

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

MARCH, 1982
VOL. 21, NO 4

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10: Meeting at the Montana Power Co.,
1903 Russell at 7:30 PM. The latest Missoula-Produced
slide show will be presented about The Rattlesnake Area.
It is titled "A Timeless Journey" filmed by Will Kerling
and music by Dusty Farnum. Refreshments will be served.

Rocky Mountaineer Dues: \$5.00 Single Annual Membership
\$7.50 Family Annual Membership

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT 59801



FIRST CLASS



Dave Line
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Missoula, MT 59803

CROSS-COUNTRY
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HIGHWAY 93 AT SOUTH AVE.

9-9 DAILY--9-5:30SATURDAY
 11-4 Sundays



TRIPS PLANNED

March 7: Lochsa Lodge Area-Andy Beal
 Meet at K-Mart-8:30 AM.call 543-2496
 if you have any questions about trip.

March 13 & 14:Wisherd Ridge Overnight
 Trip(Twin Creeks to Marshall Ski Area)
 Moderately strenuous-Bob Benson 549-1426
 Call him by March 12.

March 20:Squaw Peak-Nancy Schrader
 Moderate ability-Bring your lunch-
 Meet at Liberty Lanes at 8AM-728-3334

March 21: Lolo Pass Area-Allison Easterling
 728-5145 for more information about trip
 and car-pooling.

-Please call Mountain Ear editor to list
 your planned trips--Jean Doerr 721-7582-

1981-82 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Rob Holden 543-5545

SECRETARY: "Andy" Beals 542-2357

TREASURER: Arnold Finklin 543-8705

VICE-PRESIDENT Budd Jordan 549-8258

FIRST PAST PRESIDENT: Sharon Howe
 543-4200

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# Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Lolo National Forest  
Missoula Ranger District

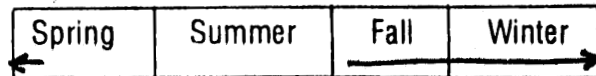
LOLO CREEK AREA

NOTE: THIS ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO WINTER RECREATION USE DURING ACTIVE LOGGING OPERATIONS. CHECK WITH THE MISSOULA RANGER DISTRICT FOR INFORMATION ON CONDITIONS OR ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

## MUD CREEK CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL

Length: 3.0 mi. (4.8 km.)

Recommended season:



Use: Light

Difficulty: Easiest

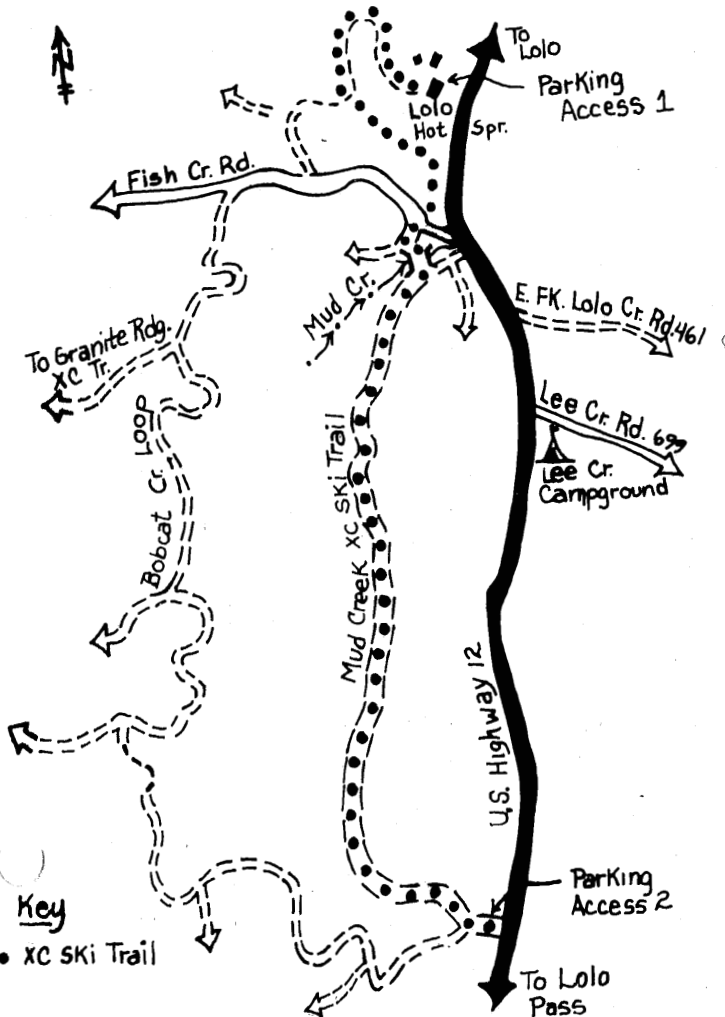
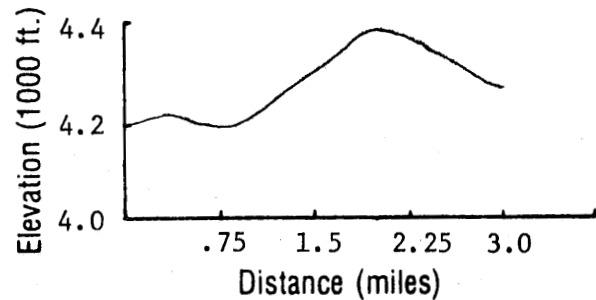
USGS Map(s): Lolo Hot Springs Quad.

TRAIL BEGINNING 4200 ft. elev. (1280m.)

Trail begins on the bobsled run behind the Lolo Hot Springs Resort restaurant.

TRAIL ENDING 4280 ft. elev. (1305m.)

Trail ends at the junction of south end of Mud Creek Road and U.S. Highway 12.



**ACCESS #1** Take U.S. Highway 93 south out of Missoula to its junction with U.S. Highway 12 in Lolo. Go west on U.S. Highway 12 for 25 miles to the Lolo Hot Springs Resort. Park in the plowed parking area on the west side of the highway. Ski trail is accessed by skiing up a portion of the old bobsled run located behind the main restaurant building. SEE SKETCH MAP.

**ACCESS #2** Continue south on U.S. Highway 12 for 2.4 miles west of the Lolo Hot Springs Resort to where the south end of Mud Creek Road intersects U.S. Highway 12. Check with the Missoula Ranger District for an update on plowed parking conditions at this access.

## MUD CREEK CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS The gentle terrain encountered on this trail makes it particularly appealing to beginning skiers. The short length makes the trail ideal for skiers getting a late start, or those wishing to make only a short day trip. When skiing the trail from one end to the other, a car shuttle is necessary. Skiers also have the option of skiing only a portion of the route and then backtracking to the takeoff point. By skiing the entire route and retracing your tracks to the starting point, the car shuttle can be alleviated, and the route extended to a 6.0 mile round trip.

NARRATIVE The Mud Creek XC Ski Trail is jointly managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Champion International Corporation. Because of its elevation and geographic location to Lolo Pass, this route can usually be skied from late fall through midspring during a normal snow year.

From ACCESS #1, the route climbs a portion of an abandoned bobsled run, located behind the restaurant building at the Lolo Hot Springs. This bobsled track was originally built as a training run for the American Olympic Team. It was last used by the team in 1965. Because of the banked grade on the bobsled track, some sidestepping may be required to negotiate this portion of the route. After climbing up the sled run for 0.16 miles, the ski trail turns sharply to the west and follows a logging road until reaching Fish Creek - Lolo Creek Road 343.

The Mud Creek Ski Trail crosses Road 343 and follows a spur to the southwest for a very short distance where it joins Mud Creek. The creek is crossed via a log bridge, and the route continues to the south to its intersection with Mud Creek Road. From this point, the ski trail follows Mud Creek Road until rejoining U.S. Highway 12.

Following Mud Creek Road south, the ski route climbs gently for 1.5 miles to a maximum elevation of 4440 feet. After reaching this high point, the ski trail begins a 0.8 mile descent to its junction with U.S. Highway 12. Most of this ski trail is located on roadbed and provides ample width clearances. Snowmobiling may occur along sections of the route. Remember the rules of courtesy when approached by snowmobilers; step to the side of the roadway until each snow machine has safely passed.

To extend this trip to a 9.7 mile loop, refer to the Bobcat Creek Loop Trail page XC 103 in the Recreation Opportunity Guide.

Winter weather conditions can change unexpectedly and pose serious problems for the unprepared. Remember to carry waterproof matches, additional warm clothing, topographic map and compass when cross country skiing or snowshoeing. Always notify someone of your departure, destination, and estimated time of return.