

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon

For immediate release

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Natural History Snowshoe Tours at Mt. Bachelor

BEND – The Forest Service, Mt. Bachelor Ski Area and Discover Your Northwest will soon begin the annual program of free natural history snowshoe tours at the ski resort's West Village. When snow conditions allow, tours are scheduled as follows:

- December 22nd through 24th, 2008
- December 26th through 31st, 2008
- January 2nd through 4th, 2009
- January 19th (Martin Luther King's Birthday Observed)
- February 16th (Presidents' Day)
- March 23rd through 27th, 2009
- All weekends from December 27th, 2008 through March 29th, 2009

When and where: Two tours will be offered each day at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 pm. Tour groups meet on the west side of the West Village ticket building at the Forest Service snowshoe shed. Snowshoes will be provided and prior experience is not necessary. Participants in the public tours should be at least ten years old, and wear snow boots and warm winter clothing. Tours last approximately ninety minutes on a route including interpretive stops where participants enjoy views of the Cascade Mountains while discussing ecology, geology, wildlife and snow conditions.

Roving Rangers: Be on the lookout for Forest Service Interpretive Rangers on the Nordic and alpine trails, as well as at the lodges on the mountain. They are available to answer questions and lead impromptu talks.

Group Tours: Group tours are also available during the week free of charge and can be arranged for schools, youth groups, corporate groups, and other organizational groups. Reservations are required.

For information: Contact the Deschutes National Forest at (541) 383-4771 for more information, or to schedule a group tour. Mt. Bachelor and Discover Your Northwest support these Forest Service winter programs. Donations to support tours can be made through Discover Your Northwest.

