

ELKHORN YURT SUMMER GUIDE₂₀₁₂

The Elkhorn yurt is conveniently located for use by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians who want a remote ride-in or walk-in experience. It is about a mile by foot, bike, or horse from any drivable road. Over 50 miles of old roads and single-track trails can be accessed from this yurt, which is located about halfway around the Elkhorn loop trail. Its high elevation of 6,400 feet offers spectacular views to the north, east, and south. In the evening, a warm orange alpenglow reflects off Wolf, Goat, and Steele Mountains to the east. This is the place to “get away from it all” and watch the wildlife. Elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion are often seen nearby. As the snow melts, hundreds of mushrooms, including the tasty Morel, can be found growing in the dense woods and nearby burn areas. The yurt site is usually snow free early May to early November.

PLEASE READ THE SUMMER YURT MANUAL FOR MORE DETAILS AND HOW TO GET THE YURT CODE.

How to get the code:

By email: judy.ditto@idpr.idaho.gov and the Yurt Coordinator will email the code back to you.

How To Get There:

The Elkhorn yurt is accessed by the Banner Ridge Park N’ Ski parking lot which is 23.5 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21, just past highway mile marker 61. Across from this parking lot, turn right off the highway onto a gravel road. You will immediately pass a toilet. Drive on this gravel road about 2.2 miles to the yurt parking spot. This road is shown as part of the Elkhorn Loop on the yurt location map. This trail has five inch (5”) blue diamond shapes (blue blazes) located on trees beside the road. The road to the yurt will continually climb until you reach the top of the ridge. Do not turn off on any side roads on the way up. A high clearance vehicle is recommended because of the water bars on the road. At 2.2 miles you will see the 2-foot yellow blaze that marks the Banner Ridge Yurt parking area off to your left, at that point you will turn right following the sign that reads Elkhorn loop. This less travel road will go about 50 yards to a locked gate. Once you have parked your car (See **Where to Park**) you will walk toward the locked gate. You will see a map board on the left side of the trail, this will show you that you are at the intersection of the Cougar and Elkhorn Loop trail. Hike beyond that locked gate and follow the Elkhorn loop trail that is marked by blue blazes on the trees.

Follow the Elkhorn Loop trail’s blue blazes through rolling terrain for one mile. At this point, you will be at the second Elkhorn/Cougar trails’ intersection and at the base of a short steep climb. Stay on the Elkhorn Loop trail and climb to the top of the hill. You will see a 4x4 wood post with 2-foot yellow blazes that reads “Cougar Crossing”. Go left into the trees, following the 5” yellow blazes generally south and east (left) for 50 yards at the high point in this area you will find the Elkhorn yurt. **You cannot see the yurt from the Cougar crossing sign.**

Where to Park:

Prior to the gate you will see a pull off area that you can park your vehicle.

Elevation Change and Distance:

From the yurt parking spot it is about 100-foot climbing over 1 mile (one-way). There are a few steep sections.

Dogs:

From Dec 1st through April 15th dogs are not allowed. All other times dogs are allowed.

Solar Power:

This yurt has a solar unit with four lights. Please do not change the panel location. Use the lights when needed , turn them off when not in use and at the end of your stay.

Wood:

Wood for the stove is located under the deck. Wood for the fire pit is on the ground surrounding the yurt site. There are several downed trees in the area which can be cut with the bow saw or axe provided. Please use downed, dry timber, as it helps clean up the area and aides in fire protection

Water:

This yurt does not have a water source available. You must haul in your own drinking water in the summer season. We recommend you haul it in on a wagon or wheelbarrow.

Equipment Needed:

Bring two (2) one-pound propane bottles per each night of your stay, a packet of lantern mantles and a roll of paper towels. **A list of recommended items for your yurt trip is at the back of the summer yurt manual.**

Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Park N' Ski Location Map, Banner Ridge Summer Trail Route to Elkhorn Yurt.
(on website)

Other Maps that may be valuable to you.

USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic "Lowman."

Global Positioning System Locations

UTM (in NAD 83/WGS 84): Note UTM's are rounded to nearest 10 meters

Banner Ridge Parking Lot: 11T0611730E 4875470N

Elkhorn Yurt: 11T0613250E 4875400N

Elevations:

Banner Ridge Parking Lot: 5,764 feet

Elkhorn Yurt: 6,441 feet

Safety: The nearest telephone is in Lowman. For emergencies call Boise County Sheriff: **1-800-479-0911** or in a medical emergency: **1-800-632-8000**. There is cell phone coverage for some cell phone systems at the high point on the Elkhorn trail once you are on top of the Banner Ridge. There is also possible coverage from Beaver Creek Summit on Highway 21. Do not depend on coverage in those areas.

REPORT YURT DAMAGE OR MISSING ITEMS TO 208-514-2418 or 208-514-2419

PLEASE, DO NOT FEED ANY WILD ANIMALS.
IT CAN LEAD TO THE ANIMALS CHEWING OR TEARING THE YURT SKIN