Welcome to the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area

This recreation area is managed by the USDA Forest Service as part of the recreation programs authorized by Congress in 1996. The purpose of this program is to collect fees to help manage and maintain recreation areas and enhance visitor services and experiences. For more details, visit the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area website.

Why a Fee?

Outdoor recreation is more popular now than ever before. Beginning in 1990 with the first signs, each subsequent year has seen increased numbers of visitors. Increasing numbers mean the need for increased management. Each winter season, these services were provided through grants available or are no longer adequate to properly manage the area.

Non-motorized:

- Trails and routes for non-motorized use are signed using crossing country ski symbols, blue diamonds, and blue snowmobiles. Some routes are shared with motorized users.

Shrine Pass Ski Trail

- Length: 2.5 miles
- Use: Low
- Difficulty: Beginner
- Comments: This trail starts from the Vail Pass Rest Area and follows the Shrine Pass Road to the first fork where the snowmobile area begins. The non-motorized route begins at the left of the sign pole. The trail climbs up the West Ten Mile Creek to the headwaters of the drainage, parallel to the Shrine Pass Road.

Shrine Mountains to Fowler-Blizzard Hut

- Length: 8.6 miles
- Use: Low
- Difficulty: Arduous
- Comments: This is the recommended route from the Shrine Mountain area to the Fowler-Blizzard Hut. The section of this trail from Shrine Creek to the Fowler-Blizzard Hut is off-season and unmaintained. Please respect this joint use area.

Motorized routes:

- Trails and routes for motorized use are signed using snowmobile symbols, orange diamonds, and orange snowmobiles. Some routes are shared with non-motorized users.

Shrine Pass Road

- (from the Vail Pass Rest Area to upper Lime Creek / county intersection)
- Length: 4 miles
- Use: Heavy
- Difficulty: Beginner
- Comments: The section from Shrine Pass to the Lime Creek and Turkey Creek junction (7.75 miles) is a very popular multi-use trail; be courteous to others and stay on marked routes to access snowplay areas.

Lime Creek Road

- Length: 3 miles
- Use: Low
- Difficulty: Intermediate / Advanced
- Comments: This route connects Vail Pass to Redcliff. The area to the north of the road is non-motorized so please stay on marked routes for ski and snowmobile use.

Why Are Your Fees Used For?

The purpose of this program is to collect fees to help manage and maintain recreation areas and enhance visitor services and experiences. For more details, visit the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area website.

Want to know more? Contact the USDA Forest Service at 970/827-5715 or 970/827-9343.

Welcome to the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area

Managed parking, shuttle and bus service.

What Are Your Fees Used For?

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area
White River National Forest

This map is part of the official management for the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area.

You must follow the appropriate routes and play areas for your sport as indicated on this map. Motorized travel must stay on orange routes, or stay within multiple-use areas; Failure to comply is a violation of Federal regulations and is punishable by law.

"The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer," USDA Forest Service 2003.

Backcountry Ethics
* Read the Map. Use the appropriate trails and areas for your sport.
* Pass left, single file on the right for all multiple-use trails.
* Hazards exist! Be aware of avalanche danger, hypothermia, whiteouts and changing weather. Bring appropriate equipment and clothing.
* Stack your tracks. Allow everyone to enjoy a trackless powder experience.
* Be respectful to wildlife. Pass quietly or detour if you encounter animals.
* Respect each other’s rights to be here and enjoy the backcountry.
* Pack out your trash.