



*Nez Perce N.F.*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Nez Perce National Forest  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 17, 2007**

**Contact: Laura Smith  
(208) 983-5143**

**DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW**

Snow has arrived in Grangeville for both horse-powered and people powered pursuit! The recent windstorms have kept the Nez Perce National Forest employees and Sno-drifters Snowmobile Club members busy clearing trees from trails for our Nordic skiers and snowmobilers. Packing and grooming of both the Nordic Trails and Snowmobile routes began Friday (12/14). The motorized snowmobile trails and non-motorized ski trails originate from the Fish Creek Snow Park, located seven miles from town on the Grangeville-Salmon Road #221.

Available at the Park N' Ski trailhead, Fish Creek Snow Park skiers and snowshoers can expect a pavilion with two barbeque grills, picnic tables, restrooms, and a plowed parking lot. There is a warming cabin awaiting skiers who choose to take the 7-mile loop, and four more miles of skiing available beyond the cabin for the adventurous! Packing of all the ski loops, including the 11-mile Boundary Trail, occurred Friday (12/14) and will continue throughout the winter.

At the snowmobile trailhead, Fish Creek Snow Park snowmobilers can expect a restroom, plowed parking lot, and new snowmobile trail maps soon to be provided by the local Sno-drifters Snowmobile Club. Grooming of the snowmobile routes began Friday (12/14) and included the section of trail from the parking lot toward High Camp, Twin Cabins Loop, the Grangeville-Salmon Road as far as the Gospel Corridor Road #444 junction. Plans for grooming this week include grooming beyond the Gospel Corridor Road junction to Florence.

Elk City, Dixie, and Red River snowmobilers can expect the brand new groomer to arrive in their area shortly after Christmas and grooming will follow.

This year's FREE SKI DAY will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2008. This is a day for you to check out the ski trails for free! Nez Perce National Forest employees host the event and will be available at the pavilion to

provide directions, maps of ski trails, and hot drinks at the Fish Creek Trailhead from 11-2pm.

The Nez Perce National Forest would like to remind both skiers and snowmobilers about their respective stickers required from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). The IDPR Park N' Ski passes are available at Rae Brothers Sporting Goods and Asker's Harvest Foods in Grangeville for \$25 for annual permit, or \$7.50 for a 3-day permit. This pass allows you to Park N' Ski at 11 Nordic ski areas statewide. Upon purchasing the permit, skiers are able to designate one specific Nordic ski area they visit frequently or would like to see improvements at. The permit fee is then dedicated by law to be used exclusively for improving Nordic ski opportunities and parking at the area designated. Skiers are reminded to display their stickers on the front driver's side window of vehicles to avoid citations or fines.

Snowmobile registration stickers are available for purchase at: Idaho County Courthouse, Tackett's Saw Shop, and Rae Brother's Sporting Goods in Grangeville; Carol and Val's Store and the Elk City General Store in Elk City; Tom Cat and Frank's Sporting Goods in Kooskia; Mac's RV's in Clearwater; and Bud's Saw Service in Cottonwood. Snowmobile registration applies to both new and used sleds. The registration fee is \$32.50 and like the Park N' Ski pass, the money will support a groomed trail system of your choice. The funds go to the respective County to support the maintenance and operation of trail groomers, signing of snowmobile trails, plowing parking lots, and maintenance of warming shelters.

A snowmobile-based Avalanche Awareness Course will be held in Grangeville Saturday, February 2 from 8am-5pm. Richard Gummingsall, Certified National Avalanche Instructor for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will be instructing the course. The classroom portion of the course will be held at the new Forest Service Building Saturday morning, followed by a field session at Fish Creek. For more information on the Avalanche Course, please call Richard Gummingsall at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Northern Region Office at (208) 514-2414 or email [rgummingsall@idpr.state.id.us](mailto:rgummingsall@idpr.state.id.us) .

The Nez Perce National Forest wishes everyone a safe and fun winter! For more information on our ski and snowmobile trails, please stop in or call the Nez Perce National Forest in Grangeville, Idaho, 104 Airport Road, or by phone at (208)983-1950.

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