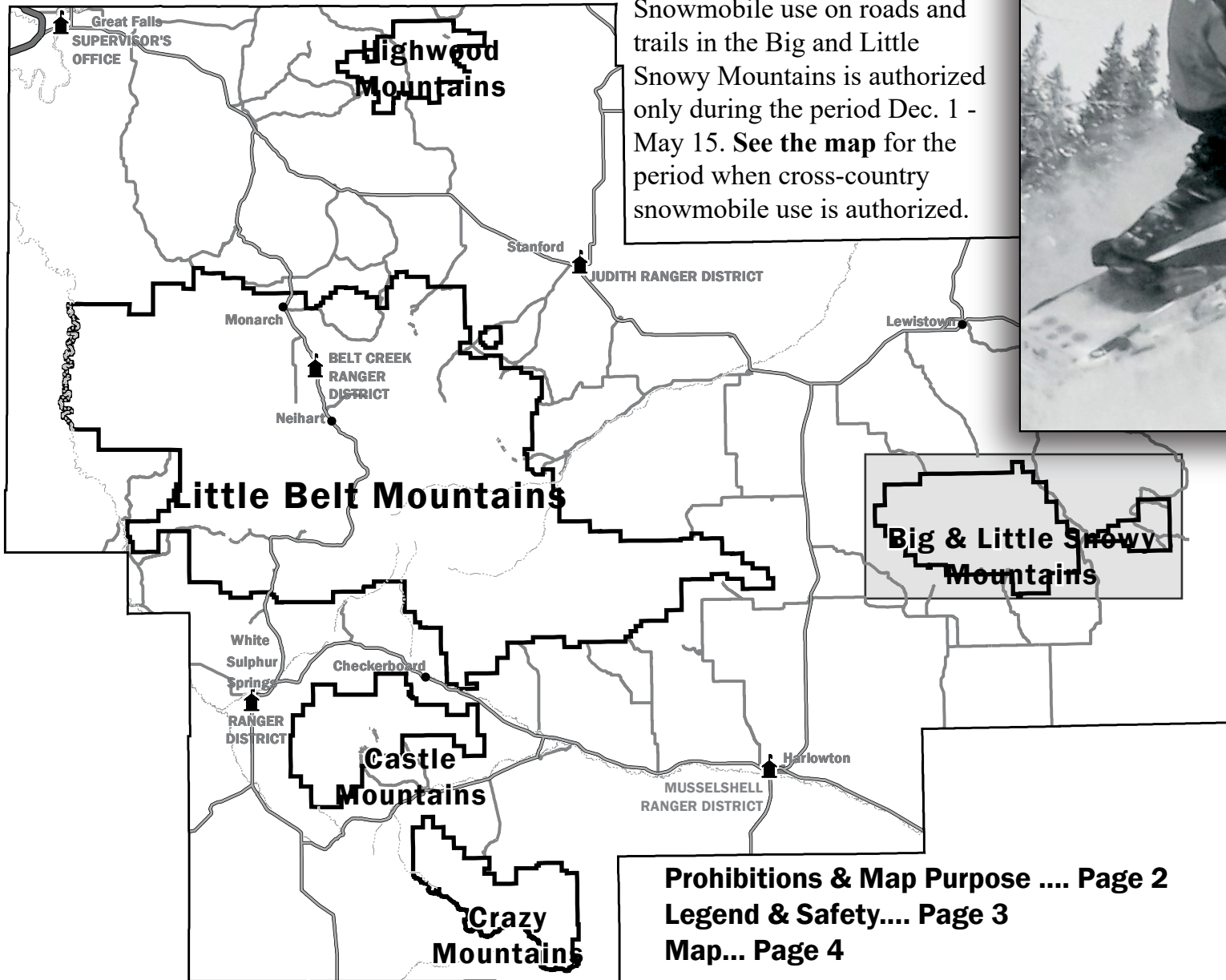


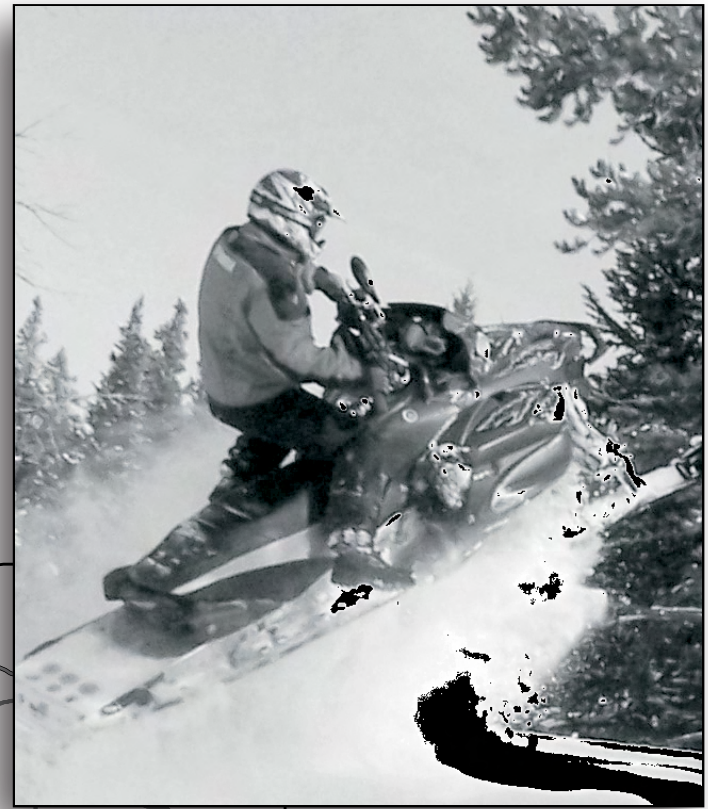


Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Big and Little Snowy Mountains Over-The-Snow Motor Vehicle Use Map

This Map Valid November 8, 2018 Until Updated.



Snowmobile use on roads and trails in the Big and Little Snowy Mountains is authorized only during the period Dec. 1 - May 15. See the map for the period when cross-country snowmobile use is authorized.



<https://www.fs.usda.gov/hlcnf/>

INFORMATION SOURCES

Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest
1220 38th Street N.
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 791-7700

Judith Ranger District **Musselshell Ranger District**
109 Central Ave. 809 2nd Street NW
Stanford, MT 59479 Harlowton, MT 59036
(406) 566-2292 (406) 632-4391

In Emergencies
Contact the local sheriff's department or call 911

Prohibitions & Map Purpose Page 2
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To report poaching, hunting or fishing violations, OHV violations, littering, theft or destruction of natural and cultural resources, and any other crimes on public land, call:

1-800-TIP-MONT

PURPOSE AND CONTENTS OF THIS MAP

This map has a limited purpose. It shows the prohibitions and open areas for use of over-snow vehicles on the Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest in the Big and Little Snowy Mountains pursuant to 36 CFR 212.81. It shows established over-snow vehicles routes as well as routes that are open to over-snow vehicles in areas closed to cross-country over-snow vehicles travel. For detailed information about summer motorized routes see the Motor Vehicle Use Map, which shows roads to access over-snow vehicles areas that are open to highway vehicles during certain seasons.

The display of winter trail information on this map, or areas where over-snow vehicles are not restricted should not be interpreted as encouraging or inviting use, or to imply that the area, trail or route is passable, actively maintained, or safe for travel. Seasonal weather conditions and natural events may render some routes and areas impassible for extended periods, even those that are groomed. Areas that do not prohibit cross-country over-snow vehicles travel may contain dangerous or impassible terrain. Dangerous winter driving conditions will prevail on all routes, including plowed roads. This map does not indicate whether a road is plowed or not. Check with the Ranger Districts for specific information on road conditions.



DEFINITIONS

Over-Snow Vehicle: – Over-Snow Vehicle. A motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow (36 CFR 212.1). (FSM 2350.05)

Cross-country Travel by Over-Snow Vehicles in designated areas is allowed:

Big Snowy Mountains: Dec. 1-May 15

Little Snowy Mountains: Dec. 1-Oct. 15

PROHIBITIONS

It is prohibited to possess or operate an over-snow vehicle on National Forest System lands in violation of restriction or prohibition established pursuant to 36 CFR 212, subpart C (36 CFR 261.14).

Violations of 36 CFR 261.14 are subject to a fine of up to \$5000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months or both (U.S.C. 3571(e)). This prohibition applies regardless of the presence or absence of signs.

Roads, trails and areas may also be subject to temporary, emergency closures, and visitors must comply with signs notifying them of such restrictions. A National Forest may issue an order to close a road, trail, or area on a temporary basis to protect the life, health, or safety of forest visitors or the natural and cultural resources in these areas. Such temporary and/or emergency closures are consistent with the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.52(b); 36 CFR 261 subpart B).

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON OVER-SNOW VEHICLE TRAVEL

Over-Snow Vehicles are only allowed to travel through areas closed to cross-country over-snow vehicle use on routes specifically designated as open to over-snow vehicles as shown on this map.

Over-Snow Vehicle travel along designated routes that go through an area closed to cross-country over-snow vehicle use is allowed within the standard width of a road right-of-way (normally 66-feet wide, unless signed otherwise) for turning around or avoiding obstructions as long as: 1) no new permanent routes are created by this activity, 2) existing vegetation is not killed or removed, and 3) no damage to soil or water resources occurs.

Avalanche Safety

What conditions are needed for an avalanche to happen?

◆ Terrain: The slope must be steeper than about 30 degrees and most often steeper than about 35 degrees. Slopes less than about 30 degrees are generally not steep enough to avalanche.

◆ Snow pack: The snow must be unstable. Mountain snowpacks are a series of layers stacked on top of one another. Some of the layers are hard and strong, some of them are soft and weak. The snowpack is unstable when a harder stronger layer sets on top of a softer weaker layer and the soft weak layer can barely support the hard strong layer above it.

◆ Trigger: A trigger provides the stress that causes the weak layer to collapse and the snowpack to avalanche. A trigger could be additional weight from more snow or it could be you.

Be Informed, Be Trained!

This information is from the Forest Service National Avalanche Center web site, which has online avalanche awareness & skills training:
<https://avalanche.org/>

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center in Bozeman offers classes and more local condition information: <http://www.mtavalanche.com/>

Low Risk Travel - Over-Snow Vehiclars

Low Risk Travel means you must Think Like An Avalanche. When you Think Like An Avalanche you base your decisions on objective data like observations and stability tests that reflect whether a slope is liable to slide. Never let your desire to ride a certain line blind you to what your gathered data and observations are telling you; don't deny reality.

- ◆ Always choose the safest possible route. Stick to low angle ridges and dense trees.
- ◆ If you must expose multiple people, stay well spread out.
- ◆ Be careful riding in creek bottoms or drainages with steep sides that could avalanche.
- ◆ Avoid stopping in or beneath avalanche paths.

While highmarking or climbing steep hills

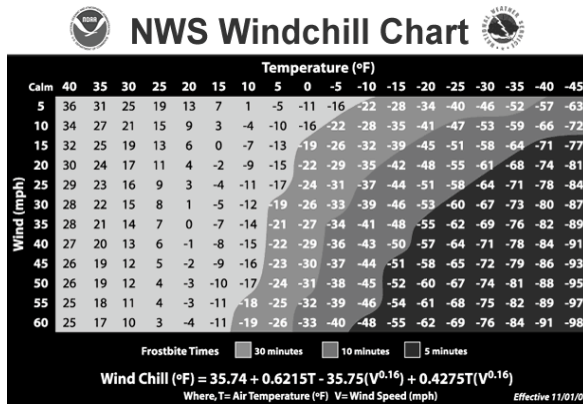
- ◆ Always highmark ONE AT A TIME. Other riders should watch the climber from a safe spot in thick trees or out of the runout zone.
- ◆ NEVER ride up a potential avalanche slope to help a rider get unstuck. Many snowmobilers have killed their partners when they were trying to help.

What are the RED FLAGS of unstable snowpack?

- ◆ Recent avalanche activity is the indisputable sign of instability. If you see recent avalanche activity the snowpack is unstable.
- ◆ Wind creates dangerous slabs; if the wind is blowing or has blown recently it has probably created dangerous wind slabs and increased the avalanche danger.
- ◆ Precipitation often increases the avalanche danger. The more snow that falls and the faster it falls the more apt it is to create dangerous conditions. And wet snow or rain falling on cold dry snow almost always causes avalanches.

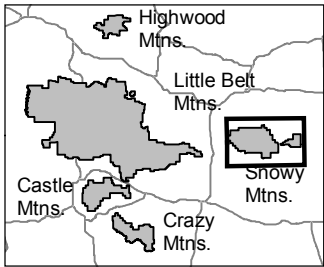
◆ Cracks in the snow surface and/or "whooping" sounds mean that a weak layer is collapsing and that the snowpack is unstable. This is a sure sign of instability; stay on low angle slopes.

◆ If the temperature is rising; watch out! Often it will be cold powder skiing in the morning and then warm up significantly in the afternoon. This rapid warming can transform fluffy powder into a dangerous slab. This newly formed slab can change stable powder conditions into unstable slab conditions in a very short time. In a settled more spring-like snowpack, if you are sinking into wet snow 6" or more, the snowpack surface is becoming saturated and wet slides could occur. Roller balls, snow snails and point releases all indicate wet unstable snow.

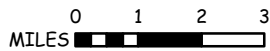


Legend

- Routes open to snowmobile as per dates shown on map.
- Area Open to Cross Country Travel as per dates shown on Page 2 and on map.
- Roads Open to Highway Vehicles - See Summer MVUM for Travel Restrictions
- Closed to Motorized Winter Travel
- Non Forest Service System Lands
- Lewis and Clark National Forest Boundary
- Other Public Roads
- Township/Range Lines
- Section Line
- Cabin Rental
- Streams
- Lakes



Use this QR code to get more geopdf maps for our Forest, or use this link:
<https://go.usa.gov/xXCsj>



+ For GPS Navigation
 Grid: 5' ticks with 30" subticks

Limited Legend
 (See page 3 for complete legend)

- Route Open to Snowmobiles Dec. - May 15
- Road open to Snowmobiles Dec. 1 - May 15 Through Areas Closed to Winter Motorized Travel
- Area Open to Cross Country Snowmobile Travel - See Map for Open Period
- Area Closed to Motorized Winter Travel
- Non Forest Service System Lands

**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest
 Over-The-Snow Motor Vehicle Use Map**
 This map is valid Nov. 8, 2018 until updated.

Big and Little Snowy Mountains

Cross-country Snowmobiling is Allowed in the Big and Little Snowy Mountains According to the Dates Shown for the Areas on this Map.

