USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

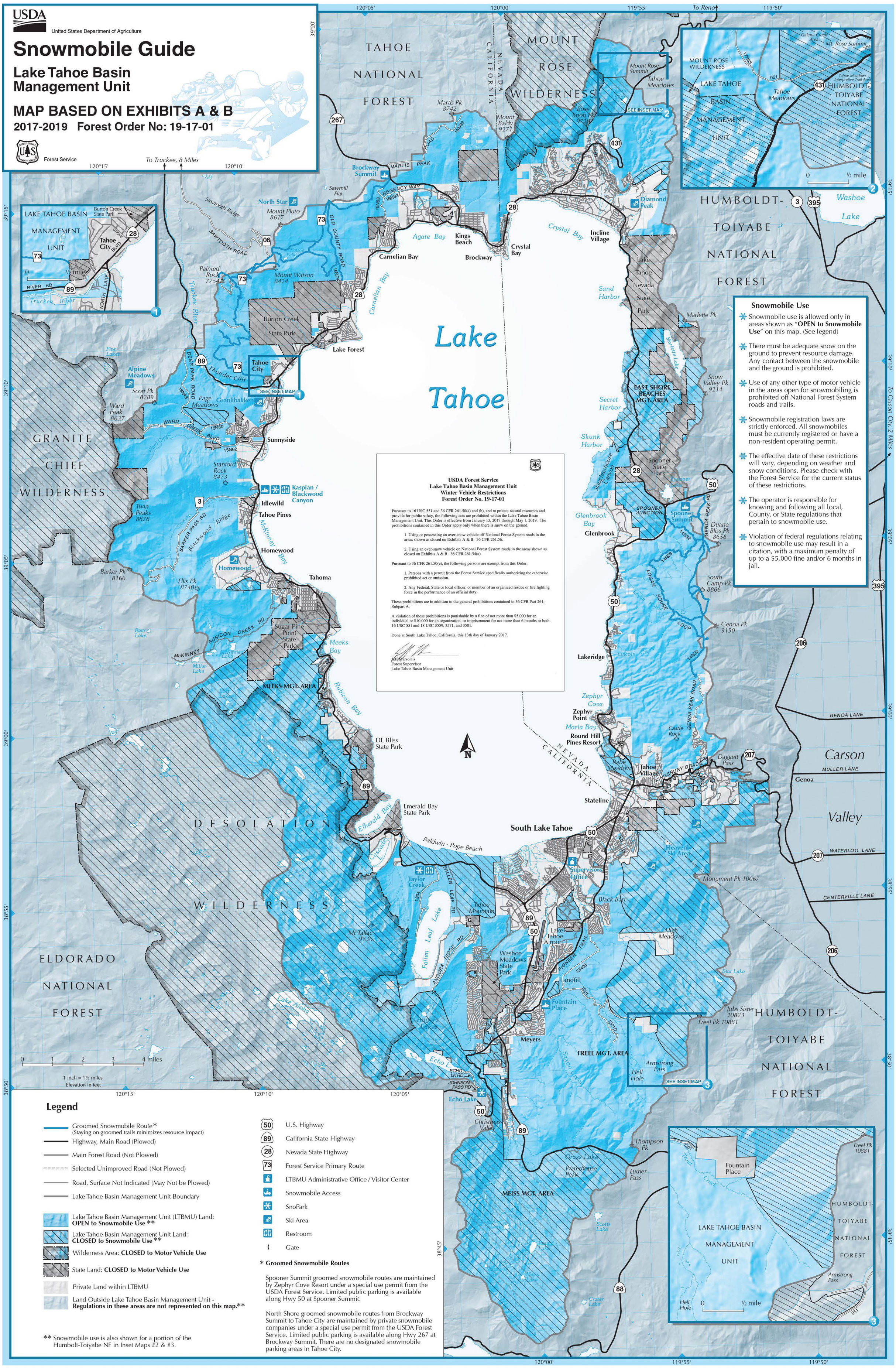
Snowmobile Guide

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

MAP BASED ON EXHIBITS A & B

2017-2019 Forest Order No: 19-17-01

Forest Service



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Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Forest Service

2017-2019

USDA Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Winter Vehicle Restrictions
Forest Order No. 19-17-01

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect natural resources and provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. This Order is effective from January 13, 2017 through May 1, 2019. The prohibitions contained in this Order apply only when there is snow on the ground.

1. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle off National Forest System roads in the areas shown as closed on Exhibits A & B. 36 CFR 261.56.

2. Using an over-snow vehicle on National Forest System roads in the areas shown as closed on Exhibits A & B. 36 CFR 261.54(a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

2. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Done at South Lake Tahoe, California, this 13th day of January 2017.

Jeff Marsolais
Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Snowmobiling in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Welcome

Snowmobiling is open on most National Forest Lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin, provided there is adequate snow cover on the ground to prevent resource damage. Wilderness, selected roadless areas, small urban lots and developed ski areas are closed to all motorized vehicles. It is your responsibility to be aware of where you are at all times by carrying a map and knowing how to read it. Look for a snowmobile symbol at trailheads indicating snowmobile use is permitted in the area.

Snowmobile Registration

Both California and Nevada require all snowmobiles to be registered under the OSV (over snow vehicle) registration program. See your local Department of Motor Vehicles for registration information. The money collected through the permit program is distributed throughout the state to develop and maintain OSV trails and facilities. Fines for riding an unregistered snowmobile can be expensive.

Sno-Parks

A Place to Park in Snow Country.

In order to park in a Sno-Park area, a vehicle must have a California Department of Parks & Recreation Sno-Park permit displayed on the dashboard. A day permit is good at any Sno-Park on the date for which it is issued. A season permit can be used at any Sno-Park during the entire winter season. Any vehicle not displaying a valid permit is subject to a citation.

Oregon and California have a reciprocal agreement allowing permits from one state to be used at a Sno-Park in the other state.

Permits are sold at a wide variety of sporting goods stores throughout California, at various businesses located near the Sno-Parks, at selected units of the State Park System, and (for members only) at all Northern California State Automobile Association offices. To find out where to buy a permit, you can call the Sno-Park Program office hotline at (916) 324-1222 or go on the internet to: www.ohv.parks.ca.gov and click on the Sno-Park link.

The annual Sno-Park season officially lasts from November 1 to May 30, with some date adjustments based on snow conditions.

Sno-Park parking is first come, first serve.

Snowmobiling in Residential Areas of the Tahoe Basin

Snowmobiling is a winter sport growing in popularity. Residents and visitors alike can access many acres of National Forest Lands around the Lake Tahoe area. As with any recreational activity, conflicts can occur when users are close to homes and private lands.

The following are common practices and may be helpful when snowmobiling in the Lake Tahoe area.

- If you are starting near a residential area, please show respect for homeowners by keeping "warm-up" time brief; noise and exhaust can be very annoying!
- Avoid riding close to homes!
- Ride only during reasonable hours, early morning and late evening and night rides can cause considerable noise disturbances!
- Be aware of private land and homeowner boundaries. You must obtain written permission from the landowner to access private land!
- There must be adequate snow cover on the ground to prevent resource damage!
- Be considerate of other recreational users; X-country skiers, snowshoers and others share many of the same routes. Slow down when encountering others!
- Avoid riding over small trees and brush and crossing streams; delicate stream banks can be easily damaged!
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on National Forest urban lots.

Excessive noise, private land, snow coverage, urban lot closures and resource damage statements are enforceable by County, State and Federal regulations.

USDA Forest Service Offices:

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (South Shore)
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4500
(530) 543-2694
TTY (530) 543-2694
www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (North Shore)
855 Alder Ave.
Incline Village, NV 89451
(775) 831-0914
www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu

Eldorado National Forest
Pacific Ranger District
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(530) 644-2349
TTY (530) 647-5407
www.fs.usda.gov/eldorado

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Carson Ranger District
1536 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 882-2766
www.fs.usda.gov/htnf

Tahoe National Forest
Truckee Ranger District
9646 Donner Pass Rd.
Truckee CA 96161-2949
(530) 587-3558
TDD (530) 587-6907
www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe

Travel Information

When traveling in California, call 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) or visit www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/ for current information on the condition of California State Highways.

When traveling in Nevada, Call: 1-877 NVROADS (687-6237) or visit: www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads for current information on the condition of Nevada State Highways.

Sno-Park Permit Sales Outlets

USDA Forest Service Office/LTBMU
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4500
(530) 543-2694

Lake of the Sky Outfitter's Inc
1023 Emerald Bay Rd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA.
(530) 541-1027

Explore Tahoe
Heavenly Village
South Lake Tahoe, CA
(530) 542-4637

Alpenglow Sports
415 N. Lake Blvd
Tahoe City, CA 96145
(530) 583-6917

Tahoe Dave's Ski Shop
590 North Lake Blvd
Tahoe City, CA 96145
(530) 583-6415

Tahoe Paradise Chevron
2986 Highway 50
Tahoe Paradise, CA 96150
(530) 577-1127

Kyburz Silver Fork Store
13200 Highway 50
Kyburz, CA 95720
(530) 293-3172

Mountain Hardware & Sports
11320 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-4844

Sno-Park Program
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
(916) 324-4442

Non-Resident Permits

Vehicles brought in from states that do not have registration programs are required to obtain a non-resident OSV permit. Non-resident permits can be purchased at the following locations:

South Shore: **Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit**
35 College Dr.
South Lake Tahoe, CA
96150-4500
(530) 543-2694

Truckee: **Mountain Hardware & Sports**
11320 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-4844

To download a digital pdf version of this map, use a mobile device equipped with a QR code reader app to scan the above QR code.

R5-RG-267

Backcountry Use and Inherent Risks

The Forest Service encourages a broad range of recreation activities and based on comments by users over the past 20 years, realizes the importance of keeping the backcountry open.

Backcountry winter recreation is similar to other high-risk outdoor activities, such as mountaineering and white-water kayaking, because participants must match their skill level to the prevailing conditions. Going into the backcountry involves inherent risks. Risks can be minimized when individuals take personal responsibility to educate, prepare and equip themselves to deal effectively with changeable backcountry conditions.

Sharing Routes

In some areas of the forest, skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers must share the same routes and areas. The following suggestions will provide safe routes for everyone:

- Operate snowmobiles at minimum speed near skiers or snowshoers. Maintain minimum speed until you are well beyond those on foot.
- Skiers and snowshoers should realize that snowmobile operators generally cannot hear approaching trail users. On steeper terrain, snowmobiles are generally limited to the developed trail surfaces. Use courtesy and respect so that all trail users can safely enjoy their winter travel.

Avoid Avalanche Hazards

For current avalanche conditions, call (530) 587-3558

or go on the internet to:

www.sierraavalanchecenter.org

- Avalanche information is updated as conditions change.
- Large or small, avalanches are deadly! Terrain, weather and your judgement are important factors to avoid getting caught in an avalanche. Avalanche forecasts apply outside developed ski areas.
- Avalanches are most common on 30 to 45 degree slopes.
- Smooth slopes without tree cover are more dangerous.
- Generally, avalanches occur in the same areas year after year. Watch for avalanche paths, steep open gullies and slopes, pushed over small trees, and trees with limbs broken off.
- South facing slopes are more dangerous in the spring and on warm sunny days.
- High marking (climbing very steep slopes) significantly increases the risk of being buried in an avalanche!

Storms

A pleasant outing can turn into a miserable ordeal if a winter storm catches you unprepared. Storms can develop in less than thirty minutes. You can be faced with a life threatening situation, even though you may only be a short distance from help. Because of the weather, trail markers are not always visible. Be prepared to backtrack if you lose the trail. Always check weather forecasts before starting out.

National Weather Service Forecast, Reno:
www.wrh.noaa.gov/rev/ or (775) 673-8100

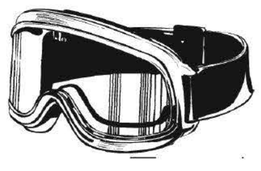
National Weather Service Forecast, Sacramento:
www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/ or (916) 979-3051

Avalanche Likelihood

- 80 percent of all avalanches occur during and shortly after storms.
- Snow falling at a rate of 1 inch or more per hour increases avalanche danger.
- Storms starting with low temperatures and dry snow, followed by rising temperatures are more likely to cause avalanches (the dry snow creates a poor bond and cannot support the weight of heavy, wet snow on top.
- Sustained winds of 15 miles per hour or more increase the danger of an avalanche on the leeward (usually north) slope due to heavy accumulation of snow caused by wind deposition.

Mobile Devices

- Keep in mind your mobile device may not work in some areas



Emergencies call 911

Local Medical Facilities:

South Shore:

Barton Memorial Hospital
2170 South Avenue
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 541-3420

Tahoe Urgent Care
2130 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 541-3277

North Shore:

Tahoe Forest Hospital
10121 Pine Avenue
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-6011

East Shore:

Carson Valley Medical Center
1107 Highway 395
Gardenerville, NV 89410
(775) 782-1500

Groomed Snowmobile Trails

Not all the trails shown on this map are groomed. Also, be aware that regularly groomed snowmobile routes may appear ungroomed. This can occur under the following circumstances:

- Just after a snowstorm and the groomer has not yet reached the trail you plan to ride.
- During a heavy snowstorm, snow depths of two or more feet can accumulate in just a few hours and bury a freshly groomed trail. Be sure to check weather forecasts before venturing out.

If you would like current grooming condition information, call the local Ranger District Office for the area you plan to ride. See list of District Offices under the map title.

Wildlife

Winter offers you the chance to see animals that are seldom observed in the summer. Because food is scarce in the winter, many mammals are forced to forage during the daytime. Also, it is much easier to see birds and mammals against a backdrop of white snow. The secret to seeing winter animals is being quiet and looking around you up in the tree branches, along tree trunks, and in clearings. Pay attention to tracks in the snow!

Marten, ermine, coyotes, wolverine, bobcats, Douglas squirrels and snowshoe hares may be seen in winter. Many other mammal species are forced to hibernate for at least part of the winter.

Most songbirds are not adapted to the harsh winter conditions in the Sierra Nevada and must fly south to Mexico, Central America, or South America. Although these birds are gone for the winter, resident birds like the Clark's nutcracker, mountain chickadee and red-breasted nuthatch are still present. Most of these birds are quite vocal and, if you listen carefully, you shouldn't miss them.

Practice Safe and Responsible Snowmobiling

- Never consume alcohol or drugs before snowmobiling.
- Keep to the right at all times, especially in turns.
- Operate at safe and responsible speeds.
- Use your lights at all times to improve visibility.
- Stay out of areas where snowmobiling is prohibited.
- Avoid travel on unfamiliar frozen bodies of water.
- Using extra caution at night.
- Become familiar with the snowmobile that you are going to ride.
- Keep your snowmobile properly maintained.
- Always wear a helmet and adequate clothing.
- Become familiar with the terrain.
- Check the weather forecast before you leave.
- Never ride alone.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Carry emergency supplies and learn survival techniques.
- Know your whereabouts at all times by carrying a map and knowing how to read it.

Hypothermia

As many as 85 percent of outdoor recreation fatalities are caused by hypothermia.

Hypothermia is a rapid, progressive, physical and mental collapse due to chilling of the body. Hypothermia is greatly intensified by wetness, wind, exhaustion and hunger.

Symptoms

Watch for early signs in your companions! Victims are usually not aware of their hypothermia.

Normal Body temp: 98.6° F

- Stuttering.
- Uncontrolled shivering and unreasonable behavior.
- Reduced mental awareness, incoherent speech.
- Reduced muscle coordination, slurred speech, stiffness and stumbling walk.
- Shivering may stop.
- Stupor.
- Death-like coma.
- Death.

Body temp: 81.0° F

To Treat Hypothermia

- Actively, but gently re-warm the victim.
- Get the victim out of wind, rain and cold.
- Move to a campfire or inside a dry sleeping bag.
- Give the victim hot drinks (no caffeine or alcohol).
- Remove wet clothes, if possible.

To Prevent Hypothermia

- Avoid skiing or snowmobiling alone.
- Regulate your body temperature, avoid sweating.
- Dress properly, layer clothing for changing weather conditions.
- Carry extra food and additional clothing (avoid cotton, wool or fleece is best) for emergencies.
- Avoid exposure to rain and wind.
- Avoid fatigue by periodic rest.
- Prevent dehydration - consume liquids.

The Cooling Power of Wind Speed

Expressed as "Equivalent Chill Temperature"

mph	Temperature								
Calm	40	30	20	10	5	0	-10	-20	-30
Equivalent Chill Temperature									
5	35	25	15	5	0	-5	-15	-25	-35
10	30	15	5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-60
15	25	10	-5	-20	-25	-30	-45	-60	-70
20	20	5	-10	-25	-30	-35	-50	-65	-80
25	15	0	-15	-30	-35	-45	-60	-75	-90
35	10	-5	-20	-35	-40	-50	-65	-80	-100
40	10	-5	-20	-35	-45	-55	-70	-85	-100
Danger				Increasing Danger				Great Danger	

Sign indicating snowmobile use is permitted in the area.

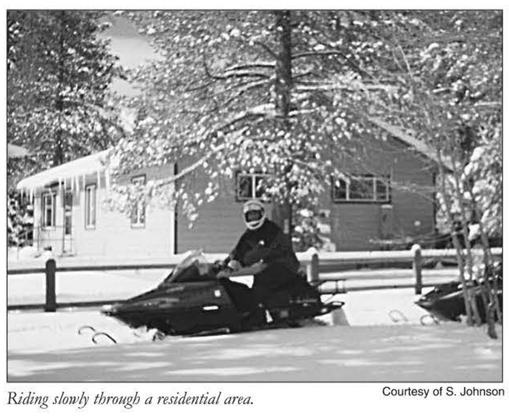
tread lightly!® LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION ™

Tread Lightly!

Winter Code of Ethics:

1. I will be a good sportsman. I recognize that people judge all winter recreationists by individual actions. I will give assistance to those in distress.
2. I will plan my outing according to my ability, endurance and equipment. I will check local weather conditions. I will tell someone where I am going and when I expect to return.
3. I will keep to the right when encountering another winter recreationist. I will yield the right of way to traffic moving downhill.
4. I will slow down and use caution when approaching or passing. When stopping, I will not block the trail.
5. I will learn to recognize winter trail signs, blazes and maps. I will respect and obey designated trails, closed areas and private property.
6. I will park considerately, taking no more space than needed, without blocking other vehicles and impeding access to trails. I will carpool when ever possible to conserve energy.
7. I will not damage living trees, shrubs or other natural features.
8. I will pack my litter out.
9. I will not harass wildlife.
10. I will pick up after and control my pets.

Responsible dog owner. Courtesy of Cargo



Riding slowly through a residential area. Courtesy of S. Johnson

Dogs on the Trail

All dogs should have a current license and identification in case they are separated from their owner. Be considerate of others using trails and clean up after your pet. For the sake of wildlife and fellow recreationists, please keep control of your dog. Check with County Offices for leash ordinances. Snowmobilers, be aware of dogs on the trails. Reduce your speed and use caution when passing.

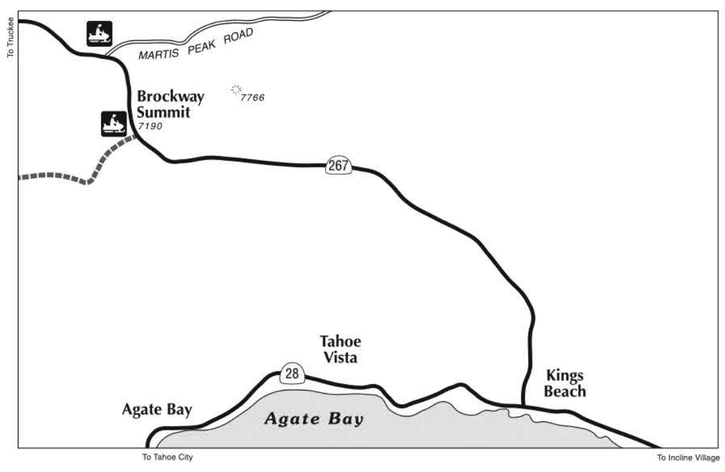
Leave No Trace

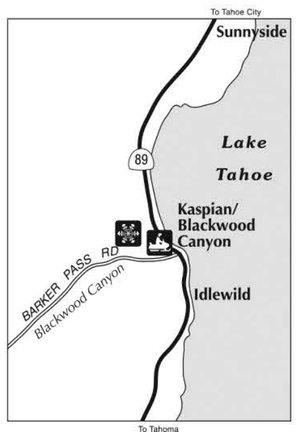
Remember to take out of the forest anything that you bring in. Whenever you can, make the extra effort to remove trash that less thoughtful persons have left behind. Leave live vegetation and cultural and historic features as you find them for others to discover and enjoy, and for your return visit.

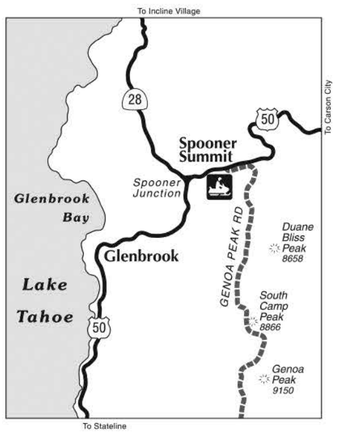
All are Welcome

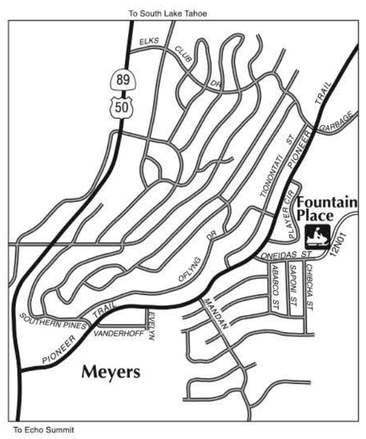
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Trailhead Locations









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