

# WELCOME TO THE CARSON RANGER DISTRICT

The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest developed this guide to provide users with information on winter over-snow vehicle opportunities. For the over-snow vehicle enthusiast, the District offers many miles of groomed trails in the Hope Valley area.

Map printed with funds provided by the California OHV Education and Safety Grant.



## HOW TO GET TO HOPE VALLEY RECREATION AREA

**From Reno/Carson City:** Travel south on Hwy 395. Turn south onto Hwy 88 and travel 20 miles to Hope Valley Sno-Park located on south side of Hwy 88.

**From Minden/Gardnerville:** Turn south onto Hwy 88 and travel 20 miles to Hope Valley Sno-Park located on south side of Hwy 88.

**From South Lake Tahoe:** From Hwy 50 turn east on Hwy 89 and travel 11 miles to the junction with Hwy 88 (Picketts Junction). Turn right and travel west two miles to Hope Valley Sno-Park located on south side of Hwy 88.

**From Sacramento:** Travel east on Hwy 50 to junction with Hwy 89. Turn east on Hwy 89 and travel 11 miles to junction with Hwy 88. Turn right and travel west two miles to Hope Valley Sno-Park located on south side of Hwy 88.

**From Jackson:** Travel east on Hwy 88 for 69 miles.



## SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION

California State law requires that all over-snow vehicles be registered and that the registration sticker be prominently displayed. Out-of-state visitors need to purchase a non-resident permit if they do not have a valid permit or registration from their home state. Contact California Department of Motor Vehicles or your local snowmobile dealer for registration information, or go to [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov) and click on Green Stickers.

## SNO-PARK PERMIT SALES

California Sno-Parks are located off Highway 88 at the beginning of Blue Lakes road and at Carson Pass. A permit is required to park in this area. The permit needs to be displayed on the vehicle dashboard where it can be clearly seen. Both day use and annual permits are available at:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Carson Ranger District<br>1536 S. Carson St.<br>Carson City, NV 89701<br>(775) 882-2766           | South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce<br>3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd.<br>South Lake Tahoe, CA<br>(530) 541-5255               |
| Alpine County Chamber of Commerce<br>3 Webster Street<br>Markleeville, CA 96120<br>(530) 694-2475 | Lake Tahoe Winter Sports<br>3071 Highway 50<br>Tahoe Paradise, CA<br>(530) 577-2940                                   |
| Kirkwood Mountain Resort Store<br>1501 Kirkwood Meadows Dr.<br>Kirkwood, CA<br>(209) 258-7294     | REI<br>2225 Harvard Way<br>Reno, NV<br>(775) 828-9090   |
| Woodfords Station<br>Hwy 88<br>Woodfords, CA 96120<br>(530) 694-2930                              | Reno Cycles and Gear<br>3445 Kietzke Lane<br>Reno, NV<br>(775) 355-8810   |
| Sorensen's Resort<br>14255 Hwy 88<br>Hope Valley, CA 96120<br>(530) 694-2203                      | Sno-Park Permit Sales<br>California Dept. of Parks & Recreation<br>1725 23rd Street #200<br>Sacramento, CA 95816-7100 |

California Sno-Park Hotline • (916) 324-1222  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest • [www.fs.fed.us/hntf/rec](http://www.fs.fed.us/hntf/rec)  
California State Parks • for a complete & current list of Sno-Park vendors visit [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov)

The listing of private businesses in this winter guide is for reader information and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Forest Service of any product or service.

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## RULES AND REGULATIONS

All riders on the Carson Ranger District, and all of the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest, must follow the Rules and Regulations of the Forest. Failure to heed any of the following, or any other Forest rules not listed here, will result in a citation and fine:

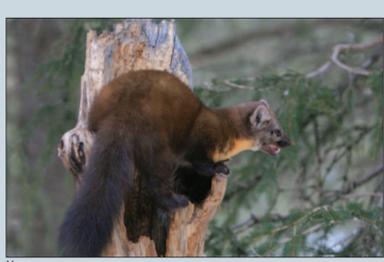
- Register your vehicle. Resident and non-resident stickers are needed to ride in California forests.
- Stay out of Wilderness areas – they are ALWAYS closed to motorized vehicles. Year round.
- Avoid running over young trees, shrubs, and grasses.
- Stay off soft, wet roads and trails that can be easily torn up by vehicles.
- Travel around meadows and steep hillsides or streambanks and lakeshores when snow coverage is not adequate; these areas are easily scarred.
- Stay away from wild animals, particularly animals rearing young or suffering from food shortage. Stress can be hard on them especially during the cold winter months.
- Obey gate closures and regulatory signs.
- Get permission to travel across private land.
- Use gates when traveling over fenced land. Fences are expensive to repair, be careful not to destroy them.
- Buildings with no trespassing signs should not be entered. Additionally, users should stay off of the roofs of all buildings, with or without OSVs. Report any vandalism to the proper authorities.
- Wear your protective gear; helmets, gloves, etc.
- Do not ride double unless your vehicle is equipped for double riders.
- Practice the 7 Leave No Trace principles ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)). Pack out what you pack in! Don't litter.

Travel only where motorized vehicles are permitted. Respect the rights of hikers, skiers, campers, and others to enjoy their activities undisturbed. Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, complying with signs and barriers, and asking owners' permission to cross private property. Avoid streams, lakeshores, meadows, muddy roads and trails, steep hillsides, and wildlife and livestock. Drive responsibly to protect the environment and preserve opportunities to enjoy your vehicle on wild lands.

## SHARING TRAILS

Many of the designated winter travel routes are shared by snowmobilers, skiers, and snowshoers. When sharing routes, consideration of others is important for the maximum enjoyment and safety of all users. Some suggestions that help provide safe routes are:

- Operate over-snow vehicles (OSVs) at minimum speed near skiers and snowshoers.
- Limit speed to 5 mph in or around Sno-Parks. Limit speed to 15 mph within 50 feet of campgrounds or any concentration of people or animals.
- On shared corridors, skiers and snowmobilers should travel single file, and keep far to the right. Skiers and snowshoers, please keep poles and arms out of the way of passing OSVs.
- Do not operate OSVs on ski trails and slopes.
- Have courtesy and respect for all types of users.



## WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Outdoor winter recreation requires extra planning and caution to ensure a safe and pleasant trip. Be prepared! Follow these common-sense rules:

- Never travel alone! Accidents happen, and you may not be able to help yourself if you get hurt or your snowmobile breaks down. Also, hypothermia is easier to detect in others than in yourself.
- Plan ahead, determine a safe route, know where you are going, and stick to it.
- Leave a map of your travel route with the a friend or family member, and let them know what time you expect to return. Use registration boards to let people know of your whereabouts.
- Be aware of frozen lakes and streams and avoid them. Falling through can be fatal! Ice in the Sierras is unpredictable and unsafe due to rapid temperature changes.

**Winter Essentials**  
In addition to wearing layers of non-cotton clothing with a coat, goggles, and waterproof gloves, you should also carry the essential items:

- Survival kit
- 2-way radio/cell phone/extra batteries
- Wool hat, layers of non-cotton clothing, gloves and goggles
- Drinking water and extra high calorie food
- First aid kit
- Map and compass/signal mirror
- Repair tools and tow rope
- Snowshoes or skis (in case you can't get out on your snowmobile)
- Whistle/signal flares
- Probe poles, shovel, transceiver.
- Sunscreen (SPF 30 or greater)

- Survival Kit Contents**
- Tarp and space blanket for temporary shelter
  - Fire starter/waterproof matches
  - Cup for heating water, packet of dry soup, and high calorie or energy foods
  - Duct tape/ski-tip or snowshoe repair kit
  - Wire and rope for repairs
  - Flashlight/headlamp with extra batteries
  - Handsaw/hunting knife/pocket knife/multi-tool
  - Sunglasses
  - Spare drivebelt and tools to change it



## HAND SIGNALS

Every rider should know the appropriate hand signals before setting out.

- Left turn:** Left arm extended straight out.
- Right turn:** Left arm out, forearm raised, with elbow at 90 degree angle.
- Stop:** Left arm raised straight up.
- Slow:** Left arm out and angled toward ground.

## WINTER 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 more often during the daytime. However, please do not feed any wildlife because human food will disrupt their digestive systems and doesn't provide the nutrition they need to survive. It is much easier to see birds and mammals against a backdrop of white snow. The secret to seeing winter wildlife is to be quiet and keep looking around you – in the tree branches, along tree trunks, out across clearings, and pay attention to tracks in the snow!

Marten, ermine, coyotes, bobcats, Douglas squirrels, and snowshoe hare may be seen in winter. The Humboldt-Toiyabe has also had several sightings of the elusive, far-ranging wolverine. Most of these sightings were during the winter. If you see one, please report your sighting to the nearest Ranger District Office.

Most songbirds are not adapted to the harsh winter conditions in the Sierra Nevada, and therefore they must fly south to Mexico, Central America, or South America over winter. Many mammal species are forced to hibernate for at least part of the winter or move to more hospitable habitats.

Although migratory birds have flown south, there are still resident birds present that are well adapted to winter conditions. Among the bird species you may encounter are Clark's nutcracker, mountain chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, rough-legged hawk, and bald eagle. Most of these birds are quite vocal and, if you listen carefully, you shouldn't miss them.



## RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY

Private property boundaries are not specifically shown on this map. Private property is often interspersed with National Forest land. Please respect it, and remember you have to have the owner's permission to ride or ski on private land. Also avoid riding over man-made structures such as fences or buildings. Snowmobiles can seriously damage these structures.

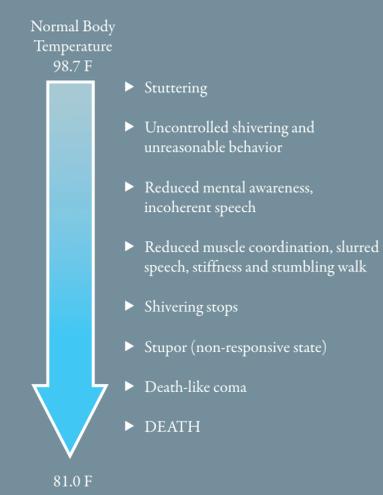
## WINTER HAZARDS

The Forest Service wants people to plan ahead and be prepared for the hazards and practice the common sense rules of winter travel. While on National Forest System Lands, you are responsible for your personal safety. The Forest Service does post warnings/information at various locations, but does NOT manage/control all hazardous areas, due to the large size and variety of conditions on the National Forests.

**FROSTBITE**  
Frostbite occurs when flesh freezes due to prolonged exposure to subfreezing temperatures. It can be recognized by loss of feeling and a white appearance of the frozen skin. Keep affected part covered and warm and get treatment as soon as possible!

**HYPOTHERMIA**  
The rapid and progressive mental and physical collapse resulting from lowering the inner temperature of the human body. About 85 percent of outdoor winter recreation fatalities are caused by hypothermia. Planning ahead to avoid hazardous situations, as well as, wearing well-insulated and waterproof clothing will help you avoid becoming hypothermic.

**Hypothermia Symptoms**  
Watch for early signs in your companions! Victims are usually not aware they are becoming hypothermic.



**Treating Hypothermia**  
Give first aid that allows the victim's body temperature to rise at its own natural rate. Heating up too quickly can result in death.

- Get the victim out of wind, rain, or cold.
- Replace wet clothes with dry layers as quickly as possible.
- Cover victim with dry blankets and insulate them from cold surfaces.
- Give the victim a warm drink (no caffeine or alcohol).

## STORMS

Storms can develop in as little as 30 minutes in this part of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Being caught unprepared in a storm can become a life-threatening situation no matter how close you are to help. Trails and trail markers can become obscured in bad weather causing you to become lost. To avoid these situations, always check weather forecasts before your outing, pay attention to sudden shifts in the weather, and know how to navigate using a map and compass. Turn back immediately if the weather takes a turn for the worse.

## AVALANCHES

Avalanches can be fatal! Avalanches are common in the Sierra Mountains. Loud noises, warming sun, warming temperatures, walking, riding, or skiing over new snow on slopes between 25-60 degrees can trigger an avalanche. Follow avalanche safety rules:

- Check avalanche hazard while planning your trip at [www.sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org), or call the Sierra Avalanche Center (SAC) Hotline at (530)587-2158.
- Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind.
- Avoid crossing steep side-hills and entering narrow, steeply-sided canyons.
- Stay on the windblown side of ridges.
- Always wear a transceiver on your body under your jacket. Transceivers send and receive signals. They should remain in transmit mode unless they are being used to locate a person or persons who have been buried in an avalanche. Always check your transceiver to ensure that it is in transmit mode.
- Always carry shovels, probe poles (for locating people buried in snow), and a portable radio to summon help.
- Carry a radio capable of receiving NOAA weather transmissions.

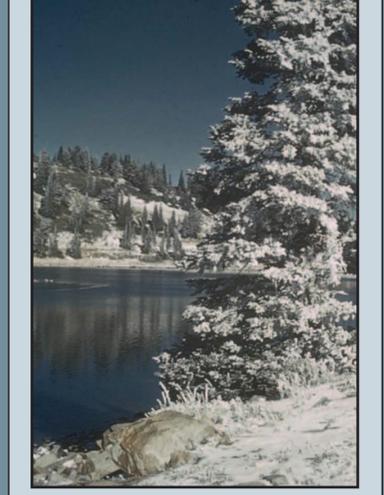


## DID YOU KNOW . . .

- 80% of avalanches occur during and shortly after storms?
- To avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind?
- To stay on the windward side of ridges?
- To avoid crossing steep side-hills and entering narrow, steep-sided canyons?
- Avalanches are most common on slopes of 30°-45°?
- Smooth slopes without trees are more dangerous?
- Avalanches tend to occur in the same areas year to year?
- South-facing slopes are dangerous in the spring and on warm sunny days?
- To be alert to dangerous conditions with 6 inches or more of new snow?
- Sustained winds, of 15 miles per hour or more, causes heavy accumulations of snow on leeward slopes increasing avalanche danger in these areas?
- To watch for gullies and terrain and paths? These include steep, open gullies and slopes, small trees that are pushed over, and trees with broken limbs.
- That storms starting with low temperatures and dry snow, followed by rising temperatures, are more likely to cause avalanches?

# Humboldt - Toiyabe National Forest

Carson Ranger District Winter Recreation Guide  
Alpine County, California



America's Great Outdoors

Winter 2010  
Forest Service  
United States Department of Agriculture



## CONTACTS

- Supervisor's Office  
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF  
1200 Franklin Way  
Sparks NV 89431  
(775) 355-5301  
[www.fs.fed.us/r4/hntf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/hntf)
- Carson City Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
5665 Morgan Mill Rd.  
Carson City, NV 89701  
(775) 885-6000
- Nevada State Parks  
1300 S. Curry St.  
Carson City, NV 89703  
(775) 587-4384
- Nevada Div. of Forestry  
1201 Johnson St., Suite D  
Carson City, NV 89706  
(775) 687-4350
- Nevada Dept. of Wildlife  
P.O. Box 10678  
Reno, NV 89520  
(775) 588-1500
- Alpine Co. Sheriff  
14777 Highway 89  
Markleeville, CA 96120  
(530)694-2231
- Alpine Co. Chamber of Commerce  
3 Webster Street,  
P.O. Box 265  
Markleeville, CA 96120  
(530)694-2475

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**AVALANCHE HAZARD INFORMATION**  
(530) 587-2158 or (760) 924-5500  
[www.sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org)

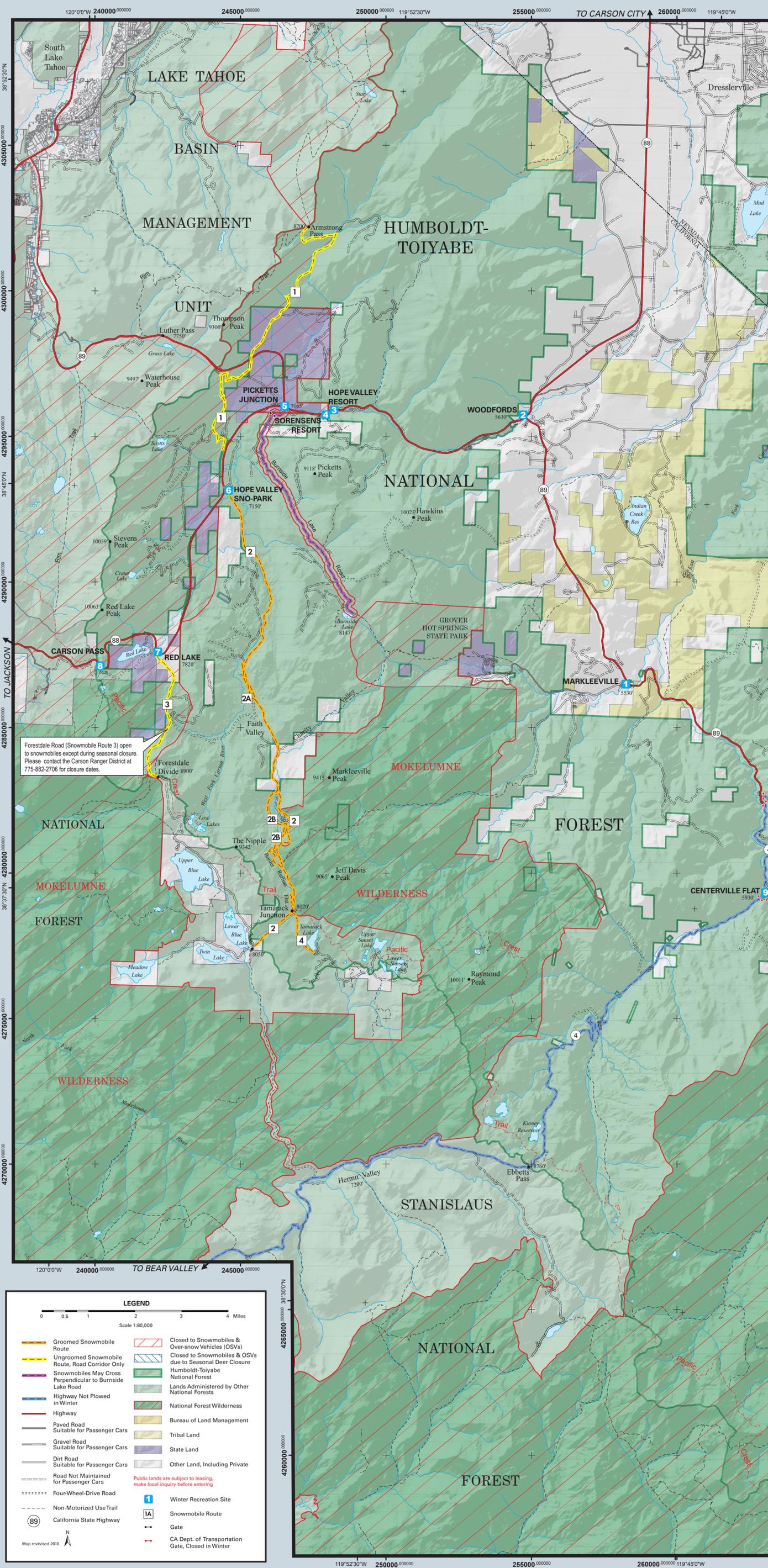
**ROAD CONDITIONS**  
California.....1-800-427-7623  
Nevada ..... 1-877-687-6237 or 511 on a mobile phone

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**  
Emergency Services ..... 911  
California Highway Patrol ..... (916) 577-1000  
Nevada Highway Patrol ..... Dial 0 ask operator for Zenith 1200

**REPORT FIRES TO**  
Interagency Dispatch, Minden, NV ..... (775) 883-5995

## CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will never drink and drive a snowmobile.
- I will drive within the limits of my machine and my own abilities.
- I will obey the rules and laws of the state or province I am visiting.
- I will be careful when crossing roads, and always cross at a right angle to traffic.
- I will keep my machine in top shape and follow a pre-op check before each ride.
- I will wear appropriate clothing, including gloves, boots, and a helmet with a visor.
- I will let family or friends know my planned route, my destination, and my expected arrival time.
- I will treat the outdoors with respect. I will not litter or damage trees or other vegetation.
- I will respect other peoples' property and rights, and lend a hand when I see someone in need.
- I will not snowmobile where prohibited.



### WINTER RECREATION SITES

Site #	Locations	Elevation	Activities and Facilities	Remarks
1	Markleeville	5530'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	
2	Woodfords	5630'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	
3	Hope Valley Resort	6870'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	
4	Sorensen's Resort	6910'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	
5	Burnside/Picketts Junction	7065'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	Hope Valley Outdoor Center
6	Hope Valley Sno-Park	7150'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	CA Sno-Park permit required
7	Red Lake	7820'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	No trailer parking permitted
8	Carson Pass	8650'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	CA Sno-Park permit required
9	Centerville Flat	5930'	[Dining] [Phone] [Post Office] [Gas Station] [Lodging] [Parking]	

- [Dining] Dining
- [Phone] Phone
- [Post Office] Post Office
- [Gas Station] Gas Station
- [Lodging] Lodging
- [Parking] Parking
- [X-Country Skiing] X-Country Skiing
- [Restrooms] Restrooms
- [Sno-Park] Sno-Park (permit required Nov 1-May 30)
- [Snowmobiling] Snowmobiling

For a list of California Sno-Park Permit & Green (OHV) Stickers vendors please visit [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov)

### SNOWMOBILE ROUTES

Route	Locations	Mileage	Status
1	Willow Creek	8.5	Ungroomed. Ride in the road corridor the only. Route crosses Highways 88 and 89.
2	Blue Lakes Road	11.5	Groomed. Follow posted speed limit signs.
2A	Faith Valley	1	Groomed.
2B	Charity Valley	1	May be groomed.
3	Forestdale Road	3.5	Ungroomed. Ride in road corridor the only. For information on seasonal closure contact the District at (775) 882-2766
4	Tamarack Lake	1.0	Groomed.

Forestdale Road (Snowmobile Route 3) open to snowmobilers except during seasonal closure. Please contact the Carson Ranger District at 775-882-2706 for closure dates.

**LEGEND**

Scale 1:80,000

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

- Groomed Snowmobile Route
- Ungroomed Snowmobile Route, Road Corridor Only
- Snowmobilers May Cross Perpendicular to Burnside Lake Road
- Highway Not Plowed in Winter
- Highway
- Paved Road Suitable for Passenger Cars
- Gravel Road Suitable for Passenger Cars
- Dirt Road Suitable for Passenger Cars
- Road Not Maintained for Passenger Cars
- Four-Wheel-Drive Road
- Non-Motorized Use Trail
- California State Highway
- / / / / Closed to Snowmobilers & Over-snow Vehicles (OSVs)
- / / / / Closed to Snowmobilers & OSVs due to Seasonal Deer Closure
- / / / / Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- / / / / Lands Administered by Other National Forests
- / / / / National Forest Wilderness
- / / / / Bureau of Land Management
- / / / / Tribal Land
- / / / / State Land
- / / / / Other Land, Including Private
- / / / / Public lands are subject to leasing, make local inquiry before entering.
- 1 Winter Recreation Site
- IA Snowmobile Route
- + Gate
- + CA Dept. of Transportation Gate, Closed in Winter

Map revised 2010

**SIERRA AVALANCHE CENTER**  
[www.sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org)  
 Hotline: (530) 587-2158

**NOAA WEATHER**  
 (National Oceanic & Atmosphere Administration)  
[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)