**HENNESSY WINTER YURT GUIDE2020**

The Hennessy yurt is the newest yurt in the Idaho City system and is designed for avid backcountry skiers and snowshoers. The new yurt is located on a high, unburned knob with great views. From the large yurt deck you can see Pilots Peak, Sunset Peak, Trinity Mountains, Steele Mountain, Wolf Mountain and the Crooked River Valley. At an elevation of 5,679 in feet, there will be good snow for backcountry skiing and snowshoeing from December to late April. There are many Telemark slopes and good ski slopes nearby waiting for first descents and offering all directional aspects ranging from north slope powder to south facing. Access to the yurt is from the Gold Fork Park N’ Ski parking lot located on Highway 21 about 20 miles north of Idaho City.

**\*\*\*\*\* SALVAGE LOGGING PROJECT\*\*\*\*\***

# **NOTE:** The Goldfork Area near the Hennessy Yurt will see a salvage logging operation beginning October 19, 2020 through Fall 2021. The GoldFork Loop Trail, Hennessy Yurt Access Trail, and Hennessy Yurt will remain open for the entirety of the project. There will be no logging operations most weekends, the week of Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve/Day. Winter logging will stop in early to mid-January (Depending o snow levels) and resume in the spring on 2021.

# While trails will remain open and groomed during the project, we ask that the public ensure the logging crew makes a visual identification of you before passing them if they are working on or near any trails. The top priority of the work crew is the safety of skiers, snowshoes, hikers, and other recreationalists using the area.

# During the fall/winter the primary work location is on the Southern Portion of the Goldfork Loop Trail between the Goldfork Parking area and the Junction to the Hennessy Yurt Access. An alternative route to avoid direct contact with the project is the 4.5 mile groomed trail up the Gold Fork Loop (road 393) beginning on the North side of the parking lot.

While IDPR, USFS, and the work crew are taking every precaution to maintain the public’s safety, hazards will still exist. Please take caution as you snowshoe or ski in this area and call or mail us with any questions or concerns.

**PLEASE READ THE WINTER YURT MANUAL FOR MORE DETAILS**

**Combination to the yurt, It’s your responsibility:**

To contact the yurt coordinator by email deetta.petersen@idpr.idaho.gov or by calling 208-514-2418 no less than one week to 48 hours in advance of your arrival in order to acquire your yurt access code. Failure to contact the yurt coordinator will result in inability to obtain entry to the yurt. No refunds are given for failure to obtain door access code. All correspondence must include reservation number, phone number or name on the reservation and yurt booked. **Take the combination with you.**

**Difficulty:**

Intermediate. The difficulty of touring trails can increase in poor snow conditions and weather. The route to the Hennessy yurt includes a long steep section at the end. Snowshoeing is the easiest method to access this yurt. If you ski in, climbing skins are recommended for those with heavy packs. Individuals should thoroughly prepare for the yurt trip and travel with someone who has been to the yurt and can readily find it. The Gold Fork trail is generally groomed Thursday or Friday from December 1 to March 15. You should not count on the trail being groomed, but a freshly groomed trail will substantially reduce the amount of energy necessary to get to the yurt if you choose to ski the Gold Fork loop.

**How to Get to the Yurt:**

The trails are marked with blue or yellow diamond shapes, called blazes, attached to trees. The recommended approach to take is once at the Gold Fork Park N’ Ski parking lot (5243 feet in elevation) walk to the toilet located on the west side of the parking lot and then head up and left up the groomed Gold Fork Loop trail. Ski or snowshoe about 1.3 miles on the groomed Gold Fork trail to the intersection of the Lodge Pole Trail/Gold Fork trail. At this point you should see a 2 foot by 2 foot reflectorized yellow sign on a 4” x4” wood post. From the large yellow sign turn left and immediately cross the creek bed and follow the yellow reflectorized reassurance tree blazes up the hill on an ungroomed trail. You now will follow the yellow tree blazes for .7 mile to the yurt. This section of the access trail is steep (10 percent plus grade) and winding through an old burn as it climbs 350 feet in elevation. You will find the yellow blazes nailed to burn trees and on round 10 foot tall treated round posts. The yurt is located on the top of a knob in a grove of large

Ponderosa Pines.

**Where to Park**:

The Gold Fork Park N’ Ski parking lot is about 20 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21. An Idaho Park N’ Ski permit is required to park here Nov 15th to Apr 30th. Please park vehicles close together at one end of the parking. The Department of Transportation snowplow operators become frustrated when they cannot plow a lot because cars are parked in the middle. You should also **bring a shovel** because you might have to dig your car out or in case of heavy snow. Do not park on Highway 21. You can be fined for parking on the highway or for not displaying a Park N’ Ski Pass.

**Elevation Change and Distance:**

About 435 feet climbing at just at 2 miles (one-way). About 1.3 miles via the Gold Fork trail and .7 miles on an ungroomed trail. This is the shortest route with one long steep section to climb.

**Dogs:**

Dogs are allowed at the Hennessy Yurt and on the groomed Gold Fork Loop trail.

**Solar Power:**

This yurt has a solar panel with four LED lights. Should it be necessary, a brush is provided to remove snow from the panel. 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 Pile:**

Wood for the stove is located under the deck.

**Water:**

There is no water supply at this yurt. Use the large pot provided to melt snow on the wood stove. We recommend boiling the water before drinking.

**Special Equipment Needed:**

**Several members of the party should carry portable snow shovels. Bring two (2) one-pound propane bottles per each night of your stay; a roll of paper towels, and keep a snow shovel in each vehicle. For a list of recommended items for a yurt trip, please read the winter yurt manual.**

**Maps Needed:**

Idaho City Area Park N’ Ski Location Map, Hennessy Winter Trail Route to Hennessy Yurt. (on website)

**Global Positioning System Locations**

**UTM (in NAD 83):** Note UTM’s are rounded to nearest 10 meters

**Gold Fork Parking Lot:** N43.9914 W115.6058 **Hennessy Yurt:** N43.9973 W115.6246 **Elevations:**

**Gold Fork Parking Lot:** 5,243 feet

**Hennessy Yurt:** 5,679 feet

 **WARNING:**

**Winter travel and the use of a yurt can be dangerous. Do not undertake yurt trips without careful preparation and a serious discussion of the dangers with ALL members of your group.**

**Safety:** The nearest land line is in Lowman. For emergencies call Boise County Sheriff:

1-208-392-4411 or in a medical emergency: **911**. There is cell phone coverage for Verizon Wireless at the high point on the Elkhorn trail once you’re on top of the Banner Ridge and Stargaze trail.

**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.**