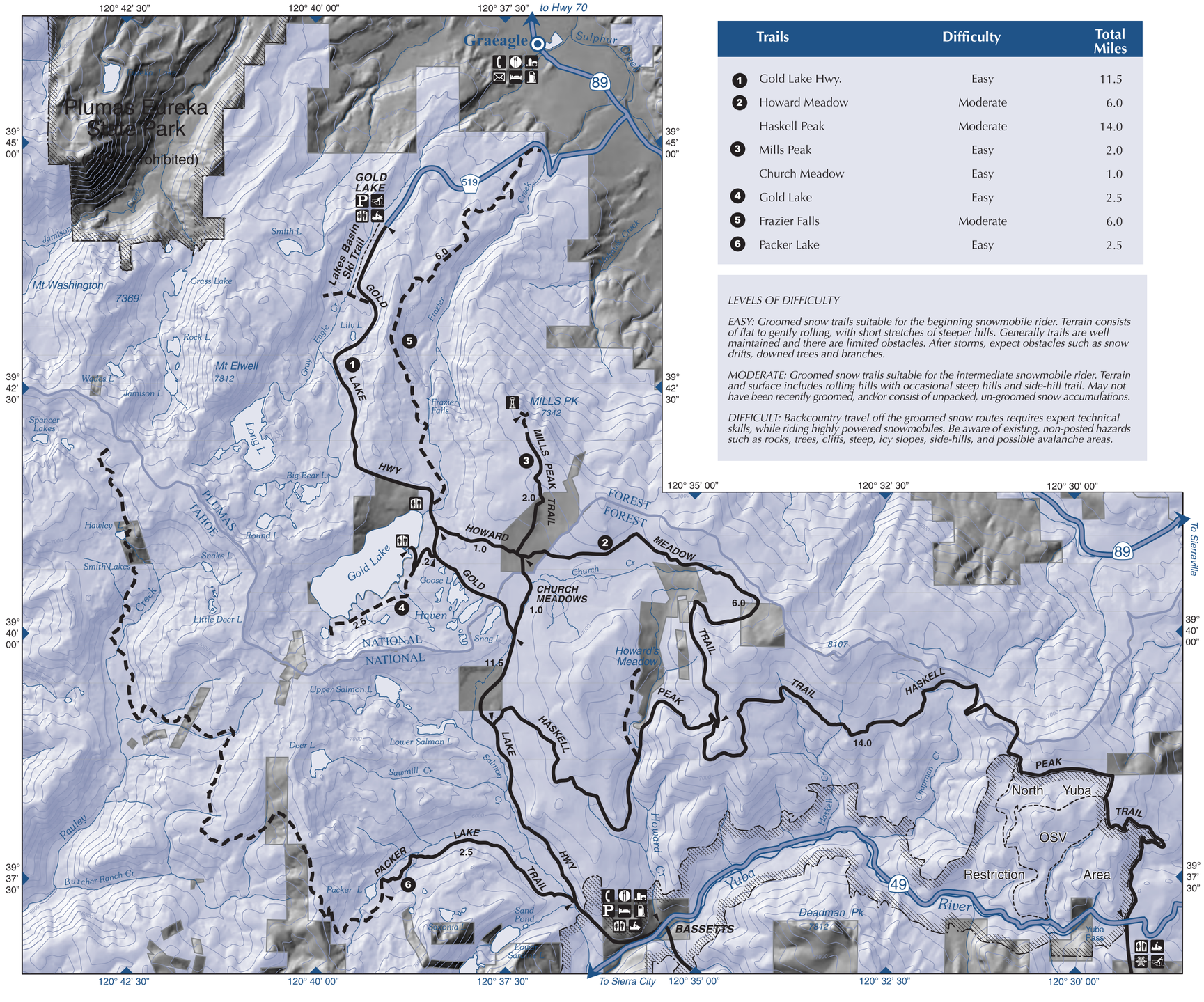
Lakes Basin Snowmobile Trails

Beckwourth Ranger District
Plumas National Forest



	Trails	Difficulty	Total Miles
1	Gold Lake Hwy.	Easy	11.5
2	Howard Meadow	Moderate	6.0
	Haskell Peak	Moderate	14.0
3	Mills Peak	Easy	2.0
	Church Meadow	Easy	1.0
4	Gold Lake	Easy	2.5
5	Frazier Falls	Moderate	6.0
6	Packer Lake	Easy	2.5

LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY

EASY: Groomed snow trails suitable for the beginning snowmobile rider. Terrain consists of flat to gently rolling, with short stretches of steeper hills. Generally trails are well maintained and there are limited obstacles. After storms, expect obstacles such as snow drifts, downed trees and branches.

MODERATE: Groomed snow trails suitable for the intermediate snowmobile rider. Terrain and surface includes rolling hills with occasional steep hills and side-hill trail. May not have been recently groomed, and/or consist of unpacked, un-groomed snow accumulations.

DIFFICULT: Backcountry travel off the groomed snow routes requires expert technical skills, while riding highly powered snowmobiles. Be aware of existing, non-posted hazards such as rocks, trees, cliffs, steep, icy slopes, side-hills, and possible avalanche areas.

- Groomed Trails
- Ungroomed Trails
- Marked Cross Country Ski Route - NO MOTORIZED OSVs
- Restricted Area Boundary - NO MOTORIZED OSVs
- 2 Trail Segment Mileage
- 1 Trail Number (Plumas National Forest only)
- Paved Road
- National Forest Boundary
- National Forest Lands
- Non- Forest Service Land
- 49 State Highway
- 519 County Road
- Snowmobile Staging Area
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Sno Park
- Trailhead Parking
- Lookout
- Restrooms
- Dining
- Groceries
- Mail
- Gas
- Lodging
- Telephone

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

A Guide to

Lakes Basin Snowmobile Trails

Plumas National Forest

For more information:

USDA Forest Service
Plumas National Forest
Beckwourth Ranger District
P.O. Box 7, 23 Mohawk Road
Blairsden, CA 96103
(530) 836-2575 (Voice and TTD)
www.fs.fed.us/R5/plumas

OHV Funds at Work

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) opportunities on this forest are made possible through a partnership between the Forest Service and the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation. The "Green Sticker" grant program provides funding for operation and maintenance of OHV trails and staging areas, planning and development of new areas and trails, resource management and law enforcement carried out by Forest Service employees.

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Welcome to Lakes Basin Snowmobile Trails

Winter is a beautiful time to explore the Plumas National Forest. Miles of roads and trails offer excellent opportunities for fun and enjoyment of the forest.

The 38.2 miles of groomed snowmobile routes are maintained throughout the winter season in the Lakes Basin area. Grooming efforts are sponsered through California State Off-Highway vehicle funds. ATV's and all other wheeled vehicles are prohibited on groomed snow routes. The Tahoe and Plumas National Forests work together to provide the grooming service.

Snowmobile Route Decriptions

Gold Lake Highway — 11.5 miles

The Gold Lake Highway is accessed by two staging areas, Gold Lake from the north and Bassetts from the south. The 11.5 mile route is groomed and is the main route through Lakes Basin. Many spectacular views are provided along this route. Midway up the trail, a half-mile detour leads to Gold Lake.

Mills Peak — 2.0 miles

This 2-mile route through the forest ends at the Mills Peak Lookout. The views from this vantage point are spectacular. The lookout area has severe drop-offs so use caution.

Howard Meadow — 6.0 miles

This 6-mile route accesses the Mills Peak trail approximately one mile from the Gold Lake Highway and terminates on the Haskell Peak Trail. The trail passes through several large open meadows, providing spectacular views of the Sierra Buttes. If not gromed, this trail can be challenging, with stretches of severe side slope and should only be attempted by experienced riders. Howard Creek Meadows, a popular play area, can be accessed at the end of this trail.

Haskell Peak — 14.0 miles

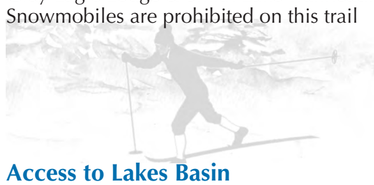
This 14-mile trail accesses many large openings for cross country travel and play. This route goes from the Gold Lake Highway to Yuba Pass Staging Area on the east end.

Packer Lake — 2.5 miles

This groomed 2.5-mile trail provides access to Packer Lake with views of the Sierra Buttes. The trail continues over Packer Saddle and through Gold Valley. This portion is marked but not groomed and is for experienced snowmobilers only.

Lakes Basin Cross Country Ski Trail — 1.5 miles

This groomed ski trail connects the Gold Lake Staging Area to the road leading into Gray Eagle Lodge & Smith Lake Trailhead. Snowmobiles are prohibited on this trail



Access to Lakes Basin

From Quincy: take Highway 70/89 east. Turn south on Hwy 89 and continue one mile past Graeagle. Turn right and follow County Road 519 to staging area.

From Reno: take Highway 395 north to Hallelujah Junction. Turn left on Highway 70 and follow to Highway 89. Turn left and follow to one mile past Graeagle. Turn right on County Road 519 and follow to staging area.

From Downieville: take Highway 49 east to Bassetts. Turn left and follow County Road 620 to staging area.

Survival Kit

A few simple items can help keep an emergency situation from turning into a tragedy. You can easily make a pocket-sized survival kit at home. It needs to contain items for makeshift sled repair and personal survival. Some items to include are:

- ❑ mirror
- ❑ waterproof matches
- ❑ safety pins
- ❑ heavy tape
- ❑ salt
- ❑ candle
- ❑ energy foods
- ❑ bouillon cubes
- ❑ whistle
- ❑ razor blades
- ❑ wire
- ❑ space blanket

Cooling Power of Wind

Expressed as "Equivalent Chill Temperature"

Wind Speed (mph)	Temperature (°F)								
Calm	40	30	20	10	5	0	-10	-20	-30
	Equivalent Chill Temperature (°F)								
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	

County Roads

All Off-Highway Vehicles must be street legal to operate on county roads. Only county roads closed to public traffic by snow may be used by green sticker registered vehicles.

The Gold Lake Highway will be closed to public traffic when it receives 18 inches of snow. During closure periods, no 4x4 vehicles are allowed past the staging area.

Travel Information

When traveling in California, call 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) or visit http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/. This site provides current information regarding the condition of the California State Highway System.

Services Available

A general store and fuel station are located in Graeagle and at Bassetts. For more information on local services, contact the Plumas County Visitors Bureau, 1-800-326-2247 or www.plumascounty.org.

Risks and Hazards

The forest environment is hazardous by nature. Conditions in the forest may change unexpectedly, creating unforeseen hazards. The forest visitor is responsibile for knowing and accepting the risks of operating a motorized vehicle. When doing so on public lands, the visitor has the added responsibility of accepting the hazards inherent in a forest environment. Be aware of changing conditions, and watch for hazards such as fallen trees, ice, and avalanche areas. Remember that the most hazardous avalanche terrain has the following characteristics: steep slopes that are long and open, with possible cornice build-up. Snow on north facing slopes, or on the leeward side of the prevailing wind direction, is more likely to slide in midwinter; south facing slopes are most dangerous in the spring and on sunny days. Inexperienced snowmobilers are advised to stay on groomed, marked trails to minimize potential risks.

911 Emergency

W. Sierra Medical Clinic
209 Nevada Street
Downieville, CA
(530) 289-3298

Eastern Plumas Healthcare
500 1st Street
Portola, CA 96122
(530) 832-4277

Leave No Trace

Remember to take out of the forest anything that is brought in. Whenever possible, make the extra effort to remove trash that less thoughtful persons have left behind. Leave live vegetation and cultural and historic features as found for others to discover and enjoy, and for a return visit.

Please pick up garbage.

leave no trace
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

Winter Safety

Outdoor recreation in winter requires extra planning and caution for a safe and pleasant trip. It is the responsibility of the OHV operator to be aware of Federal and State OHV restrictions and regulations. Make sure the snowmobile is registered and the green sticker is clearly displayed on the vehicle. It is a good idea to bring along the items on this safety list when traveling in winter:

- ❑ warm clothing (extras in case clothing gets wet)
- ❑ drinking water
- ❑ snowshoes or skis (a pair for each person)
- ❑ lunch, snacks, and emergency food
- ❑ tools and extra gas in a safety can
- ❑ first aid kit
- ❑ map and compass
- ❑ hatchet or hunting knife
- ❑ rope or avalanche cord
- ❑ emergency flares
- ❑ tarp (for temporary shelter)
- ❑ pocket knife
- ❑ space blanket
- ❑ avalanche Beacon

Winter Travel Manners

In some areas, skiers, snowshoers and snowmobiles must share the same trails and routes. Be courteous and respectful to allow all trail users to safely enjoy winter travel. Please follow these Winter Travel Manners:

- ❄ Operate snowmobiles at a minimum speed near skiers and snowshoers. Maintain this minimum speed until you are well past those traveling on foot.
- ❄ The noise of a snowmobile usually makes it difficult for its operator to hear other trail users. To get their attention, use gestures.
- ❄ On steep ground, snowmobiles are generally limited to the developed trail surface. Step out of the way to let snowmobiles pass.
- ❄ Groomed travel routes are closed to motorized wheeled vehicles.
- ❄ Park vehicles off the road.
- ❄ Respect the property and privacy of others.
- ❄ In campgrounds, avoid hitting tables, stoves or other improvements covered in snow.
- ❄ Please pack out what you pack in.
- ❄ Signs and trail markers are for direction and use of the area. Please protect them.
- ❄ Vegetation can be damaged if you ride over small trees and bushes.
- ❄ If you encounter animals, stop and allow them to move off the trail. The energy needed to survive in cold and snow can make unnecessary disturbance harmful or fatal to wildlife.
- ❄ Avoid leaving human waste near any water course.
- ❄ Never travel alone.

tread lightly!®
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION

Pledge to Tread Lightly by:

T raveling only where motorized vehicles are permitted.

R especting the rights of hikers, skiers, campers,and others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.

E ducating myself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies; complying with signs and barriers; and asking owners' permission to cross private property.

A voiding streams, lakeshores, meadows, and muddy roads and trails, steep hillsides, wildlife,and livestock.

D riving responsibly to protect the environment and to preserve the opportunity to enjoy my vehicle on wild lands.