

WHISPERING PINES YURT SUMMER GUIDE²⁰¹²

Whispering Pines yurt is ideally located for summer use. Many miles of old roads and single-track trails are easily accessed from here. The yurt is located in a shaded area off the north intersection of the Gold Fork Loop and the Lodgepole trail. At an elevation of 5900 feet and in the shade of large evergreens the yurt is guaranteed cool evenings and breezes all summer long. Numerous large trees nearby provide shade for picnics. There is room for a tent if you have extra people. 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

Drive to the Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot, 20 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21, just past mile marker 59. Pull into the parking lot and go past the toilet on the left, take the road at the north end of the parking lot. This road is the Gold Fork Loop trail. Drive for 2.2 miles following the 5" blue blazes on the trees and posts. You will come to an intersection on this road and a 2-foot yellow diamond shaped sign on a 4x4 post off to your left. This is the intersection for Gold Fork, Moose and Lodgepole trails. This is the summer parking area. You will then hike or bike the single-track trail beyond the 2-foot yellow sign following the trail that is marked by 5" yellow diamond shape signs (blazes) on the trees. This trail is about 400 yards to the yurt site.

You cannot see the yurt from the Gold Fork/Moose/Lodgepole intersection or from the yellow 2' sign.

Where to Park:

You will park at the open area right next to the 2-foot yellow sign.

Elevation Change and Distance:

From the Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot, 350 feet climbing over about 2.2 miles (one-way). From the summer parking spot there is very little change in elevation to the yurt site.

Dogs:

Dogs are allowed at this yurt year around.

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:

There is water no available in the summer at this yurt. In the summer you will haul in your own drinking water and dishwashing water. A wagon or a handcart may make it easier to haul in water

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, Gold Fork Summer Trail Route to Whispering Pines Yurt.
(on website)

Other Maps that may be valuable to you

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

Global Positioning System Locations

UTM (in NAD 83):

Gold Fork Parking Lot: 11T 0611770 4871910

Whispering Pines Yurt: 11T 0611090 4872620

Altitudes:

Gold Fork Parking Lot: **5,240 feet**

Whispering Pines Yurt: **5,563 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