

USFS warning – backcountry trails full of snow

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is urging backcountry hikers and backpackers to use extra care when visiting upper elevation areas of the Lake Tahoe Basin over the next several weeks because there is still significant snow above 8,000 feet in many locations.

Many backcountry trails are still covered with snow and ice leaving trails slippery and difficult to find. In addition, current warm temperatures have caused streams to flow higher and faster, which can make crossing difficult.

Backcountry travelers should check the weather before heading out, don't hike alone, always use the buddy system, leave an itinerary with a friend or family member, and check in with them upon return, dress appropriately with sturdy footwear and carry proper gear including food and water, a map and compass, hiking pole or walking stick, and consider snowshoes and an ice axe.