

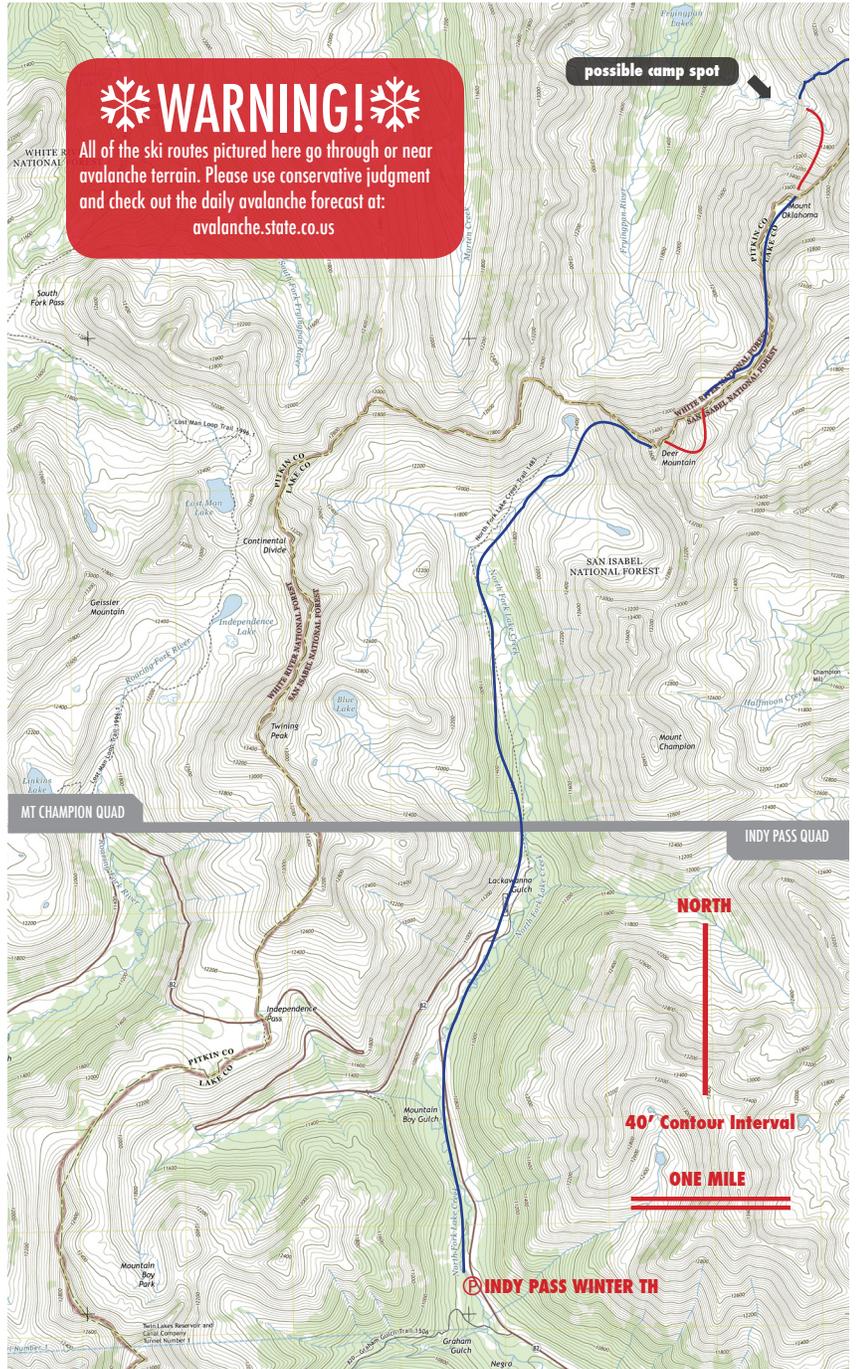
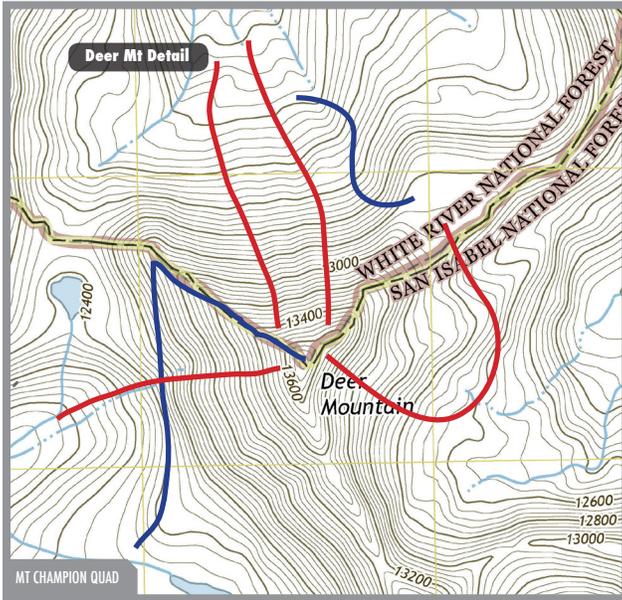
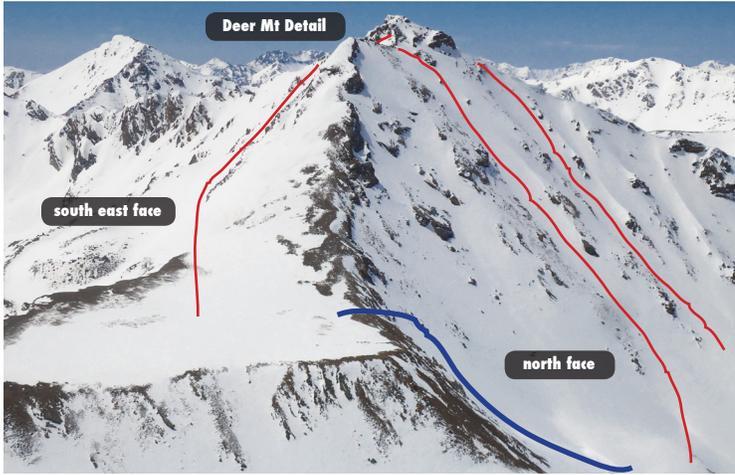


**LEAD**  
40 MINUTES FROM  
**VILLE**

## **INDY PASS to FISH HATCHERY TRAVERSE**

Picture on this page: Tracks on the South East Face of Mt Oklahoma taken from near the top of a couloir on the way up the West Face of North Massive.

This 18 mile traverse starts at the winter road closure of the Independence Pass road and finishes at the Leadville Fish Hatchery. Along the way ski three great peaks, Deer, Oklahoma and the Mt Massive ridge. Many variations exist, choose your own adventure based on snow conditions and your motivation. After skiing Deer Mountain you can also ski out the North Halfmoon and Halfmoon drainages (ends up being about 20 miles).



**WARNING!**  
 All of the ski routes pictured here go through or near avalanche terrain. Please use conservative judgment and check out the daily avalanche forecast at: [avalanche.state.co.us](http://avalanche.state.co.us)

Up-Tracks (in blue) Down-Tracks (in red)

In May of 2012 I skied this route with John MacKinnon in 12 hours (6am till 6pm), we had perfect snow conditions and were able to ski all the way to the Fish Hatchery trailhead. Our variation included skiing the SE Face of Deer Mountain the NE Face of Oklahoma, Africa Bowl and then north off the ridge into the drainage above the Fish Hatchery. In late April I skied the North Face of Deer with Cooper Mallozzi then head out the Halfmoon drainage (we had very slow conditions swimming up the West Face of Deer).

**Deer Mountain**

The SE Face ski route starts from the saddle between the two sub-peaks (down-climb to the saddle), it is typically nice corn conditions by about 10am if it is sunny. The N face starts from the same saddle and the couloir can still be great powder skiing in late season.

**Mt Oklahoma**

The ridge between Deer and Oklahoma is mostly snow free, hike then ski the last quarter mile. Ski the NE broad couloir right off the summit (you could also probably ski the north face and traverse east). You could camp on the bench at the base if you break the traverse into two days. Climb the couloir on the West Face of North Massive.

**Massive**

Ski Africa Bowl then north off the ridge. Or ski the longer couloir that drops from the ridge just left of the top of Africa Bowl (see detailed map for variations). Follow the Rock Creek drainage and slopes to the south and catch the rock creek trail at its junction with the CO trail (on the north side of rock creek). Follow the trail to the trailhead. Note: Once you are below treeline on and near rock creek it is very hard to tell exactly where you are, if you want a little piece of mind bring a GPS or iphone with topo app.

