

# Bogus Basin Winter Yurt Manual

## Introduction

This manual will provide you with important information concerning the use of the yurt at Bogus Basin and your pre-trip preparation. It is essential that you and all members of your party read through this information before embarking on a yurt trip. Please be aware that travel by ski, snowshoe, or foot has inherent risk involved. Travel to and from and use of the yurt is done at your own risk.

## BACKGROUND

The yurt at Bogus Basin is in its first season of providing residents of the Treasure Valley with an affordable and convenient “winter camping” experience. It represents one of Bogus Basin’s recent efforts to offer more opportunities for area residents to enjoy the mountain on a year round basis. To accomplish this, we utilized a Boise National Forest grant and relied upon the cooperation of numerous volunteers who provided a great deal of labor.

## Reservation Information

Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis and secured online at [www.bogusbasin.org](http://www.bogusbasin.org).

Reservations are from 2:00 pm with check out time at 1:00 pm.

Maximum number of persons sleeping in yurts is 12. There is an additional per person charge if the size of your group exceeds 12.

## TRIP PLANNING

Carefully read this material and evaluate yourself and your party. If you feel confident that you have the skills and knowledge to undertake a yurt tour safely, follow these steps:

- Check equipment lists (suggested lists are included) prior to departing. Make sure everyone in your party is properly prepared, including the possibility of spending the night outdoors.
- Check the weather forecast. Even though the Bogus Basin yurt is relatively close to the mountain’s lodges, your preparation for weather variables is important since the patrol and service hours at Bogus Basin is not a 24 hour service.
- Before departing, make sure your vehicle can withstand cold winter temperature as low as –30 degrees Fahrenheit. No permit is required to park in the maintained parking areas at Bogus Basin. **PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR FACING INTO THE HILL/OR EAST SIDE OF THE PARKING LOT FACING THE LODGE!**

## **DOGS AND SNOWMOBILES**

Dogs are not allowed in the yurt in the winter months (During the ski season – approx. mid-November – mid April). The trail system is for Nordic skiers and snowshoers. It is illegal to operate a snowmobile on the trail system at Bogus Basin. This use is reserved for Bogus Basin patrol and service and maintenance crews only.

## **ROUTES TO YURT**

A detailed description of yurt routes is found in Nordic trail guide and map. We recommend you first learn the location of the yurt by taking a day trip prior to your reservation. The yurt is located approximately 2/3 of a mile from Frontier Point Lodge and is in close proximity to the solar lit night skiing loop. The simplest route is to go out the Nordic Highway past Exit A and B, turning downhill at the third trail to your left, marked by a sign indicating Yurt/The Flush/Lower Loop. It is important to recognize that you are likely to encounter a variety of other skiers and snowshoers on your trip to and from the yurt. Knowledge of proper trail etiquette will be useful.

Before your first yurt trip, we recommend:

- Print a copy of the yurt map from our web site ([www.bogusbasin.org](http://www.bogusbasin.org)). They are available at the Nordic Center during winter months. All adults in your group should have a copy of the map.
- Go on a day trip to familiarize yourself with surrounding landmarks and learn route-finding tricks that will help you locate the yurt again. If you have any doubt of your route-finding skills, do not go.
- Use common sense and err on the safe side. Keep your party together. Turn back if the weather closes in or visibility becomes difficult. The yurt will be there for you to visit another day.
- Always be prepared. If for some reason you don't find the yurt, carry the equipment and clothing necessary to spend the night outdoors.

## **START EARLY**

Travel time into the yurt will vary greatly depending upon the individuals in your group. Although the distance to the yurt is not extensive and the elevation gain is minimal snow conditions will vary. Your reservation begins at 2:00pm with checkout on the day of your departure at 1:00pm. It is highly recommended that you be on the trail no later than 3:00pm. Daylight is short in the winter; sunset can be at 5:00pm. Getting to the yurt and setting up is a much easier task during daylight hours. Once you arrive at the yurt, you may have to dig out the yurt and toilet.

## ON THE TRAIL

Whether skiing or snowshoeing to the yurt, keep your party together. Travel at a pace, which is comfortable for the slowest member of the party. If one member becomes exhausted, your entire party is weakened as a result. A slow, steady pace is time-tested and a safe way of traveling in the winter.

## CONDITION OF YURT UPON ARRIVAL

It is possible that a yurt can be damaged by extreme weather conditions, which are common in Idaho's mountains. High winds, heavy snow storms, falling branches from trees, and accumulation of snow on the yurt walls could cause rips, tears and/or partial or total collapse. It is also possible that the yurt can be vandalized or items stolen. These possibilities point out the need to be well prepared. In particular, be prepared to spend the night outdoors if necessary. **Please report any damage or problems to the staff at the Nordic Center: 208-332-5390 or 208-332-5190.**

## DIGGING OUT YURTS

It is important to keep the yurt decks clear of snow, especially to the yurt door. If snow is allowed to build up people may not be able to get into the yurt. We ask that everyone using the yurts pitch in and help keep them snow free. The snow shovels are normally easily accessible, under the deck near the stairs or near the wood pile. Be extremely careful when using the shovel. The shovel can easily tear the canvas covering of the yurt. Please do not use a shovel on the yurt roof. A torn roof or sidewall almost always results from improper shoveling.

We ask that you do not climb on the chimney structure; it was not designed to handle a person's weight.

**Important:** At the completion of your stay, replace the snow shovels. If you leave them in the yurt, the next party may not be able to dig out the yurt door.

## ITEMS AT THE YURT

The yurt is outfitted with 4 bunk beds, (two with full sized bottom mattresses) a futon and mattress which converts to a double bed, a table and kitchen cabinet, folding chairs, a three-burner propane stove, 3 propane lanterns, a wood stove, a log rack, a tinder bucket, an ash bucket, assorted silverware, plates bowls, and cups, a water jug, a plastic food storage container, assorted cooking pots and pans, miscellaneous kitchen equipment, a broom, a dust pan, an axe, floor towels, and a fire extinguisher. Located outside are: a portapottie toilet (with key for the padlock) and a woodpile. We cannot guarantee all the items listed will be in the yurt. Be prepared and adaptable enough to survive without these items should they be missing or damaged. **Please leave the portapottie locked during the day if you are away from the yurt – it is very difficult to manage a servicing schedule if this is used regularly by day-use skiers!**

## STOVES & LANTERNS

The yurt has a wood stove, a three-burner propane stove and (3) propane lanterns that use mantles. **You need to bring at least three, one pound bottles of propane for each night you plan to stay.** These are used in the lanterns. Propane for the cooking stove is provided. Carefully read the directions on the stove and lanterns shown below. Leaving the propane valve on and not lighting it immediately will form a large invisible cloud which, when lit, may cause a dangerous fireball which could singe hair and cause serious injury. There may not be unfrozen water sources nearby, so the wood stove can be used for melting snow for cooking water as well as heating the yurt.

### Warnings on Propane Use:

- Always make sure valves for the stove and lanterns are turned off when not in use. If not, the wood-burning stove could ignite the gas.
- Attach or detach cylinders away from ignition sources and only when stove or lanterns are cool to touch.
- Propane is heavier than air and will accumulate in low places. If you smell gas, leave immediately and ventilate the yurt.
- Never store propane near the wood stove or when temperature exceeds 120 degrees.

### Propane Lantern Directions:

- The lanterns are hung from the ceiling by ropes on a pulley system. Lower the lanterns for cylinder replacement or lighting. Be careful not to let the lantern hang at eye level or drop them on the floor. The mantles break easily.
- To replace mantles, turn off gas valve and remove old mantles. Tie mantles around groove in burner. Spread mantle out evenly, light bottom of mantle evenly and burn until nothing but white ash remains. Once the mantle is burned, it is very fragile. Be careful not to touch it with a finger or a match.
- To light, place a lit match in the match hole on bottom of lantern and turn on gas valve.  
Note: To reduce fuel consumption and noise, turn fuel valve down to halfway on after the lantern is lit.

### Propane Stove Directions:

- Make sure all connections from the propane bottle to stove are hand tight. Do not over-tighten.
- To light, hold lit match near burner and open burner valve.
- To turn off, close burner valve firmly.
- Before you leave, thoroughly clean stove area.

### Wood Stove Directions:

- To prevent smoke from filling the yurt, it is important to start a large flash fire immediately to preheat the chimney. Place 5 or more sheets of loosely crumpled newspaper, located in the cabinet, in the stove and cover with thumb-size dry kindling. Open the draft control by pushing the **handle in** toward the stove to the **high position**. The handle is located on the **front and center** of the stove just below the door. The stove pipe control handle should be vertical. The small draft handle to the lower right should always be put in the middle.
- Light the newspaper and leave the door slightly ajar (1/8 inch) until all kindling is burning and a hot coal bed is established. (This may take 15 – 30 minutes) Slowly add larger pieces of wood (2x4 size pieces). Lay pieces lengthwise from side-to-side in the hot coal bed with a shallow trench between so that the air can flow directly into the trench and ignite the fuel above. When the fire seems to be at its peak, larger sized logs may be added, once these logs catch fire you can completely close the door. (Closing the door before the fire has a nice bed of hot coals can reduce the firebox temperature, resulting in an inefficient fire, smoke, and dirty glass.)
- Achieving the proper draft is important. The draft is controlled by a small, push/pull handle at the front of the stove below the ledge. The draft can be adjusted for a **low-burn** rate with the handle fully **OUT** or to a **fast-burn** rate with the handle fully **IN**. In the evening before bed, load the stove at least a half hour before bed to ensure a good fire, hot enough to lower the draft control for an overnight burn. For an overnight burn, set the draft control on a low setting. The key to a longer burning night fire is to pack as much wood as possible into the firebox. The less air space, the longer the wood will burn.
- The ashes in the firebox tend to burn themselves up. If however, you need to remove them, use the marked ash bucket and dump the ashes at least **200'** from the yurt. **DO NOT DUMP ASHES OVER THE SIDE OF THE DECK.**
  - Don't burn garbage or plastics because they leave a toxic, sticky residue in the chimney, which can cause a chimney fire.
  - Don't hang anything above the wood stove or place anything combustible within 36 inches of the stove (boots, clothing, wood, or paper).
  - Don't burn at continually low settings. If the glass door is constantly blackened it means that the firebox temperature is too low.

## **OPENING, CLOSING AND DAILY PROCEDURES**

It is very important to follow these procedures. A checklist is posted in the yurts for your convenience. There is minimal staff to operate and maintain the yurts, so we trust that your group will assist us in keeping the yurt in good condition. You will be responsible for leaving the yurt in good condition and clean upon your departure. Should you fail to do this you will be charged an additional cleaning/service fee &/or charged for replacing damaged equipment that occurs during your groups' use of the yurt.

### **When You Arrive:**

## **PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ROLL UP WINDOW**

**FLAPS** if they are not frozen in place (if so, please wait until the heated yurt thaws them).

1. Find the snow shovel hanging on its hook. Shovel snow from the deck and stairs. When doing this be careful not to cut the sidewalls with the shovel.
2. For sanitary reasons, always use the toilet for defecating. Currently we are using marked grey water buckets to store your dirty water disposal to prevent contamination of snow near the yurt. WE will transport and dispose of grey water – simply place full containers with their lid on near the outhouse.
3. Clean the wood stove window and start a fire. Please use the directions noted on the yurt wall to prevent smoke from filling the yurt.
4. The yurt dome currently has no gear allowing it to be opened.

### **Daily Procedures:**

1. The yurt is a no smoking building.
2. At night, bring in the yurt equipment (broom, axe etc.,) so they don't get lost during a snowstorm.
3. Please wipe up any excess moisture on the floors with the floor towels or sponge mop provided. Melted snow from boots, clothes, and wood will penetrate the wood floor, causing it to swell and hastening its replacement. Hang the towels on the wall hooks so they dry.
4. To prevent the transmission of germs between persons and groups, please wash dishes using the three-step (tub) method noted below:  
Step 1: Fill all three tubs with hot water. Use the soap provided to wash the dishes, then rinse in clean hot water and dip into the final bleach rinse. To make a bleach water rinse; add two (2) drops liquid bleach (located in the cabinet) to rinse water.

Step 2: Shake excess water off the dishes and place on the wood dish drying rack provided. Do not wipe dry with a cloth. Use a clean paper towel to wipe down the cabinet and tabletop.

Step 3: After washing and clean up, dump the water at the grey water drainpipe outside.

### **Procedures When You Leave:**

1. Thoroughly clean the yurt, even under the beds. Sweep out dirt, wood chips, and snow with the broom. Even crumbs may attract rodents. Carry out all garbage and food to prevent rodent infestations or animals eating through the yurt walls.
2. Wipe down the table, bunk beds, and kitchen cabinet. Place all cooking pots/pans/dishes upside down in cabinet so mice do not dance and water does not freeze in them.
3. Pack out what you packed in. **Pack out all perishable food.** If you want to leave non-perishable food items, place it in the plastic food box provided. You may leave extra propane bottles, but carry out the empty ones.
4. Empty water from water jug and coffee pots so they are not frozen for the next party.
5. Move any flammable materials such as paper and kindling away from wood stove.
6. Restock the yurt with wood and kindling from woodpile, so the next group will have dry wood when they enter.
7. Wipe down the toilet seat, close seat cover, and sweep out snow.
8. Make sure gas valves are turned off on the propane stove and lanterns.
9. Return items that were hanging on wall to their proper location (broom, dome opener, buck saw, fire poker, axe and dust pan).
10. If there is any snow on the deck or steps, remove it.
11. Hang up the snow shovels.
12. Securely shut yurt door and make sure it is locked.

## **SAFETY**

Everything you do on your yurt trip should be done carefully. Conducting yourself safely while using yurts is equally important. Use common sense and care when using the wood stove, propane stove and lanterns, starting the fire, chopping wood, etc. There is limited ski patrol on the Nordic Trails and none available at night. The closest public telephone is the Nordic Center. Cell phones may or may not have service at the yurt but should not be relied upon. The nearest hospital is a minimum of an hour away. You and your party must come prepared. Backcountry travel in the winter requires a great personal responsibility from everyone to do all they can to be safe. There are many dangers, and the name of the game is to stay alert, constantly evaluate and minimize potential hazards.

## SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT LIST

The equipment list on the next page is included as a guide to help you prepare for a yurt trip. Remember, come prepared to spend the night outdoors if for some reason you do not make it to the yurt or the yurt is damaged or collapsed. Dressing in layers is the best choice. As you get warm you can take off layers, and as you cool down during breaks you can put them back on. The term “synthetics” on the below clothing list refers to materials such as pile, polar fleece, capilene, synchilla, lycra, or polypropylene. Because you will likely sweat carrying a heavy pack to the yurt, we highly recommend synthetics next to the skin that wick moisture away. Capilene/polypropylene undergarments will wick away sweat keeping you feeling dry and warm. Cotton socks, tee shirts, underwear and blue jeans should not be worn because they hold moisture against your skin hastening hypothermia. Feel free to photocopy this equipment list and pass on to all members of the party.

### **Personal:**

Sleeping bag  
Backpack or sled  
Sunglasses  
Pair of Nordic skis or snowshoes  
Snow boots  
Headlamp or small flashlight  
Matches or a lighter  
Basic First Aid Kit  
Trail snacks  
Water bottle  
Trail map  
Compass  
Small knife  
Toothbrush/paste  
Synthetic long underwear  
Wool socks  
Gloves and a hat  
Polar fleece or down jacket  
Breathable Wind/Waterproof jacket  
Pair of slippers

Personal medications  
Watch

### **Optional:**

Pillow  
Avalanche transceiver  
Camera  
Extra set of batteries

### **Group:**

Key for Yurt (obtained at check in at Nordic Center)  
Food for duration of Stay  
Drinking water – highly recommended; snow melt may be used for cooking/cleaning but with variable snow conditions may not be reliable source of drinking water  
Sunscreen  
Sunscreen lip block  
First Aid kit  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
(3) screw in type small propane tanks for each day of your stay