

Winter Recreation



Cross country skier in the Wasatch Mountains

6b. Winter Recreation

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest is using Winter Recreation Classes as a management tool to describe and map outdoor winter recreation areas. Winter Recreation (WR) is one of four mapped management direction elements used in this Revised Forest Plan, the others being Management Prescription Categories (MPC), Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and Scenery Management System (SMS). The WR system provides a way to help managers and recreation users understand where winter motorized recreation can occur; areas where Heli-skiing is allowed; and where winter motorized use is not allowed. These Winter Recreation Classes and Maps replace the winter portion of District Travel Management Plans. The system is applied in combination with other management direction such as desired future conditions, standards, guidelines, goals, and objectives to define expectations about management of a particular area of the forest.

The classes below provide a description of each of the four WR classes applied to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. These classes were applied using criteria established in Appendix B WR Process.

Winter Recreation Classes

Winter Recreation maps answer three basic questions:

1. “Where can I snowmobile?”
2. “Where is helicopter skiing allowed?”
3. “Where is winter motorized use not allowed?”

The Winter Recreation Class applies when there is an adequate depth of snow present on the ground to protect vegetative resources. When there is an inadequate depth of snow present, summer ROS maps as well as Travel Management Plans apply and use of snowmobiles is not permitted off of designated routes.

Four classes mapped for Winter Recreation are:

- 1) **Wilderness**—these areas show designated wilderness. Snowmobiling, heli-skiing, or other motorized use is not allowed.
- 2) **Non-motorized Areas** – These areas emphasize non-motorized winter recreation such as x-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc., no snowmobiles or other motorized uses are allowed.
- 3) **Motorized** – Snowmobiling is permitted in these areas and/or on designated routes. Non-motorized uses are also permitted here.
- 4) **Heli-skiing** – These areas allow heli-skiing (helicopter supported backcountry skiing), generally, there is no snowmobiling allowed in these areas unless otherwise noted. Other non-motorized uses are permitted.