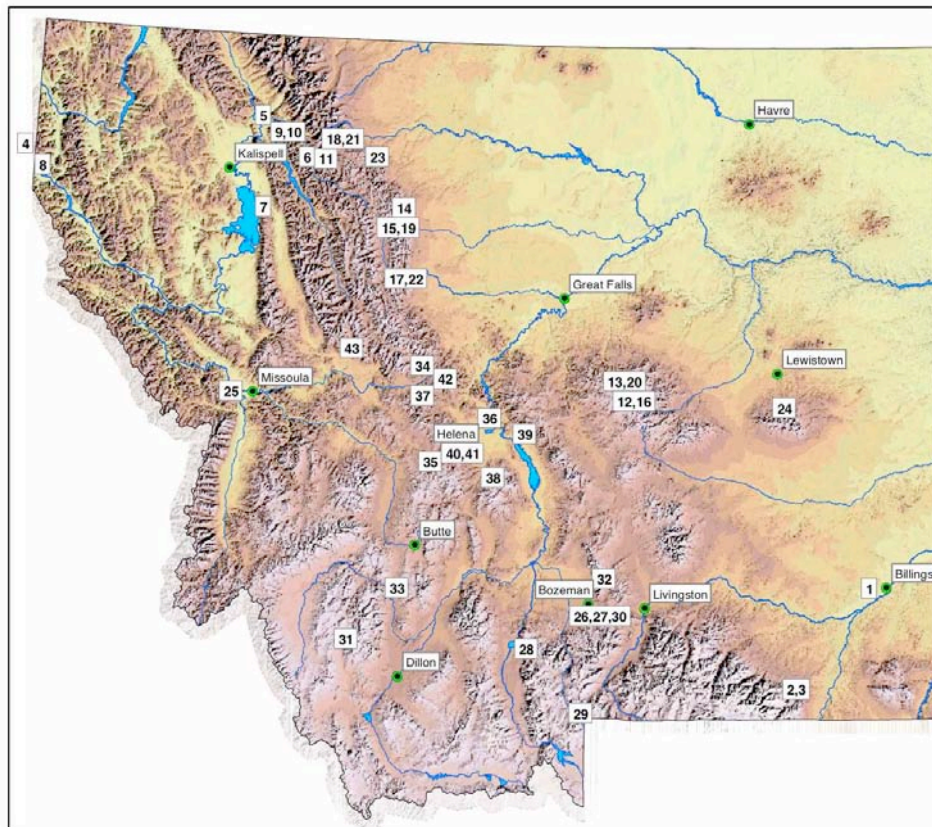




MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

2010 Winter Wilderness Walks Schedule



YOUR CHECKLIST FOR WINTER SNOWSHOE WALKS:

- Reservations are required and must be made directly with the Walk leader. Be sure to ask questions when you call so you are well informed and assured that the walk matches your abilities.
- Carefully review the descriptions and make your selections of walks based on your physical abilities, general state of health, hiking/snowshoeing experiences, and equipment.
- Children with adult guidance are welcome unless it is noted in the narrative that a hike is not suited for children.
- Each walk has a size limit to guarantee a quiet experience, to protect fragile wildlands, and to comply with the guidelines of the managing land agency.
- All personal gear, food, and water are your responsibility. Please be sure you are properly equipped for abrupt weather changes with extra layers of clothing.
- No dogs are permitted, in fairness to fellow hikers and wildlife.
- Please leave all firearms at home.
- Be sure to plan adequate travel time so you are at the meeting place at the appointed hour.
- Don't be a "no show" at the trailhead after you have made your reservation. It leaves everyone waiting and worrying and denies someone else the chance to hike. If your plans change, you must notify the Walk leader as soon as possible.

Thank Your Walk Leader, they are volunteers!

EASTERN REGION

1.

Prairie Winter Walkabout

Date: Saturday, 1/16/2010

Location: near Billings

Public Land Management: Cove Canyon Grasslands (private)

Trail Miles: 5-10

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 1/9/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at Rocky Mountain College behind Fortin Education Center (off of Rimrock) for carpooling.

Leaders: Carolyn Sevier 459-9668 carolyn@rimcountry.org and Morgan Sevier

Come explore the unique features of the prairie in winter. This walk will take place at Cove Canyon grasslands, a 3,000-acre section of land near Billings, and will feature the native plateau grasses, a series of sandstone canyons, and localized ponderosa pine woodlands. Expect low-intensity cross-country travel and some navigation of canyon areas. We are sure to spot, hear and see signs of native bird and mammal species along the way.

2.

Snowshoe the Beartooth Front

Date: Saturday, 1/30/2010

Location: near Red Lodge

Public Land Management: Custer National Forest

Trail Miles: 3-4

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 1/20/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 10:00 a.m. in Red Lodge at the city bathrooms off main street (Highway 212/Broadway), past the grain elevator and Bank of Red Lodge (on right).

Leaders: Kris Thomas kris@zephyradventures.com and Michelle Kroll

Enjoy an easy to moderate snowshoe (depending on snow depth, your condition and experience level) in the beautiful rolling hills next to the Beartooth Mountains near Red Lodge. This walk is geared to novices - basic instruction and snowshoes are provided!

3.

Beartooth Adventure

Date: Saturday, 2/13/2010

Location: near Red Lodge

Public Land Management: Custer National Forest

Trail Miles: 3

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/9/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:30 a.m. at the Albertson's parking lot (Rehberg and Grand) in Billings for carpooling

Leaders: David and Elizabeth Klarich 245-6256 (home) 545-8215 (cell)
klarichd@msn.com

This is generally an easy walk of approximately 1.5 hours before lunch and 1.5 hours after lunch. We will be exploring a drainage in the beautiful Beartooth Mountains (to be announced) that offers ample snow for the outing. Beginners are welcome, because if you can walk, you can snowshoe!

NORTHWEST REGION

4.

East Fork Creek in the Scotchmans

Date: Saturday, 1/9/2010

Location: near Clark Fork, ID

Public Land Management: Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Trail Miles: 6-7

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 1/5/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) at the Hays Chevron in Clark Fork, ID

Leaders: Phil Hough (208) 255-2780 phil@scotchmanpeaks.org and Deb Hunsicker

We'll follow the perimeter of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, along the Lightning Creek road. Repairs to the road since the floods of 2006 have been completed, but the many changes due to the floods are still evident and will be observed. Tall Cedars, some toppled, and tossed boulders line the streams. Depending on how far we can drive we may cross the East Fork Creek and then follow its flood plain past the new trailhead, exploring the jumble of trees and boulders, looking at how floods altered native plant habitats and animal browse patterns. The route will be out and back, total distance dependent upon how far we go before turning around. Four wheel drive recommended.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

5.

Quarter Circle Bridge to Old Ranger Station

Date: Saturday, 2/13/2010

Location: near West Glacier

Public Land Management: Glacier National Park

Trail Miles: 10

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 10

Reservations By: 2/11/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at Super One parking lot in Kalispell for carpooling, others meet at the trailhead at 10:30 a.m.

Leaders: Terry and Katy Meyers 471-4159 tkmeyers@bresnan.net

The trail crosses MacDonald Creek at one mile, then climbs and follows the Middle Fork of the Flathead. After passing the Apgar Lookout Trail on the right, and a few miles of forest, the trail opens onto the spectacular canyon of the Middle Fork. The remains of the old Ranger Station are a mile or so on the other side the canyon, and the confluence of the Middle and North forks of the Flathead River just beyond that. Dress warm and bring water and lunch.

6.

Big River Trail

Date: Saturday, 2/20/2010

Location: near Essex

Public Land Management: Flathead National Forest

Trail Miles: 4-6

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 12

Reservations by: 2/13/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at the Super 1 parking lot in Columbia Falls

Leaders: Matt Holloway 270-7429 hollowaym@wfps.k12.mt.us

The Big River trail begins at Bear Creek on Hwy 2, just east of Essex, and follows the Middle Fork of the Flathead to its headwaters 30 miles into the Great Bear Wilderness. We will follow the trail for two or three miles, and then turn around and return. For the most part, the trail winds through a diverse forest of lodgepole, spruce, fir and larch, with occasional views down to the river. Elk, moose, deer, and wolves frequent the area. This is a moderate hike, with lots of small ups and downs.

7.

Estes Lake

Date: Sunday, 2/21/2010

Location: southeast of Bigfork

Public Land Management: Flathead National Forest

Trail Miles: 5

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 2/14/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at Coffee Traders in Kalispell; 4 X 4 vehicles may be necessary

Leaders: Kelly Heaton 270-4527 kelly@glacierfund.org

Estes Lake sits quietly in the northern Mission Mountain Range. Moderate in difficulty, this outing offers views of the northern Swan Crest and an introduction to the network of trails in the area. This trail begins by passing through wetland areas with cottonwoods and birch, gently climbing rock outcroppings. The path then gradually descends through a forest of fir and larch, skirting meadows to arrive at cliffs above the lake. The cliffs provide a

perfect place to sit and enjoy lunch before retracing our steps back to the trailhead.

8.

Moonlight over Blue Creek

Date: Saturday, 2/27/2010

Location: near Heron

Public Land Management: Kaniksu National Forest

Trail Miles: 7

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 10

Reservations By: 2/20/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 2:30 p.m. at 124 Highway 200, near Heron (hike leader's house) the first driveway to the right after milepost 1 if coming from the west, the second drive to the left after Blue Creek Road if coming from the east.

Leaders: Sandy Compton, (406) 847-2396 or (208) 290-1281
sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org

This is an introduction to the southern boundaries of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. We will travel primarily on closed forest roads that climb steadily along the south face of Clayton Peak or on Fatman Mountain. Depending on the snow conditions, this will be either a moderate (condensed snowpack) or strenuous (heavy layer of new) snowshoe hike. The hike will begin mid-afternoon and continue into the evening, giving hikers a chance to enjoy the glory of a February full moon.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

9.

Rescue Creek Trail

Date: Saturday, 2/27/2010

Location: near Nyack Flats

Public Land Management: Flathead National Forest

Trail Miles: 4-6

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 8

Reservations By: 2/19/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at Montana Coffee Traders parking lot in Columbia Falls

Leader: Jeff Metsky (201) 317-1709 jmetsky@gmail.com

The Rescue Creek Trail begins along Hwy 2 near the Skiumah Creek trailhead. Winter parking is just off the highway with a 1/2-mile hike to the Rescue Creek trailhead. The trail climbs moderately for 1.5 miles into the basin below Mount Penrose and Nyack Mountain. From here, depending on snow conditions and group enthusiasm, we may be able to hike to the saddle below these two mountains if a longer hike is desired. This drainage provides habitat for various ungulates, lynx, bobcat, old growth Englemann Spruce, and plenty of devil's club.

10.

Stanton Lake Snowshoe

Date: Sunday, 2/28/2010

Location: near Hungry Horse

Public Land Management: Flathead National Forest

Trail Miles: 4

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 2/21/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at the Hungry Horse Conoco Gas Station on Route 2

Leaders: Fred and Lynne VanHorn 250-1739 Fred_Vanhorn@yahoo.com

We will snowshoe approximately one mile into Stanton Lake in the Great Bear Wilderness. The lake sits beneath the imposing face of Great Northern Peak; the highest mountain in the Flathead Range. The trail begins to climb quite steeply from the trailhead before leveling off below the lake.

11.

Devil Creek

Date: Saturday, 3/6/2010

Location: near Essex

Public Land Management: Flathead National Forest

Trail Miles: 6

Difficulty: strenuous

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 2/27/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 7:15 a.m. at Super 1 in Whitefish and 8:00 a.m. at Alberta Visitor Center in West Glacier. Look for a tan Toyota Highlander. We will carpool in two or three cars.

Leader: Josh Schott 250-9432 peacemonger_1@yahoo.com

From the Devil Creek campground, the trail climbs steadily southward through the narrow canyon of the lower Devil Creek. The canyon is a good example of a diverse forest. Soon after, the canyon opens out into a broad valley, and the gradient of the trail eases off into a series of flat benches interspersed with short bursts of climbing. Early on, openings in the forest allow pleasant views of the nameless peaks that surround the upper end of the valley. Dress warm and bring a lunch.

NORTH CENTRAL AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

12.

Kings Hill

Date: Saturday, 1/9/2010

Location: south of Neihart

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: TBA

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 12
Reservations By: 1/7/2010
Call Dave Cunningham for more information 791-7700
Leaders: Chuck and Gerry Jennings

Come celebrate National Trails Day at Kings Hill in the heart of the Little Belt Mountains. The Lewis and Clark National Forest will determine the length and elevation of the hike. It will be suitable for moderately experienced shoers. Your hike leaders are long-time activists with the Montana Wilderness Association and the Island Range Chapter.

13.

Paine Gulch
Date: Tuesday, 1/19/2010
Location: near Monarch
Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest
Trail Miles: 4
Difficulty: moderate
Group Size: 12
Reservations By: 1/15/2010
Meeting Time and Place: 8:30 a.m. at the 4B's Restaurant (4610 10th Ave South) in Great Falls. We'll carpool from there.
Leaders: Chuck and Gerry Jennings 452-3476 gerger1@bresnan.net

This trek is a gentle uphill climb with some side hills. We'll stroll through a beautiful mature forest of big lodgepole pine and douglas fir. We'll be on the lookout for a variety of animal tracks. Dress warm and bring plenty of water and food.

14.

Blackleaf Canyon/Volcano Reef
Date: Saturday, 1/30/2010
Location: west of Choteau
Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest
Trail Miles: 7-9
Difficulty: moderate
Group Size: 15
Reservations By: 1/23/2010
Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot on the south side of the Log Cabin Restaurant in Choteau.
Leaders: Bill and Polly Cunningham 466-5699 billpoll@3rivers.net

We'll start near the mouth of Blackleaf Canyon, one of the windiest and most spectacular gateways to the Rocky Mountain Front. Once the scene of limited gas drilling, Blackleaf is a prime example of a landscape being "re-wilded". After passing through the narrow Blackleaf gorge we'll head north to Volcano Reef (6758') for an unforgettable panorama of this majestic interface between mountains and plains. Depending on snow conditions our snowshoe route will be either an out-and-back or loop. We'll experience an elevation gain of 1400 ft.

15.

Middle Fork of the Teton Adventure

Date: Saturday, 2/6/2010

Location: near Choteau

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 7-10.5

Difficulty: moderate to strenuous

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 1/30/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at Big Bear Sports Center in Great Falls or
9:00 a.m. Choteau Visitor Center

Leader: Keith Gebo 727-6335 wildheart26_2@msn.com

This is one of those semi-sheltered valleys of "The Front" allowing nice deep fluffy snow to pile up in places. We will wind our way up through the narrow and mostly forested, Middle Fork of the Teton drainage. The trail eventually goes into the Bob Marshall by going over Route Creek Pass. It will depend on the group's collective abilities as to how close to the pass we get.

This hike is in an area that will be affected by the "Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act" that is being proposed by the Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front. When we stop for lunch we will discuss this effort. Come enjoy the beautiful landscape and learn more about the proposal to protect it. Dress warm and bring water, snacks and lunch.

16.

Mizpah Bowls

Date: Sunday, 2/7/2010

Location: near Neihart

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 6

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/1/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at 4-B's Restaurant in Great Falls or 8:30
a.m. at Armington Junction rest area

Leaders: Matt Marcinek 231-3604 mmarcinek@bresnan.net and Mary Courteau

We will explore a series of old roads in a scenic basin below Mizpah Bowls, south of Porphyry Peak and Showdown Ski Area. Our route will climb steady through open woods, providing nice views of Deadman Ridge, Mizpah Peak and other forested ridges. We will snowshoe up to the base of the Mizpah Bowls and look for fun places to snowshoe, but not actually go out onto the slopes. Snow conditions are consistently good in this area.

17.

Home Gulch

Date: Saturday, 2/20/2010

Location: near Augusta

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 4-5

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/19/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:15 a.m. at Paris Gibson Square in Great Falls and
9:30 a.m. at Mel's Diner in Augusta

Leaders: Gene Sentz 466-2750 friends@3rivers.net, Dan Bennett 452-7657
bennettdan@bresnan.net, and Roy Jacobs

Inside Sun River Canyon between Castle Reef and Sawtooth Mountain, Home Gulch is scenic, partly open country and partly forested. If snow conditions permit we'll wind our way to Red Lake. The gravel road from Augusta to the trailhead is adjacent to Sun River Wildlife Management Area with a chance of seeing elk on the game range and also an excellent chance of viewing bighorn sheep and deer in the canyon.

18.

Lubec Lake

Date: Sunday, 2/21/2010

Location: near East Glacier

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 2

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/17/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:30 a.m. at the Two Medicine Grill in East Glacier

Leaders: Donna Caruso-Hirst 338-2157 badger@3riversdbs.net and Jo Flick
joannflick@yahoo.com

Join us for an easy hike at the far south end of Glacier National Park. We'll be snowshoeing on Lubec Trail in and out of stands of Aspen and Lodgepole Pine while passing beaver lodges as we go along Lubec Lake. We'll keep an eye out for beaver, moose, and a variety of animal tracks. To the south is the beautiful and, now very quiet, Badger Two Medicine area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. We'll take a little time along the way to discuss the importance of the Badger as a migration corridor for animals moving from the park to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This hike is ideal for beginning snowshoers as well as anyone wanting to enjoy this beautiful country. Dress warm and bring water, snacks, and a lunch.

19.

Moonlight Madness in the Southeast Bowl of Mount Lockhart

Date: Saturday, 2/27/2010

Location: near Choteau

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 4-6

Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 2/20/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 7:00 p.m. at Big Bear Sports Center in Great Falls or
8:00 p.m. at the Choteau Visitor Center

Leader: Keith Gebo 727-6335 wildheart26_2@msn.com

Just as the snow transforms a landscape, so does the moonlight on the snow. Snowshoeing at night is an incredible adventure. The hike is timed for the full moon. "Moonrise" is at 5:12 p.m. so we will start the hike in the late evening and continue as far up the valley as the group wants to go.

Waldron Creek is beautifully forested and sheltered below Mount Lockhart on the Rocky Mountain Front. This valley receives tons of snow, and is protected from the brutal winds of the Front. In good years, the snow piles up deep and fluffy which can add to the difficulty of this hike.

The hike will start at the gated Waldron Creek cross country ski trail. We'll follow the trail for the first mile or two depending on conditions. We'll then venture up into the large bowl at the base of Mount Lockhart. We'll pause for a midnight snack in the moonlit bowl to enjoy the views and talk about the proposed Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act. Then we'll decide as a group whether to explore deeper snow and higher elevations toward Mount Lockhart or head back to the vehicles to warm up. Dress warm and bring water and snacks.

20.

Sawmill Gulch

Date: Saturday, 3/6/2010

Location: east of Monarch

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 4-5

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 30

Reservations By: 3/5/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at Paris Gibson Square in Great Falls or 8:45
a.m. at Armington Junction restroom or 9:30 a.m. at the Cub's Den in Monarch

Leaders: Keith Gebo, evening 727-6335, wildheart26_2@msn.com; Lisa Krebs,
980-0769, thekrebs@bresnan.net; Gudrun Linden, 761-4295,
wovenjourneys@bresnan.net; Dan Bennett, evening 452-7657,
bennettdan@bresnan.net.

This is an easy hike for novices, first-timers and families. The hike follows an old logging road into the Sawmill Gulch Roadless Area. We plan to shoe in through several gorgeous meadows and the lower canyon to our lunch spot on Sawmill Creek. The trail is level and elevation gain is imperceptible. After lunch we will split into two groups. The more experienced shoers will continue upstream through the cottonwoods. Sawmill supports Westslope Cutthroat trout, American Dippers, black bears and mountain lions. The Jefferson Division travel plan has banned motorized use in the Gulch.

21.

Lubec Ridge to South Fork of Two Medicine River

Date: Sunday, 3/7/2010

Location: near East Glacier

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 7-10

Difficulty: strenuous

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 3/1/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. breakfast at Two Medicine Grill in East Glacier

Leaders: Kendall Flint (406) 226-4699 kflint@3riversdbs.net and Regina Rink

From the Buffalo Lakes trailhead, we will ascend an access road to Buffalo Lakes. From there snowshoers will follow Lubec Ridge, with panoramic views of the northern Badger-Two Medicine, southern Glacier National Park, and the beginning of the Eastern Montana northern prairie. Lubec Ridge repeatedly rises and falls on its way to the South Fork of the Two Medicine River. We will have lunch by the river. After lunch, we will loop north back along Lubec Ridge, again braving exposure to potentially high winds, and descend with the ridge to US Highway 2, just west of East Glacier Park. Along the way hikers will walk across slopes frequented by winter foraging elk, and will get a winter look at the northern extent of the 2007 Skyland Forest fire. Hungry snowshoers may want to review their day together over supper at East Glacier's "Firebrand Food and Ale" before calling it a night.

22.

Wagner Basin

Date: Saturday, 3/13/2010

Location: west of Augusta

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 2-3

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 14

Reservations By: 3/12/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at Paris Gibson Square in Great Falls and 9:30 a.m. at Mel's Diner in Augusta

Leaders: Todd Davis 727-0107 toddadavis61@gmail.com; Lisa Krebs 980-0769 thekrebs@bresnan.net and Dan Bennett 452-7657 bennettdan@bresnan.net.

This is a late winter, early spring hike into the favorite haunt of the largest herd of bighorn sheep in the lower 48. With any luck we'll see in excess of 50-100 sheep. In the unlikely event there's snow, we shoe in. No snow, we hoof it. From the trailhead we have a short hike on scree before emerging into the varied habitat (cliffs, meadows, creek, beaver ponds and fen) of this Resource Natural Area. For families with young children we'll lunch about one mile in. For the more adventuresome hiker there will be an opportunity to climb to the shoulder of Castle Reef. Bring your binoculars. Leaders will provide a spotting scope.

23.

Dog Gun Lake to Hardtrigger Ranch

Date: Saturday, 3/20/2010

Location: Badger-Two Medicine

Public Land Management: Blackfeet Indian Reservation and Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 6

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 3/15/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 10:00 a.m. at Dog Gun Lake; 4X4 recommended

Carpooling from East Glacier available

Leaders: Doug Hammill 250-8252 doug@dochammill.com and Cathi Greatorex

Starting at Dog Gun Lake on the Blackfeet Reservation the trail to Hardtrigger Ranch is alternately on the Reservation and the Lewis and Clark National Forest. After three miles the group will stop at the historic guest ranch within the National Forest where a fire will be built in one of the log cabins for lunch. After a leisurely lunch break the group will return to Dog Gun Lake by an alternate route. We will see some spectacular scenery, views of Glacier Park, observe landscape affected by the 2007 Skyland wildfire and its recovery since the fire. If we're lucky we'll spot deer, elk, bear, wolf, and/or cats. Dress warm, bring water and a lunch. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended and carpooling from East Glacier available. A Blackfeet Tribe Conservation Permit will be required to recreate on the reservation portion of the hike. The hike leader will provide information on obtaining the permit.

24.

Cottonwood Canyon - Big Snowy WSA

Date: Saturday, 3/20/2010

Location: near Lewistown

Public Land Management: Lewis and Clark National Forest

Trail Miles: 6

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 3/6/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at the Rising Trout Coffee House, 217 Main (next to theatre) in Lewistown

Leaders: Laurie Lohrer 538-5187 laurielohrer@hotmail.com and Mark Good 453-9434 mgood@wildmontana.org

The trailhead is about 15 miles south of Lewistown on the north flank of the Big Snowy Mountains Wilderness Study Area. The trail follows Cottonwood Creek up a beautiful open canyon and continues several miles to the crest of the mountains. We will go about 3 miles and then return along the same route, but if interest exists we can go farther up the trail. Please bring lunch, snacks and water.

SOUTHWEST REGION

25.

O'Brien Creek Trails "The Best Kept Secret in Missoula!"

Date: Saturday, 1/9/2010

Location: near Missoula

Public Land Management: Lolo National Forest

Trail Miles: 7

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 8

Reservations By: 1/5/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 10:00 a.m. at the O'Brien Creek Trailhead

Leaders: Daphne Herling 531-1422 daphne.herling@business.umt.edu and Steve Seninger

The hike will start at the O'Brien Creek Trailhead, approximately 10 miles from downtown Missoula. We will go up the north side of the drainage, climbing 300' over $\frac{3}{4}$ miles to an old logging road. We will follow the South O'Brien Creek Trail loop (approximately 7 miles) which uses both old logging roads and new recently constructed trails. Total elevation gain is approximately 1,200' with some steep terrain along contour lines and generally open meadows through prime range for the resident O'Brien Creek elk herd. Depending on snow depth this can be a strenuous or easy hike! Four-wheel drive is helpful but totally depends on ice/snow conditions. Call if you are concerned and we will arrange rides from the intersection of O'Brien Creek Road and Big Sky Road.

26.

Lick Creek Loop

Date: Saturday, 1/9/2010

Location: south of Bozeman

Public Land Management: Gallatin National Forest

Trail Miles: 5.5

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 1/6/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:30 a.m. at the Southeast corner of the Gallatin Valley Mall Parking lot (in front of Barnes and Noble)

Leaders: Roger Jenkins and Suzie McDonald 585-5338
mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org

How do spectacular mountain views with a primo lunch spot, only 900 feet of climbing, and just a bit of cross country travel to spice things up a bit sound?

The Lick Creek loop is a great snowshoe trip north of Hyalite Reservoir in Hyalite Canyon. Much of the route is on old logging roads, so the grades are moderate. The total loop distance is about 5 miles. Depending on snow conditions, this will be an easy to moderate winter walk, but some stamina will be required no matter what.

27.

History Rock to the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn WSA

Date: Saturday, 1/30/2010

Location: near Bozeman

Public Land Management: Gallatin National Forest

Trail Miles: 5

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 1/23/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at Rocky Mountain Roasting Co. beside Aleworks in Bozeman

Leaders: Pete Sellin 587-3253 pbsellin@gmail.com and Evette Allison

Snowshoe past History Rock's carved inscriptions from the 1800's and ascend the forested ridge above the South Cottonwood drainage to step gently just inside the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. Come appreciate the wintry edge of its wild land that holds the Hyalite Peaks and waterfalls, traverses the long Gallatin Crest through Windy Pass, passes Porcupine drainage near Big Sky, adjoins Paradise Valley's length, and connects with northwestern Yellowstone National Park. Hyalite Canyon road is now plowed in the winter. Four-wheel drive may be helpful.

28.

Mill Creek

Date: Saturday, 2/6/2010

Location: near Ennis

Public Land Management: Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Trail Miles: 5

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 1/30/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at the Valley Bank Parking lot at the west end of downtown Ennis on US Hwy 287

Leaders: Bob and Shirley Bayley 682-4102 bayley@3rivers.net

We will walk uphill on a trail which roughly parallels Mill Creek, a waterway which feeds into Jack Creek near the trailhead. If conditions are favorable our moderately steep climb will take us to an unroaded remote parcel of land within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest that is presently designated for addition to the Spanish Creeks unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness as part of the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2009.

29.

Black Butte Snowshoe Tour

Date: Sunday, 2/7/2010

Location: Yellowstone National Park (Northwest Corner)

Public Land Management: National Park Service

Trail Miles: 5

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/1/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:30 a.m. at the Museum of the Rockies parking lot in Bozeman for carpooling up Hwy 191

Leaders: Ken and Susi Sinay 586-1155 office@yellowstonesafari.com

Snowshoeing is the easiest, safest and most fun way to walk in deep snow. Feel the mystery of the wilderness. Discover grand wild landscapes. This Yellowstone National Park snowshoe tour is appropriate for intermediate level snowshoers and strong beginners. We will follow an established easy gradient trail for 2 miles and then, depending upon group abilities, snowshoe cross-country to gain views and search for wildlife. The landscape is generally variable but not too steep. There will be opportunities for climbing and exertion depending upon group makeup. Snowshoes provided as necessary. Ken is a guide with the Yellowstone Safari Company and guides frequent snowshoe trips into this region. Get ready for some fun and don't worry we'll be back by the time the Super Bowl starts!

30.

Hyalite Reservoir

Date: Saturday, 2/13/2010

Location: near Bozeman

Public Land Management: Gallatin National Forest

Trail Miles: 3-4

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 2/6/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:30 a.m. at the 1st parking area one mile south of 19th Street on the Hylite Road or 9:00 a.m. at the new Shelter at Hyalite Lake

Leader: Fred Opperman 522-9760 (no calls after 9:00 pm)

The road to Hyalite Reservoir has been plowed the past two years and this has opened up a vast area to snowshoe or ski to the public. We will snowshoe on old logging roads that switch back up the hillside. It's an easy grade, lunch will be at a vista point looking down on the reservoir. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended and be prepared for winter travel. Dress warm, bring plenty of water and a lunch.

31.

Sawtooth Lake

Date: Sunday, 2/21/2010

Location: near Dillon

Public Land Management: Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Trail Miles: 8

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/14/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at the southwestern parking lot, University of Montana Western, then we'll carpool to the Grasshopper Valley and the trailhead (approx. 45 minutes)

Leader: Alan Weltzien 683-6858 aweltzien@msn.com

A moderately sloped hike from the upper (north) end of the Grasshopper Valley, east to Sawtooth Lake, which lies below Sawtooth and Highboy Mountains in the East Pioneers. The trailhead lies directly above a community a mile or two from the Maverick Mountain ski hill. The trail winds up through lodgepole pine and skirts the base of a few talus slopes, crossing the drainage (footbridges) a few times.

32.

Bridgers by Moonlight

Date: Saturday, 2/27/2010

Location: near Bozeman

Public Land Management: Gallatin National Forest

Trail Miles: 2.6

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/20/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 6:00 p.m. at the Daily Coffee Bar at 1203 N. Rouse and Oak

Leaders: Pete Sellin 587-3253 pbsellin@gmail.com and Evette Allison

Consider a "Bridgers By Moonlight" walk a couple of days before the Full Moon. We'll meet to get coffee and carpool to Battle Ridge campground. The illuminating moon should be partly risen and beautiful. We'll head northwest, cross-country over a small ridge, then along the next ridge to view the Bridgers. Our tracks will take us home towards the rising moon. Wish for a clear night and dress well to enjoy a moderately easy snowshoe. We'll carpool carefully up Bridger Canyon Road to a pull-out parking area on the left just before Battle Ridge Campground at the pass. Drive with caution. Four-wheel drive would be helpful.

33.

Humbug Spires Snowshoe Trek

Date: Saturday, 3/13/2010

Location: near Divide
Public Land Management: Bureau of Land Management
Trail Miles: 2-4
Difficulty: moderate
Group Size: 15
Reservations By: 3/6/2010
Meeting Time and Place: 10:00 a.m. at the Blue Moon Saloon in Divide
Leader: Charlie O'Leary 782-6504 staghornranch@gmail.com

This trek will be into the lower parts of the Humbug Spires Wilderness Study Area. The terrain is a combination of Douglas Fir, sagebrush, and rocky outcroppings that are within the Boulder Batholith. We will try to stay in areas that are not steep. The goal will be to reach the falls on Moose Creek where there should be some beautiful ice formations. Dress Warm, bring water and a lunch.

CENTRAL REGION

34.

Alice Creek Snowshoe
Date: Saturday, 1/23/2010
Location: near Lincoln
Public Land Management: Helena National Forest
Trail Miles: 3-5
Difficulty: easy to moderate
Group Size: 15
Reservations By: 1/16/2010
Meeting Time and Place: 10:00 a.m. at the junction of Hwy 200 and 279 (Lincoln Road North from Helena). We'll meet at the pull-out just south of the junction on Highway 279
Leaders: : Mike Brown 431-7506 adventureguynt@hotmail.com

Join us for a winter adventure in the historic Alice Creek Valley near the Continental Divide at the southern end of the Rocky Mountain Front. Meriwether Lewis and his party returned to the Missouri River through this valley over 200 years ago by following the Nez Perce "Road to the Buffalo" Trail. Our easy to moderate hike will take us through the quiet open meadows, pine and aspen forests surrounding the Alice Creek.

35.

Charter Oak Mine
Date: Saturday, 1/30/2010
Location: near Helena
Public Land Management: Helena National Forest
Trail Miles: 2
Difficulty: easy
Group Size: 15
Reservations By: 1/25/2010
Meeting Time and Place: 8:30 a.m. at the Lundy Shopping Center near Ben Franklin

Leaders: Tammy and Wayne Berkas 439-2607 (evening)

We will follow an old logging road. This is a nice level road through the forest. We will see Blackfoot Creek and perhaps some wildlife. There is an old mine that has been refurbished. We can look around the outside but will not be going into the buildings. This is a very easy walk for people who want to see if snowshoeing is something they want to do in the winter.

36.

Foster Gulch Loop

Date: Saturday, 2/6/2010

Location: near Helena

Public Land Management: Bureau of Land Management

Trail Miles: 6

Difficulty: moderate

Group Size: 8

Reservations By: 2/4/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at the south side of Big K (K Mart) parking lot, on Cedar Ave.

Leader: Cedron Jones 422-1271 cedronjones@hotmail.com

This walk goes down along the west bank of the Missouri River, below Hauser Dam, then loops back on the benches above the river. Most of the route is on game trails or cross-country, and some of it is a bit rough. Although it's only 6 miles roundtrip with about 700 feet of elevation gain, it will take us 5-6 hours to walk the loop. This is a low-snow area; so participants should be prepared for a hike instead of a snowshoe. Attractions are the birds and other wildlife along the river, and plenty of spectacular scenery.

37.

A Sweetheart of a Walk

Date: Saturday, 2/13/2010

Location: near Helena

Public Land Management: Helena National Forest

Trail Miles: 3-5

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 2/10/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. in the Lundy Center parking lot just north of Center Stage Video Store. Carpooling will be encouraged and coordinated at the meeting place.

Leaders: Jim Greene and Martha Vogt 495-9270 greenevogt@imt.net

Rather than go south to flee winter's gift of snow, we will go northwest to find as much snow as we can! This walk is appropriate for those 10 and older, and is a wonderful "loop" walk, with the second half descending downhill along a small, sometimes visible creek.

Starting at Stemple Pass we will go north along the Continental Divide for about 1.5 miles, staying off the packed or tracked ski trail as much as possible. At the juncture of Gold Creek the more adventurous will have a chance to go as far as they wish along the Continental Divide with one leader, while those who wish to return to the cars will have first crack at a likely untracked, downhill, sometimes hard to discern trail down Gold Creek. It is an adventure! The delightful descent is about one mile in length. At the bottom of the trail, at Stemple Pass Road, walkers will be shuttled back to Stemple Pass in the car that we left there on the way up to the pass.

38.

Willard Creek

Date: Saturday, 2/20/2010

Location: near Helena

Public Land Management: Helena National Forest

Trail Miles: 3

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/13/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at the Montana City Grill in Montana City

Leaders: Tammy and Wayne Berkas 439-2607 (evening)

We will follow a three-mile loop. The terrain offers great views and short climbs and descents. The vegetation changes from forest to meadows. The entire route is on a groomed trail. An easy trail for a person wanting to try snowshoeing.

39.

Hellgate Canyon

Date: Saturday, 2/27/2010

Location: near Helena

Public Land Management: Helena National Forest

Trail Miles: 2

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/23/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:00 a.m. at the northwest corner of the Costco Parking Lot

Leaders: Tammy and Wayne Berkas 439-2607 (evening)

We will walk on the forest service road through Hellgate Canyon. There is a nice creek and some visible pictographs on the canyon walls. There is a possibility of seeing Mountain Goats in the area. We will snowshoe out however far the group would like to go. Bring some snacks and water. Dress warm.

40.

Lazy Man Gulch/Ten Mile Environmental Trail

Date: Saturday, 2/27/2010

Location: near Helena

Public Land Management: Helena National Forest

Trail Miles: 1-2

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 15

Reservations By: 2/24/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:30 a.m. in the Lundy Center parking lot near Ben Franklin in Helena

Leader: Jennifer Harris 465-0326 (cell) jharris0504@msn.com

Get ready to have some snowy fun! This hike is for families so bring your lunch and your sleds. We will do an easy 1.5 mile loop with a gradual short climb in the beginning and then it's all down hill from there. After the snowshoe hike we can look forward to a campfire, hot cocoa, roasted marshmallows, and sledding. Adult and kid snowshoes (kids age 5 or older can hike on their own) will be provided by the hike leader. Also available for parents with infant to age 4, are 2 enclosed pulks for pulling little ones behind you, and 4 child backpack carriers. RSVP early if you need gear.

41.

MacDonald Pass Adventure

Date: Saturday, 3/6/2010

Location: near Helena

Public Land Management: Helena National Forest

Trail Miles: 3-4

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 3/1/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 9:30 a.m. at the Lundy Center parking lot, next to Center Stage Video

Leader: John Gatchell jgatchell@wildmontana.org 443-7350 ext.106 and Gayle Joslin

Enjoy a wonderful day learning to snowshoe along the beautiful snowdrifts on MacDonald Pass! The wind piles up snow on the edge of the forest and we will walk along gently rolling terrain before eventually heading into the quiet snow covered woods. From there we will follow a portion of the Continental Divide Trail south and observe winter tracks of forest inhabitants. We'll learn about winter ecology and the importance of this area as a wildlife corridor. Be prepared for windy conditions on the pass, so good winter gear is a must. Bring a lunch and something to drink.

42.

Flesher Pass

Date: Saturday, 3/13/2010

Location: near Helena

Public Land Management: Helena National Forest

Trail Miles: 6

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Group Size: 12

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at the west end of the Lundy Center parking lot near Center Stage Video or 9:00 a.m. at Flesher Pass

Leader: Shannon Freix 781-0627 shannon@cdtrail.org

Come explore the Continental Divide and learn about efforts to protect and promote the trail. Be on the lookout for winter wildlife and tracks and enjoy the quiet beauty of Montana's forests in winter. We will start out with a moderate climb up a hill, then follow the ups and downs of a portion of the Continental Divide Trail. Dress warm and bring a lunch.

43.

Monture Creek

Date: Saturday, 3/20/2010

Location: near Ovando

Public Land Management: Lolo National Forest

Trail Miles: 3-4

Difficulty: easy

Group Size: 12

Reservations By: 3/15/2010

Meeting Time and Place: 8:00 a.m. at the west end of the Lundy Center parking lot, next to Center Stage Video or 9:30 a.m. on Hwy 200 at Trixie's Saloon.

Leader: Laura Parr 443-7350 ext. 110 lparr@wildmontana.org

This snowshoe adventure will focus on the fundamentals of snowshoeing, winter safety, winter wildlife, old-growth trees, and the landscape that is proposed Wilderness in the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (S.1470). This gentle snowshoe walk will follow Monture Creek with some ups and downs. This will be a loop hike and we'll have lunch at a waterfall half way through. Dress warm and bring some snacks and a lunch.