



- Nordic Trails**
- Easiest
  - More Difficult
  - Most Difficult
  - Backcountry Access
  - Snowpark
  - Ski Area
  - Snowmobile Cabin
  - Trailhead
  - Designated Snowmobile Routes
  - Highways
  - Roads
  - Eagle Cap Wilderness
  - National Forest
  - Ferguson Ridge Property
  - Cooperative Non-motorized Area

# WALLOWA MOUNTAINS

## Nordic Trail Map



Map compiled in cooperation with the Wallowa County Gamblers Snowmobile club, the Eagle Cap Nordic Ski Club and Wallowa County GIS.

\*\*Sno Park permits required at Ferguson Ridge Sno Park and Salt Creek Summit (Beyond Forest Service Boundary)





**Winding Waters.**  
RIVER EXPEDITIONS  
JOSEPH, OREGON



## Welcome to the Wallowa Mountains Winter Recreation Area

We've provided this map to help you enjoy nordic skiing in the Wallowa Mountains. The Salt Creek Summit (SCS) area and its associated trails are the result of hard work and perseverance by local residents in partnership with the US Forest Service and the State of Oregon. Volunteers from the Eagle Cap Nordic Ski Club, and Wallowa County Gamblers Snowmobile Club have participated in signing, clearing and maintaining trails; erecting the log structure outhouse at the parking lot; and developing this map. The US Forest Service, Wallowa County, and these two clubs cooperate in operating Salt Creek Summit area.

### For more information, call:

Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center: (541) 426-4978  
Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce: (541) 426-4622  
or (800) 585-4121

## NORDIC SKIING Map and Trail Information

### SALT CREEK SUMMIT AND VICINITY

Provided by



*All ski trails are currently ungroomed*

### Ski Trail Descriptions

The following designated ski trails are marked with blue diamonds, and major trail junctions are marked with wooden signs, or numbers on large blue diamonds.

#### East of the SCS parking lot

##### Summit Loop—1.9 miles

**Easiest.** A flat, easy 1/2 hour ski loop suited for beginners. It has several gentle hills and passes through open meadows and stands of both live and burned trees.

##### Divide Loop—1.8 miles

**Moderate.** An extension of the Summit Loop; you should allow 1 to 1 1/2 hours round trip from the parking lot. Skiing the loop clockwise is recommended. There is one steep descent on the west side, just north of the junction with the Summit Loop. There is a gradual ascent on the north end of the loop, and the remainder is on a flat ridge top. This trail passes through many open meadows and some burned areas.

##### Mountain View Loop—3.5 miles

**Difficult.** Access is from the NE corner of the Divide Loop, and travels north about 1/4 mile to a junction on road 3910 which starts the actual "loop". This trail is an adventure. It may be skied in either direction. This trail has great views of Wing Ridge in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. In 2012/13 work commenced to put up new diamonds and realign the trail to areas with better snow and less wind. The location of the loop is not quite as depicted on the map, because map graphic shows an old location & was completed before the new trail work was completed. The west side of the loop now follows an old stock drive in the original location prior to the 1989 Canal fire. The east side of the loop is now more down slope of the ridgeline along the edge of a young stand of lodgepole pine.

#### West of the SCS parking lot

These trail are within the 1989, 23,000 acre, canal forest fire. Since the fire, dense stands of Lodgepole pine have regenerated in the burn areas, making off trail travel difficult in some places. In 2022, the area burned again, which could make it challenging to follow.

##### Devils View Loop—1.85 miles

**Difficult.** Allow 1 1/2 hours to ski this loop. There are several challenging hills on this trail and excellent views of the Seven Devils Mountains. A short cutoff trail may be used to add variety to the main trail. In 2013, a new short

segment of trail was opened to better connect with the wagon road trail.

#### Wagon Road—4 miles (one way)

**Difficult.** This is a 1 1/2 to 2 hour ski one way to the junction of the Big Sheep Cutoff Trail. Much of the trail is in the burn, with many nice views of the Seven Devils Mountains. This trail winds along the lower slopes of Wing Ridge, with several gradual ascents while traveling south. There are several fun, gradual climbs and downgrades to glide along. For variety, one may chose to follow the Big Sheep canal bank back (4.3mi) to SCS from the Big Sheep ski camp vicinity, at the west end of the wagon road trail. The canal bank is not marked with blue diamonds but is easy to follow.

#### Big Sheep Cutoff—0.5 miles

**Difficult.** A challenging set of switchbacks negotiates 200 feet of elevation change. The trail takes you from the Wagon Road down through thick trees, crosses three bridges over Big Sheep Creek, then climbs for a short distance to the ski tour shelter. Allow 1/2 hour to climb back up to the Wagon Road Trail. Climbing skins or waxes are appropriate.

#### Redmont Trail—9.3 miles

**Most Difficult.** This trail follows a combination of old roads, trail segments, and an abandoned canal embankment. The trail passes through a variety of terrain, including the Canal Burn, the Ferguson old growth stand, and areas with past timber harvest and conifer plantations. Many moderately steep hills are encountered while skiing either direction. Skiers planning a tour of the entire length should consider a vehicle shuttle and allow 6 or more hours of skiing. The distance listed above is from SCS to the top of the T-bar at Ferguson Ridge Ski Area. Ski tours starting or ending at Ferguson Ridge Sno-Park should use the 3920 road, and Papoose loop which adds approximately 2 miles to the length. The south end of the trail near SCS follows a road-like route along an abandoned canal for 3.2 miles. This segment is flat, but with many large dips and is open, often windy, and is occasionally used by snowmobiles.

#### Avalanche Country

The Wallowa Mountains offer prime avalanche terrain. Before heading out, check the Wallowa Avalanche Center website at [wallowaavalanchecenter.org](http://wallowaavalanchecenter.org).

## Skiing Services

Winter outfitters operate backcountry ski shelters under special use permit from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Wallowa Alpine Huts and Eagle Cap Mountain Guides.

Ferguson Ridge Ski Area is located 9 miles SE of Joseph on Tucker Down Road. A T-bar and rope tow serve the ski area, which has a vertical drop of 650 feet. The area has a variety of ski terrain including groomed and ungroomed runs and a few miles of marked cross-country ski trails. Services include a warming lodge and equipment rental. See [skifergi.com](http://skifergi.com).

The Salt Creek Summit Multi-Purpose Building was constructed through a cooperative effort by the US Forest Service and 8 community partners. It is owned by Wallowa County, and is maintained by the county, the Gamblers Snowmobile Club, the Eagle Cap Nordic Ski Club, & Wallowa County Search and Rescue. The building includes visitor information and warming room.

### Courtesy Guidelines

Please observe the following for courteous ski trail use:

- When skiing in a track, give the downhill skier the right of way.
- Please refrain from using snowmobiles and snowshoes on ski tracks. **Snowshoers are welcome to travel alongside ski tracks.**

### Sno-Park Permits

If you plan on parking at either the Salt Creek Summit or Ferguson Ridge Sno-Park between November 15 and April 30, you will need a Sno-Park permit. Sno-Park permit sales are used to fund plowing. Permits can be purchased on a daily, 3-day, or annual basis. Failure to display a permit can result in a citation and fine.

### Permits are available at:

**Enterprise:** Outlaw Motorsports, 504 NW 1st, 426-3491  
**Joseph:** Sports Corral, 401 N. Main, 432-4363, and Joseph Hardware, 15 S. Main, 432-2271

An enormous amount of thanks goes to the Wallowa County GIS shop & Dawn Smith for their GIS support in producing the map graphics.

**This pamphlet is in memory of  
Ken Bronec, a wonderful friend who loved exploring  
the winter backcountry on skis.**