**Recommended Ski Trails in the Sandia and Jemez Mountains**

Sam Beard

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The recommended trails usually have good snow conditions and are enjoyable for skiers with skills appropriate for the trail.

Trails were not recommended for the following reasons: frequently poor snow conditions due to too much sun exposure, trail area was thinned and bermed by the U. S. Forest Service, trail not maintained for various reasons, trail characteristics not consistent with those of enjoyable ski routes, or area was burned in a wildfire, route was eroded, and hundreds of dead trees fell across the trail.

Trail descriptions and directions to trailheads are presented in the second edition of my trail guide, Ski Touring in Northern New Mexico, published in 1988. I am selling the book from my home for $9.00. If you wish to purchase a copy, please email me at samgbeard@msn.com.

1. **Sandia Mountains**
2. Recommend all trails, **except**: 10K North, Tree Spring, and South Crest Trail from Sandia Crest to upper Tram terminal.
3. Recommend new routes groomed by the Sandia Nordic Ski Club between 10K South Trailhead and Ellis Trailhead.
4. **Jemez Mountains**

1. Along NM-126 west of La Cueva – Recommend San Antonio Creek Road, Valle San Antonio Road, Lake Fork Canyon Road, and Fenton Hill Road

2. Along NM-4 east of La Cueva

 a. Redondo Campground Area – Recommend all trails.

 b. East Fork Area – Recommend all trails, **except** Mistletoe Canyon Trail. Especially recommend East Fork East Loop Trail – From the Los Griegos parking lot, walk a couple of hundred feet to the east to the gate in the fence on the north side of the highway. Follow this road (Burn Trail) about one-quarter mile and turn right on a road at a very large pine tree. Follow this connecting trail to the east and north to the saddle at the west end of the East Loop. (The trail to the west is the East Fork Ridge Trail.) Ski either clockwise or counter-clockwise around the loop. The snow on the north side of the loop is especially good.

 c. Los Griegos Area – Recommend Ladera and Elk Ridge Trails.

 d. Peralta Area – Recommend Corral Canyon and Calzada Trails.

3. Valles Caldera National Preserve – The VCNP was a private ranch when the second of my book was published in 1988. The VCNP opened to the public in 2002. Ski trail maps are found on the VCNP Web site.

 a. Recommend the Missing Trail and Coyote Call Trails with trailheads on NM-4.

 b. The Main Gate to the VCNP is located on the north side of NM-4 near the west end of Valle Grande. Follow the dirt road 2 miles to the Visitors Center. From here one may ski in any direction. The most popular routes are around La Jara Mountain at the Visitors Center, to the west to the cabin area, NW to the History Grove, and SW to South Mountain.