

Snowshoeing at Mt. Spokane State Park

Revised 2020

Snowshoeing at Mt. Spokane State Park is generally permitted on any trail with adequate snow cover except for the groomed Nordic ski trails and within the alpine ski area. Snowshoeing is also not recommended on groomed snowmobile trails. A Sno-Park permit is required to park a vehicle in the park during the winter season. The following recommended trails are generally marked with blue diamonds.

1. Entrance Loop

Rating: Easy

Round trip: 1.5 miles

Elevation gain: 240'

High point: 3600'

Description: Start at the trail head just past the Park office across from the vault toilet. On the right hand side of the road head up the trail marked 121 along a peaceful tributary of Deadman Creek. Turn right onto Trail 120, a groomed snowmobile trail, for a short distance. Then turn right at the next junction on Trail 122 and hike back down to your car. Trail 122 can be brushy in spots.

2. Burping Brook Loop

Rating: Most Difficult

Round trip: 6 miles

Elevation gain: 1080'

High point: 4980'

Description: Start at the Lower Kit Carson Loop Road Sno-Park lot at the hairpin turn. Carry your snowshoes across the plowed road and snowshoe past the gate on the Lower Kit Carson Loop Road. Hike 1.3 miles to Smith Gap where there is a nice warming hut on the left. Shortly past the vault toilet, head up Trail 140 through 4 switchbacks near the edge of the Mt. Kit Carson meadow. Follow Trail 140 right on a newer single track trail. Once at Saddle Junction, turn right on Trail 110 and head back downhill. A new bridge was built in 2019 across the upper creek. Bear left where Trail 110 overlaps Trail 100. Continue down on Trail 100, past where 110 splits off, cross the stream on a bridge, and turn right on Trail 103 to the Kit Carson Loop Road. Turn left to return to your car.

3. Smith Gap Loop

Rating: Easy to More Difficult

Round trip: 3 miles

Elevation gain: 400'

High point: 4200'

Description: Start at the Lower Kit Carson Loop Road Sno-Park lot. Carry your snowshoes across the paved road and hike out the Lower Kit Carson Loop Road. Stay on the Loop Road to Smith Gap, where there is a picnic table and a nice warming hut on the left. Either return the same way, or for more adventure, follow Trail 100 to the top of a hill and turn right. The trail may be hard to follow at times if not tracked, and there are double-log bridges over the streams. Turning right on Trail 104 or 103 will take you back down to the Kit Carson Loop Road. Once on the Loop Road, turn left to return to the parking lot.

4. Bald Knob Picnic Area

Rating: More Difficult

Round trip: 2 miles

Elevation gain: 600'

High point: 5120'

Description: Park at the Lower Selkirk Sno-Park lot (snowmobile lot). Carry your snowshoes across the paved road and hike up Trail 131 on the northwest corner of the road junction, where there is a kiosk. Pass the equipment shed on the left and continue uphill. After again reaching the snowmobile trail, turn right. Then turn left on 131 at the next junction and continue uphill. (Note: This trail is being rerouted and new sections were cleared for the 2019-20 season and marked with blue diamonds to avoid the steep hill on the old route as described below.) The summer trail eventually turns left onto the B-29 alpine ski run, but winter hikers must avoid the groomed run by turning left through the sparse trees just below the run. Use caution crossing the small creek then climb straight uphill. Once back on Trail 130, turn left and find the Bald Knob Picnic Shelter straight ahead at the top of the hill.

5. CCC Cabin

Rating: More Difficult

Round trip: 4 miles

Elevation gain: 720'

High point: 5240'

Description: Hike to the Bald Knob Picnic Shelter (#4), and find the continuation of Trail 130 across the groomed snowmobile trail from the campground entrance. The trail is marked, but may be difficult to follow if not tracked. Generally it stays at the same level until reaching a junction with the Kit Carson Loop Road. Instead of going down to the Loop Road, turn right and climb the short hill to the CCC cabin on Beauty Mountain. A wood stove and tables are available inside. A vault toilet is nearby. The cabin is also used by snowmobilers.

6. Mt. Spokane Summit Route

Rating: Most Difficult

Round trip: 3.25 miles

Elevation gain: 1,357'

High point: 5883'

Description: Hike to the Bald Knob Picnic Shelter (#4), and then site a straight path between the campground restroom building and the main TV tower on the summit. Watch out for alpine skiers, and stay left of the orange boundary markers. Snow conditions are typically icy and the weather is often windy and foggy, so be prepared! It's best not to do this route in dense fog since it is very easy to lose your sense of direction on the way down. The Vista House is open on weekends between 10:30 and 2:30 for hot drinks, chili, snacks, and a fire in the fireplace. Return to Bald Knob via the same route.

7. Trail 260 Loop

Rating: Most Difficult

Round trip: 1.25 miles

Elevation loss/gain: 450'

Park in the Lower Selkirk parking lot (snowmobile lot) and carry your snowshoes up the plowed road towards the Selkirk Lodge. Go straight at the hairpin turn, starting down the Linder Ridge Road. At the snow berm and Road Closed sign, turn left down the embankment where there are some blue diamonds and a trail sign. Do not snowshoe on the groomed Nordic ski trails. For the loop, continue straight down the steep fall line through the trees (no trail and no markings) to the Condo Road. The road is wide and unplowed, but brushy in spots, and you can hike on it for several miles in either direction. To make the loop, turn right on the Condo Road hiking through a large logged area. Then pass through a narrow band of trees and cross over a creek. Immediately after the wooded creek is another small logged area. Turn right and go uphill following the right hand side of the logged area. Watch for pink flagging and blue diamonds on the right that mark the start of an old logging road (Trail 260) and follow it back up to your starting point. Snowshoeing down Trail 260 from the top and going back up the same way is also an option.