

Observe wildlife from afar!

Deer, elk, and moose work hard to survive over the winter. People who chase or harass them, even when “just trying to get a closer look,” create hardships for the weakened animals, which can die from such mistreatment. **State law prohibits the harassment of game animals on winter ranges.**

Is my trail open or closed?

Roads and trails usually available for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling may be subject to winter activities of the Ranger District and the many private landowners in the area.

Check with local information contacts for current conditions in the recreation area of your choice.

PALOUSE RANGER DISTRICT

Potlatch Ranger Station
1700 Highway 6
Potlatch, ID 83855
208-875-1131

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Supervisor's Office
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
208-476-4541 TDD 208-476-0129

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

St. Joe Ranger District
St. Maries Office
P.O. Box 407
St. Maries, ID 83861-0407
208-245-2531

IDAHO PARK 'N SKI

Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0065
208-334-4199



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R1-00-09

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Winter Recreation Guide



- Cross-country ski trails
- Snowmobile trails
- Area maps
- Winter safety tips



Clearwater National Forest

Nordic Ski Trails

Elk River

To get there: From Moscow, Idaho, travel east on State Highway 8 to Elk River (53 miles). The trail system lies directly south of town on Forest roads, meadows, and abandoned railways.

The trail system: It's 8.6 kilometers of trails rated *easy*, and 4 kilometers rated *more difficult*. Depending on snow conditions, additional trails may be available.

Restrictions: Trails are closed to motorized vehicles December 15 to April 1.

Grooming: The trails are part of the *Idaho Park 'n Ski program. Parking areas are plowed as needed, and trails are groomed weekly.



Local information contact:

Huckleberry Heaven Lodge 208-826-3405

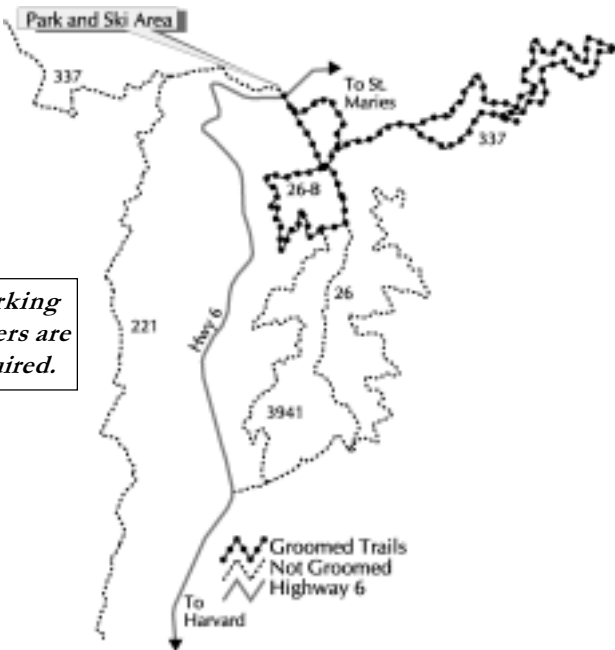
Palouse Divide

To get there: The ski area is 42 miles north of Moscow off State Highway 6. Trail heads are near the North-South Ski Bowl on the Palouse Divide.

The trail system: It's 22.8 kilometers of *easy* trails and 5.9 kilometers of *more difficult* trails.

Restrictions: The trails are closed to motorized vehicles December 1 to April 15.

Grooming: The trails are part of the *Idaho Park 'n Ski program. Parking areas are plowed as needed. Not all trails are groomed. The main access trails are groomed intermittently as snow conditions warrant.



Local information contacts:

Palouse Ranger District 208-875-1131
St. Maries Ranger District 208-245-2531

Winter Travel Guidelines

Wind, cold, snow, or whiteout can turn your outing into a tragedy. Know the area, the weather, and the route. Know the limitations of your body and your equipment.

Check out, check in: Let others know when you're leaving and when you plan to return. Ask someone to check on your whereabouts if you're late. Check in when you return.

Check the weather: Conditions can change quickly. Avalanche danger can escalate. You may need to change your plans to be safe.

Be prepared: Layer your clothing so you can adjust to match conditions. Carry emergency and winter survival gear.

Ski safely: Cross-country ski trails are not regularly packed or groomed. Stumps, rocks, and other obstructions can be present. Ski under control.

Snowmobile safely: Travel in a group with at least two machines. Avoid sudden dips, or "washouts," at stream crossings. Avoid "blowouts" around the base of trees. Have tools for emergency repairs. Drive under control.

You'll find a few areas off-limits. Hazardous roads and areas with avalanche danger are closed for your safety. Some areas are closed for the protection of game animals.

Stop by or call your nearest Forest Service office for information. You can buy a map and pick up a free travel guide which lists the where and why of travel restrictions.

Elk River Snowmobile Trails

To get there: From Moscow travel 53 miles east on State Highway 8 to Elk River. The main access trail runs north from Elk River on Elk Creek Road 382.

The trail system: It's about 50 miles of marked and groomed trails that follow existing Forest roads. Elevation ranges from 2,800 feet at Elk River to 6,000 feet at Hemlock and Elk Buttes. Weather and temperature can vary dramatically.

Grooming: Trails are groomed intermittently by the Snodrifters snowmobile club. Primary trails are marked with orange diamonds, and road junctions are signed with letters to identify specific junctions.

Trail head parking may be limited.



Note: Your snowmobile must be licensed or certified in the State of Idaho.

Local information contact:

Huckleberry Heaven Lodge 208-826-3405