



# NEWS

From the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

10600 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682

(360) 891-5000 FAX (360) 891-5010

<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf>



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Chris Strebig (360) 891-5005**

**Peter Frenzen (360) 449-7835**

**December 29, 2008**

## **Officials Designate Non-Motorized Corridor along Mount St. Helens Winter Climbing Route**

**AMBOY, WA** – Forest officials have announced the establishment of a non-motorized zone along the popular Monitor Ridge and Worm Flows climbing routes on the south flank of Mount St. Helens

The climbing route is being closed to snowmobile use to improve safety for winter climbers, skiers and snow-shoers. Officials have also announced that climbing permits are required for all winter recreationists that travel above 4800 feet on the volcano. This is a change from previous policy that exempted snowmobiles from the climbing permit requirement.

“Designating a non-motorized corridor and implementing a permit system that applies to all winter recreationists above 4800 feet regardless of mode-of-travel makes sense,” said Tom Mulder, Monument Manager. “By closing the climbing route to snowmobiles we can increase safety and enhance the experience of climbers and skiers while still accommodating snowmobile use on the south side of the mountain. The permit requirement helps us track use, and when assistance is needed, the Climber’s Register helps emergency responders identify who is on the mountain,” Mulder added.

Between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> permits are required for all travel above 4800 feet on Mount St. Helens and are free and available by self-registration at Marble Mountain Sno-Park and at the Climber’s Register at the Lone Fir Resort in Cougar. During the spring climbing season, April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>, the permits cost \$22 and are available for advance purchase online. Permits for the May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> summer climbing season are limited to 100-climbers-per-day and will be sold online on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 9:00 a.m. PST on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Detailed information about the Mount St. Helens climbing permit system and the non-motorized climbing corridor is available online at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/mount-st-helens/permit-system.shtml>

A map of the non-motorized zone is available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/mount-st-helens/images/non-motorizedcorridormap212208.jpg>.

# # #