

# HIGH DESERT NORDIC ASSOCIATION HUT RENTER INFORMATION

Updated Nov 2016

The Thompson Creek Hut, developed by the High Desert Nordic Association, in conjunction with the United States Forest Service and Magic Mountain Ski Resort, provides cross country skiers an opportunity to enjoy a multi-day backcountry ski trip. The scenic terrain, in an area of open hillsides interspersed with groves of aspen and conifers, accommodates skiers of all skill levels. The ski to the hut is about 3 miles with little elevation gain.

The hut is furnished with a wood stove for heat and propane stove for cooking. Lighting is by LED lantern, supplemented by personal headlamps. The hut is furnished with a variety of kitchen ware, and plywood bunks (for up to seven people) with thick foam sleeping pads. Renters must bring food, sleeping bag, clothing and personal items. Drinking water is made at the hut site by melting snow.

## **Reservations**

For reservations, contact Valdon Hancock, preferably by e-mail: [skihdna@gmail.com](mailto:skihdna@gmail.com). (ph 208 420-9042). The fee schedule is as follows:

HDNA Members: \$10 per person per night, \$30 minimum weekends (Fri-sat) and Holidays

Non members: \$20 per person per night, \$60 minimum weekends (Fri-sat) and Holidays

Reservations are not guaranteed until money is received. Make Checks Payable to HDNA HUT, and mail to Valdon Hancock, 1747 Bitterroot Drive, Twin Falls, ID 83301.

As a rental guest, it is understood that you are responsible for your own welfare while in the field. The responsible party leader must read and sign the enclosed HDNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM and send it with the payment to the above address.

The following forms and information are attached:

1. Rental agreement form.
2. Parking form.
3. Equipment list.
4. Map of area showing hut location and ski trails.
5. Hut user information.
6. Information on hypothermia and winter first aid, and emergency procedures.

For technical questions or issues concerning the hut, Call Dennis Kincaid 208 420-7775 or email: [denniskincaid@gmail.com](mailto:denniskincaid@gmail.com).

# HIGH DESERT NORDIC ASSOCIATION BACKCOUNTRY HUT RENTAL AGREEMENT

## Acknowledgement of risk:

Hut Rental Date: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Skiers: \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of High Desert Nordic Association, an Idaho corporation, renting the designated backcountry hut for the specified dates, the Skier(s) agrees to accept and comply with the following terms and conditions:

1. The Skier(s) agrees to pay the usual rental fee (\$\_\_\_/person/night or \$\_\_\_/night minimum) for the use of the hut, which includes the use of the cooking equipment, utensils, lanterns, stoves, fuel and firewood in and about the hut.
2. The Skier(s) agrees to pay High Desert Nordic Association for any loss or damage to the hut or any of the equipment in or about the hut, reasonable wear and tear excepted, caused by or arising out of the use of the hut or the equipment by the Skier(s).
3. The Skier(s) agrees and understands that he or she knows and voluntarily assumes any and all risks of skiing in the backcountry. Such risks include getting lost, hypothermia, avalanches, treefall, etc. This includes skiing to and from the hut and anywhere in the vicinity of or around or about the hut during the time the Skier(s) is renting the hut. The Skier(s) further assume full responsibility and liability for the conduct and safety of any minor (under age 18) supervised or brought by the Skier(s).

Signature means that the skier has read, understands and accepts the terms of the High Desert Nordic Associations Backcountry Hut **RENTAL AGREEMENT: Acknowledgement of risk.**

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SkierNames

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Roads and parking

From the town of Hansen, travel 27 miles south up Rock Creek Canyon to Magic Mountain Ski Resort. The road is winding and narrow, so allow about one hour driving time. Watch for snow removal equipment, and as you approach Magic Mountain Resort watch out for skiers, snowmobilers and other general traffic.

Plan on arriving at Magic Mountain Resort before noon, to allow for a leisurely trip to the hut. A parking area is located across from the lodge at the Rogerson (500) Road turnoff. It's important that you park in this area unless you have permission to park in the ski area lot. On the day you return, you should be ready to leave the hut by 2 PM so the next group can move in. Please ski safely and have a good time.

## Trail information

The attached map shows the easiest route to the hut, which leads directly up the Rogerson road. Follow the road past the private cabin area, and continue along the road for about 0.4 mile to the Thompson Creek Trailhead. Follow the trail for about a mile, and look for a sign and trail to the left, which leads to the hut. Trail map-signs are located at the private cabin area, Thompson Creek trailhead, and Thompson Creek.

The compass needle will point about 14 degrees East of true North. If you have a GPS unit, be sure it is set to **WGS84 datum**. The following Waypoints (UTM coordinates, zone 11 T, or LAT/LONG) will help you find the hut and other points of interest.

Location	UTM E (meters)	UTM N (meters)	Latitude N (deg, min)	Longitude W (deg, min)
Parking	0724113	4674366	42, 11.361	114, 17.156
Cabins	0723773	4676532	42, 12.536	114, 17.353
Thompson Creek Trailhead	0723310	4676696	42, 12.632	114, 17.685
Hut	0723138	4677937	42, 13.305	114, 17.782
Helicopter Rescue site	0722861	4678278	42, 13.494	114, 17.975
Cell phone reception	0722536	4678930	42, 13.852	114, 18.196

Cell phone reception is improving and can usually be obtained on Buckskin ridge about 1/2 mi Northwest of the hut. Also, cell phones may work at a point just north of the cabin area trail sign. The helicopter site is just north of Thompson creek along the trail.

# High Desert Nordic Association Backcountry Hut

## USER INFORMATION

*The following information should be read by skiers when they arrive at the hut. In general, leave the hut as you found it for the next group to enjoy. If you arrive at the hut and find it has been left in disrepair, or that items are missing, please notify the hut agent so that action can be taken.*

**Snow shoveling:** Snow shovels are located under the entryway. Clear the entryway. If snow is built up to the eave level along the sides of the hut, shovel enough snow away from hut to allow about 2 feet of space for snow to slide off the roof, and pack snow against the walls to provide insulation (rear also). If snow remains on the roof, gently tap the roof from inside and snow will slide off. Clear snow from around the stovepipe. Clear or pack the trail to the latrine which is located about 50 feet Northeast of the hut.

**Woodstove operation:** The axe, maul and a supply of split wood are located under the entryway. When you leave, chop a little kindling for the next group. Lighters and fire starter are in the box near the stove. The woodstove has an air control on the front. To maintain heat through the night, fill the stove with wood and adjust the damper almost closed. If ashes need to be removed, use the ash shovel and the large snow shovel. An ash and waste pit is marked under a large tree near the latrine. Do not leave the stove unattended with the damper wide open.

**Propane stove:** Open the valve on the propane tank. To start a stove burner, hold a lighted match over the burner while opening the burner valve. Close the tank valve when the stove is not in use. Use propane for cooking only, not for heat.

**LED Lantern:** A battery powered lantern is provided, with extra batteries in the trunk under the propane stove. The use of headlamps will minimize use of the lantern.

**Sanitation:** A covered open-pit toilet is located about 50 feet Northeast of the hut. *Bring your own toilet paper.* Waste water, ashes, and organic food waste can be dumped in the waste pit. Waste paper can be burned in the stove. All other garbage must be carried out. No garbage should be left on site.

**Dogs:** Since melted snow is the only source of water near the hut, HDNA recommends leaving dogs at home. If brought in, dogs must be closely supervised, and dog waste must be cleaned up.

**Cooking equipment:** The large kettle-bucket can be used for melting snow. A strainer is provided to remove pine needles, etc. Utensils, as well as plates, bowls, cups and silverware are kept in a box near the cookstove. All dishes must be washed, dried and stored before leaving. Dishsoap and paper towels are provided.

**Trails and ski routes:** A topographic map marked with ski routes is kept in the hut. A trail leads north from the Thompson Creek junction to the old hut site and beyond to open terrain. An old road leads further north along the base of the treeline and joins the Buckskin ridge road. From here you can ski north along the ridge to Grandview Peak, or south to Mountain View Peak. Tours can be made around the Rim View loop or the short loop west of the hut. Good snow can often be found in the Buckskin bowl northwest of the hut, or northwest of Mountain View Peak. Skiers with good route finding skills can return from the hut by skiing south along Buckskin and Deadline Ridges, to the Elk Basin Trail or down the 500 road.

# MEDICAL EVACUATION

General procedures: Before skiing, please familiarize yourself with the location of the hut relative to the surrounding terrain. Each party should carry a map (and compass or GPS) of the trails showing the hut location. Every member of the party should be familiar with the location of the Magic Mountain Ski Area lodge and Ski Patrol.

Inquire at the Magic Mountain Lodge (if open) for cell phone service. For all emergencies **Call 911**, and they will coordinate any rescue operation. Cell phone reception may be obtained on the ridge North of the hut, near the private cabin area, and above the top of the Magic Mountain main ski lift.

First aid and repair equipment: A first aid kit is located in the hut. However, one member of each skiing party should carry a pack with appropriate first aid supplies, a sleeping bag and foam pad or tarp to utilize in the event of an injury away from the hut. If additional padding is necessary, it is available in the hut. The group should also carry a repair kit to fix broken bindings, skis, poles, and pole baskets.

Accident evacuation: When an injury occurs that needs evacuation, the patient must be stabilized. If the patient is seriously hurt and cannot be returned to the hut with the resources available, (manpower and an improvised sled) the patient must be stabilized at the injury site. One skier should stay with the patient. Meanwhile, a skier should return via established trails to the Magic Mountain Ski Area for assistance. After administration of first aid, the type of evacuation will depend on the nature of the injury and weather conditions. Minor injuries, sprains, strains, fractures (other than spinal and compound) are potential sled evacuations. Sleds, snowmobiles, etc. are located at Magic. If a sled evacuation is to be made, it will be coordinated by the Twin Falls County Sheriff. Helicopter life-flight is available from Twin Falls (St Lukes) or Boise (St Alphonsus). A possible helicopter rescue site has been established just north of Thompson creek (see GPS coor).

Hypothermia: Due to the time that might be required to summon help, it is essential to protect the victim from hypothermia. Beware of reduced vital signs. Treat for shock, protect (insulate) the victim from further cold exposure (snow, rain, wind). Remove wet clothing, add dry clothing, and begin rewarming. Give liquids (no caffeine or alcohol) if conscious and place in a sleeping bag with another person.

Avalanches: Skiers should be familiar with avalanche danger and search and rescue techniques. Each party member should review basic information regarding avalanche conditions (see **Avalanche** by Life-Link or **Avalanche Handbook**, USDA Handbook #489). Remember, avalanches cannot be predicted with absolute certainty. Beware of the factors (leeward slopes, cornices, weather changes, recent snowfall, snow conditions, route selection) that may help you assess and avoid potential dangers.

Search and rescue: This evacuation plan does not limit the skiers responsibility whatsoever. Backcountry skiing has inherent dangers that individuals should be aware of and prepared for. Beginning and intermediate skiers should not attempt backcountry travel without proper equipment, training, and assistance of an experienced skier. If you have any doubts as to your abilities, equipment and knowledge of the area, do not attempt backcountry travel. Stay on designated trails and never travel alone. Costs of any rescue effort will be borne by the party requiring rescue.

# HIGH DESERT NORDIC ASSOCIATION HUT PARKING FORM

This OPTIONAL parking form can be left at the Magic Mountain Ski Resort or in the vehicle, visible from outside. Park in the Rogerson road turnoff, or inquire at the lodge about overnight parking. This will enable, Forest Service, Sheriffs office and Magic Mountain Ski Resort employees to insure that the correct vehicles are located in this area. Parking outside of this area could result in having your car buried as a result of Magic Mountain Resort's or the county snow removal operations. Parking along the road is a potential traffic hazard, and could result in having your vehicle ticketed or towed.

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE IN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OUT \_\_\_\_\_

## VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

Vehicle	Description	License Plate No.
1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____

## HUT RENTER CHECKLIST

All kitchen gear, stoves (including heating and cooking), lanterns, fuel (wood and gas) is furnished by HDNA. The hut is furnished with bunks and foam rubber pads. Other suggested equipment are:

### RECOMMENDED GROUP EQUIPMENT

- Map and compass
- First aid kit
- Shovel
- Knife
- Duct tape
- Small Tarp and light cord
- Fire starter materials
- Repair materials for skis, bindings, poles and baskets
- GPS unit
- Cell phone

### PERSONAL NECESSITIES:

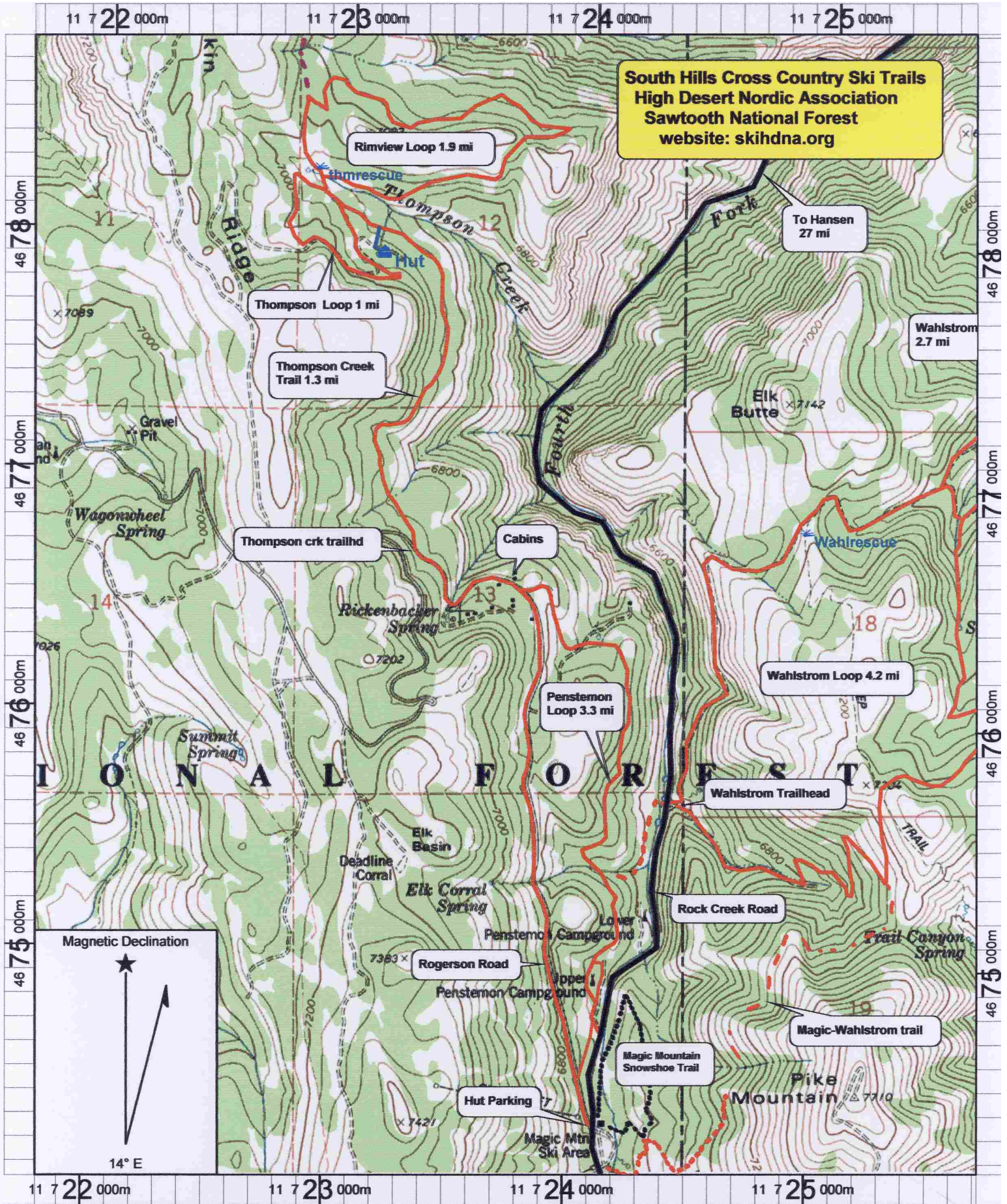
- Skis (skins optional), boots, poles, or snowshoes
- Pack, large enough for sleeping bag, clothes, food.
- Sleeping Bag
- Food and water
- Toilet paper

### CLOTHING:

- Wool, polypropylene or blend, long underwear (blends recommended)
- Loose fitting alpine ski pant, or pile pants plus wind pant shell, side zip recommended.
- "Warm-up" pants (pile, etc.) for the hut
- Turtle neck or long sleeved wool or pile/poly shirt
- Wool sweater, fleece or down jacket
- A shell parka that has a draw tight hood, is wind and water resistant and beneath which three layers may be worn comfortably.
- Ski hat and neck gaiter or balaclava
- Visor or baseball type hat
- Knee high gaiters
- Gloves and shell mittens
- Booties or light shoes for wear in the hut
- Polypropylene inner socks, wool outer socks
- Plastic bags for vapor barrier liners on feet, hands, and for carrying out garbage

### PERSONALS:

- Toothbrush, floss
- Sun/wind protection-lotion for lips/face/hands (SPF 15 or greater)
- Inflatable pillow
- Personal medicines
- Towel/washcloth/soap
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Sunglasses/goggles
- Camera
- Water bottle
- Ski wax or anti-stick for waxless skis and bindings
- Blister prevention tape (sports tape recommended)



South Hills Cross Country Ski Trails  
 High Desert Nordic Association  
 Sawtooth National Forest  
 website: skihdna.org

Name: PIKE MT  
 Date: 12/8/2008  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 1667 feet

Location: 11 0723687 E 4676476 N WGS 84  
 Caption: HDNA Hut Trail Map 2008-09