



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific  
Northwest  
Region



# Winter Activities

## Naches Ranger District

### Areas accessed off U.S. Highway 12

The following areas are closed to Snowmobiles.

Violators are subject to up to \$5000 fine and six months in prison.

### White Pass Ski Area Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails

The White Pass Ski Area (managed under Forest Service Special Use Permit) provides 9 miles (15 kilometers) of well groomed trails on rolling terrain and offers a variety of challenges for skiers of all abilities. Trails are well marked. This area is located across the highway from the White Pass Ski Lodge. There is a daily fee. Ski rental, toilets, and limited food services are available at the trailhead yurt. Ski rentals are also available in the Naches, Rimrock Retreat, and Packwood communities. Snowmobiles are not allowed at the White Pass Ski Area. For more information, telephone (509) 672-3101 or access [skiwhitepass.com](http://skiwhitepass.com) on the Internet.

### Clear Lake Area Cross Country Ski Trails

Three separate areas southwest of Clear Lake provide a variety of opportunities for Nordic skiers and snowshoers, with interesting touring and some winter wildlife viewing. Keep in mind that groomed trail conditions can change rapidly due to weather conditions. Grooming can occur and a short time later be covered with fresh snowfall so skiers can't always expect perfect conditions.

- **North Fork Tieton: (Elevation 3100-3320 feet)** A Washington State Sno-Park is located at the North Fork Tieton winter trailhead with parking for about 10 cars and a portable toilet. Road 1207 has 5 miles of groomed road, and a 5 mile groomed trail that runs parallel to the road. A Washington State Sno-Park Permit is required to park, and is available from the Naches Ranger District or local vendors in Naches. Approximately 16 miles of marked trails provide different types of winter experiences. The 1207 road has a base and tracks are set weekly when snow conditions permit, for a 9 mile round trip to Scatter Creek and back. ***Call the Naches Ranger District for most recent grooming information and let us know if you like this type of experience.*** This road provides the easiest skiing, and meanders up the North Fork Tieton River Valley. Other trails in the system are groomed and provide more of a backcountry experience, from easy to more difficult rating. Trails are well marked.
- **Round Mountain: (Elevation 3,200 – 3,600 feet)** Skiers must use the designated North Fork Tieton Sno-Park (Sno-Park Permit required). Advanced skiers can ski up the non-groomed, closed road to the Round Mountain trailhead (9 mile round trip). From that point the trail climbs the Round Mountain Summit Trail to the peak of Round Mountain (6,000 feet elevation), an additional 9 mile round trip. Prepare for different snow conditions.
- **Clear Creek: (Elevation 3,200-3,400 feet)** Skiers must shovel their own parking slips off the shoulder of the Tieton County Road (#1200) at the entrance to Road #1200840. This non-groomed, easy trail provides some wildlife viewing along Clear Creek, moderate opportunities for exploring untracked areas, and some adjacent slopes provide a variety of opportunities for Nordic skiers.

**Goose Egg Cross Country Ski Trail (Elevation 2,600 feet):** This is a designated Sno-Park area with parking for 8 vehicles. A Washington State Sno-Park Permit is required to park, and is available from the Naches Ranger District or local vendors in Naches. The approximately 4.2 mile round trip trail is marked. Depending on the year, snowfall may not be adequate for skiing due to the low elevation of this

trail, but the trail can be used for hiking. The route is rated Easy. It appears that there will be enough snow on this trail during the 2006 season for some grooming to occur.

## **Wilderness Winter Opportunities**

**These opportunities are located primarily in Designated Wilderness areas. Group party size is limited to 12 people. Remember to pack the 10 essentials when recreating in the backcountry and be prepared for changing weather conditions.**

- **Tumac Plateau:** The Tumac Plateau is accessed from White Pass and Dog Lake area. This large plateau offers a Wilderness challenge, relatively safe topography, and possibilities for ski touring tied through to the Bumping drainage. Though use is not high, it is unique and is consistently utilized by a few enthusiasts.
- **Sand Lake/Cowlitz Pass (North from White Pass Ski Area):** Elevation is 4,400-5,600 feet. The Pacific Crest Trail to Sand Lake is approximately 7 miles round trip. It is recommended for intermediate skill level skiers or snowshoers. The 16 mile round trip Cowlitz Pass Trail traverses terrain recommended for advanced skiers and is the dropping off point for tours into the Tumac Mountain area.
- **Hogback Basin:** Elevation is 6,000-6,700 feet. This area is not located in a designated Wilderness, so group party size is not limited. The area offers downhill cross-country skiing (telemark skiing) and backcountry skiing. Access is through the White Pass ski area, either on the snow or by chairlift, to the top of Pigtail Peak. The experience is rated Very Difficult.
- **Dept. of Transportation Maintenance Shed - Road #1284:** Elevation 4,400-4,500 feet. This area, also known as the Yellow Jacket and/or the White Road, is near the White Pass Ski Area in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The State Highway Department plows the road to their maintenance shed and provides space for approximately 20 cars. A State Sno-Park permit is not required. This parking area provides access to an area with good views of Mt. Rainier and excellent beginner level skiing, but also offers some good telemark skiing in the adjacent clearcuts. The area is located outside of designated Wilderness, so group party size is not limited. The road has various areas where you can cut off and work on turns. The route is 7 miles round trip. This area currently receives considerable use and is described in the book "Cross Country Ski Tours 2", a publication of the Mountaineers.
- **Indian Creek Road off U.S. Highway #12:** This is a good easy ski tour up Forest Service Road #1308 into the William O. Douglas Wilderness. The old mining road corridor to the bridge offers good skiing

## **Areas accessed off State Route 410:**

- **Pleasant Valley:** Elevation is 3,200-3,600 feet. This trail system includes Four designated Sno-Parks with spaces for vehicle parking--Crow Lake Way trailhead has 4 spaces for parking; Hells Crossing trailhead has 30 parking spaces; Union Creek trailhead has 8 spaces; and the Pleasant Valley trailhead has 6 parking spaces. The area offers 14 round trip miles of marked trail for skiers of all skill levels. The trail runs along both sides of American River between Hells Crossing Campground and Union Creek trailhead. The trail is groomed weekly as snow conditions permit on the north side of the highway from Hell's Crossing to ½ mile west of Pleasant Valley. The bridge at Pleasant Valley Campground has been removed.
- **Bumping Lake:** Elevation is 3,460 feet. This area usually has outstanding snow quality with easy access. Although only a few trails are marked, this area is thought by many to provide the best cross-country skiing in the Naches Ranger District. The parking area is plowed, but is not an official State designated Sno-Park. The terrain around the lake and campground offers about 13 miles of beginner or basic skill level skiing. Opportunities for intermediate skiers exist along a 17 mile round trip ski trek to Miners Ridge and Granite Lake. This route is not groomed.

- **Raven Roost:** From the Sand Creek Trailhead on USFS Road #1902 in the Little Naches drainage, ski the road up towards Ravens Roost and down into Cougar Valley. The road to Raven Roost is usually open in late spring. There is a Sno-Park for 10 vehicles.
- **Morse Creek:** Elevation 3,800 feet. Go to the seasonal end of State Route 410, than go back about 100 yards to the Forest Service road that turns off to the north. Stay to the east side of the creek.

### **Other dispersed areas for cross-country skiing (shared with snowmobiles)**

- **Lost Lake:** Elevation is 2,600-3,800 feet. In the Naches Ranger District, this area offers advanced basic skiing with round trips up to 10 miles in length. There is a campground at Lost Lake. Parking is at Goose Egg Sno-Park (although Road #1201 is usually plowed to Camp Ghormley).
- **Bear Canyon:** Elevation is 2,000-4,200 feet. This 10 mile round trip route is located off of U.S. Highway #12 near Oak Creek Wildlife Area and is recommended for intermediate skiing.
- **Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Elevation is 2,500-3,600 feet. The road is plowed to the area where the elk are fed every winter. Beyond the elk feeding area skiing is on unplowed logging roads. This route is recommended for intermediate skiers and offers a 4 mile (or more) round trip excursion. The tour begins just beyond the elk feeding station on USFS Road #1400.

### **Snowshoeing, Ski Mountaineering, Snow Camping**

No areas are specifically designated for these activities. Snowshoers are generally directed to high elevation trails. Areas currently being used for these activities include:

- Pacific Crest Trail, both north and south from White Pass (Blankenship Meadows/Mosquito Valley/Tumac Plateau in the William O. Douglas Wilderness, Shoe Lake and Miriam Basin in the Goat Rocks Wilderness).
- Crow Lake Way and Bald Mountain Sno-Park.
- Norse Peak Wilderness receives snowshoers use from both the Crow Lake Way Trailhead and from the Crystal Mountain Ski Area.

### **Snow Play**

The old American Ridge Ski Bowl is currently used during the winter for snow play. Other reportedly good snow play areas include Boulder Cave (Sno-Park) located at the junction of Roads 1704 and 1706, the Nile Feeding Station (Sno-Park), Bumping Dam, and clearcuts accessed from Little Naches Sno-Park (noted in the Mountaineers book "*Cross Country Ski Tours 2*").

### **Downhill Ski Areas**

**White Pass Ski Area: (509) 672-3101 or [skiwhitepass.com](http://skiwhitepass.com)**

White Pass Ski Area has two double chair lifts, one triple chair lift, one high speed detachable quad-chair, one platter lift, and one magic carpet. The area is operated under a Special Use Permit on National Forest land.

### **Snowmobiles**

**Check with the Naches Ranger Station for road closures. For grooming schedules check with Washington State Parks Winter Recreation at 360/902-8844 or [www.parks.wa.gov/winter](http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter). Over the snow machines are illegal on plowed county and forest roads, and forest roads adjacent to Wilderness.**

**NOTE:**

- **FOREST ROADS #1207, #1200-830, #1200-831, and #1200-840 ARE CLOSED TO SNOWMOBILES.**
- **RATTLESNAKE 4 WHEEL DRIVE ROAD #1500--620 along Rattlesnake Creek IS CLOSED TO SNOWMOBILES TO PROTECT WINTER GOAT HABITAT IN THAT AREA.**
- **NORMILE GRADE - CHINOOK PASS IS CLOSED TO SNOWMOBILES DUE TO HAZARDOUS SNOW SLOPES.**
- **ONLY ROADS POSTED CLOSED TO 4 WHEELED VEHICLES ARE OPEN TO SNOWMOBILES!**

When winter conditions permit, Washington State Parks and Recreation uses a private contractor to groom trails next to Sno-Parks on US Highway 12, State Route 410, and some Department of Natural Resource managed land in the Ahtanum area.

**Sno-Parks**

<b>Sno-Park Name</b>	<b>Parking Spaces</b>	<b>Winter Trail Use</b>
<b>Ahtanum Guard Stn./Middle Fork A2000</b>	80 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Ahtanum Meadows/North Fork A3000</b>	15 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Bear Cove/Road 1204</b>	10 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Boulder Cave/Road 1706</b>	10 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Cold Creek/Road 1200-1205</b>	85 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Crow Lake Way/State Route 410</b>	4 spaces	cross-country
<b>Fish Creek/Road 1203</b>	5 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Goose Egg/Road 1200</b>	10 spaces	cross-country
<b>Hanging Tree/Road 1500</b>	5 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Hells Crossing/State Route 410</b>	30 spaces	cross-country
<b>Little Naches #1/Road 1904</b>	45 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Little Naches #2/Road 1902</b>	10 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Milk Creek/Road 1708</b>	15 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Nile Feeding Station/Road 1600</b>	15 spaces	snowmobile
<b>North Fork Tieton/Road 1207</b>	10 spaces	cross-country
<b>Pinegrass/Road 1205</b>	10 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Pleasant Valley/State Route 410</b>	6 spaces	cross-country
<b>Rock Creek #1/Road 1702-1720</b>	10 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Rock Creek #2/Road 1701-1720</b>	10 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Spring Creek/Road 1705</b>	4 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Soup Creek/Bethel Ridge Road 1500</b>	25 spaces	snowmobile
<b>South Fork Tieton/Road 1000, 1/8 mile of Tieton Road 1200</b>	10 spaces each side of road	snowmobile
<b>Tieton Airstrip/Road 1200</b>	30 spaces	snowmobile
<b>Union Creek/State Route 410</b>	8 spaces	cross-country

**“The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer”.**

**Naches Ranger District  
10237 U.S. Highway 12  
Naches, Washington 98937  
509-653-1400**