

SNOWWEST EXCLUSIVE TOP 15 TRAILS IN THE WEST

We vote over the cell (well, actually a survey) and once again SnoWest Magazine readers responded on a big way. We vote again, and our readers tell us where they like to snowmobile. And once again, Wyoming's Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail was the overall favorite, followed closely by West Yellowstone, MT.

Some readers ask why SnoWest always ranks just one of the top riding areas in the West from our own personal riding experience. Honestly, our readers and enough show what we do and don't like in all the other areas of SnoWest that come out during the season. We like the idea of our readers showing what they like when it comes to snowmobiling, not in the West.

Once all the surveys come in, we tally them up and release those results in the form of the Top 15 Trails in the West.

Many, if not all, of the areas listed in this year's Top 15 are located in areas where data for the West. All have appeared in the Top 15 before, many areas multiple times.

At snowwest.com the CDST once again leads the list in the No. 1 spot, over 300 miles in length.

One riding area, Colorado's Lead Mine, dropped out of the Top 15 this year after placing No. 15 last year. There were no new entries to the Top 15 this year, either. The rest of the list shows some movement within the ranks—some places moved up, some fell—but there was no major shaking on this year's list compared to past years.

The state of Wyoming leads the way in the number of snowmobile areas that are listed in the Top 15 with four: No. 1 CDST, No. 4 Snow Range, No. 6 Alpine, and No. 7 Big Horn. So not only does Wyoming have four in the Top 15, they're all in the top 10. Idaho has three in the Top 15: No. 3 Island Park, No. 13 Stanley and No. 14 Idaho Falls. Oregon, Colorado and Missouri each has two.

The only ones with substantial groomed snowmobile trail systems not represented in the Top 15 are Washington and California. Washington's Lake Chelan was close to making the Top 15 again this year and has been represented in the past years but in previous years had didn't quite make it. The California one closest to making this year's Top 15 was Mammoth Lakes, which also has appeared on the Top 15 in years past.

Rank	Name	Snowfall	Groomed Trails	Full-Service Town	Nearest Airport	Information				
1)	CDST	128	1,54	1.48	1.53	1.83	1.81	2.28	1.79	2.42
2)	Blackfoot Range	1.42	1.84	1.75	1.77	1.91	1.81	2.66	2.08	1.33
3)	Island Park	1.36	1.58	1.43	1.56	1.97	1.87	2.36	2.01	2.14
4)	Snow Range	1.44	1.66	1.94	1.87	2.01	2.03	1.87	2.08	2.21
5)	Alpine	1.87	1.87	1.56	1.45	1.95	2.34	1.96	2.38	2.46
6)	Crater City	1.51	1.87	1.35	1.25	2.71	2.75	2.27	2.47	1.71
7)	Big Horn	1.58	2.27	1.82	1.68	2.24	2.14	2.26	1.85	2.42
8)	Yellowstone National Park	1.75	1.84	1.81	1.87	2.23	2.44	2.31	1.94	2.93
9)	Sierra Madre	2.00	2.36	2.38	2.53	1.86	1.59	2.58	1.76	2.51
10)	Grand Lake	1.94	2.11	2.05	2.37	2.18	2.01	2.08	2.02	1.12
11)	Casco Valley	1.87	1.67	1.59	1.45	2.86	2.85	2.15	2.12	2.98
12)	Sierra Nevada	2.24	1.78	1.92	1.89	2.85	2.64	1.87	2.58	2.91
13)	Starbuck	1.66	2.22	2.29	1.79	2.68	2.88	2.22	2.55	2.47
14)	Montezuma	2.14	2.13	2.25	1.45	2.87	2.41	2.08	2.21	2.31
15)	Clearwater Lake	1.93	2.37	2.37	2.58	2.25	2.25	3.08	2.43	2.78
AVERAGE		1.75	1.65	1.86	1.74	2.27	2.24	2.31	2.13	2.39

WESTERN GUIDE TO SNOWMOBILING

Wyoming Snowmobile Association—www.snowmobilewyoming.org

Groomed Trails—2,300

Highest Point—Gannett Peak (13,804 ft)

Greatest Average Annual Snowfall—Snake River 270.1 in.

Record Winter Snowfall—Bechler River 491.6 in.

WYOMING DESTINATIONS

LOCATION	ELEVATION	SNOWFALL INCHES	GROOMED TRAILS	FULL-SERVICE TOWN	NEAREST AIRPORT	INFORMATION
1) CDST	7,000-10,500	181-283	608 miles	Lander, Pinedale, Dubois	Riverton, Cody, Jackson, Rock Springs	Wind River Visitors Council 800-445-6223, Lander Dubois Chamber of Commerce 800-510-4502, Paris Schertz CVB 888-
2) Alpine	6,500-8,000	125-150	177 miles	Alpine, Thayne, Afton	Jackson (43 miles)	Star Valley Chamber of Com
3) Snowy Range	7,000-11,000	300	166 miles	Laramie, Saratoga	Laramie (30 miles)	Albany County Tourism Board 800-445-5 Carbon CVB 800-
4) Big Horn	8,000-9,600	115-250	342 miles	Sheridan, Buffalo	Sheridan	Sheridan 888-596-6787, I
5) Yellowstone National Park	6,600-9,000	145	200 miles	Jackson, Cody, West Yellowstone (some services available in Park)	Jackson (55 miles)	Yellowstone National I
6) Beartooth Mountains	7,500-11,000	260	32 miles	Cody	Cody	Buffalo Bill's Yellowstone I
7) Jackson	6,500-9,000	250	17 miles	Jackson	Jackson	Jackson Chamber of Com
8) Casper Mountain	7,000-7,800	150	46 miles	Casper	Casper	Casper CVB 800-
9) Sierra Madre Mountains	7,000-10,000	200-300	50 miles	Encampment	Laramie (109 miles)	Platte Valley Chamber of Cc
10) Bear Lodge Mountains	5,000-7,000	50-100	78 miles	Sundance	Gillette (62 miles)	Sundance Area Chamber of C
11) Wyoming Range	6,000-10,000	125-150	106 miles	Kemmerer, La Barge, Big Piney, Cokeville	Rock Springs (88 miles)	Kemmerer Chamber of Cor

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