



Cross-country Skiing & Snowshoeing



Safety

- In an emergency call 911 or (307) 739-3300.
- Be cautious about skiing on frozen lakes. Hazards are present throughout the winter.
- Tell someone where you are going 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.

Do you have the following?

- water and high energy snack food
- first aid kit
- layered clothing
- hat, mittens or gloves, and extra clothing
- sunscreen and sunglasses
- map and compass
- extra ski tip and pole basket
- flashlight or headlamp
- a watch (helps you return before dark)
- fire starting materials
- whistle
- additional waxes and scraper
- knife, tools, or tape for repairs
- mylar space blanket

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is caused by exposure to cold and is aggravated by wind, exhaustion, and wet clothing. Watch for the warning signs: uncontrollable shivering, incoherent speech, lethargy, and 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. Seek immediate medical attention.

Avalanche Hazard

Backcountry travelers should avoid known avalanche paths, steep canyons, and gullies. For current avalanche conditions check javalanche.org, call 733-2664 for the National Forest avalanche report and weather forecast, or check at the Moose Visitor Center (8 am-5 pm).

Regulations

Pets are not allowed in the backcountry. Dogs on a leash or in harness pulling a dog sled or skier may travel on Grassy Lake Road and on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake. Dogs on a leash are permitted on plowed roads.

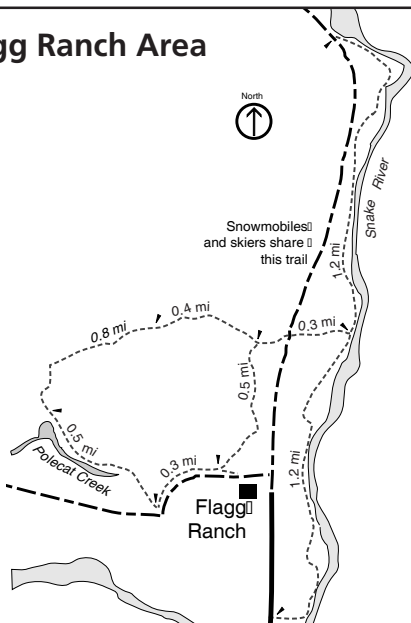
Overnight ski tourers, ski mountaineers, and snowshoers must register at park headquarters in Moose and obtain a free camping permit.

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.

Areas closed 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. Closures for the protection of bighorn sheep include: Static Peak, Prospectors Mountain, and Mount Hunt including peaks 10988, 10905, and 10495; all areas above 9900 feet (3000m) and south-facing slopes on Mount Hunt above 8580 feet (2600m); Banana Couloir is open.

Flagg Ranch Area



Parking

The trailhead is located near the northwest corner of the Flagg Ranch parking area.

Polecat Creek Loop Trail

Easy, 2.5 miles, elevation change: 50'. The south side parallels the Grassy Lake Road, which is open to snowmobiles. The west side follows a bench above Polecat Creek.

Flagg Canyon Trail North

Difficult, 4.0 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 120'. Follow the east side of the Polecat Creek Loop Trail and travel north for 0.5 miles. Turn east (right) at the marked trail junction. The trail crosses the 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. Take

the Flagg Canyon Trail north (left) to reach the South Gate of Yellowstone National Park. This section 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, 4.0 miles roundtrip, 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 miles to end at the highway near the bridge over the Snake River. The trail is suitable for beginners. Return via the same route.

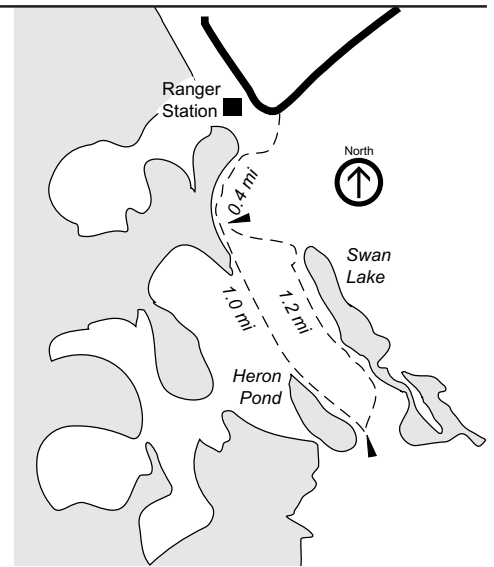
Colter Bay Area

Parking Area

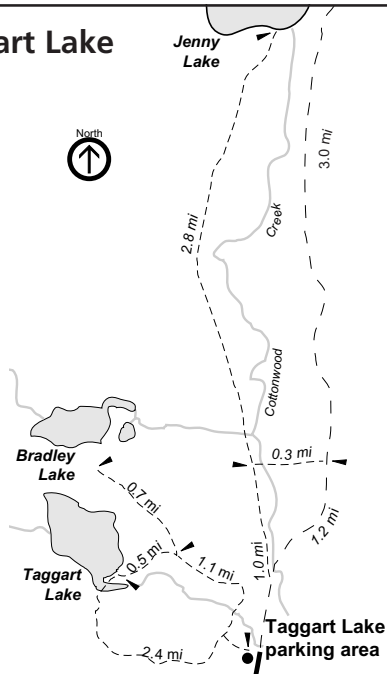
The trailhead is located 300 feet south of the Colter Bay Ranger Station. Park in front of the ranger station or near the trailhead on the road.

Swan Lake-Heron Pond Loop

Easy, 3 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 40'. The trail crosses an unplowed parking area, then passes the 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 miles in either direction on the loop trail to return to this junction. Skiing on the ponds is not recommended. Beyond Heron Pond unflagged trails lead to Hermitage Point; this loop adds 5.8 mi. (60' elevation) to the trip.



Taggart Lake Area



Parking Area

The parking area is located 4 miles northwest of Moose Junction on Teton Park Road.

Jenny Lake Trail

Easy, 7.6 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 100'. Follow the unplowed road ¼-mile to Cottonwood Creek, then ski north along the creek. The trail follows the west side of the creek, crosses several meadows, then climbs a low moraine, and ends at an overlook of Jenny Lake. 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. 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 – 3.2 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 277'. Taggart Lake/Beaver Creek Loop – 4 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 397'. From the parking area, ski directly toward the mountains. Turn north (right) and follow the trail as it climbs over the moraine. 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. If you return the way you came, you will encounter a steep, tree-lined section that is at times icy and treacherous, requiring downhill skiing ability. Another option 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 Beaver Creek trail to the east to return to the parking area.

Moose-Wilson Road Area

Parking Areas

The trailhead for Phelps Lake is located 3.1 miles south of Moose on the (west) right side of the Moose-Wilson Road and is accessible by vehicle only from Moose.

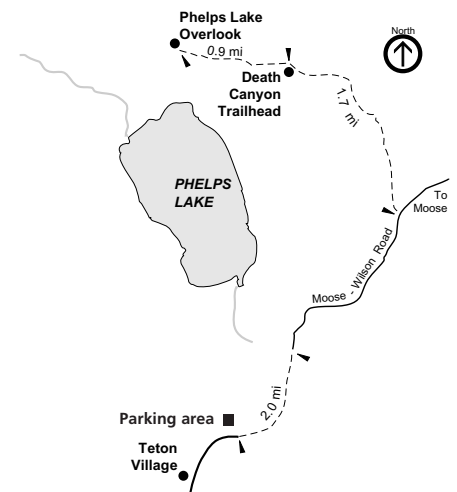
Parking for the skiable section of the Moose-Wilson Road is available only on the Teton Village (south) end of the road.

Phelps Lake Overlook

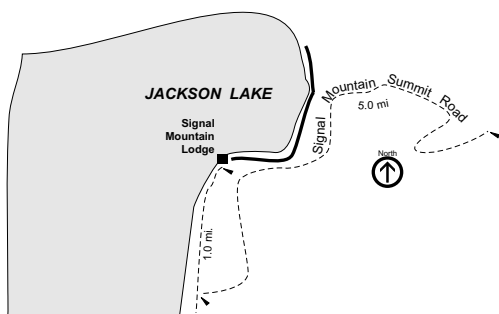
Moderate, 5.2 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 520'. The trail follows a narrow, unplowed road for 1.7 miles to the Death Canyon trailhead. Then the trail climbs westward through a forest and over an open slope to reach the Phelps Lake overlook. Do not continue beyond the overlook because of high avalanche hazard. The return trip is downhill.

Moose-Wilson Road

Easy, 4 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 100'. Park at the south end of the unplowed road. The trail is mostly flat and is a good choice for beginners.



Signal Mountain Area



Parking Area

Follow Highway 26/89/191 to Moran Junction, then 5 miles west to Jackson Lake Junction, then south 3 miles on the Teton Park Road.

Signal Mountain Summit Road

Moderate, 12 miles roundtrip, elevation change: 700'. Park near Signal Mountain Lodge. Ski the unplowed road south for about one mile until you reach the unplowed road that goes east (left) to the summit of Signal Mountain.

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. Be sure to follow trail markers—other skiers may leave tracks to destinations of their own choosing.