



TERRAIN ACCESS POLICY 2016-2017

This policy is subject to change at any time. If planning to access Ski Cooper outside of normal operating hours or other than by passenger tramway, check for current policies.

Cooper Hill Ski Area, Inc. (dba "Ski Cooper")(hereafter the "Area") and the United States Forest Service ("USFS") encourage the use of public lands. The Area is located on both public and private lands. While on Area property (public or private lands) you must abide by the Area rules and restrictions and should follow the Area's recommendations. Private landowners adjacent to public lands may close or restrict access to their land and you must respect such closures and restrictions.

The following is a summary of Area access and Uphill access provided for your information. Other restrictions may exist periodically so be sure to check for temporary closures or restrictions before you access the Area.

Use of Ski Area Facilities

Please be advised that, under Colorado law, any person using any of the facilities of a ski area is considered a skier. You have duties under Colorado law (Ski Safety Act, CRS Title 33 Article 44), including but not limited to, controlling your speed and course at all times and maintaining a proper lookout. Using a ski area for any purpose can be hazardous and you assume all risks associated with such use.

WARNING

Under Colorado law, a skier assumes the risk of any injury to person or property resulting from any of the inherent dangers and risks of skiing and may not recover from any ski area operator for any injury resulting from any of the inherent dangers and risks of skiing including: Changing weather conditions, existing and changing snow conditions; bare spots; rocks; stumps; trees; collisions with natural objects, man-made objects, or other skiers; variations in terrain; and the failure of skiers to ski within their own abilities.

The Ski Safety Act includes, CLIFFS, EXTREME TERRAIN, JUMPS AND FREESTYLE TERRAIN as inherent dangers and risks of the sport.

Access

Please note: there will be changes to this policy for the 2017-2018 season, including a new Uphill Access Policy and Guidelines section, along with the requirement of an Uphill Access Pass for those who wish to travel uphill by means other than the lifts.

Access to Area trails/slopes or property at any time is at your own risk and you assume all risks associated with your use of Area property. Such risks include, but are not limited to, those listed above as well as falling and downed trees and limbs, deeps snow conditions and tree wells, unstable ice and snow including but not limited to slides and avalanches, wildlife encounters, snowmobiles, snowcats, vehicles, and other equipment, slips, trips, falls, and other premises incidents, etc. Other dangers or conditions may also be encountered at any time.

The Area is a mountain environment that requires alertness, common sense, and caution. Read and obey all signs. Be sure your physical condition permits you to hike, ski, snowboard, or otherwise use Area facilities. Be aware that high elevation can exacerbate existing health problems. If you become lost outside the Area boundary, the Area has no obligation to provide any type of search and rescue or aid; assistance and medical care may be limited and take a long time to arrive, and you may be held responsible for the cost of search and rescue operations.

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Due to fire danger, campfires and flame of any kind are strictly prohibited on the mountain at all times.

Any and all motorized vehicles, including but not limited to, snowmobiles, motorbikes, snowcats, ATV's, etc. are strictly prohibited from use on all Area trails, slopes, and mountain roads during both operating and non-operating seasons. Exceptions are US Forest Service vehicles, Cooper vehicles in the line of duty, and those given explicit permission from Area Management.

Hiking and snowshoeing are permitted year-round, regardless of whether or not the Area is open or closed, however, restrictions may exist periodically. Logging operations, snow grooming operations, construction, maintenance activities, equipment and vehicles, etc. are to be expected at all times and must be avoided. Make sure to stay to the side of trails during the operating season. Anyone hiking or snowshoeing must abide by Area policies and follow Area employee directions and all Colorado State laws.

When the resort is open for the ski season, you may skin up/down any open trail with certain restrictions (noted below) before, during, or after operating hours. Be aware that you may encounter vehicles, snowcats, snowmobiles, other skiers, snowshoers, hikers, terrain variations, and unmarked natural or man-made obstacles, etc., all of which you must avoid.

1. You may not enter any trails or slopes that have not been opened for the season or that are marked "Closed" for any period, as safety markings and pads may not be in place, and grooming, trail checks, construction, etc. may not be completed or may still be in progress and trees and limbs may be blocking terrain.
2. Access to all terrain parks is prohibited outside of normal operating hours, unless for an event authorized by Cooper Management. Likewise, access to terrain parks is strictly prohibited unless you have purchased a Cooper pass/lift ticket. Skiing/skinning/hiking/snowshoeing into any terrain park without a valid pass/lift ticket is not allowed under any circumstances. Initial access to any terrain park must be via lift access through the top entrance to the park; hiking to any terrain park for the first run is prohibited.
3. Anyone skinning, hiking, or snowshoeing must abide by all Area policies and rules, follow Area employee directions and instructions, and all Colorado State laws even though you may not have a Cooper pass/lift ticket. You may not board any passenger tramway (chairlift, surface lift, magic carpet, etc.) without a valid pass/lift ticket; to do so is considered trespassing and theft of service, and charges will be filed.
4. If you are accessing the Area before or after operating hours, you do so at your own risk. If rescue or medical care or other assistance is required, if available, the response time may be limited and costs may be charged to you.
5. If you are accessing the Area before or after operating hours, have the common courtesy to stay to the side of trails which are freshly groomed on your way up and your way down. Newly tilled snow takes time to set up properly for operating hours.
6. If traveling on the mountain in the dark, fluorescent and/or reflective clothing material is suggested to increase visibility. Use of a headlamp or flashlight is also suggested. It is your responsibility to avoid any vehicles and/or equipment also on the mountain.
7. If your presence on Area property presents a hazard or the Area's staff believes that you are impeding any Area operations, you may be directed to use a different location or to leave. You must follow any such direction.
8. If you are traveling uphill when Ski Patrol is performing Trail Closing Procedure, you may be asked to exit the mountain until the Procedure is complete. If you are asked to exit, you may re-enter the Area's trails/slopes after the mountain has been closed by Ski Patrol.

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9. When traveling uphill, stay to the side of the trails and slopes so as not to become entangled with downhill traffic.

It is unlawful to use closed trails/slopes/areas, regardless of how the trail/slope/area was accessed, and unlawful to access closed trails/slopes/areas by any route, including but not limited to, cutting through the trees from open trails, or moving up into a closed trail or closed section of a trail from an open section below. Entering closed trails/slopes/areas may result in a \$1000 fine (Colorado Revised Statute 33-44)

All Cooper ski lifts open at 9am. No one shall board a lift prior to this time, except in the following circumstances: ski patrol – with permission from patrol director and lift supervisor; ski school staff for a morning training clinic only – with permission from ski school director and lift supervisor; athletes and coaches for predetermined race early lift load – with permission from lift supervisor; other circumstances, with proper permission. No public shall load any lift prior to 9am. No employee shall load any lift prior to 9am for free-skiing.

Sledding is not permitted at the Area at any time on any section of the mountain. This applies to any type of device that can be used for sledding, including but not limited to, sleds, toboggans, tubes, saucers, shovels, pads, trays, etc. Baby carrier packs (strapped to one's back or chest) are not permitted uphill at the Area. Fat tire bikes are not permitted uphill at the Area.

Camping on Area property (including on-mountain and in parking areas) is strictly prohibited at all times without express permission granted by Area Management.

Dogs, and any other pets, are prohibited on the mountain and in the base area by order of the United States Forest Service operational plan for Ski Cooper at all times, unless it is a registered service animal with proper identification. Dogs and any other pets in the parking area must remain on a leash or under voice command at all times. It is the responsibility of the owner to remove all solid waste produced by the animal. It is strongly suggested that all animals are left at home. Dogs can chase machinery or vehicles and be severely injured or killed. Likewise, they may endanger employees or other guests. Cooper is not responsible for injury to dogs, service animals, or other pets. The owner may be held responsible for any resulting damages or injuries to persons or property due to his or her animal, as well as loss of access/pass privileges. PLEASE LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME!

**United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service FS-703**

Accessibility Guidebook for Ski Areas Operating on Public Lands

SERVICE ANIMALS (Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 35.136, Part.36.302, and also applies under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)

DOGS

A Service Animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

NOT Service Animals:

The following are not service animals: those whose sole purpose is to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship, or to serve as a crime deterrent.

In addition, therapy dogs that visit nursing home residents, hospital patients, and others are not "service animals." They do not assist one individual with a disability in his or her activities of daily living.

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The person who has a service animal has rights and obligations.

- The right to be accompanied by the service animal.
- The obligation to control the service animal in a manner that complies with the animal control laws of the area. “Control” equals behavior appropriate to the setting.

You must allow service animals in all areas: Allow individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities and area where members of the public; participants in services, programs, or activities; or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.

Two questions that you can ask a person with a service animal, if not obvious, are —

- (1) Is the animal required because of a disability?
- (2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Never ask about the person's disability. Remember 85 percent of disabilities are unseen. You cannot require documentation that the animal is a service animal.

The only time a service animal can be off the leash, harness, or tether in an area where the animal control laws require that dogs be leashed is when it is necessary to do the work for which the dog was individually trained to assist that person who has a disability. For example, a seizure alert animal may need to go for help if the person has a seizure and, therefore, should not be on a leash.

You may ask a person with a disability to remove the service animal from the premises if—

- (1) The animal is out of control, and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it (for example, a dog that barks repeatedly during a movie).
- (2) The animal is not housebroken.

If a service animal is properly excluded, the individual with a disability is to be given the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.

Cooper Drone Policy:

Out of safety concerns for guests, employees, and resort property, as well as concerns for individual privacy, Ski Cooper (the “Area”) prohibits the operation or use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or drones, by the general public – including recreational users and hobbyists – without prior written authorization from the Area. This prohibition includes drones used for any purpose whatsoever, whether filming or videotaping, or by media or journalists operating above or within the Area boundaries, including Chicago Ridge. This prohibition on drone operations or use extends to any drones launched or operated from Area property, as well as drones launched from private property outside of the Area boundaries. Please contact Ski Cooper Risk Management, 719-293-8161, if you have any questions or if you have appropriate governmental authorization allowing you to operate drones above the Area. Any authorized operation of drones must be in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules and regulations, local law enforcement, and US Forest Service rules, as well as those policies separately established by the Area. These authorizations, regulations, and rules generally require an application to the FAA, certification, training, various restrictions, safety and national security clearances, and a specific limited purpose, as well as insurance coverage, indemnification requirements, and waivers and releases of liability. Any violation of this policy may involve suspension of your skiing, snowboarding, or uphill access privileges, in addition to penalties or other actions that may be taken by any of the other regulatory agencies noted above.

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