

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.

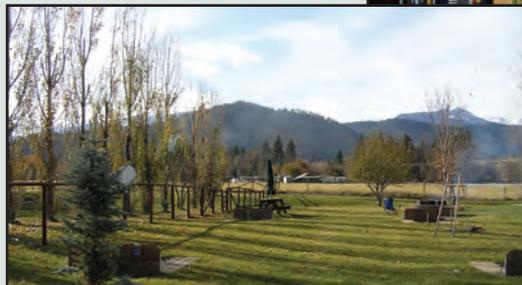
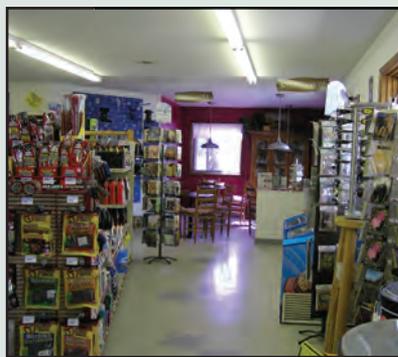
Old-Time Ski Area

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.

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