

SKI – BIKE – HIKE

Government Peak Recreation Area

is about 2.2 square miles of forests, fireweed, meadows, and mountain streams on the south slope of Government Peak, within the Alaska state Hatcher Pass Management Area.

Skiers enjoy about fifteen km (9 miles) of groomed cross-country trails, of which six km (3.7 miles) are lit for night skiing. The ski loops vary from easy to challenging.

Only one of the ski loops, the Pioneer Loop, allows bikes, pedestrians, dogs, and snowshoers in the winter, all other ski loops are skier-only in the winter. With extensive lighting and trails built to international standards, GPPRA is the first Nordic ski facility of its kind in the Mat-Su Valley.

Bikers ride year-round at GPPRA. Six miles of flow-style singletrack trails cover 400 vertical feet of elevation, for exciting downhill and healthy uphill. These biking-optimized trails are groomed in the winter for use by bikes, walkers, snowshoers, and skiers.

In the summer people may stroll on the broad lawn-like ski trails and hike on the bike trails.

The Gov't. Peak hiking trail climbs a steep 3800 vertical feet in 2.7 miles to the mountain summit. The Blueberry Knoll trail is a milder hike, gaining 1550' in 1.6 miles. The East Ridge trail, 1.7 miles long and all above timberline, connects Blueberry Knoll to Gov't. Peak. The three trails together make a 6 mile "Grand Tour" hiking loop.

ETIQUETTE

Respect other trail users.

Skiers and bikers must observe one-way trail directions, where signed.

Respect the equestrian-only (always) and skier-only (winter) designated trails.

Slow down and call out before overtaking slower trail users.

Keep your dog under control and clean up after your dog, please.

Keep yourself under control.

If the trails are too muddy, stay off, come back another day.

Let the wildlife be.

Be thoughtful about where you stop on ski and bike trails.

Be safe, not a standing hazard on a fast trail.

If you make a crash crater on a ski trail, smooth it out best you can.

Please support the volunteer organizations that help build and maintain these trails.

The Mat-Su Ski Club (matsuski.org) and the Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers (vmbah.wildapricot.org) are 501(C)(3) non-profit groups.

ALASKA STATUTES & BOROUGH ORDINANCES

Trapping and discharge of firearms are prohibited in GPPRA.

Snowmobiles and off-road vehicles are prohibited in GPPRA.

Camping is not allowed.

GPPRA TRAIL RULES

Matanuska, Susitna, Denali, and Mt. Streams Ski trails are skier-only in winter.

Pioneer Ski Loop is open to hikers, pets, and bikers year-round.

Backcountry Horsemen Trail is equestrian-only in all seasons.

Singletrack bike trails are open to bikers, dogs, hikers, and skiers year-round. Most, not all, of the singletrack is two-way.

BE AWARE

This is moose and bear habitat.
Earbuds might not be the best idea.

The gate opens at 8am and closes at 9pm.
Parking is \$5 daily / \$40 yearly.
The Mat-Su Borough manages GPPRA.

The Chalet at GPPRA
10690 N. Mt. Trails Dr, Palmer, AK
is available for events through
Lifetime Adventures (907) 746-4644.

Enjoy the Trails?
 Donate to the
 Mat-Su Ski Club
 Go to matsuski.org



0 250 500 meters

0 0.25 0.5 miles

Bike Trails		
	km	mile
— Fireweed	4.33	2.66
— Monkshood	1.93	1.20
— Connector	0.76	0.47
— Fiddlehead	2.10	1.30
Ski Trails		
— Matanuska	2.1	1.30
— Susitna	2.0	1.25
— Pioneer	1.9	1.18
— Denali	3.5	2.17
— Mt. Stms. Acc.	0.55	0.34
— Mt. Streams	1.7	1.08
Hiking Trails		
— Gov't Peak	4.3	2.7
— Blueberry Knoll	2.5	1.6
— East Ridge	2.7	1.7

GPRA Trail Map Legend

- Ski trails
- o o Ski trail lighting
- Singletrack Bike trails
- One-way bike travel
- Hiking trails
- Primitive unmarked trail
- Equestrian-only trails
- Private Land boundary

100-foot contours
 GPRAsummer2018handoutportrait.pdf

**Government Peak Recreation Area
 Matanuska-Susitna Borough
 Summer 2018**

