

## **Caldera Rim Snowshoe Trail**

The Caldera Rim Snowshoe Trail was created in 2010 after several skiers trekked along the rim and thought the route would make a nice trail. After getting permission from the Forest Service, a trail was cut and marked with red flagging. It eventually grew into a 5-mile loop for snowshoeing. The rim portion of the trail is suitable for skiing but parts of the loop are steep and skins are needed. From Idaho Falls, the trail is reached by driving 60 miles north on Highway 20 to the top of the Ashton hill where there is a large parking lot on the west side of the Highway. The trail is marked with red flagging; it begins at the center of the parking lot and splits after a short distance. The recommended direction of travel is counter clockwise. Take the right fork (don't get on the road), it offers scenic views, and is an easy introduction to the trail and avoids a long uphill slog. The trail follows the Caldera rim for about 2 miles and then drops 220 feet to begin the return loop. The return portion goes over hill and dale to avoid Rattlesnake road and eventually winds up on Rattlesnake road for a short distance before descending to the parking lot.

A word of caution: Five miles on snowshoes, through unbroken deep snow, is a great deal of work. So know your strength and take others with you to share the work of trail breaking. If the trail is packed, the trek can be made much faster and with much less effort.

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