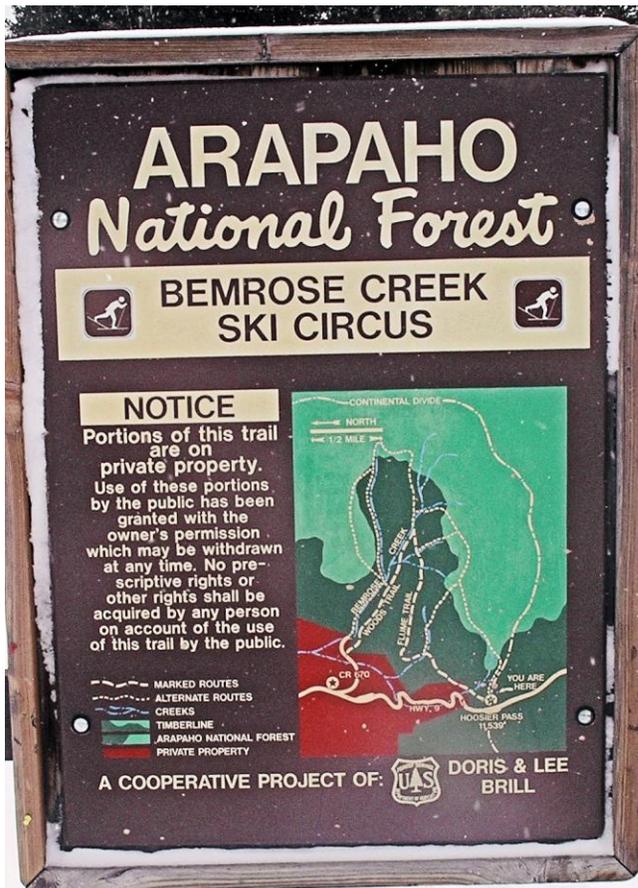


## Bemrose Creek Ski Circus - ski / snowshoe trails by Dave Cooper



**Hoosier Pass Trailhead:** 10 miles south of Breckenridge on Highway 9 (Waypoint HOOSIER PASS PARKING”).

**Lower trailheads:** The recommended parking for access to the lower trailhead is off Forest Service Road (FSR) 670. FSR670 is located 1.7 miles north of Hoosier Pass. Turn south onto this road and drive one tenth of a mile to the plowed parking area by the sign for the ski circus (Waypoint “PARKING”). Note that no parking is allowed beyond this point. Please be considerate of local homeowners and don’t park along the road.

The trailhead marked ALTERNATE PARKING on the map is located at a plowed turnout 1.4 miles north of Hoosier Pass at the information sign and historic cabin site.

### Hike Statistics:

Hoosier Pass to Lower trailhead: 1100 feet of cumulative elevation loss in 3.9 miles (one way). Net elevation loss is only 500 feet.

**Difficulty:** If you stay on the trail described, this is an easy ski or snowshoe, though above 11,000 feet. There are lots of options for telemark skiers on the slopes north of Bemrose Creek if conditions permit.

This excellent name describes a complex of trails originating at the summit of Hoosier Pass. There are opportunities for out and back trips, or, if you set up a car shuttle, a wonderful, easy downhill run.

With the development of homes in the neighborhood of the lower trailhead, access and routefinding has become a little more complex in recent years, but after a couple of conversations with the Forest Service (White River National Forest now has jurisdiction) I finally figured it out. (At one point I was ready to suggest to the editor that we re-name this week’s column “Trail Mix-up”!). The effort was worth it, however, since the area offers great snow, outstanding views and fun trails.

In the past the lower trailhead was on Highway 9, located near an old cabin 1.4 miles north of Hoosier Pass. This is still used by some people even though the Forest Service has now created a parking area and trailhead signage just off Highway 9 on County Road 670. I will describe routes ending at each of these trailheads.

This week’s route starts on the “Flume” trail and then picks up the “Woods” trail down Bemrose Creek.

### Hike Description

From the large parking area atop Hoosier Pass, carefully cross the highway to the east side (possibly the crux of the route!) and put on your skis or snowshoes. The sign advertising the Bemrose Creek Ski Circus is up the hill a few yards. Follow the road as it heads slightly north (left) before turning east.

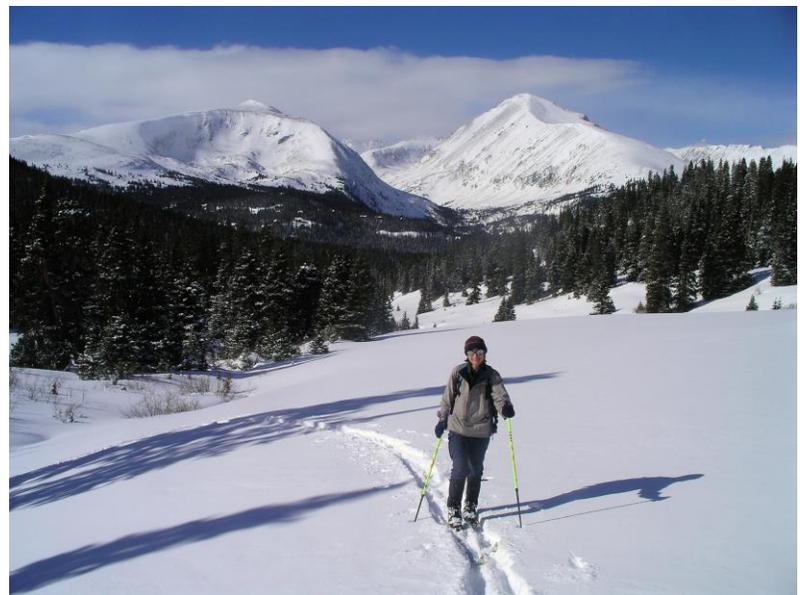
The Flume trail contours around the Hoosier ridge, crossing several drainages as it heads generally east and northeast through evergreens. With good snow cover you may never realize that you're traveling on top of a steel water pipe.

After 2.1 miles of kick and glide, you will reach a significant opening in the trees as you cross one of the streams that feeds Bemrose Creek (Waypoint "JUNCTION GULCH"). Look for a sign on a tree on the downhill side of the trail, indicating the start of the Woods and Creek trails. The sign is easy to miss.



*Sign indicating the start of the Woods and Creek trails*

There is usually a track heading down the drainage from here. To join the Woods Trail you should take this downhill track, infrequently marked with blue diamonds. Looking down this drainage you have unobstructed views of Quandary Peak and North Star Mountain.



*The view looking down into the Bemrose Creek drainage. North Star Mountain is on the left, Quandary Peak to the right.*

Three tenths of a mile after leaving the Flume trail, look for a large, standing dead tree on the left side of the meadow. A sign on the tree

indicates two trails, the Woods trail and the Creek trail (Waypoint "TREE WITH SIGN").



*Tree with sign indicating the trail junction*

Take the left fork (Woods Trail) and follow the blue diamonds onto a roadcut through the trees. This well-marked section of the trail offers a delightful, easy downhill run. Seven tenths of a mile past the sign on the tree the trail enters an open area (Waypoint "TRAIL JUNCTION"). The blue diamonds, difficult to follow here, head to the right and drop down to Bemrose Creek, joining the Forest Service Road at Waypoint "ROAD".

This intersection, the start of the Woods Trail, is marked only by a blue diamond attached to a small conifer, and is easy to miss if following the route in the reverse direction.

Turn left onto the road (FSR 670) and head downhill, still following blue diamonds. After just over a tenth of a mile on the road you will reach a point where the road is plowed (Waypoint "END OF PLOWED

ROAD”). Continue past the snow pile and continue to follow the blue diamonds, as the road makes a sharp right turn (Waypoint “GARAGE”) then a sharp left turn at the intersection with FSR674 (staying on FSR670). The road crosses a creek, passes the junction with FSR671 and continues on to the parking area (Waypoint “PARKING”).

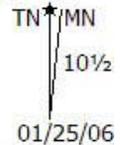
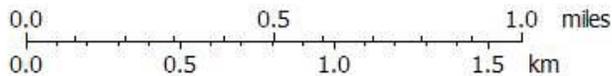
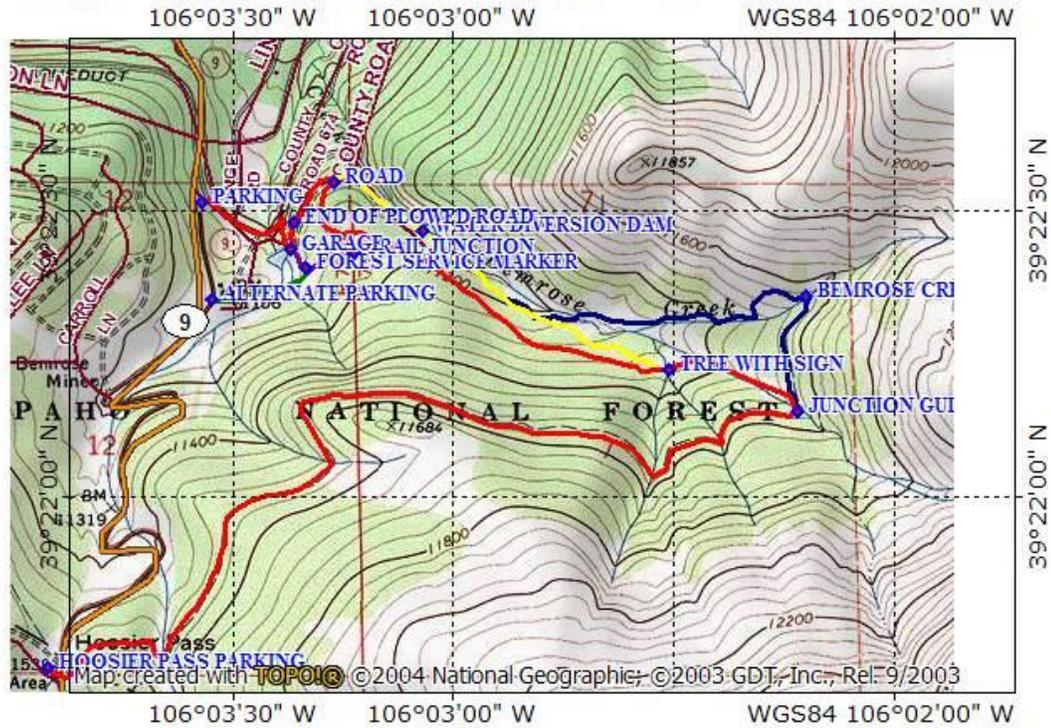


*This photo shows the blue diamond (on the small tree to the right of the road) which indicates the lower end to the Woods Trail.*

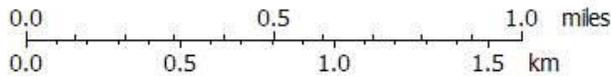
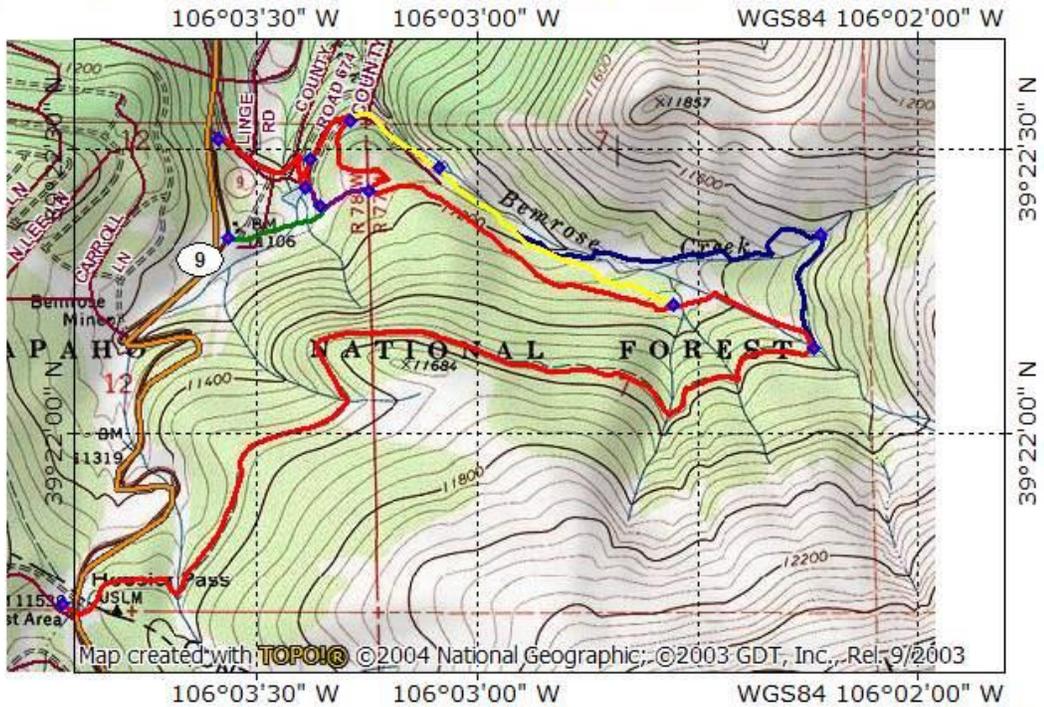
The map shows several alternative options to the route described here. The Creek Trail is, I believe, unmarked. I found it quite easy however, just to ski down the drainage and bushwhack a little until reaching the water diversion dam (Waypoint “WATER DIVERSION DAM”). From here just head down the road and rejoin the Woods Creek route.

If you decide to stay on the Flume trail beyond Waypoint “LEAVE FLUME”, another alternate route is to head down Bemrose Creek at the end of the Flume Trail (marked with a sign for Bemrose Creek) and ski down the main drainage until you can join the Creek Trail – see map.

TOPO! map printed on 01/25/06 from "complete-fixed AND FINAL-2.tpo"



TOPO! map printed on 01/20/06 from "complete-fixed AND FINAL.tpo"



Map with waypoint labels omitted for clarity - note for Cindy – The route described is shown in red, the variations in blue, yellow, purple and green.

TOPO! GPS Data Format DegMinSec NAD83 ElevFeet  
 HOOSIER PASS PARKING: 39,21,42,-106,3,47W, 11539 feet  
 JUNCTION GULCH: 39,22,9N / 106,2,5W, 11598 feet  
 TREE WITH SIGN: 39,22,13N / 106,2,23W, 11388 feet  
 TRAIL JUNCTION: 39,22,26N / 106,3,5W, 11178 feet  
 ROAD: 39,22,33N / 106,3,8W, 11142 feet  
 END OF PLOWED ROAD: 39,22,29N / 106,3,13W, 11037 feet  
 GARAGE: 39,22,26N / 106,3,14W, 11062 feet  
 PARKING: 39,22,31N / 106,3,26W, 11063 feet  
 WATER DIVERSION DAM: 39,22,28N / 106,2,56W, 11155 feet  
 FOREST SERVICE MARKER: 39,22,24N / 106,3,12W, 11138 feet  
 ALTERNATE PARKING: 39,22,21N / 106,3,25W, 11135 feet  
 BEMROSE CREEK SIGN: 39,22,21N / 106,2,4W, 11609 feet

