

## YURTS

Yurts trace their origin to the tented domed structures of the Mongolians. The five yurts erected by BRORA and the U.S. Forest Service in the Lily Lake multi-use area are circular structures with wooden floors, enclosed by insulated canvas walls and a roof attached to an internal wood support system. The East Fork Yurt, Bear Claw Yurt, Lily Lake Yurt, and the Ridge Yurt are each twenty feet in diameter. The Boundary Creek Yurt has a sixteen foot diameter.

Each yurt includes a vented skylight, windows, bunk beds, a table and benches, wood stove, propane heater and lantern, cooking stove, and cooking utensils. Except for the Boundary Creek Yurt, all the yurts have propane for the heater, lantern, and cooking stove. An outside pit toilet is available at each yurt. Winter yurt users address their own water needs by either collecting and melting snow or hauling water to the yurt. These shelters are comfortable for winter or summer outings.

**East Fork Yurt:** At an elevation of 8,500 feet, the East Fork Yurt is 1.5 miles from the North Slope Road Trailhead. The non-motorized trail to the yurt is a winding path on the East Fork Bench. It is a relatively easy trail that enables yurt users to haul extra goods and supplies. The yurt sits on the bench above the East Fork of the Bear River overlooking a large flat meadow below Deadman's Pass. From the deck of the yurt there is a stunning vista of 12,400 foot Mount Beulah to the southeast.

**Bear Claw Yurt:** The Bear Claw Yurt is about two miles from the North Slope Road Trailhead at an elevation of approximately 8,700 feet. The yurt is accessed by skiing or snowshoeing up Sage Draw. The draw is shaded and the trail can become icy especially in the late afternoon. Pine trees define the natural front yard of the Bear Claw Yurt. The yurt offers splendid views of Moffit Peak to the west.

**Lily Lake Yurt:** Approximately three miles from the North Slope Road Trailhead, the Lily Lake Yurt sits at an elevation of 8,900 feet. This yurt can be accessed by skiing, snowshoeing or snowmobiling. At the top of Sage Draw where the trail turns sharply to the east, the non-motorized and motorized trails intersect. It is important to exercise caution at this intersection, as non-motorized users are now sharing the trail with motorized users. The tree shrouded Lily Lake Yurt is only a short meadow and an uphill climb from this intersection.

**Ridge Yurt:** The Ridge Yurt is about five miles from

the North Slope Road Trailhead. The yurt can be accessed by skiing, snowshoeing or snowmobiling. The East Fork Trail over the Deadman Traverse is a rugged, steep challenge especially when pulling a gear laden sled. Another access route climbs up Sage Draw, past Lily Lake, through a dense part of the forest, and into a small mountain meadow. Just beyond the meadow, the trail narrows and is framed by overhanging trees. There is one last short, steep, slick section of trail that leads to the top of the ridge at 9,350 feet. The Ridge Yurt is sheltered in a natural bowl just below the ridge top. The mountain slope east of the Ridge Yurt, descending more than a thousand feet to the East Fork of the Bear River is a fine opportunity for backcountry turns. Be cognizant of snow conditions and watch for any signs of avalanches. Atop the ridge, the view to the southeast along the East Fork drainage terminates with a stunning image of Mount Beulah.

**Boundary Creek Yurt:** Approximately two miles south of the Ridge Yurt, the Boundary Creek Yurt is the furthest yurt in the Lily Lake trail system. The yurt is in a non-motorized area at an elevation of about 9,550 feet. It is located in a forested setting just beyond the intersection of Boundary Creek and a tributary that snakes down from the unnamed peak to the east. Propane is not available at the Boundary Creek Yurt. A wood stove is the source of warmth for hardy travelers.

The trail from the Ridge Yurt to the Boundary Creek Yurt is not maintained or groomed. The route is marked with blue diamond symbols. After new snowfall, visitors to this yurt need to be prepared to endure the rigors of breaking trail. The open slopes above the Boundary Creek Yurt ascend to a height just shy of 11,000 feet, providing excellent backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. Avalanche sense is the best kind of common sense in this area.

**Travel Warning:** Winter yurt travel poses risks that can lead to serious injury or death. All yurt visitors travel at their own risk and are cautioned to have a travel map of the area and be able to interpret the map. Yurts are not readily visible from the forest trail. Part of the backcountry experience includes being prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions, and extremely cold temperatures which can lead to hypothermia. Winter survival gear is recommended. Yurt travelers must be prepared to winter camp if they are unable to locate a yurt. Night travel is safer with headlamps. In an emergency, promptly call 911.

## BEAR RIVER OUTDOOR RECREATION ALLIANCE

Evanston, Wyoming



The Bear River Outdoor Recreation Alliance (BRORA) is a non-profit corporation. The primary purposes of BRORA include charity, education, and recreation. BRORA and the U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the Evanston Parks and Recreation District, Utah and Wyoming State Parks, and the Utah Avalanche Forecast Center, have erected five yurts for public use in the Lily Lake multi-use area. The Lily Lake trail system is part of the North Slope Multiple Use Partnership, which is nationally recognized for its excellence.

Yurt travel is a unique recreational experience in the Uinta Mountains. With proper education, planning, and safety considerations, users can enjoy a truly remarkable journey into the backcountry of this rugged mountain environment. Overnight use of the yurts requires payment of a user fee and a yurt permit. One person from each group using a yurt for an overnight stay must be a member of the Bear River Outdoor Recreation Alliance. For fee information and yurt reservations, please call the Evanston Parks and Recreation District at 307-789-1770.

BRORA membership fees and yurt user fees are applied to trail grooming and track setting in the national forest, maintenance and repair of the yurts, yurt replacement costs, the purchase of equipment and supplies for the yurts, outdoor sanitation facilities, and a yurt orientation and certification program.

## EVANSTON, WYOMING TRAIL AREAS

In Evanston, the Parks and Recreation District grooms more than ten kilometers of trails for cross-country skiing at Bear River State Park, Purple Sage Golf Course, and Aspen Elementary School. Trails are groomed for classic and skate skiing on a weekly basis and after a big snow event. The terrain includes flat areas and rolling hills. The Purple Sage Golf Course Pro Shop offers cross-country ski and snow shoe rentals. For information, please call the Pro Shop at 307-789-2383.

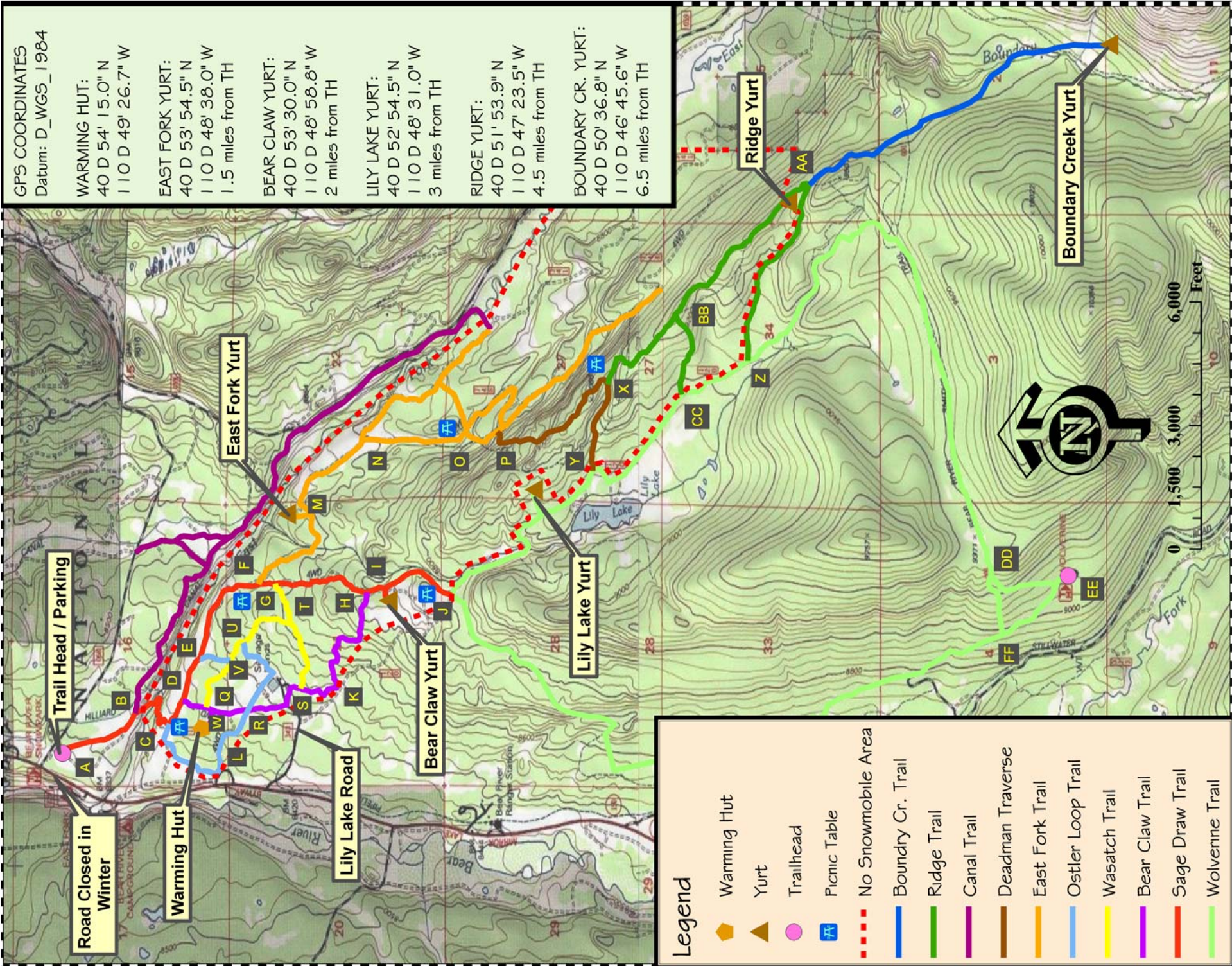
## LILY LAKE MULTI-USE AREA

This multi-use recreational area is located on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, thirty miles south of Evanston along the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway. The Lily Lake multi-use area offers recreational opportunities throughout the year. Winter activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. Portions of the Lily Lake area are closed to motorized winter travel. Motorized travel is prohibited in the High Uintas Wilderness. Snowmobilers can follow the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway for access to spectacular backcountry terrain. Twenty kilometers of cross-country ski trails are groomed for classic and skate skiing on a weekly basis and after a big snow event. Summer activities include hiking, camping, fishing, boating, horseback riding, mountain biking, and ATV use.

For more information about the Bear River Outdoor Recreation Alliance, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the Lily Lake trail system, and yurts, please visit [www.broryurts.org](http://www.broryurts.org).



*A relaxing day at the Ridge Yurt!*



**TRAIL MAP**

The boxed letters on the trail map to the left refer to trail junctions. These letters appear on wooden posts along the trail at trail junctions.

**TRAILHEAD**

The North Slope Road Trailhead provides access to the Lily Lake trail system. The trailhead has an elevation of approximately 8,300 feet. The trailhead is located thirty miles south of Evanston just east of the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway (Highway 150).

**TRAILS**

**Bear Claw Trail:** This intermediate trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. It provides access to the Bear Claw Yurt.

**Boundary Creek Trail:** This difficult trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. The trail is located in a non-motorized area and is not maintained or groomed.

**Deadman Traverse:** This difficult, steep trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. The traverse connects with the Ridge Trail. **NOT GROOMED**

**East Fork Trail:** This easy trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. It provides access to the East Fork Yurt. The East Fork Trail is the preferred trail for skate skiing.

**Ostler Loop Trail:** This easy interior trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing.

**Ridge Trail:** This difficult trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. A portion of the Ridge Trail is accessible for snowmobiling. The Ridge Trail provides access to the Ridge Yurt. **NOT GROOMED**

**Sage Draw Trail:** This intermediate trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. The trail provides access to most of the other trails in the Lily Lake trail system.

**Wasatch Trail:** This easy interior trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. It intersects the Bear Claw and Sage Draw Trails.

**Wolverine Trail:** This difficult trail is accessible for skiing or snowshoeing. A portion of the Wolverine Trail is accessible for snowmobiling. The trail provides access to the Lily Lake Yurt and the Ridge Yurt. **NOT GROOMED**

**Trail Grooming:** Ski trails are only groomed to the East Fork and Bear Claw Yurts. Plan accordingly!

**USER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Please remove dog waste from trails. Non-skiers are asked to please respect the groomed tracks on ski trails. Skiers should yield to faster skiers or downhill skiers. Snowmobiles are not allowed in groomed ski areas. Pack it in, Pack it out! BRORA volunteers patrol trails and monitor yurts for compliance with responsibilities. Failure to comply could result in enforcement action and a citation. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please visit [www.broravurts.org](http://www.broravurts.org)  
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