



*We are human power in action.
We promote wilderness values.
We preserve and protect our public lands.*

Focus on Lands Monitoring

**Report snowmobile misuse online at
the Snowlands Network website**

Snowlands Network's Lands Monitoring Program got a boost this winter due to the dedication of our volunteer Lands Monitoring Coordinator, Jeff Erdoes. Jeff investigates every report of snowmobile misuse submitted through our website. Verified reports are logged in a database and the reports are routed to concerned authorities including offices of the Forest Service in California and Nevada, the California Department of Fish and Game, USFS permittees, private property owners and county authorities.

Reports of snowmobile misuse in a variety of areas have come in throughout this snow season. The steady stream of information has alerted the Forest Service that forest users are increasingly impacted by the misuse of snowmobiles and that Snowlands Network is keeping track.

According to Marcus Libkind, President of Snowlands Network, "Now we'll have the data when asked to prove that lawful forest recreation is degraded by snowmobile misuse, and the Forest Service will no longer be able to avoid remediation based on lack of data."

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Fifth Round for Yellowstone

National Park Service begins another Winter Use Plan

Yellowstone National Park is beginning their fifth winter management plan since the Clinton Administration plan. The first three concluded that snowmobile use should be phased-out and replaced with snowcoaches for access to the Park in winter. The fourth plan allowed snowmobile use to continue.

We anticipate that this will be the last environmental study and will lead to a permanent plan for winter use of Yellowstone. We have made enormous progress over the past decade; the noisiest and most-polluting forms of winter access have been eliminated. But we can't sit on our past success.

March 30 was the deadline for submitting comments as part of the Park's scoping process for the next plan. Snowlands Network hopes that you responded to our email alert asking you to comment. Please get on our email alert list if you did not receive that alert; there will be at least two more opportunities to help get Yellowstone protected for all people to enjoy. Send an email to [Annette Glabe](mailto:Annette.Glabe) asking to be put on the list.

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Rubicon Trail Update

**Another step in the
right direction**

In the ongoing saga over the management of the Rubicon Trail, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted an official route for the Trail that eliminates the two most notorious extreme vehicle play areas, the "Little Sluice Box" and the "Soup Bowl." Although a few bypasses on the Trail were retained in a modified version of Option Two, Snowlands volunteer Monte Hendricks says, "This is a positive step in the right direction and is encouraging."

Monte Hendricks and fellow Snowlands volunteer Rich Platt presented arguments for Option One – a single route with a centerline and width – to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on January 26, 2010. The off-highway motor vehicle supporters presented arguments for Option Three, a route with several bypasses or alternative routes in addition to two "corridor"

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President's Corner

Marcus Libkind



Changes happen, but they don't have to be for the worse!

Twice in the last month I've been reminded of the changes that have taken place in recreation as it relates to organized group activities. My experience in this area comes from years of participating in Sierra Club section trips beginning during my high school years.

I see the average age of those participating in group/club activities has increased dramatically, and the participation in group/club activities has decreased dramatically.

I think that both observations can be attributed in part to the same cause – the electronic age has created a completely different method for meeting people with similar interests and for planning trips. Today group participation is not necessary to meet fellow skiers, snowshoers or those who enjoy another sport.

For example, I was a member of the San Francisco Bay Chapter River Touring Section of the Sierra Club back in the 70s. More than 100 people would show up at the monthly meeting at the Lake Merritt boathouse in Oakland. It was a major event each and every month. The attendees included many of California's early river explorers. People came because this is where you learned about upcoming trips and made plans for the following month's adventures. Today the Section is but a memory. All that remains is an annual race and a newsletter that two ardent boaters continue to publish.

The same thing can be said about the Loma Prieta Chapter Ski Touring Section except that they have hung onto their meeting with 20 or so attending each month throughout the winter. Over the years most of the attendees have been the same with a few coming and going. I certainly hope that the Section will survive well into the future.

On the bright side, I look at the Nordic Skiers of Nevada

County and I see a thriving band of skiers who meet monthly and have trips every week. Of course the bulk of the members live less than an hour from excellent backcountry skiing, and it is easy to see how they will survive so long as there are a few generous soles who volunteer to be responsible for the planning.

Another very successful regional backcountry ski group is the Chico XC Ski Group. It and the Nordic Skiers of Nevada County are Yahoo Groups. Clearly this gives them the technological infrastructure with little effort.

I wonder why this model has not been used by skiers in Reno, Mammoth Lakes and other places where there are large concentrations of backcountry ski enthusiasts? It seems like this type of group would be a great benefit to not only skiers, but also snowshoers who have essentially no organized online sources for meeting their cohorts.

The reason is that every change for the better requires effort by a selfless person. With effort there is the giving up of discretionary time. Thankfully there are those who are willing to give a bit of their time for the community.

Please visit the resources section of the Snowlands Network website for a list of backcountry ski clubs (www.snowlands.org).

Another change that I have regrettably seen, which was documented in a study, has to do with age, sports and donations to environmental organizations. The trend is for young people to participate in sports such as backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, backpacking and kayaking, but it is not until they are into middle age that they begin to donate to the environmental organizations that protect their interest in the sports.

It could be that they become more affluent and then they give. But everyone should be aware that organizations are happy to receive a donation regardless of the size.

I think that it is not until they have lived long enough that they see what they have to lose if they don't take action. Unfortunately it's not their age that gives them insight; it's that

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Snowlands Bulletin

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Mission

We promote opportunities for quality human-powered winter recreation and protect winter wildlands. We educate the public and government agencies about winter recreation and environmental issues.

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Year-End Challenge a Success

Snowlands Network raised \$15,000 between the start of November and the end of January in its year-end challenge. Your generosity means that Snowlands will receive a matching amount from its directors and an anonymous donor, and we will continue our advocacy on behalf of those who enjoy quiet and safe muscle-powered winter recreation for another year..

The Board of Directors thanks each and every one of you who sent in a membership or special donation during this period. Our life blood is a combination of our volunteers and our members' support. Without all doing their part we could not continue our advocacy on your behalf.

Of course we accept donations year-around. Visit us at www.snowlands.org and click on the DONATE NOW button.

Thank you for your trust in us.

Thank You For Joining Snowlands Network

New members since July 1, 2009

Abacus Bookkeeping	Colin Melville
Cathy Anderson-Meyers	Diane Miller
Barbara Bitner	Barbara Munker
Steve Brown	Frank & Elaine Newlin
Roy & Isako Egawa	Lee Pemberton
Michael Delaney	Alvaro Peres
Bret Dezordo	Jane Ragan
Jennifer Dickinson	Robert Rowen
Terry Erickson	Loren Rupp
Steven Fassio	Karen Schambach
Peter Garber	John Sedlander
Jerry Hapgood	John Stroud & Robin Wham
Shane Horton	Anne & Mark Thomas
Barbara Inyan & Steve Lindberg	Chresten Wilson
Kathy Kohberger	Whole Foods Market
Cynthia Knowles	John Zanteson
Dianne Lange	

Visit Snowlands at the Reno Earth Day

Snowlands Network will be hosting a table at the Reno Earth Day on Sunday, April 25 at Idlewild Park. Come and enjoy the day with us and other environmentally minded people.

An EVENT-ful Year

Help plan an event in your area

Snowlands Network participates in or hosts a number of events each fall and winter. This season was no exception. And yes, it is possible to have these types of events in your area. To make that happen, Snowlands needs support in planning and organization from a local business or individual. Read on for a glimpse of what is possible.

We began the season in October with a table and presentation at the REI San Carlos store as part of a celebration centered around Ken Burns' new documentary "National Parks: America's Best Idea."

In November we hosted the Fifth Annual Backcountry Film Festival in Truckee just as the snow began to fly. It was a smashing success with more people attending than ever before.

In December we did back-to-back events in Berkeley. On a Friday night we co-hosted with the Cal Hiking and Outdoor Society a slide show about skiing in Denali National Park and the movie *White Book*. On Saturday we set up Snowlands' canopy at Wilderness Exchange where we demonstrated how to wax skis. We even waxed skis brought in by people.

Our big Reno event was in January when we packed the Patagonia facility with the help of famous climber, scientist and author Arlene Blum who presented *Breaking Trails: Molecules and Mountains*. The silent auction was again a great success.

February found Snowlands in Nevada City. Here we co-hosted the Denali and White Book show with Wolf Creek Wilderness, a Grass Valley retail store. It was a repeat success here. The larger than expected crowd was no doubt due to the article in The Union newspaper that described our work and the show.

We ended the season with two nights of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour in Los Altos, which we co-sponsored with REI. This is by far our biggest event with more than 400 people attending each evening. Some attend both nights so that they don't miss a single movie.

Throughout the winter Snowlands Network also offered backcountry tours as part of our Snowlands-On-Snow program.

We hope to see you next season at one of our events. Send an email to [Annette Glabe](mailto:Annette.Glabe) asking to be put on the announcement list. Also let us know if you are interested in helping to bring an event to your area. It would be great to head up to Chico, Shasta or to wherever you live.

Whatever we are doing at Snowlands Network, you can be assured that it is the result of countless hours behind the scenes donated by its directors and staff, plus the support of volunteers and event supporters. The following is a list of all those who helped us with this season's events.

Ken Burns' Celebration

- The staff at REI

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An EVENT-ful Year

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- Mike Dooley
- Janet Hoffmann
- Marcus Libkind

Fifth Annual Backcountry Film Festival

Volunteers

- Jerry Blackwill
- Cathy Dowd
- Gary Dowd
- Annette Glabe
- Marcus Libkind
- Jan Short
- Karen Theisen
- Karen Wilcutts

Donors

- Clif Bar
- Lost Trail Lodge, Truckee, CA
- The Backcountry, Truckee, CA
- Alpine Skills International, Truckee, CA
- Movement4Life, Jared Power, Bodyworker, Tahoe City, CA.

Cal Hiking and Outdoor Society Slide and Film Event

- Bill Flower
- Marcus Libkind
- Valerie Zimmer
- All the other CHAOS people that showed up to help

Waxing Clinic

- Wilderness Exchange and its wonderful staff
- Bill Flower
- Marcus Libkind

Reno Event at Patagonia

Volunteers

- Ron Hunter, Patagonia
- All the other Patagonia staff volunteers
- Cathy Anderson-Meyers
- Charlotte Cox
- Cindee Davis
- Jeff Erdoes
- Gail Ferrell
- Deborah Green
- Monte Hendricks
- Julie Hendricks
- Cathy Karr
- Tony Karr
- Ellen Lapham
- Barry Morgan
- Nancy Simkin
- Victoria Wallington
- Mike Wilkin

Donors

- Dr. Antonia Neubauer
- The Backcountry, Truckee, CA
- Bicycle Bananas, Reno, NV
- CathyWorks Snowshoe Tours
- Cindee Davis
- Coldwater Creek, Reno, NV
- Deborah Green at Vin Sauvage
- Eric Holland
- Helaine Greenberg
- Hope Valley Outdoors, Hope Valley, CA
- Lost Trail Lodge, Truckee, CA
- Marcy Jordan
- Mark Vollmer
- Mt. Rose Ski Area
- Ortovox
- The Orvis Company
- Patagonia, Reno, NV
- Petzl America
- REI, Reno, NV
- Rock Creek Lodge, Rock Creek, CA
- Sandy Meyer
- Senator Harry Reid
- Silver Peak Restaurant and Brewery
- Skagen Designs, Reno, NV
- Sorenson's Resort, Hope Valley, CA
- Susan Lisagor
- Starbucks Coffee, Reno, NV
- Tom and Sue Standlee
- Trader Joe's, Reno, NV
- Western Mountaineering

Nevada City Slide and Film Event

- Wolf Creek Wilderness, owner Danny Childs and staff
- The entire Childs family
- Art Clark
- Bill Flower
- Annette Glabe
- Marcus Libkind
- The Union newspaper

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

- Guy Ayres
- Heather Dooley
- Mike Dooley
- Jim Gibson
- Janet Hoffmann
- Jane Klickman
- Marcus Libkind
- Sophie Libkind
- Mac Smith
- Cindy Tracey
- Dave Zentler

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An EVENT-ful Year

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Snowlands-On-Snow

- Alpine Skills International, Truckee, CA
- Cathy Anderson-Myers
- Jeff Erdoes
- Gail Ferrell
- Steve Hibbs
- Kathy Kohberger
- Marcus Libkind
- Barry Morgan
- Curtis Oldenburg
- Linda Stewart

Focus on Lands Monitoring

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Presidential Executive Orders require the Forest Service to control snowmobile use to prevent a broad range of unacceptable impacts such as:

- Hazards from speeding snowmobiles near pedestrians
- Damage to soils or vegetation
- Spillage of hazardous waste
- Noise pollution
- Exhaust pollution
- Impairment of lawful access
- Displacement of forest visitors

Please report all incidence or evidence of snowmobile misuse that you encounter at www.snowlands.org/report.htm.

Snowlands Network now offers a business-size card with links to information regarding their programs such as trail marking and for reporting snowmobile misuse. We hope you will pack a few with your 10 essentials so that you can easily spread the word to people you meet. Please contact [Annette Glabe](#) in order to receive some cards.

Participating in the Snowlands Network lands monitoring program and spreading the word about it to other people are two ways that you can be an active participant in Snowlands Network and bring about sustainable management practices on public lands through teamwork.



Promoting opportunities for quality, human-powered winter recreation and protecting winter wildlands

USE SNOWLANDS NETWORK'S ONLINE SYSTEM TO:

- Report snowmobile misuse
- Learn about Forest Service actions that impact quiet, pollution-free and safe winter recreation

See reverse side for more information

Rubicon Trail Update

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areas.

Although the adopted modified version of Option Two allows several bypasses, the decision is significant in that the worst of the extreme vehicle play areas, where massive resource damage and spillage of toxic vehicle fluids occurs, are eliminated.

Why is this of such importance to skiers and snowshoers? Winter (wet season) use of one access point to the Rubicon Trail has resulted in tire rutting and destruction of a major ski/snowshoe trail in the Forest-Service-designated Loon Lake Winter Recreation Area. This impacts our access to the northern half of the area and endangers public safety.

This conflict is caused by the County's jurisdiction of this snow-covered 1.25-mile section of road through the USFS Winter Recreation Area, the Eldorado National Forest's lack of leadership in the elimination of motor vehicles, and the four-wheel-drive community's failure to honor past agreements to not use this section of the Trail in winter.

On nearby Forest Service lands there are over 75 miles of snow-covered paved roads where it is legal for 4x4 vehicles to "play" in the snow, and cause no user conflict or resource damage.

We will continue the hard fought battle to end winter time vehicle use in the Loon Lake area, continue the fight to end the abuse to our public lands and water by destructive motorized use, and continue working toward the restoration of the Rubicon Trail as a historic 4x4 trail open for responsible street-legal vehicle use during the dry season.

There are two critical items mandated by the Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) issued in April 2009 by the Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to El Dorado County and Eldorado National Forest that come due in the next year or so: (1) "By 1 October 2010, the Responsible Parties shall prepare a Rubicon Trail Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan", and (2) "by 30 April 2011, the Responsible Parties shall submit a Long Term Management Plan for the Rubicon Trail". These will be critical to turning around the pollution of our mountain water sources and other abuses caused by unmanaged and irresponsible motorized use of the Rubicon Trail.

Additional information regarding the CAO can be found in the [Summer 2009 issue](#) of the Snowlands Bulletin.

President's Corner

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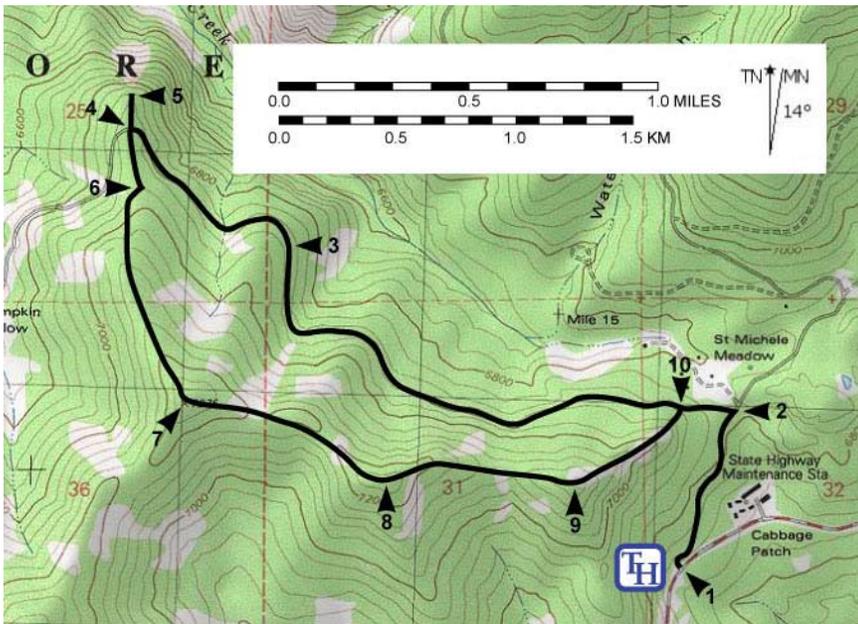
they have grown old enough to have seen changes for the worse in our environment or losses in their opportunities to recreate.

I urge you to explain to one person under 30 why it is important for them to support an organization that advocates for their interests.

Together we can make a difference!

Blue Creek Point

Topping off the wonderful view of Eagle Peak from Blue Creek Point is the optional return route via a delightful ridge.



Difficulty: Beginner-intermediate via road and intermediate with return via ridge

Length: 5.2 miles round trip via road and 5.5 miles round trip with return via ridge

Starting Elevation: 6000 feet

Cumulative Elevation Change: +500, -500 round trip via road and +800, -800 round trip with return via ridge

Navigation: Road or road and map with return via ridge

Time: Half day

Season: Late December through mid-April

Snowmobiles: Low

USGS Topo: 7.5' series, Calaveras Dome

Start: Junction of Cabbage Patch Road and Highway 4, 0.2 miles west of the Cabbage Patch Highway Maintenance Station. The parking area is very small.

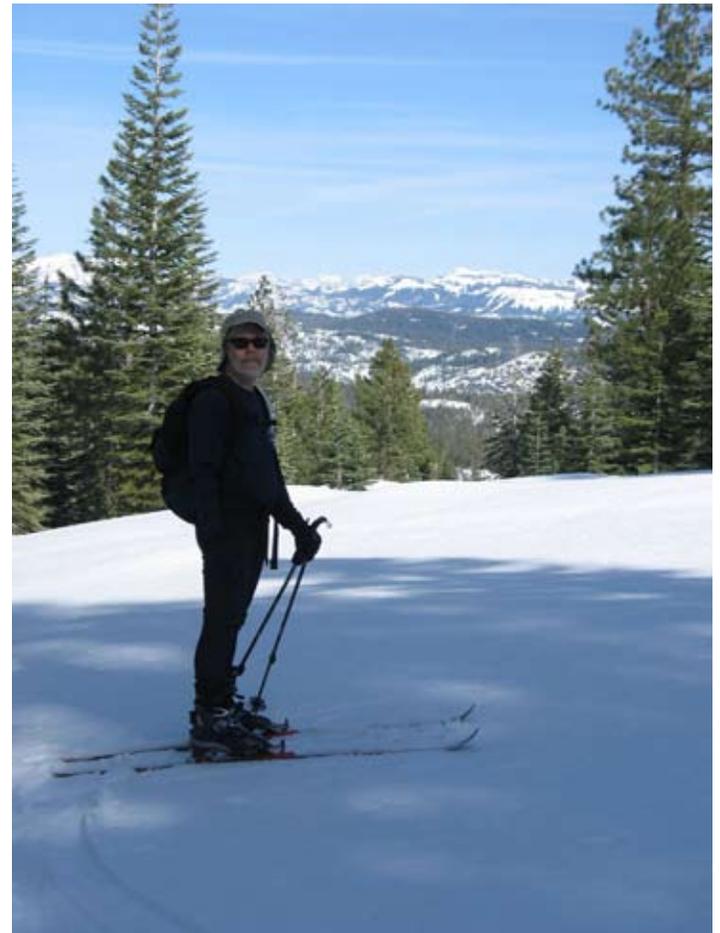
The name of this tour is derived from the destination that overlooks the Blue Creek drainage. The striking view from the point is up the drainage to white-capped Eagle Peak. An equally good view and destination point is located 1.9 miles from the trailhead (3.8 miles round trip). Here, at the north end of an open area located on the east side of the road you have a beautiful view up the drainage of white peaks that stick up above dark green forest making for a brilliant contrast on a clear day. The peaks include the Dardanelles with their red and white cliffs.

The loop tour includes a mix of easy touring along the road and a delightful ridge. It's an easy climb onto the ridge that rolls across three high points. The finest view of the Dardanelles is from the ridge just before descending back to the road.

From the trailhead (1) [numbers in parentheses correspond to numbers on map] follow the snow-covered road north (right) for 0.5 to a road junction (2). Turn west (left) and follow the snow-covered road for 1.4 miles until you reach the north end of an open area located on the east (right) side of the road (3).

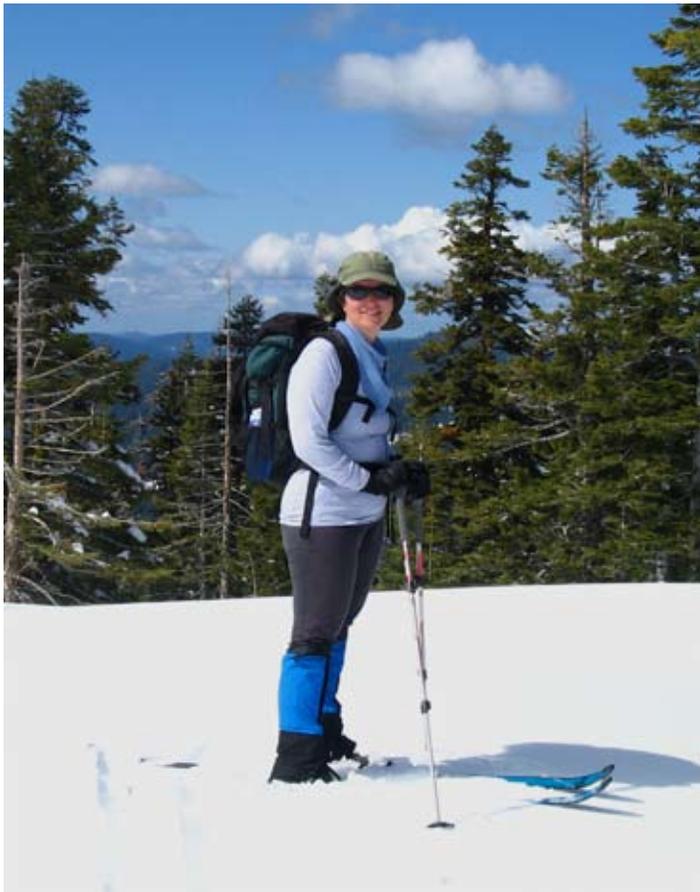
At the open area, on a clear day you will enjoy the view up the drainage to the white peaks and here you can practice your downhill techniques on the wonderful slope.

Continue on the snow-covered road in a generally northwest direction for 0.6 mile until you reach a high point at an obvious bend in the road (4). Leave the snow-covered road and ski north (right) for 0.1 mile until you reach a location where the terrain drops abruptly ahead (5). This is Blue Creek Point.



The Dardanelles from ridge
Courtesy of Marcus Libkind

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At Blue Creek Point
Courtesy of Marcus Libkind

Blue Creek Point

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Either return by the road or continue on the loop along a ridge.

To continue on the loop, retrace your tracks back to the snow-covered road and locate a lesser road that heads south off the main road. Follow the lesser road south for 0.1 mile until you reach the location where the slope to the southwest (right) is open and the road you are on narrows and enters dense trees (6). Do not continue on the road here.

Instead, leave the road and ascend the open area to the southwest (right) for a short distance before turning south and ascending up a ridge for a total of 0.7 mile until you reach Peak 7276 (7). Do not follow any snow-covered roads that you may see in this section.

Ski southeast along the ridge for 0.5 mile until you reach a high point (8) and then east along the ridge for another 0.5 mile until you reach another high point (9). Now you descend a narrow ridge to the northeast for 0.4 until you intersect the road you skied earlier (10). Then follow the roads back to the trailhead.

This tour description is provided courtesy of www.BackcountrySkiTours.com where you can find a mileage log, elevation profile and GPS waypoint data for the tour.



Join Us!

Our success depends on you! Join and support us today. Also, please tell your friends about Snowlands Network. Together we can save and protect our snowlands.

Sign up here or join online: www.SaveOurSnowlands.org

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Got Bumper Stickers?



Help support Snowlands and share our **Wild About Snowlands** message with friends! From bumpers to snowboards to school notebooks, our bold sticker is a striking statement. It measures 7-1/4" x 3-3/4" and has a bright blue mountain slope with black lettering.

One for \$5 Five for \$15

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Address _____

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