



Trail 30--USA Bowl

Duration: 1.5 hours

Distance: 2.5 out-and-back

Difficulty: Easy

Trailhead: Lower Solitude parking lot; or Willow Creek

Elevation: Solitude Lower Parking Lot 8060'; Base of USA Bowl 8900'

Avalanche: Crosses known avalanche path

Map: Park City West 7.5 quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Base of USA Bowl--12 T 0450395/4498290; Road to USA Bowl--12 T 0449937/4497174

Dogs: Not allowed in Big Cottonwood Canyon

Introduction: The USA Bowl, a skier's paradise, is a quick, easy and pleasant jaunt that brings you to gentle slopes that will most often provide safety even during tricky avalanche days. The slopes of the bowls are steep enough to enjoy some great powder stomps, but at an angle low enough that avalanche probability is low. This trail can continue down other drainages if you desire to return via a different route. You can make this route last as long as weather and desire allow by continuing past the USA Bowl and heading deeper into the mountains.

How to Get There: The lower Solitude parking area sits 11.6 miles from the base of Big Cottonwood. Park by Moonbeam Lodge. The trail begins across the Big Cottonwood Canyon road.

Trail Description: From the parking lot, cross the street to the north and head up over the berm of snow on the north side of the road. The trail begins here. Scott's Pass (from the previous chapter) and USA Bowl share the same beginning section of trail. --Head north east for .2 miles to hook up with an old road. The key to this trail is finding the old road. If you're not making first tracks others will have marked it for you, if you are the first one out on a new powder morning, use the GPS coordinates provided and/or look for the carved graffiti on the trees and a groomed cabin road that the old road dumps into on its far eastern edge, as clues to help you find where this old road lies.

Once you're on the road, turn left/west. After a half mile, the road curves to the right and leads around the other side of the mountain. The trail changes to solitude, single track, and evergreens as compared to the open, naked-aspen slope, and view of Solitude Ski resort found in the first half mile. Continue along the open path through the trees as it heads north and east. The trail will bring you directly to the base of the bowl. Return to your car following the same route.

Options: Once on the rim of the USA Bowl you can continue to head up and across the rims of surrounding mountains. From the upper ridge the view opens and you can see your way down various drainages. You can make this an out-and-back trip, or venture up, out, and across to loop back down into Big Cottonwood from another direction. Willow Creek is one of the drainages accessible from the upper ridge of the USA Bowl (see chapter 28 – Willow Creek). Consult a map if you wish to hook into another drainage.