Welcome
Yellowstone offers a variety of enjoyable and challenging trails for skiers. All trails are marked but may be untracked. On some trails, the difficult sections can be avoided by discussing the route in advance. The quality of your experience will depend upon the amount of planning and preparation you do prior to your trip. We suggest that you stop at a visitor center or ski shop and discuss your trip. The staff will be happy to provide current information on weather, trail, snow conditions, and alert you to any special winter hazards.

Some backcountry trails are suitable for travel, but should only be attempted by experienced skiers with appropriate equipment. Overnight camping requires a free backcountry use permit which must be obtained in person from Mammoth or Old Faithful visitor centers, or West and South entrance stations. Wood fires are not permitted.

Trail Etiquette
• Do not snowshoe or walk directly on ski tracks.
• Skiers/snowshoers going uphill yield to those going downhill.

Safety
Trails may have natural hazards such as animals, avalanches, thermal features, downed trees, steep slopes and cliffs. When skiing near thermal areas, stay on the trail. Skiers need to be experienced. Trails are hazardous and may require you to move slowly when you are out of breath. Always drink plenty of water. Avalanche danger: avalanches can occur on any slope and hazards will not always be marked. In avalanche-prone areas carry a shovel, avalanche transceiver, probe, and first aid kit—and know how to use them. Cross slopes one at a time, while others watch from safety.

Wildlife
Do not approach wildlife. Large mammals survive on stored fat and low quality food during winter. Causing them to develop a dependency on human food will reduce the quality of their experience. For your safety, always ski with someone else. Tell someone where you are going, by what route, and when you plan to return. Carry extra clothing, food, water, map and compass, matches, flashlight, and a whistle.

Consider elevation when deciding on a ski trail. Many ski trails are at high elevation, above 6000 feet (1,829 m) and may require you to move slowly when you are out of breath. Always drink plenty of water.

winter weather in Yellowstone changes rapidly and can be severe. Be prepared with proper clothing layers. Watch your pet and other members of your party for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. For your safety, always ski with someone else. Tell someone where you are going, by what route, and when you plan to return. Carry extra clothing, food, water, map and compass, matches, flashlight, and a whistle.

Trail Ratings
Trails are marked with a difficulty rating of easiest to most difficult. Trail conditions may cause icy trails, deep snow, or barren sections, and in some instances trails may be difficult to follow, increasing the difficulty of a trail. Some trails are not groomed or are only partially groomed. Many trails have short downhill and uphill stretches.

More Difficult
Skiers need to be able to ski varied terrain requiring turning, snow plowing, herringboning, and diagonal stride.

Most Difficult
Skiers need to be experienced. Trails are hazardous and terrain is frequently extreme. Turns are often sharp and linked together with no room to snow plow or herringbone.

National Park Service
P.O. Box 168
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For emergencies, dial 911

Yellowstone National Park