



A, B, C, D, & J. HOWELSEN HILL
845 Howelsen Parkway, Steamboat Springs

Howelsen Elk Park was a wild game park for elk until Carl Howelsen, a Norwegian ski jumper and stone mason, came to Steamboat Springs in 1913 and fashioned Big Jump, a 70-meter ski jump, in 1914. The hill was originally called Crawford or Quarry Mountain and was re-named Howelsen Hill in 1917. Howelsen immediately began teaching skiing to local schoolchildren and adults, redesigned skis and bindings, and initiated new stylistic techniques, all of which introduced recreational skiing to the area, now familiarly known as Ski Town, USA. Howelsen left an indelible mark on the architecture of the area as well, and fine examples of his locally-quarried sandstone masonry are extant throughout

town (See Routt County State Bank below). Howelsen Hill hosted only cross-country and jumping events until 1931 when slalom and downhill courses were added and a small rope began serving the beginners' slope. In 1937, the boat tow (pictured), constructed from two sleds and powered by a Model T transmission and engine, took twelve skiers per trip to the top of the mountain. The ski area was one of the first to offer night skiing via one spotlight, beginning in 1938. The log-warming hut and lift shack were built at the base in 1946, and an 8,850-foot combination T-bar and chair lift—the longest single-span in America—was completed in 1948, when the jumping hills were recontoured. The Graham Jump burned in 1972, which dashed the hope that Howelsen Hill would host the 1976 Olympic jumping events. The jumps were again reconstructed in 1978 and continue to host international ski jumping events. Many national and international records for distance have been set on this nationally and State-designated (2000 for both) site.