



Chapter 6 OGDEN CANYON:

Trails 1, 2, and 3 of this Ogden section intersect and share trailheads.

Trail 1 – Wheeler Creek to Maples: Upper Wheeler Creek or Icebox Canyon Route

Duration: 3 hours

Distance: 4.3 miles one way with shuttle

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation: Wheeler Creek trailhead 4870'; Maples trailhead 6220'

Avalanche: Known avalanche path

Map: Snowbasin 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Maples Trailhead--12 T 0427662/4563971

Dogs: Allowed

Introduction: Wheeler Creek trail starts next to a bubbling stream and enters a canopy of snow-covered trees if you catch it after a fresh snow. This trailhead has access points which take you to three different locations: the Art Nord trailhead, through Icebox Canyon also known as the Upper Wheeler Creek trail, and across Middle Fork. The one we will be taking for this trail is the Upper Wheeler Creek route which starts at the Wheeler Creek trailhead and bears right following the main Wheeler Creek drainage through Icebox Canyon up to Snowbasin and the Maples Trailhead. The trail follows Wheeler Creek approximately three quarters of the route. Easy parking and trailhead access make this trail an easy to approach winter excursion. If you want a long day you can hike out and back, but each trailhead is accessible by car and provides a perfect shuttle experience.

How to Get There: A trailhead at each end—shuttle possible.

1-Wheeler Creek Trailhead: Head up Ogden Canyon S.R. 39 for 6 miles. Wheeler Creek Trailhead sits just below Pineview Dam. Pull-off is found on the south side of the road. Parking available at the trailhead. Trailhead is well marked.

2-Maples Trailhead: Driving Directions to Snowbasin Ski Resort: From Salt Lake City take I-15 northbound and exit to northbound US-89 (exit #324). Merge to I-84 eastbound and exit at Mountain Green (exit #92). Continue east on Old Highway and turn left on State Road 167 heading north (just east of the Sinclair station). Turn left on State Road 226 heading west and proceed approximately three miles to Snowbasin. Park at Snowbasin's #2 parking lot in the lowest, most northern lot. Cross the bridge and head to the right on the groomed Nordic trails maintained by Snowbasin. As you start along this route a prominent sign states that this is the location of the Maples Trailhead, but this sign is for Snowbasin's trail system and is not the Maples trailhead referred to in this book. The Maples trailhead in the Forest Service trail system, (the one we are using) sits a half mile up the groomed Nordic trail. It is marked with a prominent trailhead sign and map.

Trail Description: The Wheeler Creek trail begins on a closed service road established by Art Nord during his work with the Forest Service between 1915 and 1956. The road/trail follows Wheeler Creek which adds the dimension of white winter ice and the gurgle of the stream. One mile up the trail a sign indicates that you can drop down into Icebox Canyon/Upper Wheeler Creek Trail. Drop down, cross the bridge and enjoy the 1.2 miles as you trek next to the creek. The trail is easy to follow as it twists along the creek. As you pop out of the canyon you will find a junction. The left fork will lead you to the Art Nord trailhead, the right fork (straight), which is marked with blue triangles blazes nailed to the trees, will lead you to Maples trailhead. From here, keep an eye out for the blue blaze markers on the trees. From this point to the Maples trailhead is the longest section of the trail, (a little over 2 miles) and it winds next to the Old Snowbasin road for a bit, crosses a handful of bridges, and finally exits below Maples Picnic Area which sits below Snowbasin ski resort. From Maples trailhead follow the groomed Nordic road a half mile out to the Snowbasin parking lot, or you can turn around and venture back. The blue blazes on the trees help you find your route.