

## SECTION HOUSE WINTER INFO

### **Trip Organizer:**

Please be sure to share this information and other reservation information with your group prior to departure!

### **Ken's Cabin and Section House History:**

Ken's Cabin, also known as the historic Wagon Cabin, was built in the 1860's when Boreas Pass Road was a mere wagon trail over the Continental Divide. Sitting adjacent to Ken's Cabin is the Section House which was built in 1882 to house the railroad men and their families who took care of a section of the Denver South Park & Pacific narrow gauge railway that ran from Denver to Leadville over Boreas Pass. These historic buildings, listed with the National Register of Historic Places, were carefully restored from 1992-97. Ken's Cabin is named in memory of Ken Graff who died in an avalanche near Breckenridge in 1995 at age 34.

### **Capacity:**

The Section House can accommodate up to 12 guests. Groups (including those that reserve the entire cabin) are asked to not overcrowd the cabin by bringing extra guests. Overcrowding causes significant maintenance problems and is in violation of the USFS permit. The cabin is booked to capacity and may be occupied by more than one group. Overflow camping around the cabin is not permitted.

### **Amenities:**

The Section House sleeps 12 people. There are 2 sets of single bunks downstairs, and upstairs there are 2 bedrooms (1 bedroom with 1 double bed and 3 single beds, and 1 bedroom with 1 double bed and 1 single bed). The cabin is equipped with propane burners, a wood-burning heat stove, firewood, solar and wind powered lights, antique furnishings, sleeping pads and pillows, and other typical cabin supplies. Please note there is no oven. You will share the outhouse with guests staying at Ken's Cabin.

### **User Responsibilities:**

The success of SHA depends on the care provided by our guests. You are responsible for leaving the cabin cleaner than you found it, including sweeping floors, cleaning the kitchen, washing your dishes, and hauling out all of your food and trash (trash bags are provided). Other instructions and rules are posted at the cabin.

### **No Dogs:**

Dogs are not permitted at or near the cabins. This is due to social, aesthetic and wildlife concerns, and because of the need to melt snow for water.

### **No Motorized Access:**

During the winter season motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, are prohibited on Boreas Pass Road. Violators may be subject to fines. Please access the Section House under your own power, carrying your own gear.

### **Check-In/Check-Out Time is 1:00 p.m.:**

Cabin turnover time is 1:00 p.m. Please time your travels so you arrive after 1:00 p.m. Upon departure, have your bags packed, the cabin cleaned, and other items on the "Before Departure - DO" list accomplished. This list is posted at the check-in area in the cabin. Be ready to depart by 1:00 p.m.

### **Hutmasters and Volunteers:**

SHA realizes that groups that reserve the entire cabin are seeking privacy. However, SHA does not prevent hutmasters or volunteers from staying in the Hutmasters' Room located in the Section House, even when one group has booked the cabin. All hutmasters and volunteers are expected to respect the privacy of cabin guests while carrying out their maintenance duties. Maintenance staff is at the cabin once a week and guests should not be surprised to encounter hutmasters or volunteers during their visit.

### **Handicap Access:**

The Section House accommodates persons with disabilities; however, the access to the cabin is still considered a backcountry experience. For more information, please contact SHA at 970/453-8583.

**Self-Reliance Required/Emergency Contact Numbers:** You are on your own on the trail and at the Section House. You must be self-reliant and prepared for emergencies. Plan ahead and be prepared to execute a self-rescue. The County Sheriff should be contacted in the event of an emergency by calling 911.

**ACCESS TO THE SECTION HOUSE AND KEN'S CABIN:** The Section House and Ken's Cabin sit at the top of Boreas Pass on the Continental Divide at an elevation of 11,481'. Any nearby trees were cut long ago for railroad and mining operations. Frequent strong winds can make for white-out conditions and low wind chill temperatures. Be sure to carry a map and compass with you to aid in navigation, especially during times of adverse weather.

There are a number of ways to access the Section House & Ken's Cabin. **Recommended routes are shown on the map of the Boreas Pass area, which is available for sale from 10th Mountain Division Hut Association at [www.huts.org](http://www.huts.org) or by calling 970/925-5775. Maps are also available at Mountain Outfitters, 112 S. Ridge Street, Breckenridge, 970/453-2201.** Please note the following route descriptions:

#### **Access Options from Breckenridge (West Slope):**

**Boreas Pass Road:** This popular route climbs gradually along the old railroad grade, approximately 6.5 miles from the trailhead on Boreas Pass Road. Overnight parking signs have historically been buried or destroyed by snow plows, but cabin users can park overnight in the parking area.

**Lower Baker's Tank Trail:** Start from the trailhead parking area on Boreas Pass Road, and be sure to leave your vehicle in the area designated for overnight parking. This single-track trail parallels the Boreas Pass Road and provides more climbs and curves before it ends at Baker's Tank on Boreas Pass Road. Follow the road the rest of the way to the Section House.

**From Francie's Cabin:** The 14-plus mile trip from Francie's Cabin to the Section House is recommended for the strong and adventurous. For more information on possible routes, please contact Summit Huts Association at (970) 453-8583 (we are not in the office everyday so please call well in advance of your trip).

**Route Not Recommended:** The Indiana Creek access is not recommended as there is no public parking at the end of the pavement at Spruce Valley Ranch in Indiana Creek. Overnight parking at this trailhead is not permitted. Therefore, this trailhead and route is not recommended and is not shown on the map.

#### **Access Options from Como (East Slope):**

**Boreas Pass Road/Peabody Trailhead:** This route also follows the old railroad grade, approximately 7 miles from the trailhead parking area. A gentle grade, open meadows and lovely views highlight this route. From the intersection of U.S 285 and Park County Road 50, turn northwest and drive through the town of Como. The winter trailhead for Boreas Pass is 3.8 miles from Highway 285. A four-wheel drive vehicle may be needed past Como.

**Gold Dust Trail:** Continue past the Peabody Trailhead for another 1.7 miles to the small trailhead parking area for the Gold Dust Trail. A four-wheel drive vehicle may be needed past Como. This 5 mile single-track follows old ditches and wagon roads, providing an interesting alternative to Boreas Pass Road. It also allows guests coming from the East Slope to make a loop to come and go from the Sections House by using Boreas Pass Road. The Gold Dust Trail is intermittently marked with blue diamonds.

**Trailhead Parking:** Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle when parked at the trailheads.

**More Information:** Contact **Summit Huts Association** PO Box 2830, Breckenridge, CO 80424. Phone: 970/453-8583, [summithuts@colorado.net](mailto:summithuts@colorado.net), [www.summithuts.org](http://www.summithuts.org). SHA is a non-profit organization. The Section House is located in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and operates under special use permit from the Forest Service - USDA. SHA is an equal opportunity service provider.

For reservation and other information, you may also contact **10<sup>th</sup> Mountain** at 970/925-5775, M – F, 8 – 5pm (December through March 15) or M – F, 8 – 4pm (March 16 – November), [huts@huts.org](mailto:huts@huts.org), [www.huts.org](http://www.huts.org).