

## KELLY CANYON NORDIC AREA GUIDE

The Kelly Canyon Nordic Area (KCNA), maintained by Idaho Falls Ski Club (IFSC) and Idaho Alpine Club (IAC), is located on BLM, State Endowment Land and Caribou-Targhee National Forest (6 square miles) adjacent to the Kelly Canyon Ski Resort. The wooded National Forest area has been set aside for non-motorized winter recreation. The snow quality is generally high, and the terrain varies from steep to gently rolling. There are many spectacular vistas to add to your enjoyment. Moose and other wildlife are frequently seen on the trails.

The area includes 20 miles of cross-country ski trails, 17 miles of snowshoe trails and unlimited areas for backcountry travel. There is also a north facing, powder-snow ski slope (Norm's Hill) where you can sample backcountry skiing with minimum effort. The IFSC Kelly Mountain Hut can be found at the base of Norm's Hill and is available for day and overnight use. The IFSC Morgan Summit Hut is located just east of Morgan Summit and is for day use only. Both huts are free for public use and supplied with firewood. Donation boxes are located in both huts and your support would be appreciated.

The KCNA is the result of the combined efforts of the IFSC, IAC, US Forest Service, Bonneville County and other volunteers. The IFSC provides grooming equipment and financial support. The Forest Service provides guidance, some materials and oversight. Bonneville County has provided the snowmobiles and some equipment for trail grooming. Volunteers do all trail grooming in the winter and all trail maintenance and development. Parking is available in the Kelly Canyon Resort parking lots (the lower lot should be used on busy days).

A trail registration box with brochures is located on Forest Road (FR) 218. Please sign in. All trails described below can be found on the accompanying topographic map.

### **CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS** (see map)

Skiing past the Kelly Canyon Ski Lodge on FR 218 to the Y-Junction conveniently accesses almost all cross-country ski trails. This 1.2-mile track is usually groomed and is rated more difficult because it is uphill. A bench and new toilet are located at the Y-Junction. Distances trail segments are found on the KCNA map.

**Buckskin Morgan Ridge Loop** More Difficult, ungroomed. The loop distance from Morgan Summit varies from 3.2 to 5 miles depending on the route.

**Glen's Grunt** Most Difficult, ungroomed. Descending this route on skis is not recommended unless there is deep fresh snow to slow you down. This is also a snowshoe trail.

**Hawley Gulch Loop** Most Difficult, mostly ungroomed. Loop is 4.4 miles long from the Y-Junction.

**Hawley Gulch Overlook Loop** Easiest, groomed.

**Hidden Vista** Easiest, groomed.

**Kelly Mountain Ridge** More Difficult, ungroomed.

**Logging Road** Easiest, groomed. The trail leads to the Kelly Mountain Hut. The hut is a large wood-floored tent. It has a wood-burning stove, bunks, propane stove and lantern, table, chairs and an outside bench. There is a pit toilet nearby. The hut is open for day-use until 6 pm. Overnight reservations can be made by contacting Glen Hayes at 523-6839. While use of the hut is free, donations are requested to help recover costs.

**McCarthy** (formerly Upper Hut) More Difficult, mostly ungroomed.

**Morgan Summit** More Difficult, groomed. Morgan Summit Hut is just east of Morgan Summit (follow the Hawley Gulch trail for about 140 yards). It is a canvas tent over a wooden floor. It is equipped with a table, chairs, wood-burning stove, and outdoor bench for picnicking in nice weather. It is for day use only.

**Norm's Hill** More Difficult, ungroomed. This is an unmarked, north-facing, lightly wooded ski slope, 0.4 miles long that rises about 450 feet above the Kelly Mountain Hut.

**Pine Loop** More Difficult, sometimes groomed. The loop is 3.6 miles long from Morgan Summit.

**River View** More Difficult, ungroomed. The trail leads to a nice view of the Snake River.

**Side Step** Most Difficult, ungroomed. The primary purpose of this trail is to access Norm's Hill for a little backcountry skiing fun.

**Tyro Loop** Easiest, partly groomed. Loop is 0.6 miles long from the Y-Junction.

**Tyro Vista** More Difficult, ungroomed.

## **SNOWSHOE TRAILS** (see map)

Five snowshoe trails start from FR 218 climbing and connecting with Shoer's Delight or FR 887. These trails are steep, narrow, less completely cleared than the ski trails and generally not suitable for skiing. Glen's Grunt is a skier/snowshoer shared trail (see ski trails).

**Big Slot** More Difficult. Steep but easier than other routes to Buckskin Morgan Ridge.

**Boundary** Most Difficult. Steep, but it provides the shortest access to Little Kelly Trail.

**Upper & Lower Cole's Climbs** Most Difficult. Steep climbs on exposed south facing slope.

**Connector Trails** Easiest. The trail parallels road 218 through the trees and provides access to other trails.

**Corkscrew** Most Difficult. Steep.

**Hut** Easiest. Hut trail meanders 1.1 miles through the trees to the Kelly Mountain Hut.

**Little Kelly** More Difficult. The trail wanders between Buckskin Morgan Ridge and the mouth of Little Kelly Canyon. Use a shuttle to avoid hiking the road.

**Moose** More Difficult. Shared with alpine skiers and boarders. Avoid at busy times. Connects to Repeater.

**Moose Rim** Most Difficult. The trail is very steep and exposed along canyon rim but offers good views. Trail is on wildlife closure boundary. Connects to Repeater.

**Repeater** Most Difficult. Steep trail at both ends. Can be used to access the Kelly Mountain Hut.

**Shoer's Delight** Easiest. Scenic trail paralleling Buckskin Morgan Ridge leading to the Morgan Summit Hut.

## **TRAIL ETIQUETTE and SAFETY**

- Be considerate of other traffic on all trails.
- Yield to skiers on a downhill run.
- Try to clear the trail if you stop or fall.
- Do not walk or snowshoe on either skier or machine set ski tracks (except Glen's Grunt).
- Ski under control always; avoid trails that are beyond your ability.
- Register your trip at the trail sign-in locations; use trail maps and signs to plan your trip.
- Carry extra gear, water, snacks, flashlight, a compass or a GPS, trail or area maps, a cell phone (poor reception except for Edge Wireless), and fire starting tools, even on short trips.
- Be aware that trail conditions can change greatly with changing snow, trail and weather conditions.
- Ski with a partner, especially on the ungroomed trails and backcountry ski runs.
- Watch for and yield to trail grooming equipment.
- Keep dogs under control and off the groomed track; clean their refuse from the trail.

## **EMERGENCIES**

In case of emergency, call **911** and report the nature and location of the emergency. Be aware that the KCNA is wild country, searching is difficult and the area is not regularly patrolled.

The latest copy of the KCNA brochure and color trail map can be downloaded from the IFSC web site, [www.ifskiclub.com](http://www.ifskiclub.com).

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to maintain and operate the KCNA. If you would like to help maintain this non-motorized winter recreation area for everyone's enjoyment, contact Ken Hahn, phone 208 206-5353, e-mail: [kehahn@msn.com](mailto:kehahn@msn.com). Revised ABC 11-2010

**Idaho Falls Ski Club**  
**[www.ifskiclub.com](http://www.ifskiclub.com)**