



HIGH COUNTRY INFORMANT



Serving Happy Jack & the Blue Ridge area, Pine, Strawberry, Payson, & outlying areas including: Flagstaff, Mormon Lake, & Winslow, Arizona

NEWSLETTER

Rhena Martinez, Editor

108 E. Second St. Winslow, AZ, 86047

Subscription \$25.00/mr

Volume - 231 - April 2009

Ph. (928)289-9128/587-2664

Fax (928)289-9128

highcountrvinformant@cybertrails.com



News from the Forest Service

Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest

Edited on: January 24, 2013

Cinch Hook Pit CLOSED for the Winter



Once again the Cinch Hook Pit located at Highway 87 and Highway 260 is closed for the winter. A few years back we tried to leave the pit open for the winter, we brought in porta pots, trash bins, and put up numerous signs, this was the last time it was opened. Visitors to the area used the portable toilets for target practice and people continually used them as a garbage pit, even though there was a waste receptacle in place. The garbage dumpster was provided for the proper disposal of trash, but some public never used the dumpster, thus creating a sanitation problem that required significant time and personnel to clean up.

The parking lot at Cinch Hook Pit is very limited and there is no room for over flow when the parking area at the Pit is full. People resort to parking along and on State Highways 87 and 260, which is very dangerous and against the law. ADOT cannot effectively plow snow from the highway when vehicles are parked on the pavement and road shoulder. DPS is very concerned, with the public safety situation at Cinch Hook Pit, and has a difficult time keeping up with the bottlenecks created by parked vehicles along the highway.

The Forest Service does not have the necessary resources to permanently stage someone at the Pit to enforce the rules and regulations, and to contact the proper authorities in the event of a medical emergency. We do, however, have some of our employees there during the weekends and sometimes during the week informing people of the area closure. We have recently heard that there are some people telling the public to go ahead and use the pit, "the Forest Service will not do anything about it". Please know that this is NOT TRUE! We have issued numerous citations this winter to people who have chosen to ignore the CLOSED signs, so please be aware of this. Below is a list of some alternative snowplay sites:

- Happy Jack Lodge 928-477-2805. For a small fee they offer a hill for sledding and hot chocolate to keep warm. Public restrooms are available.
- Wing Mountain Snow Play Area, 10 miles northwest of Flagstaff off of Highway 180 on Forest Road 222B. The cost is \$12 per vehicle. This site is managed by Recreation Resource Management and services include parking, snowplowing, restrooms, and trash receptacles. For conditions call 602-923-3555 or visit <http://www.snowplayaz.com>
- Contact the Flagstaff Visitor Center at 928-774-9541 or 1-877-878-9377 or visit <http://flagstaffarizona.org>
- A snow play area is being offered in Flagstaff at Ft. Tuthill County Park, located off I-17 at Exit 337.
- Long Valley Service at Clint's Well, 928-477-2211