

Fourth of July Winter Sports Area

The Trail System: The 4th of July Winter Sports Park N' Ski Area offers cross-country skiing and snowshoe trails. Motorized use, except for grooming equipment, is prohibited. Skiing is available on the eight kilometer (Cedar) and sixteen kilometer loops. The trails wend through beautiful stands of cedar and other coniferous trees. Occasional openings provide views of the Coeur d'Alene Mountains and the Cedar Creek Valley. Three warming huts, a picnic shelter, and a restroom facility are available along these routes to rest, warm-up and eat lunch. Snowshoe use is not permitted on the ski loops in order to preserve the grooming and set track. Snowshoe trails have been marked and signed along **Jeannette's Jaunt**, the **Twisted Klister Loop**, **Skywalker** and beyond out **Moonrunner** towards Rose Creek Saddle. Parts of this system are groomed for both ski and snowshoe use, but no track is set. Two bridges crossing ravines ease the snowshoe use along **Jeannette's Jaunt**. **If you wish to ski or snowshoe with your dog, please use the Twisted Klister trail system.**

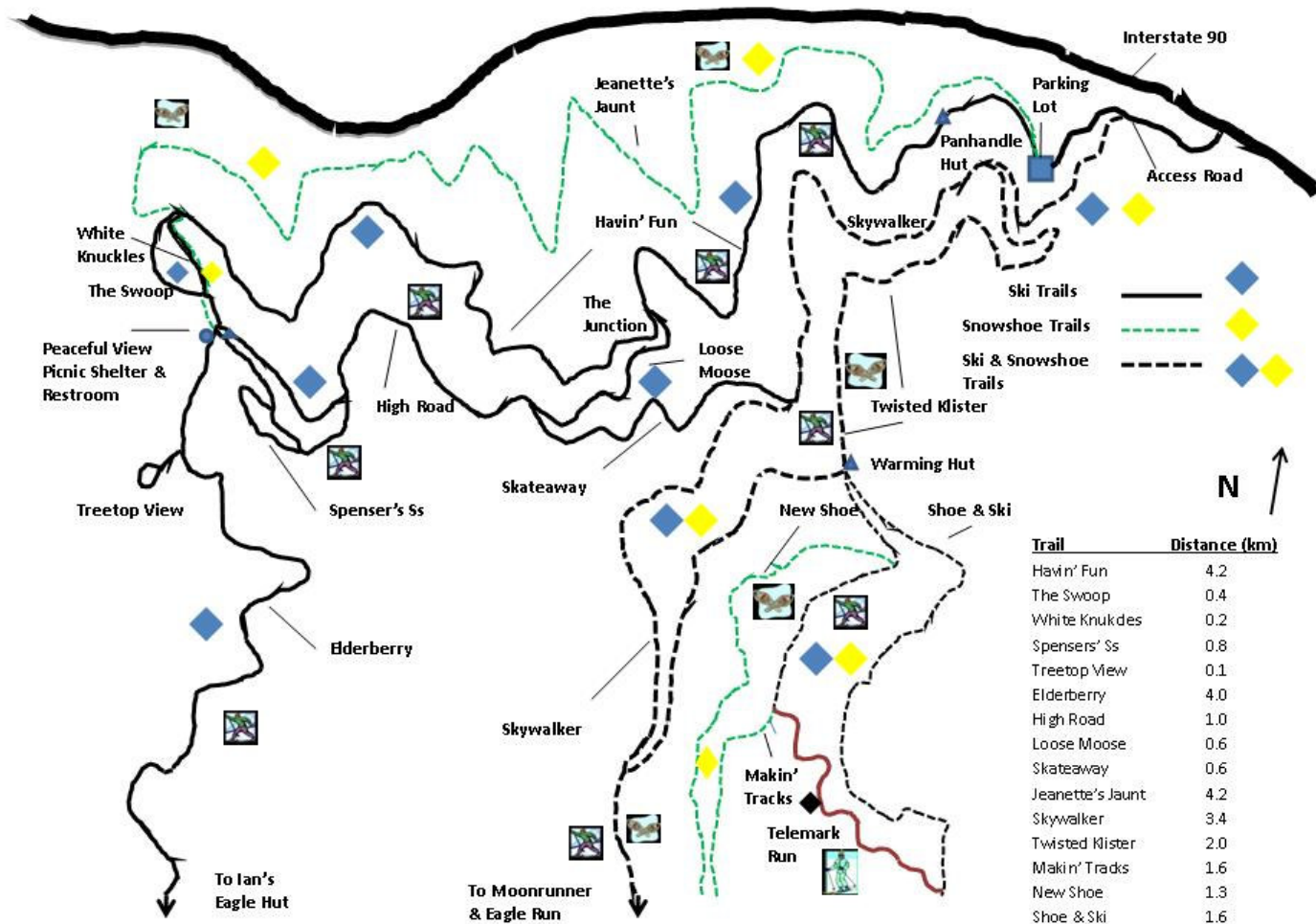
Access: From Coeur d'Alene drive east on Interstate 90 for twelve miles to the summit of Fourth of July Pass. Travel west from the Silver Valley to the summit. After exiting, users should drive south on Forest Road 614 for a quarter-mile to the signed entrance of the Park N' Ski Area. The parking area is plowed by the Idaho Department of Transportation as time and weather permits after heavy snowfall. Those using the lower **Skywalker** to the snowshoe and ski trails may wish to park along the road near the access. Park N' Ski permits are required for all vehicles parked south of the interstate.

Park N' Ski: The Fourth of July Winter Sports "Park N' Ski" trail system is a cooperative project of the United States Forest Service, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Transportation, and the Panhandle Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Club. Your purchase of a Park n' Ski pass directly supports maintenance of this facility, especially if you designate area 11 on the pass form. The funds support grooming and construction of all the facilities along the trails. Failure to display Park N' Ski pass subjects one to a citation by law enforcement officials. Park N' Ski vendors are listed on the Panhandle Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Club website at www.panhandle nordicclub.com. Trails are kept clear of obstructions on a regular basis. Ski trails are periodically groomed (snow compacted) and a ski track cut by Nordic Club groomers. The loop ski trails and the Twisted Klister loop are groomed. Ski tracks are typically set on the eight kilometer loop trails and Elderberry Trail of the sixteen kilometer loop at both edges of the road with the center groomed for skate skiing.

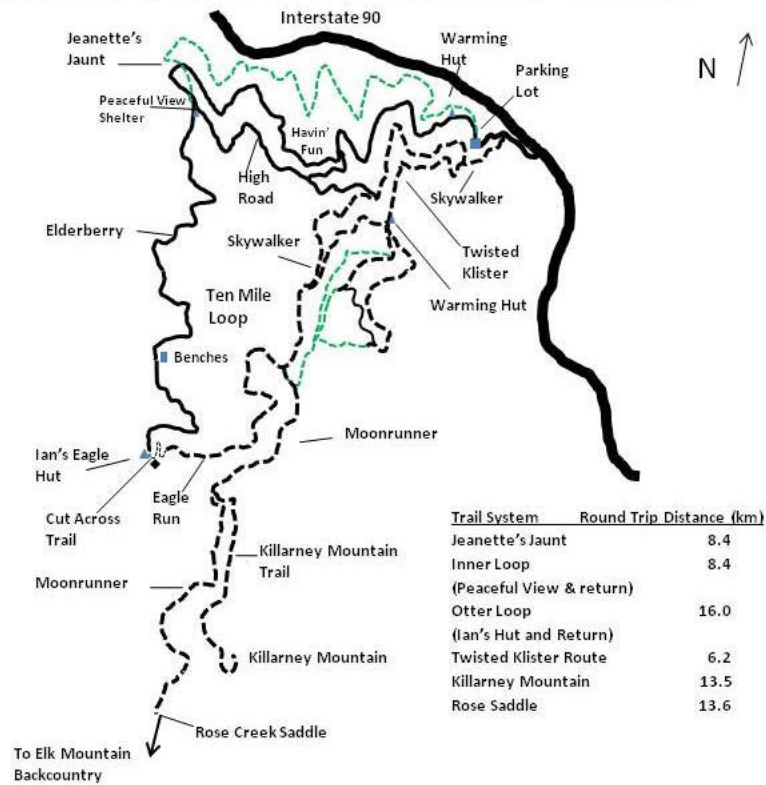
Spring-Summer-Fall: During the warm seasons, the 4th of July trails are managed as non-motorized except for FSR 614. The area is an excellent area for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding during the summer months.

The Trails: The **Eight Kilometer Loop** is composed of the **Having Fun**, **Loose Moose**, **High Road**, and the **Swoop Trails**. It is 8.4 kilometer (5.25 miles) with most of the trail follows level to 6% grade (1 foot elevation gain or loss per 100 feet) through timbered stands and occasional openings. **Loose Moose** and the **White Knuckles** cutoff have occasional steeper pitches that can be a challenge when traversed downhill. A picnic shelter and restroom (**Peaceful View**) are located halfway around the loop. **The Sixteen Kilometer Loop** builds on the Eight Kilometer Loop by following the Elderberry Trail 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) to **Ian's Eagle Hut**. A short cut across trail behind the hut climbs up to **Eagle Run**. Signs direct the skier down **Eagle Run** to **Skywalker** and down **Skywalker** to the **Skateaway** trail. The **Skateaway** Trail meets the **Eight Kilometer Loop** at the top of **Loose Moose**. The loop traverses 16 kilometers (10 miles). The cut across trail can be challenging to ski, but typically can be traversed on foot over its short distance (0.3 km). **Jeannette's Jaunt** is a snowshoe trail cleared for the passage of snowshoe enthusiasts. Bridges have been installed over two ravines to assist the traverse. The trail extends 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles) to **Peaceful View** and must be retraced at this time to the parking lot (9 kilometers/5.6 miles round trip). It travels primarily through deep stands of cedar. The **Twisted Klister Loop Trail** is open to both ski and snowshoe use. It can be accessed on snowshoes at the bottom of **Skywalker** and with skis either at this location at the end of the **Skateaway** Trail. The loop extends up **Skywalker** to the upper junction with **Twisted Klister** and then along **Twisted Klister** to the lower junction with **Skywalker**. The loop is periodically groomed, but no ski track is set. The loop is 5.6 kilometers (3.5 miles) in length and traverses timbered stands with an opening near the upper **Twisted Klister** junction that provides vista views of the Cedar Creek Valley, the Coeur d'Alene Mountains, and the Wolf lodge area beyond. The **Makin' Tracks Snowshoe Trail** branches off the **Twisted Klister** portion of the loop traversing south to a junction with **Moonrunner** with **Skywalker** a very short distance to the right. It can be traversed north back to the loop at the upper **Twisted Klister**. This route adds 2 kilometers to the **Twisted Klister** Loop. An opening along this trail provides vistas of Cataldo Flats in the distance. Two trails **New Shoe** and **Ski & Shoe** add additional kilometers. A **Telemark Trail** runs from **Makin' Tracks** to **Ski & Shoe**. Additional ski and snowshoe opportunities are available to the south along **Moonrunner** leading to Killarney Mountain by way of the **Killarney Mountain Trail**, Rose Creek Saddle, and the Elk Mountain Area. These trails are rarely groomed and any trip into this area should be considered a backcountry trip, and participants must carry the proper equipment and have the experience to cope with any situation that may arise in the backcountry.

Fourth Of July Park N Ski & Snowshoe Area Trails



Fourth of July Park N Ski & Snowshoe Area - Overview



Tips for All Users:

- Pack it in and Pack it out: All users are expected to remove their garbage and litter. It does not melt with the snow, but remains to mar summer use.
- Part of the trails descend, slightly; therefore the return trip may be on a climbing grade. Know your physical limitations; turn back before becoming too fatigued to complete the full loop trail(s).
- There is no drinking water at the trailhead or on the trails. Be sure to bring water from home. Adding clean snow to a partially full water bottle may augment water supply.
- Areas outside of groomed trails harbor hidden hazards such as stumps and logs.
- Ski or snowshoe with a partner.
- Check your equipment before departing.
- Wear clothing in layers that can be put on or removed, as required to avoid perspiration or chilling. Lightweight clothing that will retain body heat when wet is best. Avoid the use of cotton clothes.
- Avoid travel during severe weather.
- During the winter months, moose, elk, deer, and other wild animals move onto the packed trails where travel is easier. When you come across an animal, stop enjoy the experience and allow it to move off the trail. You are the guest in its living space.
- Avalanche danger is low in the 4th of July Winter Sports Area, because of the terrain. For additional information on avalanche safety and winter sports information see the ski club's website at www.panhandlenordicclub.com.

Ski Tips:

- Do not attempt downhill runs that are beyond your ability.
- Be prepared to meet oncoming skiers on all trails, even those designated for one-way use.

Trail Courtesy:

- Keep dogs off groomed and track set trails. Skiing and snowshoe opportunities with dogs are available on the **Twisted Klister Loop** via the **Skywalker**-access route.
- Ski in single file when with a group. Allow other skiers to pass you.
- Pack out all trash.
- Downhill skiers have the right of way.
- Snowshoe on trails designated for this use; snowshoe to the side of groomed trails. Snowshoe travel on groomed surfaces is a little like "playing tennis with the net down."

For Further Information & Maps:

- Go to the Panhandle Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Club web site at: www.panhandlenordicclub.com.
- Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Office, Fernan Office: 208-664-2318
- Idaho Parks & Recreation 208-769-1511.
- Kootenai County Sheriff: 208-446-1300; Emergency 911.

**4th of JULY
WINTER SPORTS
AREA**

Map Brochure

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
PANHANDLE NORDIC CLUB
IDAHO STATE PARKS