

Deschutes National Forest

Winter Trail Access and Conditions Update

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Updated February 10, 2012

Winter backcountry and trail snow conditions are quite "variable".



New Kwoh Butte warming shelter is winter ready.



Reminder that snowmobiling is prohibited on Mt. Bachelor permit area which includes lower rescue rd.

Winter Trail Highlights

- Winter trails and snow parks above 5,600' are generally fair-good condition. **Most are currently springlike (icy mornings/soft in pm).**
- Snowmobile drag races at Frank Ellis sno-park will max out snowmobile parking options.
- Ski race at Meissner on Saturday.
- Snow and trail conditions subject to change without notice.
- Wilderness trails are presently under several feet of snow.
- Low elevation summer trails mostly snow free, may be soft to muddy on warmer days.
- Go prepared with your Ten Essential Systems:

Navigation (map and compass)

Sun protection (sunglasses/sunscreen)

Insulation (extra clothing)

Illumination (headlamp/flashlight)

First-aid supplies

Fire(waterproofmatches/lighter/candles)

Repair kit and tools

Nutrition (extra food)

Hydration (extra water)

Emergency shelter

- Until spring, this report will focus mainly on winter trail conditions.

GENERAL SNOW AND WINTER TRAIL CONDITIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 10:

This past week, snow conditions became a mix of snow with rain, creating spring like snow conditions for most areas with snow. Presently, most snow parks have adequate to good snow conditions but some of those will be marginal for a mile or three until you reach higher elevations. Six Mile, Skyliner, Lower Three Creeks and McKenzie Pass snow parks do not have adequate snow. Snow depths at local sno-parks presently range from patchy snow to 86".

General snow depths presently range from patchy-24" to at 5,000' and 70-80" at 6,000', west of Hwy 97. Elk Lake area (closer to the Crest) at 4,900' has 56-70" depth. About 50-60% of those depths can be expected east of Hwy 97 in Newberry Caldera with 34-40' reported in the Caldera. 42-54" is reported in the Santiam Pass area at 4,800'; Crescent Sno-Parks have 4-6" of snow.

Winter trail coverage: 70-85% of winter trails have adequate to good snow conditions.

Backcountry travel in avalanche terrain warrants a word of caution with avalanche danger! Reminder, be responsible for your own safety and that of others around you; perform careful snowpack evaluations, stability tests and make safe route decisions. The Central Oregon area does not have an avalanche forecasting organization. For further information and links, see section below on avalanche information.

Wind blown trees: Recent high winds have brought down trees on several trails. Be prepared for the unexpected downed tree.

Overall Trail grooming is currently at approx. 65-80% with lowest elevation trails lacking adequate snow. Central Oregon Snow Busters, Sisters Sno-Go-Fers, La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers, Walker Rim Riders and Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club volunteers groom 400-500 miles of snowmobile trails on the Deschutes National Forest. Meissner Nordic/TLC grooms up to 38 kilometers of nordic ski trails out of Meissner and Swampy Sno-Parks. DogPac grooms 3 kilometers of dog friendly trails multiple times/week at the Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park.

Go groomers!

Seasonal Road Closures:

The following roads are gated closed for winter seasonal closure:

Hwy 46 from Dutchman Flat South to Crescent Cutoff road.

Road 370 from Hwy 46 near Todd Lake to Road 16 near Three Creek Lake

Tumalo Falls Road - Winter users, beware of slash grinding operations with heavy equipment on the road. Heavy truck traffic hauling grindings to Bend.

Road 21 from Ten Mile Sno-Park to east of Newberry Caldera

Hwy 242, McKenzie Pass, snow gate to snow gate

Road 16 from Upper Three Creek Lake Sno-Park to Three Creek Lake

Road 60 around Crescent Lake

Forest roads around snow parks along Hwy 46 and Road 45 are closed for the winter season. Many of these roads become winter trails. Many more roads will be closed due to winter snow accumulations.

Be aware that many forest roads this time of year become snowmobile and ski trails through the winter and are also closed to non-snow vehicles. Please avoid driving on roads that are posted closed or that indicate with blue or orange diamonds, they are a winter trail and vehicle rutting creates a very hazardous and unpleasant condition for trail users.

A few reminders for the winter season (during good snow conditions):

- **Plan for overflow parking at some sno-parks; have a second, maybe third sno-park choice in mind for the coming weekends. Area favorites like Dutchman, Meissner, Frank Ellis Snowmobile, Wanoga Snow Play, Ten Mile, Upper Three Creek and Crescent Lake Sno-Parks may fill early.**
- Oregon State Sno-Park Permits are required in ODOT plowed snow parks from November 1-April 30. Purchase your vehicle parking permit from DMV or a known permit vendor. Permits ARE NOT available at Deschutes National Forest Offices in Sisters, Bend or Crescent.
- A favorite (heavy use on weekends and holidays) sno-park is the Wanoga Snow Play facility; that's for sledding and tubing. This park lot is designed for diagonal parking in 4 rows (2 rows each lobe of the lot) with a center

travel lane that is one way. Please park accordingly and be sure to follow the sledding safety rules posted on the information board. Enjoy the warming shelter too!

- Trails grooming has begun and will increase with adequate snow conditions and volunteer availability. At peak grooming operations, Central Oregon Snow Busters, Sisters Sno-Go-Fers, La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers, Walker Rim Riders and Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club volunteers groom 400-500 miles of snowmobile trails on the Deschutes National Forest. Some trails require 4-5 ft. of solid snow cover to safely groom. Meissner Nordic/TLC grooms up to 38 kilometers of nordic ski trails out of Meissner and Swampy Sno-Parks. DogPac grooms 3 kilometers of dog friendly trails multiple times/week at the Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park. All grooming programs are snow and volunteer dependent.
- Winter trail signing: 95% of the removable winter signing is in place in the Dutchman Flat, Tumalo Mt. and Moon Mt. area. Installation of temporary winter signs has just begun in Three Creek Lake and Ray Benson areas. These signs not only mark special closure boundaries but also several miles of snowmobile, ski and snowshoe trails, some hazards along the trails and trail directional signing in areas with few trees to attach signs to. Over the snow travel without these signs in place can be challenging and hazardous.
- "NO PARKING" zones are posted for safe traffic flow into and out of snow parks. Where posted "Head-in Parking", please park 90 degrees to the snow bank to maximize parking capacity. Please try another sno-park if you find your first choice sno-park full.
- Motorized users please use caution with speed and remain in control at all times. Slow down for pedestrians and other snowmobilers, especially in congested areas. Recommended "slow" speed near pedestrians and congested areas is 5-20 mph.
- Nonmotorized users, please be courteous when encountering motorized users on snowmobile trails (orange diamonds) and stay to the right to allow snowmobilers to pass safely; or avoid the heavily used snowmobile trails and stick to the blue diamond ski and snowshoe trails.
- Respect winter area dog closures (Meissner, Swampy, Vista Butte and Dutchman Sno-Parks and areas are closed to dogs Nov. 1-April 30) either by leaving your pet safe at home or going to a dog permitted area. Frank Ellis Snowmobile, Wanoga Sno-Play, Edison, Skyliner, Ten Mile, Six Mile, Crescent Junction and Upper Three Creek Sno-Parks are open to dogs. Practice Canine Courtesy by maintaining control of your dog with reliable voice control

or on leash (or if required, in harness); and remove dog waste from trail and snow park areas. Dogs are required to be leashed at all times while in developed recreation sites, i. e. snow parks.

- Go prepared for weather conditions and unexpected emergencies!

SPECIAL WINTER ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

Snowmobile drag races are taking place out of Frank Ellis Sno-Park (milepost 15 on Hwy 46). Parking is expected to be very limited with the lot likely full by the early morning hours, both Saturday/Sunday. Limited overflow parking at Edison Sno-Park.

High School Ski race out of Meissner Sno-Park on Saturday will also create overflow parking conditions. Overflow parking at Swampy Sno_Park.

Logging, fire and slash removal activities that may impact winter trails this winter:

Winter logging operations have potential impacts to winter trails. Further details on areas of scheduled logging activities in future reports.

Slash removal activities will affect winter trail access on the road/ski trail to Tumalo Falls. Grinding and hauling of slash piles from forest thinning along the road into Tumalo Falls will take place over the coming weeks. A section of the road may be plowed if necessary with heavy equipment operating in the area. During this period, the Tumalo Creek Nordic trail to Tumalo Falls will remain open to skiers/snowshoers. The road will also remain open to skiers/shoers but use is discouraged (Monday-Fridays) due to plowing and heavy truck traffic.

Geothermal well site activities will disrupt some snowmobile trails on east half of Newberry Caldera. Trail 80 northeast of 6 Mile Snow park and snowmobile trails 120, 2 and 65 may see some plowing for well drilling activities during the early part of the winter season. Further details to follow.

Logging activity affecting Hwy 46 between Wickiup Reservoir and Davis Lake. Hwy 46 from just south of Wickiup to the Crescent Cutoff Road may affect snowmobile access in this area.

Shadow Lake Fire impacts will affect winter trail activities primarily along 19 miles of snowmobile trails in the Cache Mt. area and several miles West of Ray Benson Sno-Park. Further details in future reports.

Snow Park Conditions Table coding:

Special area restrictions or notations relating to the table below are as follows:

1 = Area/trails closed to dogs except working dogs in harness on groomed snowmobile trails and only with a permit

2 = Area open to dogs

3 = Area/trails closed to motorized use

4 = Vehicles with trailers limited to 40' overall length

5 = High to extreme use with special area/trail restrictions, see sno-park information board, trail maps and area signing for full details. Very limited parking, try to avoid on weekends and holidays.

All sno-parks (except Skyliner and Hwy 242) are plowed with State funds and require a Sno-Park Permit

New snow reported for previous 24 hr period.

For snow park descriptions, trail mileages, trail grooming and activity opportunities, see sections below for District snow park opportunities.

Deschutes National Forest Snow Park Conditions Table

Updated February 10, 2011

SNO-PARK NAME Designated trails or activities with numerical notations explained above	LOCATION Hwy or Road and milepost	PARK ELEV.	APPROX. SNOW DEPTH New in past 24 hrs	SNOW CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS (Conditions subject to change without notice and at the whim of Nature)
Meissner 1 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 14	5,350'	30-36" 0" new	Fair to good snow/trail conditions. Trail grooming in progress; roads closed to hwy vehicles until April 1. Ski race on Feb. 11
Wanoga Snow Play , 2 3 Tubing/sledding	HWY 46, MP 15	5,400'	36-40" 0" new	Sledding hill was groomed recently and reported fairly smooth, but may be fast in the morning. Supervise children, pets on leash
Frank Ellis 2 Snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 15	5,500'	36-40" 0" new	Fair/good snow/trail conditions. Springlike! Trail grooming in progress and at 80-90% normal operations. Races on Feb. 11 and 12.
Swampy 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 16	5,800'	50-60" 0" new	Fair/good snow/trail conditions. Icy in am. Area roads closed to hwy vehicles until April 1.
Vista Butte 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 18	5,950'	64-74" 0" new	Fair/good snow/trail conditions. Springlike with icy morning/soft afternoons?
Dutchman 1 4 5 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 22	6,250'	80-86" 0" new	Good snow/trail conditions. Limited parking, very heavy weekend use, and some weekdays.
Edison 2 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	4 mi. s. of Hwy 46 on Road 45	5,000'	30-36" 0" new	Fair/good snow/trail conditions, expect hardpack/icy spots at lower elevations.
Skyliner 2 Ski/snowshoe	Skyliner Rd MP 9	4,700'	4-6" 0" new	Hardpack to icy snow conditions. Falls road closed for winter, slash activities in area. Suggest avoid using rd to Tumalo Falls M-F due to slash removal traffic.
Six Mile 2 Snowmobiling	Road 21, MP 6 East of Hwy 97	4,400'	Patchy- 4" 0" new	Marginal to inadequate snow depths/conditions for riding out of.
Ten Mile 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 21, MP 10 East of Hwy 97	5,560'	24-28" 0" new	Fair-good snow/trail conditions. Springlike! 75-85% grooming in progress. Watch for low snow hazards.
Lower Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/Ski	Road 16, MP 8	5,000'	0" 0" new	Inadequate snow conditions.
Upper Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 16, MP 11	5,250'	0-8" 0" new	Hardpack to icy, but improved snow/trail conditions just up the trail. Road 16 closed above for winter season.
Hwy 242 (Mckenzie Pass) 2 Snomo/ski/shoe	Hwy 242, MP 7 from Sisters	3,800'	Patchy 0" new	Inadequate snow conditions,
Crescent Junction 2 Snowmobiling	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 1/2	4,750'	4-8" 0" new	Hardpack to icy at lower elevations with improved higher elevations. Grooming on hold.
Crescent Lake 2 Snowmobiling/BC (no ski/snowshoe trails)	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 2	4,700'	6-8" 0" new	Hardpack to icy at lower elevations with improved higher elevations. Grooming on hold.

Deschutes National Forest Avalanche Information Notice:

The Deschutes National Forest has terrain that is subject to snow avalanches. In recent years, there's been an increase of winter backcountry users involved in avalanches; some involving fatalities. The Deschutes National Forest does not have an avalanche advisory program to inform recreationists of avalanche danger levels nor do its employees perform snowpack evaluation on a regular basis or avalanche control for the public.

If you do travel in avalanche terrain, get avy educated, take a certified avalanche course! See links below. Also keep in mind that there are plenty of avalanche safe routes for safe backcountry travel. Be able to recognize and use them as needed.

Back country users venturing into avalanche terrain should be aware of potential risk and should be skilled at recognizing potential avalanche areas and snowpack conditions and act accordingly. Be responsible for your own safety and that of others around you; perform careful snowpack evaluations, stability tests and make safe route decisions. Avalanche potential can increase with increasing slope angle, snowfall, rain, wind, changing temperatures, other factors and avalanche hazard can escalate in a short time. If you do not have avalanche training, consider sticking to low profile, non-avalanche prone terrain.

Ski/snowboard resorts on the Deschutes do provide a high level of avalanche control on their managed slopes within bounds. Keep in mind that during severe weather events, even these areas may be subject to elevated avalanche conditions.

For more information on avalanche education and safety practices, visit the Forest Service National Avalanche Center Avalanche Awareness website at: <http://www.fsavalanche.org/>
Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center website at: <http://www.nwac.us/Avalanche.org> at: <http://www.avalanche.org/>
Central Oregon Avalanche Center at: <http://coavalanche.org> (now offering 90 minute "KNOW BEFORE YOU GO" avalanche educational sessions) The "Know Before You Go" avalanche education program was developed and provided to the Central Oregon Avalanche Association by the Utah Avalanche Center. This is a basic overview program and not a replacement for taking an avalanche class taught by certified avalanche professionals. Opportunities for Avalanche courses in the Central Oregon area include: <http://www.cocc.edu/>
<http://threesistersbackcountry.com/>

BEND/FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT SNOW PARK OPPORTUNITIES:

For updated snow park snow conditions, see table above!

* **Meissner Sno-Park** (Hwy 46 - Milepost 14, elevation 5350') - Access to 28 miles of easy to more difficult ski trails, 4 warming shelters (day use only), and connecting trails to the Swampy Lakes ski trail system. Warming shelters provide premier views of the area.

Trail grooming by volunteers will commence with favorable snow conditions and normally scheduled for Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. (541) 585-2289 or www.tumalolangluaf.com for updated grooming report. Trail maps are available at snow park information board.

Be sure to visit Meissner Nordic/TLC warming yurt at Meissner Sno-Park. Open to all users of the area.

There are also 5+ miles of easiest to more difficult **snowshoeing trails** with a connecting snowshoe trail to the Swampy Snowshoe trail system and Swampy Sno-Park constructed especially for snowshoeing. Snowshoers using these sno-parks are encouraged to use the snowshoe trails over the ski trails as they were designed for the snowshoeing experience; and they usually have tracks set shortly after each new snowfall. If you choose to use the ski trails for snowshoeing, remember to stay at least 2 feet to either side of a set ski track. This will help avoid ruining the ski track and a walked on ski track is unpleasant and hazardous to ski in.

Roads in this area are closed to highway vehicles December 1-April 1.

Parking at Meissner Sno-Park has doubled in capacity and will have another 60 spaces in place in a couple of years. Please "head-in" park as efficiently as possible. If the lot is full, park at Swampy Sno-Park and access the groomed Tangent Loop to connect with the Meissner trail system.

Trail maps are available at the sno-park info board.

Area is closed to dogs November 1 until April 30. Warming shelters are day use only (no camping).

* **Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park** (Hwy 46 - Milepost 15, elevation 5400') - Snow speed and conditions change day to day and from morning to afternoon. Hard to icy conditions mean fast sledding with increased

potential for accidents and serious injury. Use the lower portions of the slope during fast conditions.

This snow park was designed and constructed in 2007 for families and groups interested in nonmotorized snow play, i.e., tubing and sledding. The site provides a 97 car parking area, sledding hill, fully enclosed warming shelter, restrooms and fire rings. Provides a designated and relatively safe sledding hill option. Dogs are permitted on leash only at all times while on the slope or in the sno-park. Please park diagonally, vehicle length limit of 24 ft. and trailers prohibited. State sno-park permit required for parking.

Keep in mind that even with good snow and slope conditions, snow sledding has inherent risks due to the speed and general lack of control with many sledding implements; tubes and round disks having the least of control. A sledder's age, coordination, judgement, experience, etc. also effect the risk level of this activity therefore, **FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL , RESPONSIBLE ADULT SUPERVISION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AT ALL TIMES.**

Please use caution, determine what areas of the slope are safest for sledding and avoid sledding on those days that are too fast, hard and icy. Children should be supervised at all times by responsible adults, children should wear helmets, do not build or use jumps, watch out for others on the slope and use area at your own risk.

Also provided on a trial basis out of the snow play parking area, are 3 kilometers of nordic trails that are groomed for dogs and their skiing or snowshoeing human guardians. Dogs are required to be leashed while in sno-park areas, clean up after your pet and please maintain voice or physical control of your dog while on the trails. The trail begins out of the north side of the new Wanoga Sno-Play sno-park mentioned above. For grooming information see: www.dogpac.org

On weekends and busy holiday periods, dog trail users compete for parking with sledders using the adjacent sledding hill. With that in mind, we ask that dog trail users make the effort to use the trails in the morning hours of these days and leave the parking lot available for the influx of sledders after 11 am, during weekends and holidays.

* **Frank Ellis (Wanoga) Snowmobile Sno-Park** (Hwy 46 - Milepost 15, elevation 5500') - Access to 150 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, Elk

Lake Resort and 4 warming shelters. Trail grooming by Central Oregon Snow Busters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Club volunteers will commence with favorable snow conditions. Area open to dogs and RV camping. Trail maps available at snow park warming shelter.

As most of these winter trails are on summer roads, some trails may have vehicle tracks making them difficult or unsafe to snowmobile. For this reason, roads in the area are closed to highway vehicles December 1-April 1.

Please note: Designated Wilderness areas, certain areas around Dutchman Sno-park, Tumalo Mt., the Bend Municipal Watershed, Swampy nordic ski/snowshoe area, Wanoga snow play area and Mt. Bachelor permit ski area are closed to all motorized use. In high use areas, portions of these boundaries have been posted, but it is the responsibility of the user to know where they are at all times! Just because there is no sign does not indicate it is open. Know before you go!

* **Swampy Lakes Sno-Park** (Hwy 46 - Milepost 16, elevation 5800') - Access to about 25 miles of easy to most difficult **nordic ski trails**, 5 warming shelters (day use only), with connecting ski trails to Meissner, Vista Butte, and Dutchman trail systems. Tangent Trail grooming (diagonal and skate skiing) with access to Meissner groomed trails is performed by Meissner Nordic/TLC volunteers (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday) will commence with favorable snow conditions; www.tumalolangluaf.com for updated grooming report.

There are also 9+ miles of easiest to most difficult **snowshoeing trails**, with a connecting snowshoe trail to the Meissner Snowshoe trail system and Meissner Sno-Park constructed especially for snowshoeing. Snowshoers using these sno-parks are encouraged to use the snowshoe trails over the ski trails as they were designed for the snowshoeing experience; and they usually have snowshoe tracks set shortly after each new snowfall. If you choose to use the ski trails for snowshoeing, remember to stay at least 2 feet to either side of a set ski track. Walking at least 2 ft. to the side will avoid ruining the ski track; and a walked on ski track is unpleasant and hazardous to ski in.

Trail maps are available at sno-park info board.

Area is closed to dogs (November 1 until April 30) and snowmobiles.

- * **Vista Butte Sno-Park** (Hwy 46 - Milepost 18, elevation 5900') - Access to 6 miles of more to most difficult ski trails and connecting trails to Swampy and Dutchman trail systems. Area is closed to dogs November 1 until April 30. Area closed to snowmobiling except on the nearby snowmobile trail. There is no snowmobile access from Vista Butte Sno-Park.
- * **Dutchman Sno-Park** (Hwy 46 - Milepost 22, elevation 6250') - **95% of the temporary winter boundary, trail marking and destination signs have been installed.**

Dutchman Sno-Park and the Flat continue to be a multiple use area (winter motorized and nonmotorized). First come, first serve basis. No changes have been implemented over the past few years. Please abide by area boundaries and respect other users.

Access to 150 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, Cross District Trail access to Sisters and Crescent Ranger District snowmobile trails, snowmobile warming shelters, Elk Lake Resort, 19 miles of easy to most difficult nordic ski trails with a connecting trail (Flagline Trail) to the Swampy Lakes ski trail system and now 3+ miles of designated snowshoe trails. Snowshoers using this area are encouraged to use the designated snowshoe trails (over the ski trails) as they were designed for the snowshoeing experience; and they usually have tracks set shortly after each new snowfall. If you choose to use the ski trails for snowshoeing, remember to stay at least 2 feet to either side of a set ski track. This will help avoid ruining the ski track; a walked on ski track is unpleasant and hazardous to ski in.

Winter trail maps are available at sno-parks and local Forest offices.

Snowmobile trail grooming by Central Oregon Snow Busters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Club volunteers in progress with favorable snow conditions.

Important reminders when using the Dutchman Sno-Park and area:

- **Special winter use regulations are in effect indefinitely in the Dutchman Flat and Tumalo Mt. area.** Some of the area is now closed to motorized use and other areas and snowmobile trails are closed to non-motorized use. These closures are or will be signed on the ground and are noted on the Dutchman/Tumalo Winter Use Area Map found in the Deschutes National Forest Website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/recreation/winter/area-dutchman.shtml>

- **Dutchman Sno-park is very congested and parking is limited during winter holidays and weekends. The lot fills early on these days. Pay close attention to "No Parking" zones. To make more efficient use of the limited parking space, vehicles or vehicle/trailer combinations over 40 ft. in length are not permitted to park at Dutchman Sno-park. Oversized vehicle/trailer combinations must use Wanoga or Edison Sno-Parks. The lower and mid-elevation snowmobile trails offer good access to the upper elevation trails and areas **when there is adequate snow.****
- **Overnight camping** is not permitted at Dutchman Sno-Park. Please camp at the lower snowparks (or overflow parking area near Dutchman Sno-Park) to avoid overcrowding at this congested area.
- **Overnight parking** is not permitted from Tuesdays 6 pm to Wednesdays 6 am and Thursdays 6 pm to Fridays 6 am to allow for complete plowing of the snow park. Vehicles may be towed at owners expense.
- **The area is often busy on winter weekends and holiday periods** with snowmobiling, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding, and snow play. All recreationists need to practice extra patience and adhere closely to posted closures and trail etiquette.
- **Skiers and snowshoers are to stay to the right side** when using open snowmobile (orange diamonds) trails.
- **Snowmobilers, please slow to 10-20 mph when passing skiers/snowshoers.** Also, obtain an area trail map and familiarize yourself with the areas closed to snowmobiles/atvs. These areas include: The Three Sisters Wilderness, Todd Lake, part of Tumalo Mt./Bend Municipal Watershed and the Mt. Bachelor Ski Area. Snowmobile access to Mt. Bachelor's Sunrise Lodge is permitted from the east via a snowmobile trail.
- **The area is closed to dogs November 1 until April 30** except working dogs in harness are permitted on groomed snowmobile trails with a permit. Call (541) 383-4000 for info on obtaining the free permit.

* **Edison Butte Sno-Park** (4 miles south of Hwy 46 Milepost 19 on Road 45, elevation 5000') - Access to 24 miles of easy to most difficult nordic ski trails, 2 ski warming shelters (day use only), 4+ miles of snowshoeing trails, 150 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, 3 snowmobile warming shelters and Elk Lake Resort (via snowmobile trails). Trail maps are available at information boards.

Snowshoers using this area are encouraged to use the snowshoe trails over the ski trails as they were designed for the snowshoeing experience; and they usually have tracks set shortly after each new snowfall. If you choose to use the ski trails for snowshoeing, remember to stay at least 2 feet to either side of a set ski track. This will help avoid ruining the ski track and a walked on ski track is unpleasant and hazardous to ski in.

Snowmobile trail grooming by Central Oregon Snow Busters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Club volunteers will commence with favorable snow conditions. Area open to dogs and RV camping. If you do bring a dog to this area, please practice good canine courtesy while on the trails and in the snow park and maintain control of your dog and clean up after them.

* **Skyliner Snow Park** (Milepost 9 on Skyliner Road, elevation 4700') - Access to 6 miles of easy to more difficult nordic ski trails. Area is open to dogs. If you do bring a dog to this area, please practice good canine courtesy while on the trails and in the snow park and maintain control of your dog and clean up after them.

Road into Tumalo Falls is now closed for the season. **Slash removal activities will affect winter trail access on the road/ski trail to Tumalo Falls.** Slash piles from forest thinning along the road into Tumalo Falls are being removed over the coming weeks. A section of the road may be plowed and heavy equipment operating in the area. The Tumalo Creek Nordic trail will remain open to skiers and snowshoers during this time. More details in future reports.

Snowplay activities (sledding, tubing, etc.) are NOT permitted in this area. The slopes are too steep, contain hidden hazards, and have little to no runout to safely allow this activity. See "New..." section above for information on the New Wanoga Sno-Play Sno-Park.

Newberry National Volcanic Monument Nordic Snow Park

Opportunities:

* **Ten Mile Sno-Park** (10 miles east of Hwy 97 on Road 21, to Newberry Crater, elevation 5560') - Access to over 100 miles of snowmobile trails and 10 miles of easy to most difficult ski trails. Snowmobile trail grooming by Lodgepole Dodgers Snowmobile Club volunteers will begin with favorable snow conditions. Area is open to dogs and RV camping. If you do bring your dog to this area, please practice good canine courtesy while on the trails and in the snow park and maintain control of your dog and clean up after them. The Monument is closed to ATV use year round. Trail maps available at warming shelter or information board.

* **Six Mile Sno-Park** (6 miles east of Hwy 97 on Road 21, to Newberry Crater, elevation 4400') - Access to over 100 miles of groomed (by Lapine Lodgepole Dodger volunteers) snowmobile trails when snow conditions permit. A warming hut and restroom facilities are also available at Six Mile Sno-Park. Area is open to dogs. The Monument is closed to ATV use year round.

SISTERS RANGER DISTRICT SNOW PARK OPPORTUNITIES

For updated snow park snow conditions, see table above!

Santiam Winter Recreation Trail Maps available! The 2007 winter trail maps covering winter trails east and west of the Santiam Pass area are on sale (\$7) at the Deschutes National Forest Headquarters, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District office in Bend and Sisters Ranger District office in Sisters. They are also available at a few Sisters and Bend outdoor sports stores.

* **Upper Three Creek Sno-Park** (Forest Road 16 - Milepost 11, elevation 5200') - The gates have been closed at Milepost 11 on the 16 Rd and the 700 Rd to Jefferson View Shelter. Snowmobile trail grooming by Central Oregon Snow Busters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Club volunteers has begun out of the Wanoga area and will continue with favorable snow conditions. Groomer will make regular runs to Upper Three Creek Sno-Park and will continue north to Hwy 242 **when conditions permit**.

Non-Motorized access to 12 miles of ungroomed nordic trails and the Jefferson View Shelter. Snowshoe opportunities are plentiful, when using designated ski trails please walk at least 2 ft. to either side of a set ski

track. Warming shelter is day use only (no camping). Snowmobiles are not allowed on the nordic ski trail system or at the Jefferson View Shelter.

Trail maps available at information boards.

Motorized access to over 30 miles of groomed snowmobile trails and additional access to over 150 miles of snowmobile trails on the Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District. Loss of a trail bridge has removed access to Ray Benson Sno-Park and trail systems at Santiam Pass.

PLEASE NOTE: Wilderness areas are closed to ALL MOTORIZED and MECHANIZED USE. In high use areas, portions of the Wilderness boundary have been posted, but it is the responsibility of the user to know where they are at all times! Just because there is no sign does not indicate it is open. Know before you go!

* **Lower Three Creek Sno-Park** (Forest Road 16 - Milepost , 5000 ')
- Snowmobile trail access to the snowmobile trail system and Upper Three Creek Sno-Park.

* **Corbett Sno-Park** (Hwy 20 - 16 miles West of Sisters, elevation 4300') **CLOSED** - Due to continual vandalism, marginal snow, limited snow plowing budgets and hwy safety, Corbett will not be plowed this winter. Please use **Ray Benson Sno-Park** at the summit of Santiam Pass to access this trail system. Ray Benson provides access to 50 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, 21 miles of groomed nordic trails, Hoodoo Ski Area, Suttle Lake Resort and 3 warming shelters (day use only). Area open to dogs and camping.

To get the most updated status on grooming at Santiam Pass please call the McKenzie Ranger District at 1-541-822-3381.

PLEASE NOTE: Wilderness areas are closed to ALL MOTORIZED and MECHANIZED USE. In high use areas, portions of the Wilderness boundary have been posted, but it is the responsibility of the user to know where they are at all times! Just because there is no sign does not indicate it is open. Know before you go!

* **McKenzie Pass Parking Area (undeveloped free site)** (Hwy 242 - Milepost 6, elevation 4000') - Access to about 45 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Nordic and snowshoe opportunities abound, but beware there are no marked nordic trails in this area. Many winter users like to ski,

snowshoe or snowmobile along the McKenzie Highway to the Dee Wright Observatory which is 8 miles from the parking area. The observatory offers a spectacular 360 degree view of the Cascades.

Most of the McKenzie Highway is bordered on both sides by Wilderness. **PLEASE NOTE: Wilderness areas are closed to ALL MOTORIZED and MECHANIZED USE. In high use areas, portions of the Wilderness boundary have been posted, but it is the responsibility of the user to know where they are at all times! Just because there is no sign does not indicate it is open. Know before you go!**

CRESCENT RANGER DISTRICT SNOW PARK OPPORTUNITIES:

For updated snow park snow conditions, see table above!

* **Crescent Junction Sno-Park** (Off Hwy 58, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south on Forest Road 60, Milepost , elevation 4,750') - Access to hundred of miles of snowmobile trails across 4 National Forests and connecting trails to Crater Lake National Park. No nordic trails are accessible from this sno-park. Trail grooming will commence with adequate snow conditions. Beware of area logging activities in effect thru the winter season. Trail maps available at warming shelter.

Logging activity affecting Hwy 46 between Wickiup Reservoir and Davis Lake. Hwy 46 from just south of Wickiup to the Crescent Cutoff Road presently has logging activity that will continue into January. Presently this activity is not affecting snowmobile activity as this are lacks adequate snow, but the Hwy may be plowed if necessary to complete the operation.

PLEASE NOTE: Wilderness areas are closed to ALL MOTORIZED and MECHANIZED USE. In high use areas, portions of the Wilderness boundary have been posted, but it is the responsibility of the user to know where they are at all times! Just because there is no sign does not indicate it is open. Know before you go!

* **Crescent Lake Sno-Park** (Off Hwy 58, 2 miles south on Forest Road 60, elevation 4,700') - Access to hundred of miles of snowmobile trails across 4 National Forests and connecting trails to Crater Lake National Park. No formal nordic trails are accessible from this sno-park but Diamond Peak Wilderness backcountry skiing and snowshoeing is easily accessible from this

sno-park. Also easy access to Crescent Lake Resort. Trail grooming will commence with adequate snow conditions. Beware of area logging activities in effect thru the winter season.

Crescent Lake area trail grooming report:

Hotline...call (541) 525-2133 for more current trails information

Ben Sunderland, Grooming Program Chairman

Winter logging operations have potential impacts to snowmobile trails on Crescent Ranger District. The following information and actual impacts to winter recreation activities are subject to change; we will keep you posted as changes occur.

Play area behind Crescent Lake Snow Park - The logs that were cut for the improvements at Princess Creek are decked in the play area. Users should be made aware of the hidden hazard.

TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS:

"What are The Ten Essentials?"

"The Ten Essentials are items The Mountaineers recommends everyone carry on all trips. The Pacific Northwest is a beautiful place that can be wild and unpredictable. Being prepared for anything is essential. This is as important on short, local trips as it is on long, backcountry trips. It is easy to forget first aid kits and warm layers short trips, but a short trip can quickly turn to a long trip if you get lost or injured."

"The Ten Essentials started as a list of ten simple items and is now a systems approach that guides you in preparing for any trip in any season. The two basic questions are: (1) Can you respond positively to an accident or emergency? (2) Can you safely spend a night or more out? **Here is a list of The Ten Essential Systems:**

1. Navigation (map & compass)
2. Sun Protection (sun glasses, sun screen, lip balm)
3. Insulation (extra clothing)
4. Illumination (flashlight or headlamp, spare bulb & batteries)
5. First-Aid Supplies (gauze, tape, etc.)
6. Fire (fire starter, matches, lighter)
7. Repair Kit (knife, duct tape, tools, spare parts)
8. Nutrition (extra food)
9. Hydration (extra water, water purification)
10. Emergency Shelter (tarp, garbage bag)

Further details on the "Ten Essential Systems":

<http://aditl.com/hike/gear/tenessentials.html>

SUMMER TRAIL CONDITIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 10:

Most Deschutes National Forest summer trails above 4,500' are under 4-100" of snow. Most Wilderness trailheads and trails are now either blocked by snow and/or closed roads.

A winter with unseasonably mild temperatures and moderate precipitation, much in the form of rain, continues to challenge low elevation summer trails with springlike, freeze/thaw conditions. When frozen, these trails are firm and can handle summer use. When thawed, these trails tend to be soft to muddy and prone to tread damage and erosion. Please avoid using soft to muddy trails. At some point in the coming weeks, most summer trails normally become inaccessible due to snow at some point each winter. This winter is anybody's guess if the lower elevations will become blocked by snow.

Currently, depending on daily temperatures low elevation snow free trails may range from frozen-firm to soft possibly muddy. Again, MUDDY trails are prone to tread erosion. Please help minimize trail damage by avoiding muddy trails!

Expect to encounter snow above 4,400'. Snow and trail conditions subject to change without notice!

SPECIAL SAFETY NOTES:

Go prepared for changeable weather conditions. Winter season conditions exist! Be sure to go prepared with plenty of warm clothing, water, and food as well as other emergency essentials. Winter snows are accumulating and even lower elevations will see snow over the coming months.

For further Deschutes National Forest winter or summer trails information, please call:

Deschutes National Forest Headquarters: (541) 383-5300

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District: (541) 383-4000

Sisters Ranger District: (541) 549-7700

Crescent Ranger District: (541) 433-3200

WE'VE MOVED! The Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District Office and the Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office have moved into one office complex in the northeast part of Bend. New address: 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend.

Have a safe winter!