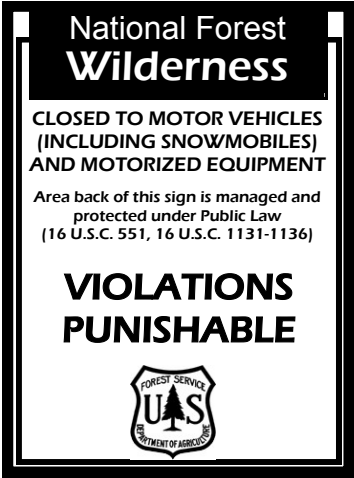


**Wilderness**

Cooke City, MT is located adjacent to the Gallatin National Forest. The snowmobile trails in the Cooke City area are surrounded by the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and by Yellowstone National Park.

***All motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, are prohibited from operating in the wilderness.*** In some areas (*but not all*) the wilderness boundary is marked by signs. **It is the rider's responsibility to know his or her location at all times.**



Trespass violations are punishable by fines up to \$5,000 or 6 months in prison. Continued entry into the wilderness area will jeopardize the Cooke City snowmobile trail grooming program.

Report wilderness trespass violations to the Gardiner Ranger Station 406-848-7375. Additional information can be found online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/>

**Montana Snowmobile Law**

**23-2-654. Snowmobiler's assumption of responsibility — duties.**

(1) A snowmobiler shall accept all legal responsibility for injury or damage of any kind to the extent that the injury or damage results from risks inherent in the sport of snowmobiling and has the duty to regulate personal conduct at all times so that injury to self or other persons or property that results from the risks inherent in the sport of snowmobiling is avoided. The risks inherent in the sport of snowmobiling include variations in terrain, surface or subsurface snow or ice conditions, cornices, avalanches, poor visibility, bare spots, rocks, trees, other forms of forest growth or debris, and plainly marked trail maintenance equipment.

(2) A snowmobiler is responsible for:

(a) knowing the range of the snowmobiler's own ability to snowmobile any slope, trail, or area and for snowmobiling within the limits of the snowmobiler's ability considering the conditions;

(b) maintaining control of speed and course at all times while snowmobiling;

(c) heeding all posted warning signs; and

(d) refraining from acting in a manner that may cause or contribute to the injury of anyone.



**Snowmobile Safety Equipment**

Safety equipment is dependent on where and how long the ride will be. A good question to ask is, "Can I get back safely with the equipment I'm taking". Remember, always be prepared for an emergency. Here are some items to consider:

- Be sure your snowmobile is in good working condition
- Map, reliable compass or GPS
- Avalanche equipment (*beacon, probe pole and shovel*)
- First aid kit
- Pocket knife (*or carry an ax or saw*)
- 50 feet of 1/4 inch nylon rope
- Extra fuel
- Waterproof matches
- One day supply of food (*or candy bars or other high energy food*)
- Flashlight/flares
- Pair of snowshoes
- Emergency shelter/space blanket
- Sun screen

**Safety Tips**

Hypothermia is the dangerous loss of body heat. To help someone suffering from hypothermia:

- Get the victim out of the cold.
- Replace wet clothes with dry and put the victim in a sleeping bag.
- Warm the victim by building a fire, using heated blankets, or filling canteens with hot water.
- Give the victim warm liquids. Never give drinks to an unconscious person and never offer alcohol.
- Try to keep the victim awake.
- Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

More info on snowmobile rules, ethics and safety can be found at <http://www.snowtana.com/msa>

**Snowmobile Registration**

Snowmobilers operating on plowed streets that are open to snowmobile traffic must have a diver's license or possess a Snowmobiler Operator's Certificate and travel with an adult. Person's may obtain a certificate by completing a snowmobile education course. Contact a Snowmobile Instructor or Fish, Wildlife & Parks for details.

All resident and non-resident snowmobiles operating on public lands in Montana must display a current Montana decal. Permits and decals are available at various Cooke City businesses.

For more information or to purchase registrations and decals online go to <http://fwp.mt.gov/parks/recreation/snowmobiling.html> or call Fish, Wildlife & Parks (406) 444-2535.

**Alcohol and Snowmobiles Don't Mix**

Drinking and riding can be fatal. Alcohol impairs coordination, vision and judgment, and slows reaction time. It also makes a person more susceptible to hypothermia. Operating a snowmobile while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is illegal. *Don't drink and ride!*

**Please respect other riders, recreationalists, wildlife and natural resources.**

**Trail Descriptions**

**Miller Trail**

This trail begins by the Cooke City School on River Road. The trail is steep with several switchbacks. Miller trail intersects Daisy trail approximately 1-1/2 miles from Cooke City.

**Daisy Trail**

This trail leaves Highway 212 approximately 1/4 mile east of Cooke City and is the shortest route to the high country. The trail ends below the saddle of Daisy Pass between Crown Butte and Chimney Rock.

**Cut-Across Trail**

This 1 mile trail connects Daisy Trail with Lulu Trail.

**Round Lake Trail**

This 2 mile trail leaves Lulu Trail and travels north towards Round Lake. The groomed trail ends near the Round Lake Cabin warming hut. Avalanche probe poles are located in this area.

**Henderson Trail**

This trail leaves Lulu Trail and travels to the base of Henderson Mountain.

**Rommel Trail**

Rommel is a 1/2 mile loop trail that connects with Lulu Trail.

**Lulu Trail**

This trail leaves Highway 212 approximately 1-3/4 miles east of Cooke City and travels the length of Fisher Creek drainage. Lulu Trail is intersected by Cut-Across, Round Lake, Henderson, and Rommel trails. The groomed trail ends at Lulu cabin. Avalanche probe poles are located at the mine 1/2 mile below Lulu Pass.

**Off-trail riding in developed recreation sites is prohibited. Stay on groomed trail.**

**Avalanche Information**

**DANGER:** Avalanches occur at any time during winter in a variety of terrain and conditions.

Always carry and know how to use avalanche rescue equipment including **beacons, probe poles and shovels**. Learn how to recognize and avoid avalanche terrain by taking an avalanche awareness course.

- Avoid steep terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high winds, which transport snow.
- Recent avalanche activity is the #1 sign that nearby slopes are unstable and should be avoided.
- Other warning signs of unstable snow are collapses or "whooping" sounds and/or cracks shooting out in front of you.
- Be careful near cornices (an overhanging mass of snow) found on ridge tops. They can break off unexpectedly and trigger avalanches.
- Only highmark or expose one rider at a time on a slope. If a person gets stuck, do not send a second sledder to help since they can trigger a slide. Watch them from a safe location.

***Stay informed!!!***  
Current avalanche information and daily advisories are available from the  
**Gallatin National Forest  
Avalanche Center  
(406) 587-6981**  
online at [www.mtavalanche.com](http://www.mtavalanche.com)  
or  
Local Cooke City businesses



**Soda Butte Trail**

This 2-1/2 mile trail follows the historic Bannock Trail east of Cooke City through the Soda Butte campground. **Off-trail riding in campgrounds is prohibited.**

**Bannock Trail**

This 3 mile trail follows a historic trail from Cooke City to Silver Gate. Travel with caution as several year-round residents live here, many with children. Moose are also spotted along the trail. This trail is designated for skiers and snowmobilers.

**Beartooth Highway**

This route travels from Cooke City to the Pilot Creek trailhead in Wyoming. Beyond Pilot Creek, the route is intermittently groomed to the Top-of-the-World area near Beartooth Pass. A permit and decal are required to ride on Wyoming trails. Permit information is available online at <http://wyotrails.state.wy.us>, or by calling 877-996-7275.

**Republic Trail**

Trail is designated for skiers and snowmobilers and begins on the Bannock Trail near Cooke City. Snowmobilers can ride 1-1/2 miles to Republic Creek.

**In Case of  
Emergency  
Dial 911**  
  
**Search & Rescue  
406-838-2244**

**Cooke City  
Winter Trail Map**



Gallatin N.F., Gardiner Ranger District  
PO Box 5  
Gardiner, MT 59030  
(406) 848-7375



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 994-4042



Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club  
PO Box 1111  
Cooke City, MT 59020  
(406) 838-2495