

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. Snowshoers should yield to snowmobilers whenever possible while hiking on the groomed snowmobile trails. The following routes are recommended.

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 entrance and office where there is an information board and vault toilet. Cross the creek on the road and head up the trail marked 120B along a peaceful tributary of Deadman Creek. The trail is wide and fairly steep in places. Turn right onto Trail 120, a groomed snowmobile trail, for a short distance and then hike back down to the starting point after turning right onto Trail 120A. Snowmobiling is not permitted on Trails 120A or B.

Trail 110

Rating: Intermediate

Round trip: 4 miles

Elevation gain: 1,560'

High point: 4920'

Description: Start at the Park Entrance

Trail Head as in the Entrance Loop. Hike up the trail marked 110 on the left side of the road. Pass the Lower Kit Carson Loop Road and a peaceful creek-side picnic area at 1.7 miles, and continue uphill to the Upper Kit Carson Loop Road, a groomed snowmobile route. Return downhill to the starting point.

Smith Gap Loop

Rating: Easy to Most Difficult

Round trip: 3 miles

Elevation gain: 400'

High point: 4200'

Description: Start at the Lower Loop Road Sno-Park (permit required) and hike out the Lower Kit Carson Loop Road. Stay on the Loop Road, 1.3 miles to Smith Gap, where there is a picnic table. Either return the same way, or for more adventure, turn right at the Mt. Kit Carson sign, hike uphill a very short distance and turn right again onto Trail 100. Climb to the top of a hill and turn right again. The trail may be hard to follow at times, and there are several streams which may be difficult to cross. Turning right at any of the remaining junctions will bring you back to the Kit Carson Loop Road.

Bald Knob Picnic Area

Rating: Intermediate

Round trip: 2 miles

Elevation gain: 600'

High point: 5120'

Description: Park along the road just north of the snowmobile Sno-Park lot (no permit needed), and hike up Trail 130 on the northwest corner of the road junction. Pass the equipment shed on the left and continue uphill. After reaching the snowmobile trail, turn right. Then turn left at the next junction and continue uphill. 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 before climbing straight uphill. Once back on Trail 130, turn left and find the Bald Knob Picnic Shelter straight ahead.

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, and then site a straight path between the campground restroom building and the main TV tower on the summit. Watch out for alpine skiers, even though the route is outside of the groomed area. Snow

conditions are typically icy and the weather is often windy and foggy, so be prepared! The Vista House is open on weekends between 10:30 and 2:30 for hot drinks, chili, and snacks. Be sure to return to Bald Knob via the same route.

CCC Cabin

Rating: Intermediate

Round trip: 4 miles

Elevation gain: 720'

High point: 5240'

Description: Hike to the Bald Knob Picnic Shelter, 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. 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 cabin on Beauty Mountain. A woodstove and tables are available inside, and a vault toilet is nearby.

Snowshoeing at Mt. Spokane State Park

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