

# Winter Trails

The White Mountains National Recreation Area has over 200 miles of winter trails offering a variety of challenges and scenery to cross-country skiers, skijorers, dog mushers, snowmachiners, and other experienced winter travelers.

Trailhead parking areas are marked with large highway signs. Trailhead displays provide information on the general area, but are not a replacement for this brochure or topographic maps. The trail routes are intermittently marked with reflective trail markers and have directional signs at trail junctions. In most treeless areas, trails are marked with tripods. Topographic maps for the White Mountains are available from the Map Office located on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus.

## Trail Conditions

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) attempts to keep the trails packed throughout the winter, but trail conditions can change on a daily basis. Some trails can be difficult to follow in certain weather conditions. You should always carry topographic trail maps and a compass, and be prepared to break trail.

A weekly trail conditions report is available from the BLM-Alaska Web site (address below) or by calling a recorded message at (907) 474-2372.

Cover photo: Caribou Bluff Cabin, 10 x 12 ft, sleeps 4

**Bureau of Land Management  
Fairbanks District Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
Local: 907-474-2200  
Toll Free: 1-800-437-7021  
www.blm.gov/ak**

# Safety

## Know Before You Go

Prepare for the unexpected. Even when planning for a day trip, always be prepared to spend the night. Equipment problems, bad weather, or unexpected mishaps can leave you stranded far from help.

## File a Trip Plan with a Friend

- Always make sure someone knows:
- when you plan to leave and return
- where you are going
- the color, type, and license number of your vehicle
- what survival gear you are taking

## Emergency and Survival Gear

- Be sure to carry at least the following:
- dry matches and fire starter
  - metal cup for boiling water and extra food
  - sleeping bag, ground pad, and space blanket
  - spare socks, gloves, hat and face mask, snowshoes
  - maps, compass, and first-aid kit
  - axe or handsaw and sharp knife
  - equipment repair tools and spare parts

## Unpredictable Conditions

Plan for cold weather, high winds, deep snow, and unexpected changes in weather. The temperatures in the White Mountains may be as much as 25 degrees colder than in Fairbanks! Be alert for common but often hidden hazards such as thin ice, open leads, and overflow.



# White Mountains National Recreation Area

# White Mountains National Recreation Area Winter Trails and Cabins

BLM

## Winter Trail Use

Winter trails in the White Mountains National Recreation Area are shared by many types of users such as dog mushers, skiers, skijorers, and snowmachiners.

## Motorized Use

The area is open to motorized vehicles, including snowmachines, with a Gross Vehicular Weight Rating (GVWR) under 1500 pounds from October 16 to April 30, except as noted below.

- Windy Creek and Fossil Creek drainages close on April 15 because of critical wildlife areas.
- The Ski Loop Trail and Summit Trail are closed to all motorized vehicles.
- Research Natural Areas are closed to all motorized vehicles at all times so they can be preserved in a natural state for future research.

Contact BLM for an *OHV Area Designation Map* for more details.

## Non-motorized Trails

The Ski Loop Trail begins and ends at the Wickersham Dome Trailhead at Mile 28 Elliott Highway. This moderately challenging, five-mile trail starts on Summit Trail and climbs above timberline for views of the Alaska Range and Mount McKinley. The trail descends through a forested area before connecting with Wickersham Creek Trail.

Wickersham Dome, an alpine area suitable for off-trail skiing and camping, can be reached via the Ski Loop and Summit trails. A small, 10-foot by 10-foot trail shelter is located about 8 miles from the trailhead. This cabin is minimally furnished and does not have a woodstove. Areas above timberline are often very windy, so go prepared.

## Cabins

Several cozy log cabins have been built at scenic locations along the White Mountains winter trail system to enhance the safety and comfort of your winter adventure.

## Cost and Registration

Public recreation use cabins must be reserved in advance and paid for at the time you make your reservations. Shelter cabins are first-come, first-served. Reservations can be made in person at the BLM Public Information Center in Fairbanks at 1150 University Avenue or by telephone at (907) 474-2251 or 474-2252, if you are using a credit card.

Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance. Stays are limited to three consecutive nights per cabin. Weekends, holidays, and spring breaks are peak use times. Reservations are from noon to noon. Rangers will issue citations to people using cabins without reservations and proof of payment, *so don't forget your cabin permit!*

## Road-Accessible Cabin

The BLM maintains the Fred Blixt Cabin at Mile 62.5 Elliott Highway. Contact the BLM for details.

## Firewood and Water

The BLM attempts to supply the cabins with firewood, but makes no guarantees. Firewood is scarce at some cabins; carry firewood with you, cut some along the way, or be prepared to cut wood upon your arrival. Be sure to cut only dead trees. Cut standing trees at ground level so stumps do not pose a hazard to trail users. Please replace all the wood you burn, and leave a supply of dry kindling and wood in the cabin for the next person. The only sources of water are melted snow and creeks.

Wolf Run Cabin, 12 x 16 ft, sleeps 6



## The Accommodations

All cabins have a cooking area, table, bunks, and a nearby outhouse. All cabins have a woodstove except the Summit Trail Shelter. The cabins are of different sizes and design, and the number of people they can sleep varies.

The BLM equips each of the cabins with the following:

- propane cookstove
- propane lantern
- axe and bow saw
- shovel
- fire extinguisher
- broom and dustpan
- outdoor thermometer
- cabin logbook

The BLM cannot ensure the condition of these items. Please do not remove them from the cabin, and notify BLM if they are broken or missing. *Please leave the cabin clean and ready for the next user.*

The following items are not provided, so be sure to bring:

- propane canisters for the cookstove and lantern
- personal camping, cooking, and survival gear
- spare lantern mantles and candles
- two, AA-sized batteries for the smoke detector

## Backcountry Etiquette

### The Alaska Spirit

- Replace the firewood you burn—use only dead trees.
- Leave dry kindling in the cabin and fill the lantern and cookstove for the next person.
- Burn all food scraps and paper, including toilet paper—haul out all non-burnable trash.
- Remove food from cabins—it attracts unwanted animals.
- Ensure the fire is out, clean the cabin, and close the door, windows, and shutters before leaving.
- Leave all BLM-supplied items in the cabin and notify BLM if things are missing or broken.
- Dogmushers: clean up after your dogs and dump waste materials far from the cabin.
- Do not shoot within one-quarter mile of the cabins.
- Respect the privacy of those who have reserved a cabin—don't ask to share the cabin, and camp at least one mile away.

- Do not disturb trapping activities in the area.
- Camp at least 25 feet away from the trail. Do not camp or build fires on the trail.
- Operation of motorized vehicles, including snowmachines, while intoxicated is prohibited.

### Rules of the Road

- When meeting head-on, snowmachiners should pull off the trail and turn their engines off to let dog teams, skijorers, and skiers pass.
- When approaching from behind, snowmachiners should slow down and wait until the traveler in front signals that it is okay to pass.
- When dog teams want to pass, skiers and skijorers should move to the side of the trail and restrain their dogs.
- Slower mushers should move to the side of the trail to allow faster dog teams to pass.



Trails are marked with tripods in treeless areas.



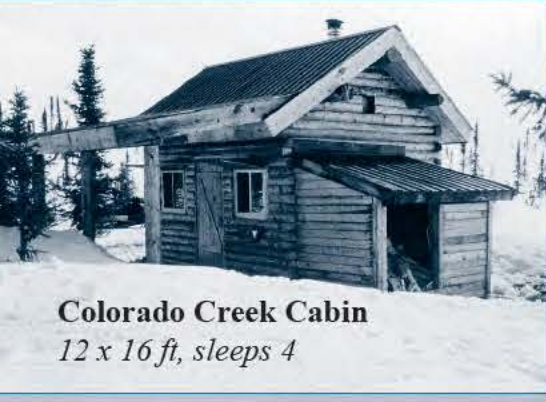
# White Mountains

## National Recreation Area

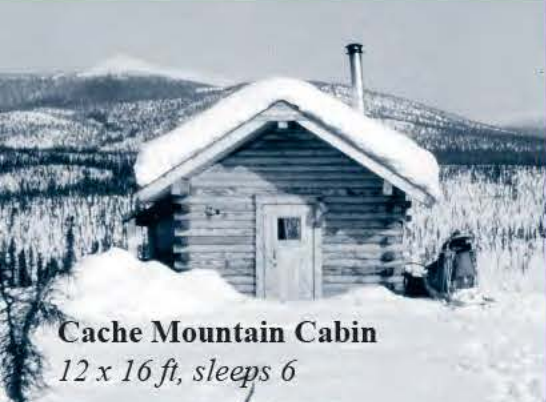
### Winter Trails and Cabins



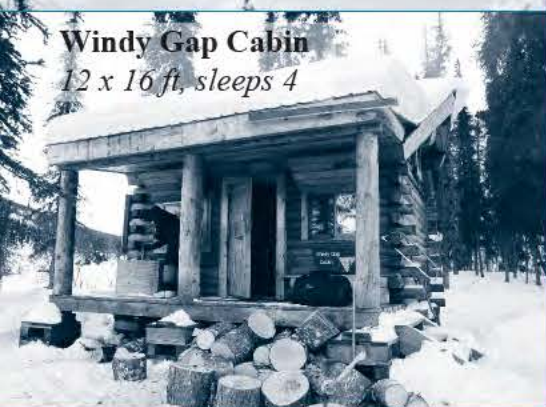
**Eleazar's Cabin**  
12 x 16 ft, sleeps 6



**Colorado Creek Cabin**  
12 x 16 ft, sleeps 4



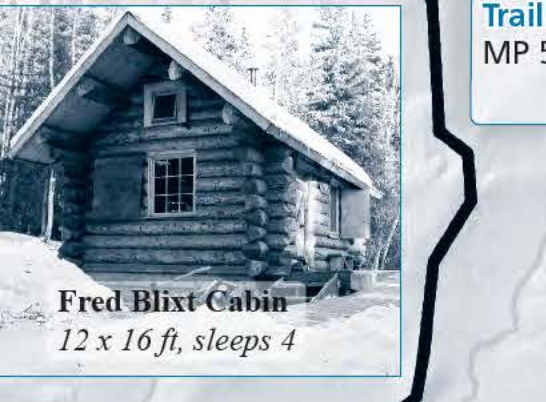
**Cache Mountain Cabin**  
12 x 16 ft, sleeps 6



**Windy Gap Cabin**  
12 x 16 ft, sleeps 4



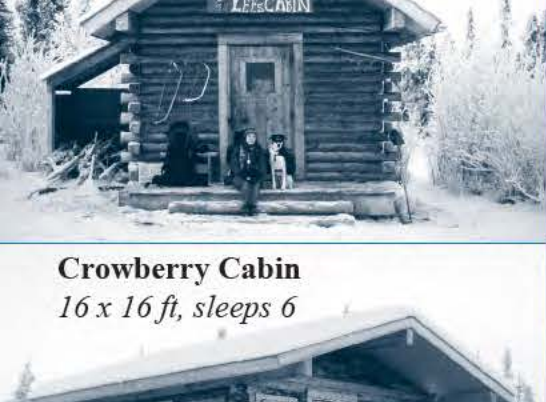
**Fred Blixt Cabin**  
MP 62.5



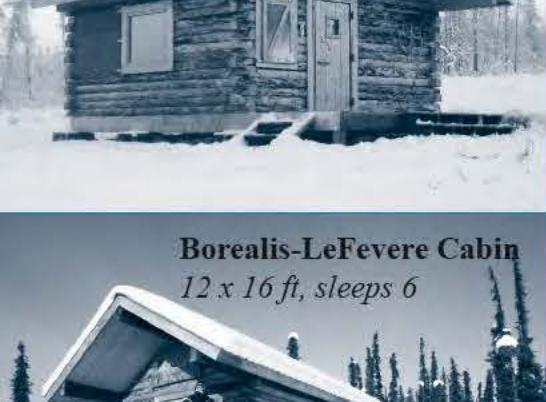
**Fred Blixt Cabin**  
12 x 16 ft, sleeps 4



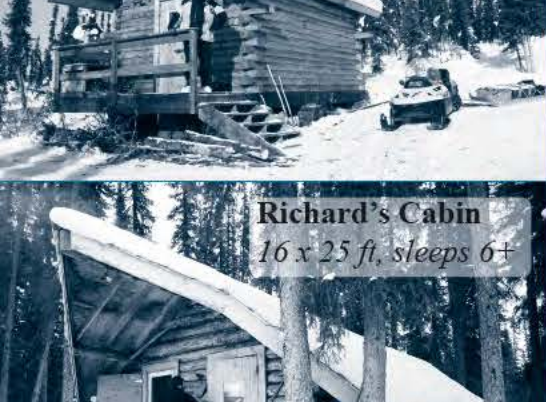
**Lee's Cabin**  
12 x 16 ft, sleeps 6



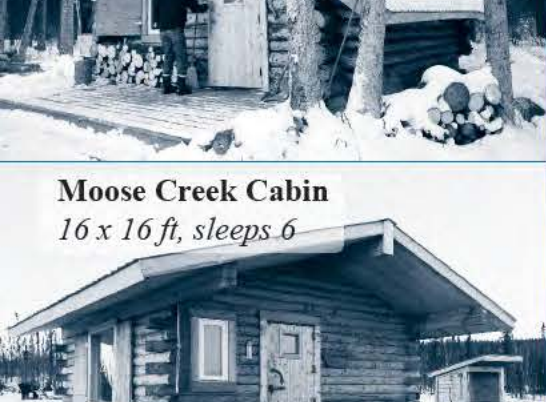
**Crowberry Cabin**  
16 x 16 ft, sleeps 6



**Borealis-LeFevre Cabin**  
12 x 16 ft, sleeps 6



**Richard's Cabin**  
16 x 25 ft, sleeps 6+



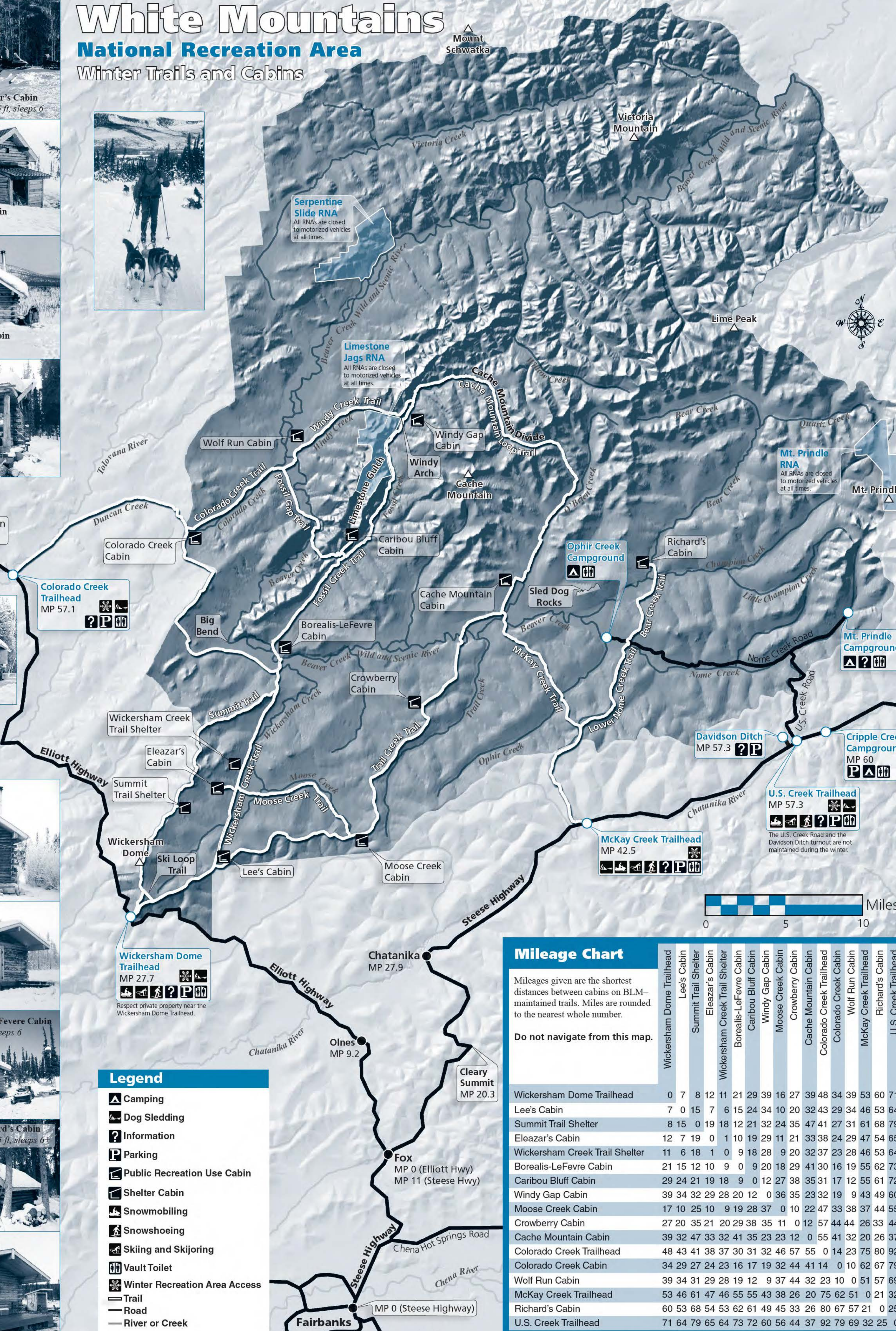
**Moose Creek Cabin**  
16 x 16 ft, sleeps 6



**Serpentine Slide RNA**  
All RNAs are closed to motorized vehicles at all times.

**Limestone Jags RNA**  
All RNAs are closed to motorized vehicles at all times.

**Mt. Prindle RNA**  
All RNAs are closed to motorized vehicles at all times.



**Colorado Creek Trailhead**  
MP 57.1

Icons: ? P

**Wickersham Dome Trailhead**  
MP 27.7

Icons: ? P

Respect private property near the Wickersham Dome Trailhead.

**McKay Creek Trailhead**  
MP 42.5

Icons: ? P

**Davidson Ditch**  
MP 57.3

Icons: ? P

**Mt. Prindle Campground**  
MP 60

Icons: ? P

**Cripple Creek Campground**  
MP 60

Icons: ? P

**U.S. Creek Trailhead**  
MP 57.3

Icons: ? P

The U.S. Creek Road and the Davidson Ditch turnout are not maintained during the winter.



#### Legend

- Camping
- Dog Sledding
- Information
- Parking
- Public Recreation Use Cabin
- Shelter Cabin
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Skiing and Skijoring
- Vault Toilet
- Winter Recreation Area Access
- Trail
- Road
- River or Creek

#### Mileage Chart

Mileages given are the shortest distances between cabins on BLM-maintained trails. Miles are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Do not navigate from this map.

	Wickersham Dome Trailhead	Lee's Cabin	Summit Trail Shelter	Eleazar's Cabin	Wickersham Creek Trail Shelter	Borealis-LeFevre Cabin	Caribou Bluff Cabin	Moose Creek Cabin	Windy Gap Cabin	Crowberry Cabin	Cache Mountain Cabin	Colorado Creek Trailhead	Colorado Creek Cabin	Wolf Run Cabin	Richard's Cabin	U.S. Creek Trailhead	
Wickersham Dome Trailhead	0	7	8	12	11	21	29	39	16	27	39	48	34	39	53	60	71
Lee's Cabin	7	0	15	7	6	15	24	34	10	20	32	43	29	34	46	53	64
Summit Trail Shelter	8	15	0	19	18	12	21	32	24	35	47	41	27	31	61	68	79
Eleazar's Cabin	12	7	19	0	1	10	19	29	11	21	33	38	24	29	47	54	65
Wickersham Creek Trail Shelter	11	6	18	1	0	9	18	28	9	20	32	37	23	28	46	53	64
Borealis-LeFevre Cabin	21	15	12	10	9	0	9	20	18	29	41	30	16	19	55	62	73
Caribou Bluff Cabin	29	24	21	19	18	9	0	12	27	38	35	31	17	12	55	61	72
Windy Gap Cabin	39	34	32	29	28	20	12	0	36	35	23	32	19	9	43	49	60
Moose Creek Cabin	17	10	25	10	9	19	28	37	0	10	22	47	33	38	37	44	55
Crowberry Cabin	27	20	35	21	20	29	38	35	11	0	12	57	44	44	26	33	44
Cache Mountain Cabin	39	32	47	33	32	41	35	23	12	0	55	41	32	20	26	37	
Colorado Creek Trailhead	48	43	41	38	37	30	31	32	46	57	55	0	14	23	75	80	92
Colorado Creek Cabin	34	29	27	24	23	16	17	19	32	44	41	14	0	10	62	67	79
Wolf Run Cabin	39	34	31	29	28	19	12	9	37	44	32	23	10	0	51	57	69
McKay Creek Trailhead	53	46	61	47	46	55	55	43	38	26	20	75	62	51	0	21	32
Richard's Cabin	60	53	68	54	53	62	61	49	45	33	26	80	67	57	21	0	25
U.S. Creek Trailhead	71	64	79	65	64	73	72	60	56	44	37	92	79	69	32	25	0