

For more information



Pagosa Ranger District

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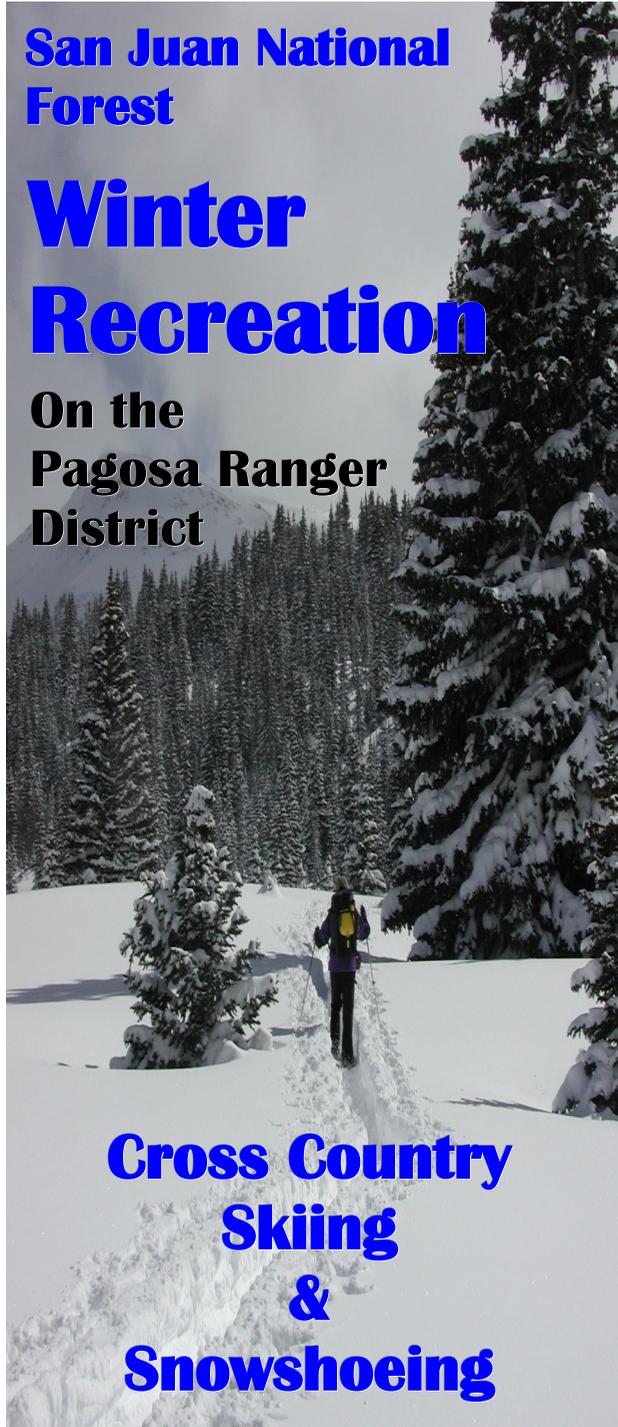
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San Juan National Forest

Winter Recreation

On the Pagosa Ranger District



Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

Welcome to the beauty of winter in the San Juan National Forest!

There are many opportunities for snow shoeing and cross-country skiing within the Pagosa Ranger District. Most of the routes described here are unplowed, ungroomed Forest Service roads that are closed to motorized vehicles, except for snowmobiles. These roads are enjoyed and shared by people on skis, snowshoes, snowmobiles and, in some areas, even snowboards.



Check with our office to learn if any trails are groomed.



Parking

Parking may present a problem and at times may prevent the use of a particular route. Park considerately, taking no more space than necessary to avoid blocking other vehicles and impeding access to trails.

Leave room for vehicles and trailers to turn around.

Colorado Department of Transportation crews clear parking areas along State Highways adjacent to some snow play areas, but their first priority is to clear the road.

Weather & Avalanche Danger

When planning any backcountry trip, check current and forecasted weather conditions before you leave home and continue to monitor the weather throughout your trip. Dramatic weather changes can occur in minutes. Be informed about avalanche terrain and conditions.

Colorado Avalanche Information Center
(303) 499-9650
<http://avalanche.state.co.us>

Safety

Before venturing out, take the time to learn emergency procedures and develop backcountry travel and winter camping skills.

 Check on anticipated conditions and be prepared for changing conditions. Your trip will be much more fun if you're physically and mentally prepared for whatever may arise. **Be prepared for medical emergencies.**

 **Leave a detailed description of your trip plans with a responsible person.** Make sure the person you leave your plan with knows to contact the sheriff's office if you fail to return.

 **Plan around the abilities of the least strong and least experienced members of your group.** Carry the appropriate gear for you trip, including extra clothes, space blanket, sunscreen, matches or lighter, compass, map, extra food, and water.

Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (COR SAR) Card Program

Costs for the card are \$3.00 for one year or \$12.00 for five years.

The fees go to the Search and Rescue Fund, which will reimburse SAR team for costs incurred in search and rescue.

Cards are available at hunting and fishing license vendors.

Stay Within Your Limits

Recognize and stay within your limits. Difficult conditions and accompanying hazards may exist on all trails. Use appropriate caution and always ski within your ability.

Trail Etiquette

Leave room for parallel tracks to allow each type of user to retain his or her own tracks.

Do not walk in set ski tracks. Keep to the right when meeting others.

Yield the right of way to downhill traffic. Use caution when approaching or overtaking another user.

Please do not disturb wildlife. Pack out every thing you pack in.



Clean up after your pet immediately and dispose of waste off-trail and away from trail heads.

Routes

Finding Your Way

These routes are not rated for difficulty and are unmarked and unsigned with the exception of existing road signs. **Carry a current map.**

All directions begin in downtown Pagosa Springs. The numbers in parentheses next to road names are Forest Service road numbers and may be found on the San Juan National Forest Map.

Please, do not block roads or gates!

Northeast on Highway 160

Jackson Mountain Road (037)



Gradual, uphill four-mile route to end of unplowed road with additional opportunities to travel other roads in the area. Popular area for snowmobiles.

To trailhead: Travel 7.3 miles northeast on US Highway 160. Parking is on the left at Jackson Mountain Road.

 X-Country Skiing

 Snowshoeing

East Fork Road (667)

An enjoyable route for one or several miles, this route parallels the East Fork of the San Juan River. Please stay on the road through private property. Higher potential for avalanche. Popular for **snowmobiling.**



To trailhead: Travel 9.5 miles northeast on US Highway 160, turn southeast on East Fork Road and continue about ¾ mile to end of plowed road.

Northeast on Highway 160

West Fork Road (648)

The route on follows West Fork Road and cruises through closed campgrounds.



To trailhead: Travel 15 mile northeast on US Highway 160. Parking is on the northwest side of the highway, northeast of the junction with West Fork Road. Walk or ski about ½ mile on West Fork Road to the national forest boundary. **Trail groomed regularly.**

Fall Creek Road (039)



Beginning at about 9,600' in elevation, this route climbs gradually for about six miles. Higher potential for avalanche.

To trailhead: Travel 19 miles northeast on US Highway 160 to Fall Creek Road. Once cleared, there is a large parking area on the south side of the highway.

Wolf Creek Road (725)



There are three routes on about five miles of road with some fairly open, moderate terrain in this area. Views are spectacular. This area is popular for snowmobiling.

To trailhead: Travel 20 miles northeast on US Highway 160 to Wolf Creek Road. Parking is on the right.

South on Highway 84

Blanco River Road (656)



Blanco River Road is closed at the highway. The route generally parallels the river for 2.5 miles from highway to Blanco River campground.

To trailhead: Travel 11 miles south on US Highway 84 to Blanco River Road. Parking may be limited.

North of Pagosa Springs

Fourmile (645) & Plumtaw Roads (634)

The first 1.5 miles of this route is uphill. At the junction, one can continue on Fourmile Road or go left on Plumtaw Road. This route is popular for snowmobiling.



To trailhead: Turn east on Lewis Street, north on Fifth Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Travel 6.5 miles north on Fourmile Road to the closure point near the national forest boundary.

Coyote Hill Trail



To trailhead: Follow directions above for Turkey Springs. Continue a few hundred feet to the parking area on the east (right) side of Piedra Road.

Williams Creek Area



Open, fairly flat area, good for beginners. Enjoy spectacular views of mountains and large, open parks. Unplowed road continues past the Williams Creek Reservoir to Poison Park and Williams Creek Trails.

To trailhead: From downtown, travel two miles west on US Highway 160, then turn north on Piedra Road (CR 600). Travel 22 miles, and then turn right on Williams Creek Road (FSR 640) and continue to Williams Creek Reservoir.