

Ridgeline Yurts User Guide

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[NOAA Ridgeline Yurt Weather Forecast](#)

[5 Day Lost Trail Powder Mountain Snow Forecast by OPENSNOW](#)

[Missoula Avalanche Center](#)

Welcome to the Ridgeline Yurts! We hope you enjoy your stay. This document should answer most of your questions, but please feel free to reach out with any other concerns.

Sections:

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Access and Preparation

What to Bring

- Ski equipment
- Avalanche education
- Avalanche gear (transceiver, shovel, probe)
- Recent weather forecast
- Small repair kit for ski gear, clothing, backpacks
- Sleeping bag (Minimum 20 degree)
- Head lamp w/spare batteries
- Map and compass
- Winter survival gear
- Lighter
- First Aid
- GPS
- Cell phone w/ charge chord
- Food
- Drinks (Coffee, Tea, Alcohol, etc)
- Extra warm clothing
- Comfy yurt shoes and/or snow boots for #yurtlife

- ❑ Backpacks (some prefer 2; big pack and ski pack)
- ❑ Money for Lost Trail Pass or One Ride Lift Ticket
- ❑ Games/books
- ❑ [Current Missoula Avalanche Advisory](#)

Orientation: If no one in your group has visited the Ridgeline or Stateline Yurts before, a member of the Yurt Team will meet you for an in person orientation at the Yurt parking area. At the orientation, we will provide you with maps of the local terrain and where to find the yurts. Please communicate a meeting time with yurt staff. For the 2020-2021 season, please observe social distancing and wear a mask for in-person orientations with the yurt team.

Arrival Time: To avoid unnecessary contact between groups, please do not plan to arrive at the yurts before 2pm. However, we encourage you to arrive earlier at Lost Trail to ski the resort before your stay!

Parking: Yurt guest parking is located on the left side of the Lost Trail lot exit road. It is adjacent to the 'Y' where the road splits. Look for the yurt parking sign. If you are skiing at Lost Trail during the day before your yurt stay, please relocate your vehicle to this area before heading up to the yurts so that your vehicle is not in the way of Lost Trail's snow removal crew.

Lost Trail Lift Passes: If you do not plan to ski at Lost Trail (and do not have a full day pass), you can buy a single ride ticket at the Lost Trail ticket window to access the yurts. From the back end (North) of the Lost Trail parking lot, you can ski down 'Gunsmoke' to access the bottom of Chair 4. Please double check with Lost Trail or the yurt team to make sure Chair 4 is running. If Lost Trail is not open, it is about a 1-1.5 hour skin from the parking area to the Ridgeline Yurts.

Riding the Chair with a Pack: Please be careful with your packs on the chair. Make sure all loose straps and buckles are tucked in with no loose ends, approach the lift with one strap off, and set the pack on the seat next to you (ride single with large packs). Let the Lift Operator know if you would like the chair slowed down for you. At the top, double check no straps or buckles are tangled in the chair. When you get off the lift, move away from the lift and do not try to help others.

Gear Haul and Snowcat Access: If you need extra gear or food hauled to the Yurts, please make arrangements with the yurt team. If your group does not have the necessary equipment to access the yurts, it is possible to arrange a snow cat ride for an additional fee. If you are considering a snow cat to access the yurts, please get in touch with the yurt team and the main Lost Trail office (406) 821-3211.

Transfer Cleaning and Warming Service: For the 2020-2021 season, groups renting the yurts can request an additional cleaning service prior to their arrival for a \$35 fee, which includes:

- Door will be left open for minimum 1 hour to allow plenty of air flow
- Disinfecting sleeping pads and other frequently used surfaces
- Start a fire and leave the yurts nice and warm for your arrival

Yurt Accommodations / What is provided

Sleeping: Bunks and cots with sleeping pads. For those that tend to get cold, spaces near the woodstove and the top bunks are warmer!

Heat: Each yurt is outfitted with a woodstove, wood, kindling, newspaper, and lighter fluid to keep you warm and toasty!

Lights: Each yurt has a solar light system.

Eating Area/Table: Each yurt has a center table to eat, hang out, and play games on.

Kitchen:

- Four burner propane stove with an assortment of pots, pans, and dutch ovens
- Basic cooking and eating utensils, bowls/cups, coffee press, and plates
- Limited assortment of spices and cooking oil (smart to bring your own, too!)
- Dish soap, sponges, paper towels, dish bins, ziplocs, dish drying rack
- River style hand wash and hand soap

Cleaning Supplies: Vital-Oxide, soap, bleach, and sanitizer spray to clean the yurt following your stay

Toilet: An outhouse style toilet for solid waste and a 'Pee Tree.' TP is provided.

Misc/Other: Axes for splitting wood, snow shovels, a few games, chairs, ice chipper, snow melt pots, kitchen box with other misc. items.

During Your Stay

Please treat the yurts as your own and leave them in the shape you found them, or better!

Snow Shoveling: During your stay, your group is responsible for clearing snow around the yurts. The yurt team visits between groups and will assist in clearing snow as often as possible. Please shovel snow before it gets walked on and compacted, especially around the doors. If ice has formed, use the ice chipper. Snow needs to be cleared in

front of and between the yurts to make access to the restroom facilities and snow gathering area possible. Additionally, please clear snow from the yurt roofs (with a plastic shovel to avoid tearing fabric), as well as paths to the outhouse and the pee tree.

Firewood: You should find the wood rack full of split wood, a pile of newspaper, kindling, and lighter fluid. When you leave, please make sure the wood rack and kindling are full for the next group. The wood pile is located next to the outhouse under a tarp. Use one of the rounds to split on. Find and leave the axes inside the door.

Pee Tree and Outhouse: Please pee exclusively around the signed 'Pee Tree' to keep the snow around the yurts clean. It may be cold at night, but please do not pee off the deck! For solid waste, use the outhouse. There should be TP, a burn can, matches, and sanitizer in the outhouse. Restock from the boxes inside if any are running low. Please burn your TP in the burn can. Do not throw unburned TP in the hole - burn first! Another option is to let the can fill up with TP, then use lighter fluid to burn it all at once.

Kitchen: Please keep the kitchen area clean and organized. To keep rodents away, please clean your dishes and cook area thoroughly. Close up and latch boxes. If you are unsure as to where something goes, just make sure it is clean and do your best!

Food: During your stay, use the empty cooler to store your food.

Drinking Water: Fill provided stainless steel pots with snow and melt on the woodstove for drinking water, dish water, etc. Please do not put anything but snow in the melt pots to keep them clean. When you are finished with your stay, please dump all standing water before leaving. It can freeze and potentially break containers and takes much longer to re-melt for the next group! (Melt buckets, water gott, hand wash, etc)

Dishes/Dishwater/Toothpaste: Melt snow for dish water. Use the three white plastic tubs to do your dishes (1 Hot soapy, 1 cold rinse, 1 cold w/ capful of bleach - in that order). Dry your dishes in the hanging dish rack. Once you have finished your dishes, strain the dishwater into the chicky pail bucket provided and pack the food bits out in the garbage. Toothpaste may be spit into the greywater as well. Do not spit toothpaste off the deck! Dispose of the greywater/toothpaste at the Pee Tree.

Hand wash: You may use the hand wash to keep clean hands. Put clean meltwater in the blue bucket and use the foot pump to wash hands into the grey bucket. It helps to keep the hand wash near the woodstove to avoid it freezing. When you leave, please pump all the water out of the tubes and dispose of the water at the Pee Tree.

Propane and Cook Stove: Please close the propane tank after each use of the stove to avoid leaks. Extra propane is located under the deck of the Yurt. Try to keep the stove clean to keep rodents away. Lighters are in the kaboodle. Lighters sometimes struggle in the cold, so there are matches in the aluminum kitchen box.

Garbage and Leftover Food: Pack it in/Pack it out! It is your responsibility to pack out your trash. Extra trash bags are provided in the kitchen box. Please do not burn trash (except paper) at the yurts. Do not leave any food, leftovers, or trash at the yurts. Kindly dispose of your garbage at a location other than Lost Trail Ski Area.

Solar Lights/Charging: Each Yurt has solar lights. Locate the battery unit to find the switches on the light chords nearby. You may charge your phones/cameras/etc using the usb ports on the battery unit. On cloudy days, excessive device charging could draw batteries down and affect the lights. Use the propane lantern provided as backup.

Skiing Back to Your Vehicles: Lost Trail Ski Area does not open until 9:30 AM Thursday-Sunday (plus Holidays). Please do not enter the ski area until 9:30 and ski out on 'Oreo' to 'North Bowl' back to the parking area. Do not drop into Hollywood, as Ski Patrol may be doing avalanche work. If you plan to continue skiing, be sure to purchase a ticket at the Lost Trail ticket window. If the ski area is not open, please do not skin and ski on the runs within the ski area.

Resupply: If you noticed that anything is missing or running low at the yurts, please let us know so that we can bring it up.

Checking Out

Check out by 11am: For the 2020-2021 season, WRO has made changes to checkout policy to accommodate COVID precautions. To avoid overlap between hut rental groups and to provide time for additional cleaning options between groups, outgoing groups will need to depart the hut completely, packs included, by 11 am. Incoming groups should arrive no earlier than 2pm. If you want to ski more on your final day, please stash packs in the woods near the yurt, but not at the yurts themselves.

Cleaning Checklist

- Please DO NOT leave food at the yurt
- Outhouse TP is burned and disposed of
- Dump all standing water from melt pots, hand wash, etc
- Pump all water out of the hand wash system (take the intake hose out of the water, pump with your foot until no more water comes out).
- Close all kitchen boxes
- Use the broom to sweep the floor clean
- Wash all dishes
- Use 9:1 Vital-Oxide spray solution (provided) or a bleach solution to clean kitchen area and other high use surfaces in the yurts
 - Kitchen surfaces
 - Pots/Pans

- Bunks and Pads
- Eating and serving utensils (Lay out on a clean surface & spray)
- Water dispenser button
- Doorknob
- Wood stove handle
- Lantern
- Solar light switches & battery
- Outhouse
- Lighters
- Propane tanks turned off
- Restock wood rack and kindling
- Turn off the lights
- Make sure snow is shoveled
- Close the door securely
- Do not ski through Lost Trail Ski Area before 9:30 if they are open. Once open, ski down via 'oreo' to 'north bowl' runs.
- Note any cleaning or other supplies that are running low and notify Yurt staff.
- Check out by phone with the WRO office: cell: 406.579.8677

COVID-19 Protocol

To minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission, WRO has implemented the following policies for the 2020-2021 winter yurt season.

Yurt rental groups must agree to:

- Take responsibility for any potential exposure or transmission of coronavirus within their group. WRO will take precautions (see below) to minimize the risk of transmission between hut rental groups but cannot be responsible for exposure among members of the same group or other coronavirus related situations at the Stateline or Ridgeline Yurts during the 2020-2021 season.
- Self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. Any members with symptoms should stay home.
- Groups of different households and/or family units should follow CDC protocols for social distancing, mask-wearing, and sanitation whenever possible
- Complete the updated Acknowledgement of Risk which includes additional risk language associated with COVID-19.
- Leave the yurts immediately if symptoms develop Any member of a hut rental group that develops symptoms should leave the hut immediately (if safe to do so) and notify WRO as soon as possible
- Clean the yurt thoroughly according to the checkout cleaning list
- Consider bringing own sheets to cover sleeping pads as an additional measure of protection

WRO yurt staff agree to:

- Limit group size according to current Idaho Rebounds rules (current max group size is 10).
- Provide no-touch hand wash stations and hand sanitizer at each yurt site
- Provide cleaning supplies for hut renter use:
 - Vital-Oxide solution, bleach, soap, sanitizing spray bottles, paper towels, and fresh cleaning sponges
- Any WRO staff who visit the yurts shall not be a known carrier of the COVID-19 virus and will not enter the yurts if showing any symptoms
- Wear a mask while inside the yurts for any reason before a group arrival

Emergency Response

Yurt users are responsible for their own health and safety. When skiing in the backcountry, parties should be aware that organized rescue may not be readily available at all times. You are strongly encouraged to check the current avalanche advisory on the [Missoula Avalanche Center](#) website. Use the local avalanche forecast, as well as your own snow stability observations, to make a plan for daily objectives and potential alternatives. Discuss these objectives with all members of the group and make smart skiing decisions. Have fun and be safe!

Emergency Contact Information

In a life threatening situation call 911

Lemhi County Sheriff's Office
208.756.8980

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office
406.374.4060

Wilderness River Outfitters
208.756.3959

Seth Tonsmeire
406.579.8677

Lost Trail Ski Area
406.821.3211

Missoula Life Flight
800.991.7363

*Verizon cell phones work on some ridge tops and areas around the yurts

