



NEWS

From the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heavy Snowfall Limits Access to Mount St. Helens Sno-Parks

Winter Recreationists are Encouraged to Visit Sno-Parks at Wind River and Mt. Adams

COUGAR, WA – Heavy snowfall and malfunctioning equipment has delayed plowing to the Marble Mountain Sno-Park on the south side of Mount St. Helens. The Marble Mountain Sno-Park is closed until further notice. Forest Road 83 has been cleared to a single lane with turn-outs only as far as Cougar Sno-Park. In view of very limited parking and few places to turn around, winter recreationists are encouraged to divert to other sno-parks on the south and east sides of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

The National Weather Service has issued a Flood Watch for the Southwest Washington Cascades for heavy rains and warming temperatures for New Years Day through Friday. Visitors are advised to use caution and watch for high avalanche danger, landslides, washouts along forest roads and potentially gusting winds and falling trees. Please use extra caution and come prepared with winter travel and other survival equipment.

Wind River Sno-Parks: The Wind River Road near Carson, Wash., north of the junction with the Government Mineral Springs road is being plowed as of Wednesday, December 31, 2008. This will provide access to the Upper Wind River Winter Sports Area.

Mt. Adams Sno-Parks: The Atkisson, Pineside, SnowKing, and Flattop Sno-Parks near Trout Lake, Washington are currently open, and provide good opportunities for visitors who want to ski, snowshoe or snowmobile on the Forest.

Cowlitz Valley Sno-Parks: The Skate Creek, Johnson Creek Sno-Parks in the Randle/Packwood area currently are open. Orr Creek Sno-Park is being plowed as of Wednesday, December 31, 2008. Access to Wakepish Sno-Park is limited. Heavy snow is making it difficult to keep the 25 road open. Forest Road 25 is plowed to a turnout at milepost 16.5. Plowing will resume on January 2, 2008.

For the most current information on Sno-Parks, please visit the winter recreation current conditions page on the Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/winter/current-conditions.shtml>

Please check current weather <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04conditions/weather.shtml> and avalanche updates <http://www.nwac.us/> before venturing out into the Forest.

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