

Grouse Creek Yurt-

Trailhead: On Colorado 17, 6.7 miles north of Cumbres Pass or .7 miles south of La Manga Pass, at the junction with FR 114, the Red Lake Trail Road.

Parking: Excellent parking on the east side of Colorado 17 just north of the trailhead.

Trailhead Elevation: 10,200'

Trailhead GPS: 37 04.403; W 106 23.764

Yurt Elevation: 11,200'

Yurt GPS: 37 04 522N; 106 26 913W

Mileage to the Yurt: 4 miles

Maps: Cumbres Pass, CO 7.5 min. USGS quad; Rio Grande National Forest; For those of you wishing to ski out into the South San Juan Wilderness, I recommend the Archuleta Creek, Co. and Victoria Lake, Co. 7.5 min. USGS topo maps

Directions to the Grouse Creek Yurt- The trailhead for this yurt lies 6.7 miles north of Cumbres Pass and .7 miles south of La Manga Pass on Co. Highway 17 at the turnoff for Forest Road 114, the Red Lake Trail Road. From this point head southwest following the blue blazes through a smallish gap in the trees. This will soon open up into a large meadow area. You continue west directly across this meadow up a small drainage marked by the blazes. Follow this route up the drainage until it opens into a long open meadow. Go straight across this meadow heading west and ski up into the trees and soon after turn right onto a logging road (GPS: N 37 04.065; W 106 25.296). This road is relatively easy to follow. At a little less than 4 miles from the highway (GPS: N 37 04.312; W 106 26.765) you will follow the blue blazes to the left across a meadow uphill until you intersect another logging road which you will follow to the yurt. The trail is approximately 4 miles. The trailhead is at an elevation of 10,160' and the yurt itself is at 11,200'. Therefore, you should be prepared for a steadily climbing trail. For those with route-finding skills there are alternative loops that can be skied back to the highway. The trail as it is marked is the easiest route from the Yurt to the Highway.