

SNOWSHOE HIKE OF THE WEEK

Mormon Pioneer Trail - East Canyon



Don Rondinelli snowshoes over moose tracks on the trail.

Discription: The trail starts at the parking lot above Little Dell Reservoir. Against a cloudless sky we ventured down towards the creek that fills the deep blue reservoir. As you hike through the trees, between the creek and the road, you wonder if the pioneers cleared this section on their journey into the Salt Lake Valley. About a mile and a half into the hike, a footbridge appears over the creek. Stop at the bridge and view the sparkling water trapped under the ice. After the bridge, the trail heads to the restrooms by the road. The trail seems to end at the restrooms, but hike downhill for about 50 feet and you will see the trail posted on the other side of the road. At this point the trail rises above the creek and you are about 1/2 mile away from Affleck Park. There were moose tracks along the entire trail, so keep a watchful eye. This historical pioneer trail was a crossroads for the California Trail, Pony Express Trail and The Mormon Pioneer Trail. Enjoy your adventure!

Photo, text and graphic by Steve Baker (baker@sltrib.com)

THE CANYONS

East Canyon	
Destination	Affleck Park
Round trip miles	4.5 miles
Hiking time	3 hour 30 minutes
Difficulty	Easy
Elevation gain	494 feet
Dogs allowed	No
Trailhead restrooms	Yes, open along trail



Directions: From I-80 take the exit for East Canyon, Highway 65. Drive past Little Dell Reservoir and park in the lot before the gated road.