices at various locations where site conditions warrant. However, the size of the National Forests and the variety of natural and human-made conditions limit placement of signs or other specific warnings and necessitate the use of more general education efforts. Hazards are not limited to, but include: changing weather conditions; snow, avalanches; landslides; caves; overlooks; falling trees or limbs; high or rushing water; contaminated water; wild animals; becoming lost or over exerted; tunnels; shafts; decaying structures and a variety of equipment; and changing road and trail conditions. You may also be exposed to unreasonable acts of others. The Forest Service does not manage or control all of these occurrences. In order to help visitors enjoy their experience on the National Forests, the Forest Service and other agencies provide information regarding local conditions by various means. This information is available at Forest Service offices, from local residents, outfitters and guides, and other reference materials. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service "The USDA is an equal opportunity service provider and employer."

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Vail Pass Recreation Area Responsibility Code

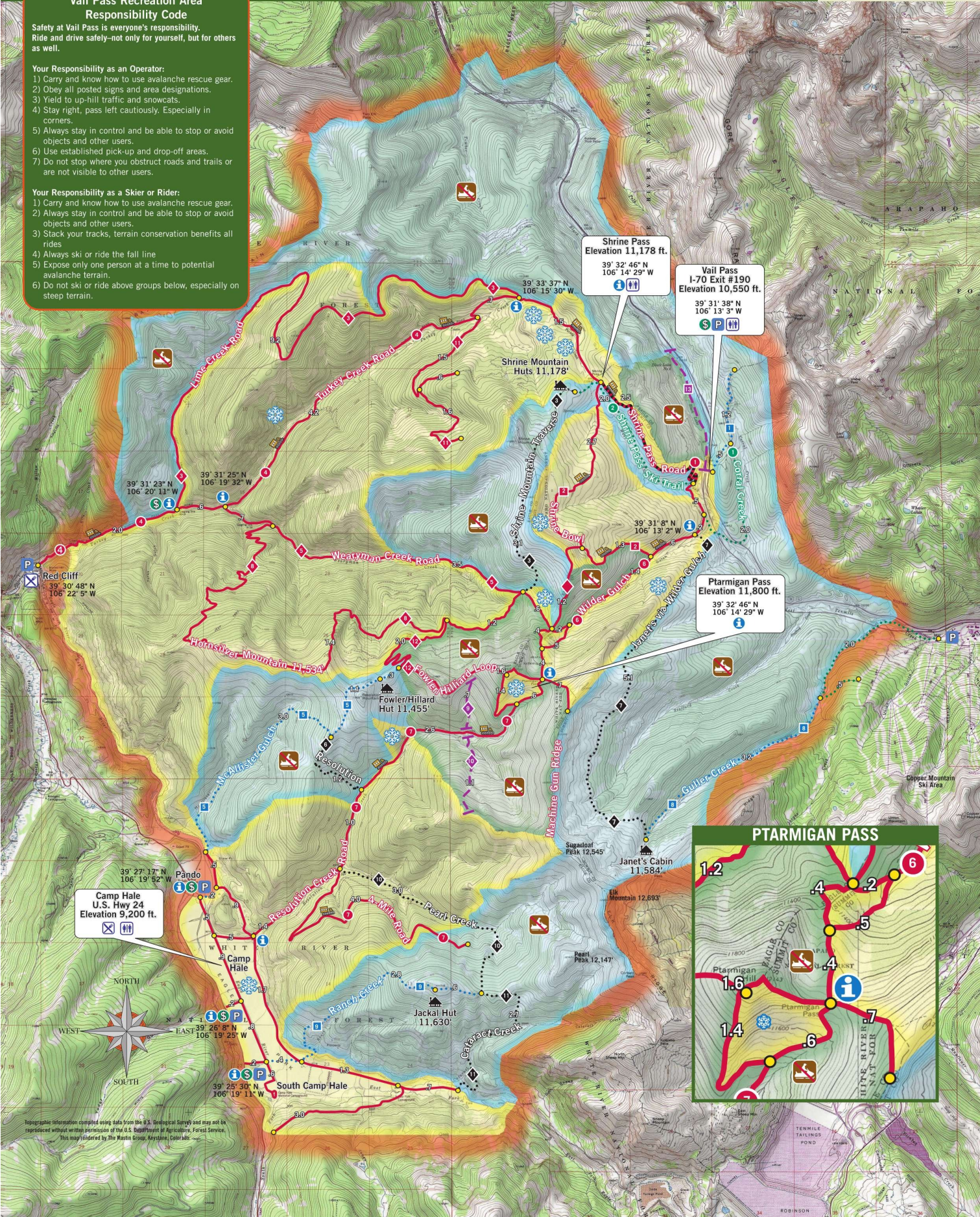
Safety at Vail Pass is everyone's responsibility. Ride and drive safely—not only for yourself, but for others as well.

Your Responsibility as an Operator:

- 1) Carry and know how to use avalanche rescue gear.
- 2) Obey all posted signs and area designations.
- 3) Yield to up-hill traffic and snowcats.
- 4) Stay right, pass left cautiously. Especially in corners.
- 5) Always stay in control and be able to stop or avoid objects and other users.
- 6) Use established pick-up and drop-off areas.
- 7) Do not stop where you obstruct roads and trails or are not visible to other users.

Your Responsibility as a Skier or Rider:

- 1) Carry and know how to use avalanche rescue gear.
- 2) Always stay in control and be able to stop or avoid objects and other users.
- 3) Stack your tracks, terrain conservation benefits all rides.
- 4) Always ski or ride the fall line.
- 5) Expose only one person at a time to potential avalanche terrain.
- 6) Do not ski or ride above groups below, especially on steep terrain.



Shrine Pass
Elevation 11,178 ft.
39° 32' 46" N
106° 14' 29" W

Vail Pass I-70 Exit #190
Elevation 10,550 ft.
39° 31' 38" N
106° 13' 3" W

Ptarmigan Pass
Elevation 11,800 ft.
39° 32' 46" N
106° 14' 29" W

Camp Hale
U.S. Hwy 24
Elevation 9,200 ft.



LEGEND AND TRAIL DESIGNATIONS

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| ● Easiest | ● Multiple | ● Restrooms | ■ Multiple use area |
| ● More Difficult | ● Information | ● Snow Play Area | ■ Non-motorized area |
| ◆ Most Difficult | ● Food & Beverage | ● No Motorized Vehicle Area | ■ Snowmobile/snowcat access on designated routes to ski and snowboard areas |
| | ● Parking | ● Groomed trails | |

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| MOTORIZED ONLY ROUTE | MULTIPLE USE ROUTES | NON-MOTORIZED ROUTES - INTERMEDIATE |
| 1. Shrine Pass Road | 7. Resolution Creek Pass Road | 1. Corral Creek |
| 2. Shrine Bowl Trail | 6. Wilder Gulch | 5. Fowler-Hillard Hut via McAllister Gulch |
| 3. Lime Creek Road | 2. Shrine Bowl Trail | 9. Jackal Hut via Ranch Creek |
| 4. Wearyman/Hornsilver Connector | 12. Fowler/Hillard Loop | 8. Janet's Cabin via Guller Creek |
| 5. Wearyman/Hornsilver Connector | 11. Hank's Gulch Roads | NON-MOTORIZED ROUTES - EXPERT |
| 6. Resolution Mtn. to Resolution Creek Rd. | 8. Wearyman/Hornsilver Connector | 11. Jackal Hut via Cataract Creek |
| 7. Janet's Cabin via Wilder Gulch | 13. Black Lakes Hybrid Route | 10. Jackal Hut via Pearl Creek |
| 8. Resolution Mtn. to Resolution Creek Rd. | | 7. Janet's Cabin via Wilder Gulch |
| 9. Shrine Mountain to Fowler-Hillard Hut | | 6. Resolution Mtn. to Resolution Creek Rd. |
| 10. Shrine Pass Ski Trail | | 3. Shrine Mountain to Fowler-Hillard Hut |

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