

# NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



## Colville National Forest

765 South Main St., Colville, WA 99114 OR [www.fs.usda.gov/colville](http://www.fs.usda.gov/colville)

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January 24, 2013

### *Portion of Kings Lake Snowmobile Route Temporarily Closed*

**Newport, WA** - The Colville National Forest and Stimson Lumber Company have temporarily closed the popular Kings Lake groomed snowmobile route in Pend Oreille County for the remainder of the 2013 season. The Browns Lake Road (Forest Road 5030000) and the Upper Browns Lake Road (Forest Road 5080000) are part of the Kings Lake groomed snowmobile route system that allows access to the north shore of Browns Lake. The road will be closed this winter due to private commercial timber harvesting and the resulting log truck and equipment traffic on the road.

“While this closure along with the two other we have in the valley this winter will be an impact to the groomed snowmobile routes the area has to offer, there are still a number of options for snowmobiling. 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. She added “that is it unfortunate this temporary closure is necessary, but we feel the logging activities we were recently made aware of are a risk to public, contractor and employee safety.”

The two other closures in place are: Cee Cee Ah Creek Road (Forest Road 1920000) due to a large washout from storm damage; and the National Forest portions of the Middle and East Branches Le Clerc Creek Roads, and the Hanlon Cutoff Road due to winter logging operations on National Forest System lands resulting in extensive log truck traffic combined with narrow roads, limited pull-outs, and winter driving conditions.

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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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