



January 2022

December Club Meeting Summary and Upcoming Presentation

Our December general club meeting was a hybrid meeting consisting of a holiday gathering to enjoy fellowship and fun before we broke for the holidays. We had a wonderful slide show of pictures from our club members and their snow-related activities from last season. We skipped refreshments this year, but still got to enjoy seeing others masked, and in person! For those who wished to enjoy the meeting from afar, we provided that too! Zoomers got to enjoy all of the club perks in the safety and comfort of their own home.

Winter has been slow to arrive this year, but fear not...some of us have been skipping the trip to the gym in favor of working up a sweat doing snow dances. The Crest finally has some snow as do the Sangre de Cristos outside of Sante Fe, and the Jemez Mountains. Check out the club's facebook page and MeetUp page for updates on conditions and other club news!

Our next General Club Meeting will be a hybrid meeting on **January 13 from 7:00-9:00**. Zoom link will be sent out just before the meeting. Our presentation will be given by **Ed DiBello from New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors**. New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO) is an inclusive all-volunteer, action-oriented, non-political nonprofit organization that promotes involvement and education of the public in the maintenance,

improvement, and stewardship of New Mexico's public lands. NMVFO specializes in constructing and improving trails and other outdoor facilities to increase outdoor recreation opportunities in New Mexico, as well as enhancing wildlife habitat and protecting the environment. The presentation will cover NMVFO's history, what agencies and organizations we work with, training opportunities, examples of previous projects, and projects planned for 2022. "What we're hoping is that, with this information, you, your family, and friends will learn about us and our projects to grab that opportunity to go to someplace new, learn a new skill, get some great exercise, meet some like-minded folks, and gain the satisfaction of giving back to New Mexico."

Ed DiBello discovered the Rocky Mountains while attending college in Colorado. Based on that experience; to live, work, and play in the Rocky Mountain west became a career goal. He has been a member and volunteer with New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors since 2007. He served on the Board from 2016 through 2020. He was Vice Chairperson in 2017 and Chairperson from 2018 through 2019. He is also an alumni member of the Sandia Peak Ski Patrol. Ed is a retired engineer and former Air Force pilot. His hobbies include hiking and downhill and cross country skiing. He enjoys working on New Mexico trails as both a worker and project leader.

Hope to see everyone there!!

Mailing list: NMCCSCEgroup@mailman.swcp.com **Website:** www.nmccskiclub.org

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/New-Mexico-Cross-Country-Ski-Meetup-Group/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Sports-Club/New-Mexico-Cross-Country-Ski-Club-199720217573925/>

Board Meeting

The NMCCSC Board meet via zoom on December 12. We discussed instruction dates, the upcoming hut trip to Margie's Hut, and the Leadville car trip. The club is in good financial standing and has solid membership.

Our new webmaster is **Lisa Hales**. Lisa moved here from California and has built and maintained several websites for non-profit groups. Thanks Lisa!!! You will make a great addition!!!

What are we lacking? SNOW and of course COVID is still wreaking havoc on our outings, but what better way to stay healthy than to get outdoors and enjoy the wonderful companionship of your fellow members.

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NMCCSC Membership and the PURGE

FINAL REMINDER to Renew your NMCCSC Membership for the 2021-22 Season

The gilded club guillotine is getting dragged out of the club closet and getting dusted off. While you can join the club at

any time, we are nearing the cliff of the Purge. Oh NO! Are you an old member who STILL hasn't renewed? Don't you want to receive our amazing newsletter and be privy to all of the club outings? ***If you haven't***

renewed by January 10, you will be purged from our eGroup email list and no longer get our newsletter. We want you to remain with us, so please renew at. <https://www.nmccscmembership.org/>.

Upcoming Club Events

Instruction

Our club instructor, **Dana Price** is busy scheduling clinics for club members! Our first beginners on-the-snow will be held on **Saturday January 8 at Ellis**. And wonders never cease...we finally have enough snow!

So...you are cruising along on a beautiful trail when suddenly the gradient changes and you have to go downhill with little traction, little control and and little boot support. What do you do? Do you do the classic butt slide? Do you snowplow? Do you drag your poles in to slow yourself down? We can all use some skills in this department. Back by popular demand! There will be an **intermediate downhill skills clinic on Saturday January 8 at 9:00 at the Bunny Slope area at Ski Sante Fe**.

Would you like to improve your technique and confidence traveling downhill on cross-country skis? Instruction will include skills like side slip, parallel turns, snowplowing, step turns, and stem christie. Are you interested? If so, please email **Stacey**.

(Email in cc line, knnayescats@gmail.com and cc Dana at Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org.) Include in the email your name, cell phone, level of experience, and types of skis you will be wearing.

Sam Beard and **Michael Arndt** will be leading a **Class I tour of Redondo Campground on January 8**. Contact Sam if you are interested! sambeard@msn.com

The club will also host an **advanced beginner/intermediate classic XC clinic on February 13 at the Ellis trailhead**. This clinic will be taught by professional instructor, **Jon Dellios**. This class will focus on classic technique for more efficient and

fun skiing. If you have already been through a beginner class or have been on a couple of beginner ski tours, join us! Jon teaches professionally for Sandia Nordic, Pagosa Nordic, the Chama Chili Classic, and other venues. Jon wishes to limit the clinic to 10 participants but as of right now we have over 20 that are interested. Jon may do a morning advanced beginner class and an afternoon intermediate class to accommodate the amount of interest. Covid measures will be practiced at all times. Participants must bring their own gear and are asked to contribute \$10-\$15 towards the cost of instruction. (The board is going to vote on the participant's financial contribution at the next board meeting.) Want to sign up? Email Dana at Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org.

Other XC Clinics

The Chama Chili Ski Classic event has excellent clinics for classic and skate skiers! It is held annually over **MLK Weekend and this year it will be January 14-16, 2022**. Check out <http://www.skichama.com/>

REI is holding virtual classes for Cross Country Skiing Basics on Tuesday January 11, 2022 <https://www.rei.com/events/98270/virtual-cross-country-skiing-basics/299905>

Pagosa Nordic has beginning and intermediate instruction. <https://pagosanordic.com/winter-events/>

Scroll down to "Pagosa Nordic Learn to XC Ski Clinics" to learn more. They are lucky enough to have already started grooming and their snow conditions and grooming report can be found here: <https://pagosanordic.com/grooming-report/>

LEADVILLE Car trip!!!

Members,

Time to play in the snow! In case you have not heard, the club has changed the bus trip to a car trip. *Deadline to sign up is January 14.* The dates remain the same, **arriving on Friday, February 4th, 2022 and leaving on Monday, February 7th 2022.** Here are the particulars:

- **Stay** - Silver King Inn and Suites, Leadville, CO, check in Friday 2/4/22 and check out 2/7/22.
- **Cost** - \$141 per person, double occupancy. This is a 10% discount off the regular room price and includes snacks and drinks for our après ski meeting Friday and Saturday!
- **How to sign up - email me** (not the egroup) at lbghose@aol.com and I will send you an application. Send the completed application and check to:
- **Max Shepherd - 1413 Adams St NE Albuquerque, NM 87110**
- **Roommates and carpool** - Please indicate if you have or need a roommate and whether you need or are willing to carpool. I would be happy to facilitate roommate and carpool matching.
- **Covid precautions** - Because we now into the 4th wave (we all hope this tsunami will soon abate) and will be in close quarters indoors and in cars, the club is requiring all participants to be fully vaccinated including a booster shot. Additionally, we will be requiring a negative Covid test just prior to the trip. Here is the NMDOH website to get more information: <https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/directory.html>. Additionally, NMDOH is partnering with Vault Medical Services to provide free at home saliva tests to all New Mexicans. Here is this website: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nm/>. Make sure to allow enough time to receive your results before the trip.
- **Deadline** - Max must receive the application and check no later than **January 14th.**
- **Questions** - Email David D'Antonio at lbghose@aol.com.

There are already over a dozen members ready to go! The best snow in Colorado frequently in the Leadville area and there are many cross-country trails for any ability level including one right outside the hotel. Additionally, the downhill areas, Cooper Mountain (15 minutes) and Copper Mountain (1/2 hour) are close by. So come on, join the fun!

David D'Antonio. - Bus Co-Chair



Margy's Hut Trip



Our Annual hut trip is right around the corner! The upcoming hut trip is **January 24-28, 2022.** There are 5 spots left for this awesome trip. Unfortunately, Guy will not be able to lead us or ski this season due to an injury. We do have a leader to take his place. Shout out goes to Doug Erb for being our fearless leader! This should be a wonderful time in the backcountry!



Heartbreak for Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area

Wednesday, December 15th brought 60-115 mph winds ripping through the Red River area. 95% of the Enchanted Forest trails are impassable with downed trees and debris. Whole swathes of forest have been blown down and several of their buildings have been damaged. Three yurts were destroyed, with significant damage to the other two. They will remain closed until further notice. If you booked one of their yurts you will be getting a refund but please be patient as processing refunds will take time. Here is the scoop as it stands right now according to Mike Ritterhouse, General Manager.

- EFCCSA has finalized the creation of a crowd sourced fundraising site, which is a Go Fund Me page. They have announced the launch of the campaign on their Facebook page and their website. If you are interested in helping Enchanted Forest financially, I would encourage you to head on over to their website and make a donation.
- Mike Ritterhouse, the general manager for EFCCSA met with officials from USDA Forest Service. Enchanted Forest had the most extensive damage of any area in their area of responsibility. They are part of a regional declared disaster area. It is recommended by Juan Juaregui, Supervisory Forester, that they address this as a Salvage Sale.
- Mike Ritterhouse has estimated that 200 acres are 98% flattened and another 200 acres are 60% flattened.
- EFCCSA will desperately need help getting rid of all of those trees.
- Enchanted Forest is planning a series of clean-up days beginning Thursday January 6 through Saturday January 9.



Please check the EFCCSA website for updates.

<https://enchantedforestxc.com>

Trails Maintenance

Unfortunately our beloved skiing areas were not immune to tree blow-downs from our recent wind storms. Although club members have been hard at work all autumn to clear our trails, there is still more to be done and our faithful crew has been hard at work.

On Saturday December 4 Michael Arndt and Sam Beard completed fall maintenance on Crater Spur Trail near Redondo Campground and the lower part of Calzada trail. Saturday December 18, Steve Roholt, Michael Arndt, and Sam Beard removed 2-dozen logs from the edges of Buried Cable Ski Trail and installed blue diamond markers along the recently completed segment of the Challenge Trail extension from near Dry Camp trailhead to the base of the Sandia Peak Ski area. Michael Arndt was recently certified as a USFS B (intermediate) chain Sawyer and Steve Roholt was certified as an A (apprentice) sawyer.

The work didn't stop there as on December 23, Dan Benton and Sam Beard continued to work on the installation of blue diamond markers along two new segments of Challenge Trail; the extension portion, and the re-routed area. The Challenge Trail Extension leads from a meadow on the hillside across the highway from Dry Camp to Tree Spring Trail. The Challenge Trail has recently been re-routed. The approximately 0.7-mile re-route passes to the north on the mountainside just above the 10K South parking lot. Continue along this trail that follows the Crest Highway through a switchback and past Dan's Loop (not visible from the trail) to the next switchback in the highway.

They even got up there again this past week to remove several trees on Survey Trail.



Are you interested in volunteering your time? Please contact Sam Beard at trails@nmccskiclub.org

Would you like to become a certified chain Sawyer? The Sante Fe National Forest is offering certification for use of chain saw cutting in the forest. This will be held in March or April 2022.

You can contact the volunteer coordinator directly at jennifer.sublett@USDA.gov. Or let me know if you are interested at tdavidbroadbent@gmail.com. The class will be held in the Jemez Mountains.

We appreciate our maintenance crew volunteers so very much!



Michael Arndt working on Buried Cable trail



Sam Beard nailing up blue diamond

Important Websites

Avalanche Outlook	
US	https://avalanche.org/
Canada	https://www.avalanche.ca/map
Taos	http://taosavalanchecenter.org
Crested Butte	http://cbavalanchecenter.org/
Northern NM	http://www.nnmae.org/
Some of the sites from https://avalanche.org	
Colorado	http://avalanche.state.co.us/
Utah	https://utahavalanchecenter.org
Tetons	http://jhalanche.org
Yellowstone	https://www.mtavalanche.com
Sawtooths	https://www.sawtoothavalanche.com
Central Sierra	https://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org
Eastern Sierra	http://www.esavalanche.org

Snow Report Sites	
<u>OnTheSnow.com</u>	Has the latest snow report for ski resorts in NM and CO.
<u>www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow</u>	Includes Snow Telemetry and Snow course data for snowpack information. Click on the blue dots at the site for updated info about current snow conditions.
<u>https://sandiapeak.com/snow-report/</u>	Our own Sandia Peak snow information
<u>https://www.sandianordic.org</u>	Sandia Nordic's latest grooming report news for the Crest.

Intro to Avalanche Safety



Let's face it folks. It's been a dry, dry, dry year, but we finally got some local snow. Many of you who are eager to get out in some deeper snow may venture up to Colorado this year. Who wouldn't want to swish through some real powder here in January? The prospect is so exciting that some of us may want to skip the Nordic Centers altogether for the peaceful quietude of the backcountry where the trees look like sugary gumdrops and the hushed silence envelopes, and magic truly is possible. In all that beauty though, lies a silent killer. If you understand the signs and warnings you can be better prepared to make that potentially life-saving decision...to ski or not to ski.



I put together this article together because I would like to get into backcountry skiing and join some of our members on our annual hut trips, but I'm not ready yet. Why? Because I need to learn about the very real avalanche dangers we all must face in the backcountry. So first off, what is an avalanche?

They are masses of snow moving down a slope. Learning where, when and why avalanches occur can help you gather information and make observations to minimize your chances of getting caught in a slide. For an avalanche to occur, you need three things:

1. Unstable snow
2. Avalanche terrain
3. A trigger

Unstable snow is snow that can slide downhill due to weather, precipitation, temperature, wind, sun, and other factors. While there are in-depth training courses to understand these factors, as a beginner, you can easily check the avalanche forecast on the website below:

<https://avalanche.org/#/current>

For specific information on Colorado, check out this one:

<https://avalanche.state.co.us>

La Niña has not only affected us here at home, but Colorado is no stranger to an unusually warm, dry fall either. After consistently warm 70-degree temperatures in Denver right through October, all of the sudden in December the Rocky Mountains have been dumped on with snow. There are areas in Colorado where the December storm is the first of the season, and snow is lying on bare ground. Those areas aren't as prone to avalanches. But there are avalanche warnings all over Colorado right now. Why? Because any snow that has stuck around through weeks of dry weather has become granular. Heavy amounts of fresh snow has now

fallen on top of that. What do you get? Roller Skates. A totally unstable base for all of that new snow. The more snow that is compacted on top of that will only increase the danger.

Are you headed into terrain where avalanches can occur? Avalanche terrain is anywhere an avalanche can start, run, or stop. A slope has to be steep enough for snow to slide. Avalanche activity typically starts on slopes between 30 and 45 degrees. A slope meter (inclinometer) is a useful tool to measure the slope quickly.



If you are traveling in gentle terrain but it connects to steeper slopes above you there is still a risk. Look for “terrain traps”. These are features like gullies, rocks, cliffs, and trees that can magnify the consequences of an avalanche and make even a small one worse due to increased risk of injuries.



The third factor is that an avalanche needs to be triggered. Natural triggers such as snow, wind, or rain can cause movement but many avalanches are human caused by simply moving their weight over unstable snow.

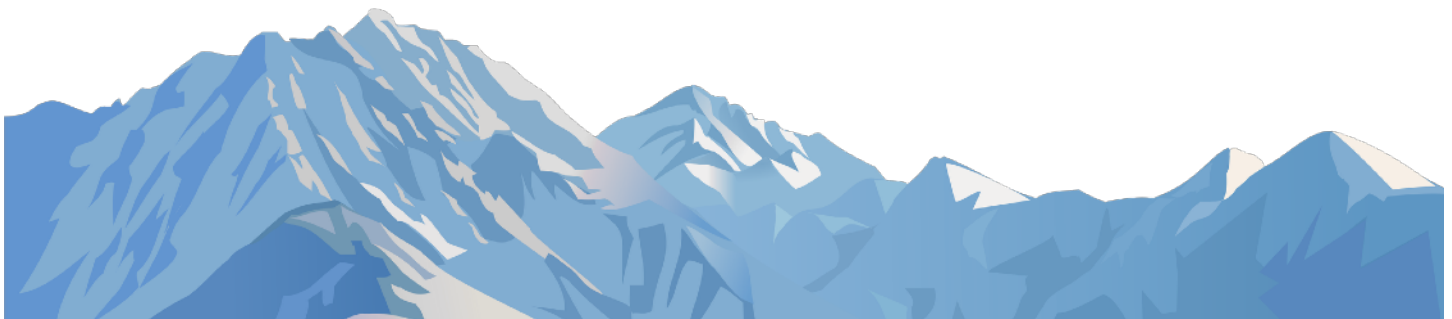
Since most avalanches are triggered by a person, it is imperative that everyone in your group carry essential avalanche rescue gear and know how to use them. The gear consists of a shovel, an avalanche probe, and a transceiver (rescue beacon). These items can save a life as it is the only way for member of your group to locate, and dig out the victim.

Here are 5 Warning Signs of Unstable Snow:

1. **Recent avalanches:** If you see signs of recent avalanches or forecasters tell you there have been recent slides, it’s a clear warning to avoid avalanche terrain. If you can’t tell whether an avalanche was recent, assume that it was. One clear sign of a recent avalanche: if you see piles of chunky snow (avalanche debris). Or if you look up at the mountains, you’ll see the vertical face (called the crown or fracture line) where the avalanche has pulled away from the snowpack.
2. **Shooting cracks:** When unstable snowpack collapses under a trigger, cracks may shoot across the snow surface and can sometimes run for tens or hundreds of feet.
3. **“Whumpfung”:** This is the loud noise you may hear when unstable snowpack collapses under you or your group. As the air rushes out of the snowpack, it goes “whumpf.” (Yes, that’s the technical term adopted by avalanche forecasters and educators). Where shooting cracks are the visual clues, whumpfung is the audible one. The two can happen at the same time.
4. **Big changes in weather:** If you’re experiencing big changes in weather, you should expect big problems.
 - Recent rain or heavy snowfall means the conditions are there for unstable snow.
 - Strong winds: Look for surface patterns on the snow made by strong winds, which could indicate that snow has been transported and deposited in dangerous drifts that can release and run. Pay attention to cornices and drifts on steep slopes.
 - Rapid temperature change: Beware if you experience rapid melting, which can affect snowpack stability.
5. **Persistent slab avalanche:** This is a type of avalanche that forms when a weak layer of snow is buried by other layers of snow. While most avalanches occur during or after a storm, persistent slabs can occur long after a storm has ended and are disproportionately responsible for avalanche fatalities.

Take an avalanche safety class and if you have your safety equipment, participate in Doug Erb’s annual avalanche rescue clinics.

Let’s be safe and learn how to dig each other out!



CALENDAR

January

Jan 2	Avalanche beacon training (Sandias location TBA) 9:00-12:00
Jan 8	On-snow instruction- beginners (Ellis Parking area - weather permitting) On-snow instruction - intermediate downhill class (Ski Sante Fe) Class I Outing to Redondo Campground
Jan 13	General Club Meeting - place and program TBA
Jan 14-16	Chama Chili Classic
Jan 24-29	Hut Trip - Margie's Hut
Jan 27	Board Meeting via Zoom

February

Feb 4-7	Car Trip - Leadville
Feb 10	General Club Meeting - place and program TBA
Feb 13	On-snow instruction - Advanced beginner/intermediate (Ellis Parking area) 10:00-12:00. Cost is \$10 per person
Feb 24	Board Meeting via Zoom

March

Mar 10	General Club Meeting - place and program TBA
Mar 24	Board Meeting via Zoom

Which Ski Tour is Right for You?

Ratings

Class	Vertical Climb (ft)	Distance (miles)	Notes
One	Less than 1000	Less than 5	Skiers should be able to execute stops and turns. Some Class I outings are appropriate for novice skiers. Persons with no experience MUST take the beginning instruction offered by the club prior to joining a Class I tour.
Two	Less than 2000	Less than 10	Class II tour requires intermediate skills and ability to maintain control on moderate slopes using snowplow and Turing techniques.
Three	Greater than 2000	Greater than 10	Class III requires advanced skills and ability to competently climb and descend steep, narrow trails. Skier should be experienced with using climbing skins and have plenty of endurance.
Four	Unpatrolled, mountainous terrain, with the purpose of downhill skiing. Slopes can be greater than 25 degrees. Knowledge of use of climbing skins, avalanche gear needed.		

Trail slopes are categorized as follows:

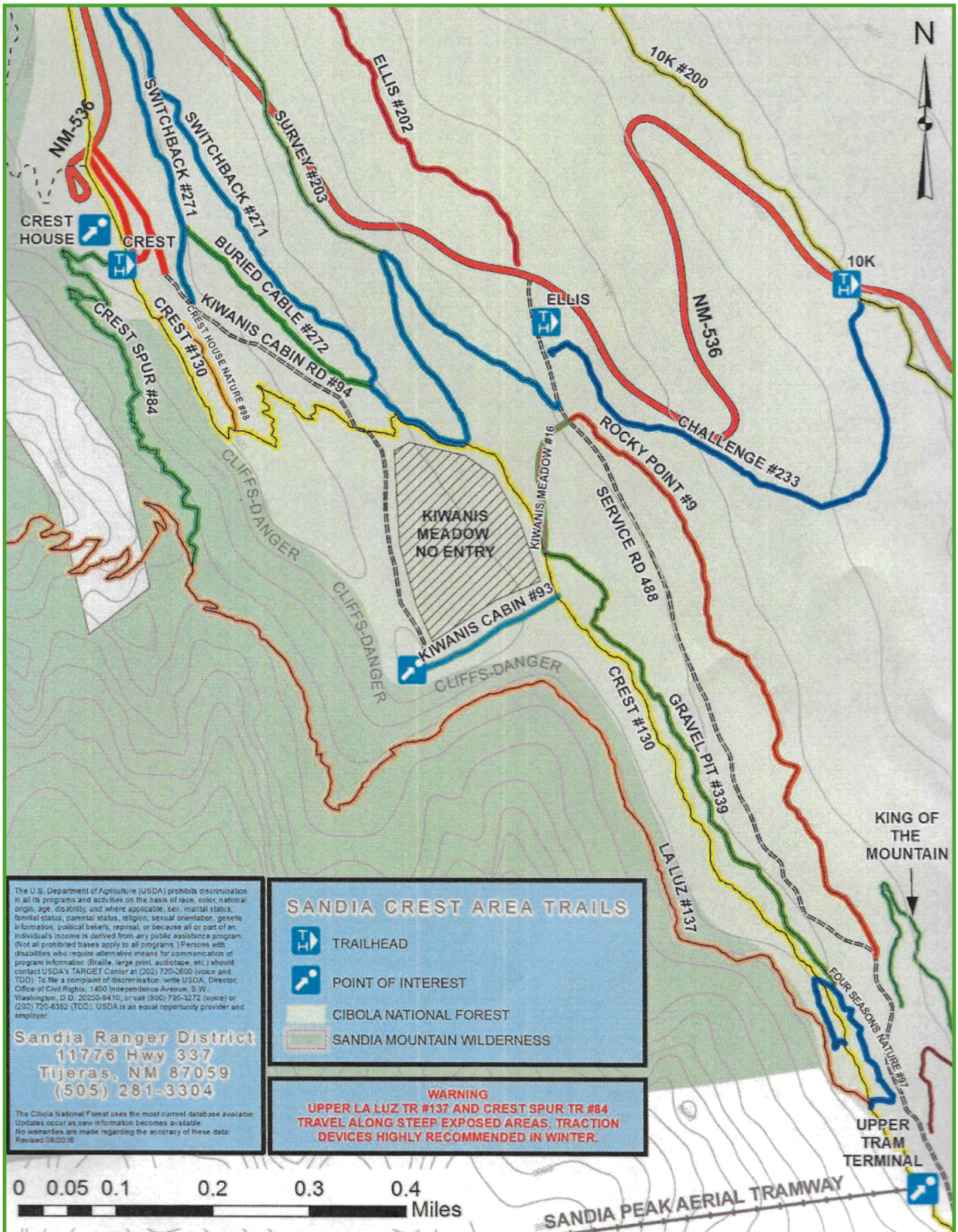
1. Gently slopes have less than 5% grades.
2. Moderate slopes have greater than 5% but less than 15% grades.
3. Steep slopes have grades greater than 15%.



Steepness of slopes, skill level, and stamina can also dictate the ski tour rating. Please see the webpage for more information.

<http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/>

Sandia Crest Cross Country Ski Map







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Sandia Ranger District
 11776 Hwy 337
 Tijeras, NM 87059
 (505) 281-3304

The Cibola National Forest uses the most current database available. Updates occur as new information becomes available. No warranties are made regarding the accuracy of these data. Revised 08/2016

SANDIA CREST AREA TRAILS

-  TRAILHEAD
-  POINT OF INTEREST
-  CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
-  SANDIA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

WARNING
 UPPER LA LUZ TR #137 AND CREST SPUR TR #84
 TRAVEL ALONG STEEP EXPOSED AREAS. TRACTION
 DEVICES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED IN WINTER.

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

SANDIA PEAK AERIAL TRAMWAY

Board Members 2021-2022			
President	Bill Heitz	259-8745	President@nmccskiclub.org
Vice President	Peter Marks	414-3005	VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org
Secretary	Nancy Jenkins	269-0855	secretary@nmccskiclub.org
Treasurer	Max Shepherd	270-5258	Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org
Day Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Long Bus Trips	Guy Miller & David D'Antonio	306-2628 553-2795	BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Hut Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Car Trips	Scott Mitchell	977-8893	CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org
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Programs	Marlene Brown	452-7202	programs@nmccskiclub.org
Mailing/Egroup	Marilynn Szydlowski	332-8018	egroup@nmccskiclub.org
Refreshments	Phyllis Pryor & Terri Elisberg	980-3241 450-9961	refreshments@nmccskiclub.org
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	trails@nmccskiclub.org
Web Site	Lisa Hales		website@nmccskiclub.org
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