

LOST TRAIL POWDER MOUNTAIN

Celebrates 75 Seasons

“Ski It to Believe It”

The Lost Trail Family invites you to ski and celebrate their 75th season of the Best Powder in Montana, and the skiing just keeps getting better—you need to *Ski It to Believe It*. This summer the L.T. crew opened several hundred acres of new mountain skiing terrain by removing hundreds of truck loads of trees. Experience the new terrain on all five chairs from Moose Creek to Sacajawea. Watch the L.T. Facebook page and Web site for photo updates. Do not miss out on Lost Trail’s 75th Season Celebration and ski Montana’s best powder.

50+ Trails

1800 acres on 2 mountains

Elevation: Summit, 8,200 feet
Lodge, 7,000 feet
Base, 6,400 feet

Vertical Drop: 1,800 feet

Longest Run: 2.5 miles

Lifts: 5 Double Chairs
3 Rope Tows

Annual Average Snowfall: 300 inches



Celebrate With LOST TRAIL POWDER MOUNTAIN

WWW.LOSTTRAIL.COM

More fun than any 75 year old should have! ;-)

Lost Trail



William Muñoz

406.381.0691

Powder Mountain



Photography

wamphoto@mac.com

Lost Trail Ski Area: 75 Years of Abundant Snow

By Brian D'Ambrosio

Once U.S. Highway 93 was completed in 1938, Montana and Idaho ski enthusiasts did not hesitate to ask the U.S. Forest Service to clear timber for ski slopes above it. While it's likely that locals had been skiing alpine terrain for decades prior to 1938, the history of Lost Trail as a ski area begins there.

Since the 1930s, the ski area has grown from a small open patch at the summit of the brand new U.S. 93, to the multi-lift operation that overlaps the Montana-Idaho border, and now incorporates part of Saddle Mountain as well. Saddle Mountain's extensive terrain requires three chair lifts, a rope tow and a yurt to service it.

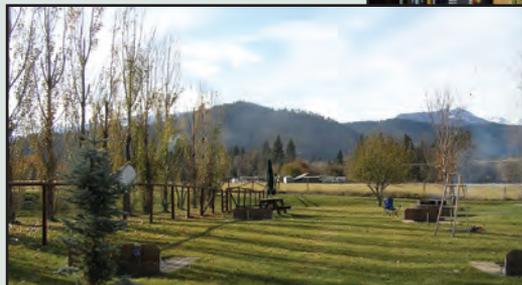
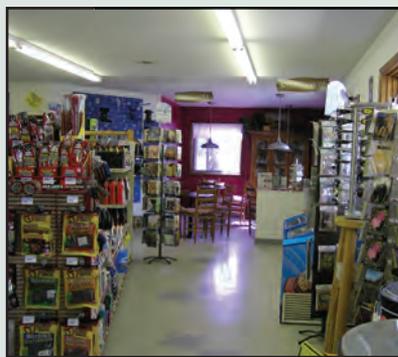
Old-Time Ski Area

Lost Trail is one of the few remaining old-time ski areas. Lift tickets are under \$40 and you can usually find affordable lodging and lift ticket packages at nearby Lost Trail Hot Springs, a few miles from the hill, or Jackson Hot Springs in the Big Hole Valley (approximately one hour away) for approximately 60 dollars per person.

Due to its remote location, Lost Trail is open only Thursday through Sunday. Many veteran skiers let the snowstorms and blizzards pile up



Conner Grocery & Deli Plus Two Rivers Bar & Casino



The Perfect Spot for a Break

Halfway between Missoula, Montana and Salmon, Idaho, the **Conner Grocery & Deli** is the perfect spot to take a break traveling to or from Lost Trail pass. Grab a sandwich to eat in or go. Stock up on needed supplies. They carry everything from apple sauce to Zinfandel—fishing and picnic supplies to gasoline. They even have a U.S. Post Office. With the best Deli in the valley and being the home of **Two Rivers Casino**, you will not find a better spot to stop and relax after a hard day hiking, skiing, hunting or snowmobiling in the Bitterroot Mountains. Two Rivers Bar holds horseshoe tournaments on Sundays when there is no snow and hosts "Football Sundays" in season. Montana microbrews are on tap with European imports in the bottle and they have a great outdoor fire pit and patio. It is worth a weekend jaunt just for the camaraderie. As a bonus, you get to visit one of the most beautiful parts of the Bitterroot Valley, near the confluence of the East Fork and West Fork of the Bitterroot River, in the shadow of Trapper Peak.

Store: Mon-Sat 7-7, Sun 9-6 • Bar: 11 am – 2 am daily
149 Conner Cutoff Rd • 406.821.4122



Photo © William Muñoz

Sunday night through Wednesday night and show up on Thursday ready to take on Powder Mountain. Another option is to show up late Wednesday night and camp out at one of the many nearby trail heads. Lost Trail offers plenty of challenging terrain if you are willing to search, as well as nice, long cruisers. Even better, you have the chance to ski in two states on the same run.

Another unique aspect of Lost Trail is its longevity. Several famous ski areas such as Sun Valley, Alta and others were pioneers of the "ski resort" concept opening between 1936 and 1938. Among them was Lost Trail which opened in 1938. An actual parking lot was cleared sometime around the winter of 1954.

Since that time, many people have owned the business and the Forest Service concession that allows for commercial use of the land. The ski hill had changed ownership an average of every three years until Bill Grasser took over. Despite the turnover in ownership the Lost Trail area has seen continual improvements, including large-scale improvement of the lifts.

Lost Trail Powder Mountain has been in the hands of Bill and Jo-Lynn for a substantial 43 years. Bill Grasser operated Lost Trail in tandem with Chuck Shulund from 1969 to 1975, when he bought out his partner. That record of sole, private ownership over 38 years is uniquely memorable. The family's next generation, Scott and Judy Grasser, are now the chief managers at the hill.

Grasser had made Lost Trail a notable player in the regional economy. Its economic impact

in the valley is significant when you add in the sale of skis and ski clothing, its boost to the lodging industry, and how it directly employs a team of seasonal workers.

Another of Grasser's contributions to the hill's success is the layout of the ski runs, many of which he personally oversaw. They're designed by a skier, for fellow skiers. They go right down the fall line, with no double fall lines.

As far as extras and updates, Lost Trail Powder Mountain boasts a top-notch school for both ski and snowboard lessons. This season it will offer hundreds more acres of new terrain and there will be more thinning and more in-bounds expansion all over the mountain, off every chair, from Moose Creek to SacJac. Expect plenty of steeps, too.

Slope Tips

Physical Preparation

You will enjoy skiing Lost Trail even more if you are physically prepared. Exercises and stretches can be done to help conditioning. Don't attempt to 'get in shape' your first time out on the slopes.

Equipment

Always examine your equipment. Have your ski or snowboard bindings adjusted correctly at a local ski shop or by one of Lost Trail's qualified staff. If your equipment doesn't fit, or isn't in the best of condition, you may rent your ski or snowboarding equipment at the Lost Trail Rental Shop.

Continued

Made in Montana

Wonderfully Made in Montana

best describes this one of a kind selection of art and crafts as well as supplies. For 13 years now Gay's gallery has been a gathering place for Bitterroot Artists to display their works, and enjoy each other's company. Gay is also an artist and an art instructor. She teaches art at Trapper Creek Job Corp and also teaches classes at her the gallery. Her own focus is beading, leather work, fiber arts of various kinds, and pottery.

West Fork Gallery will not disappoint. High quality art, of all types from photography and painting to jewelry and fine hand kneedlework; from wood sculptures to furnishings, natural body care products, and a special collection of beads. You will even find great coffee, snacks, fishing licenses, flies, and shuttle service to the best fishing spots on the West Fork.

For a great Made in Montana experience - stop in for a treat at the West Fork Gallery.

406.821.2007 • 4955 Sawmill Lane, Conner, Montana 59827

West Fork Gallery



Clothing

When buying skiwear, the folks at Lost Trail suggest wearing fabric that is water and wind-resistant. Look for wind flaps to shield zippers, snug cuffs at wrists and ankles, collars that can be snuggled up to the chin, and adjustable drawstrings. When it comes to winter clothing, it is wisest to spend more on quality.

Dress in layers. Layering allows you to adapt to your body's always changing temperature. Dress in polypropylene underwear, which dries quickly, absorbs sweat and retains warmth. Wear a turtleneck, sweater and jacket.

Sixty percent of heat-loss is through the head; wear a hat or headband. Gloves or mittens make a difference in your comfort; mittens are usually better for those susceptible to coldness in their hands.

Sun Protection

Wear sun protection. The sun reflects off the snow and is stronger than you think, even on cloudy days. Eye protection is strongly recommended. Sunglasses, goggles, lip balm and sunscreen are available in the Lost Trail shop.

Hidden Gem

Lost Trail is a hidden gem, known to locals for its abundant snow. The elevation and remoteness combine to make this a special place for late season skiing. Ticket prices are comparatively low and generally sparse crowds make the lift lines short.

Ultimately, the snow is what makes this mountain spectacular. With more than 300 inches of snowfall every year, there is never any shortage of the great white powder.



Photo © William Muñoz



It's a Beautiful Day in Darby

Darby Wine and Spirits

will be your favorite stop after a big day in the mountains, on the river, or at Lost Trail Ski area. Hunters, hikers, skiers, or shoppers, Darby's only full line State Liquor Store invites you to experience and explore Darby and the beautiful Bitterroot Valley. Darby Wine and Spirits will keep you stocked up on your favorite beverages all year long and for all of your favorite community events.

Mon - Sat 10-7
406-821-4117

201 N Main Street in Darby
darbywinespirits@gmail.com

Photo Courtesy of Como Trails



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M - F: 8 am - 6 pm • Sat: 8 am - 5 pm

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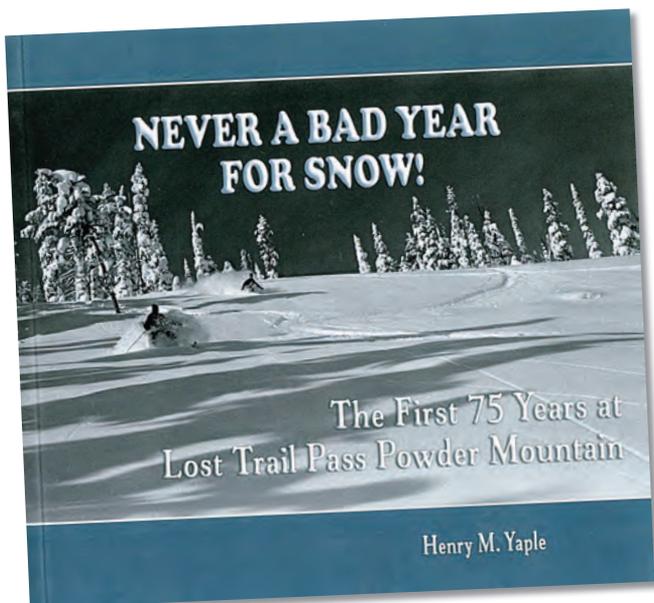
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FromRivertoRidge.com





Never a Bad Year for Snow!

The First 75 Years at Lost Trail Pass Powder Mountain

By Henry Yaple

As the first flakes of a new winter storm hit the valley floor, ski swaps are mobbed and the year draws to a close. Many people have thoughts turned to the south, not Arizona or Mexico (although those occur as well) but toward Lost Trail Pass and the ski area that straddles the Montana and Idaho border.

In 1938, Highway 93 was completed allowing regular, if not necessarily hazardless travel across the pass, and with that the history of Lost Trail Powder Mountain began. Henry M. Yaple, a passionate skier of the West, decided to chronicle this history of Lost Trail skiing after meeting skiers who sang its praises and bombing down its memorable runs, himself. The result was, *Never a Bad year For Snow! The First 75 Years at Lost Trail Pass Powder Mountain*.

Yaple, who lives in Wyoming, had the good fortune to interview many who were there during early days of the ski area, as well as those who continue to operate it. These first-hand accounts, along with numerous historic photos of the ski hill—the earliest dating from 1940—give the book its flavor. The narrative is chronological, but also thematic, detailing issues from the logistics and financing of the operation, to the ski patrol and ski school. The book also offers a brief description of the cross-country cousin to the Powder Mountain, Chief Joseph Pass Cross Country Ski Area.

I remember riding the Saturday ski bus to Lost Trail in the mid 1970s; one chair and a rope tow, when shaped skis and snowboards were the stuff of science fiction. But the memories are still there, with more created every year for countless others. The legacy of Lost Trail Powder Mountain continues to lay down new runs. Henry Yaple's book is a testament to Lost Trail never having a bad year for snow.

Review by Shawn Wathen



Author and skier
Henry Yaple



Chapter One

Bringing the Unexpected to the Bitterroot

Chapter One Book Store offers books and gifts that go well beyond the ordinary. They take pride in providing outstanding customer service and furnishing value beyond the cover price, making them a cornerstone of downtown Hamilton. No bookstore would be complete without an espresso cart, and they are no exception. Sip a latte, browse the unique selection of books, and view the Bitterroot mountains through the windows. Chapter One is an experience you do not want to miss.

Shawn Wathen & Mara Lynn Luther
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