



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

