

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Colville National Forest

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Paupac and Cee Cee Ah Snowmobile Routes Temporarily Closed

Newport, WA - The Colville National Forest has temporarily closed two popular groomed snowmobile routes in Pend Oreille County for the season. The Cee Cee Ah Creek Road portion of the Kings Lake groomed snowmobile route system will be closed this winter due to a large washout in the road. The Le Clerc Creek Road portion of the Paupac groomed snowmobile route system will be closed due to heavy log truck traffic.

“These two popular routes are only a portion of the many groomed snowmobile routes in the area that snowmobilers can enjoy in Pend Oreille County. I would encourage visitors to look at the other nearby groomed snowmobile route opportunities on the Washington State Parks Web site.” Said Gayne Sears, District Ranger for the Newport and Sullivan Lake Districts.

Cee Cee Ah Creek Road (Forest Road 1920000) suffered a large washout from storm damage on the upper portion of the road. The failure has resulted in an unsafe condition that narrows the road considerably and makes the remaining roadbed unstable. The normal grooming operations for the route will not be completed this year and there is a barricade 9.4 miles up the road. While the road up to the barricade will remain open for public use, it will not be groomed or plowed and areas to turn around are limited.

The Forest Service portion of the Middle Fork Le Clerc Creek Road, the Hanlon Cutoff Road, and the Forest Service portion of the East Branch Le Clerc Creek Road are closed to public access to ensure public, contractor, and employee safety.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

This Le Clerc area closures have been put into place due to extensive log truck traffic combined with narrow roads, limited pull-outs, and winter driving conditions. The closure will take effect immediately and will remain in effect until conditions are safe for public use and the closure order is terminated. The following Forest Service roads are closed to access:

- 1935000 (Middle Fork Le Clerc Creek)
- 1935115 (Hanlon Cutoff)
- 1934000 (East Brach Le Clerc Creek)

The Pend Oreille County portions of these roads will remain open to public use. Access to residents that live off these Forest Service roads will not be restricted.

For more information on these temporary closures or where to find additional groomed snowmobile opportunities, please contact either the Newport Ranger Station at (509) 447-7300, or the Sullivan Lake Ranger Station at (509) 446-7500. An additional resource is the Washington State Parks Snowmobile Sno-Parks Web site <http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/trails/?TrailType=motorized>

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