

SNOWMOBILING IN IDAHO



Idaho Department of
Parks and Recreation

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Protect Your Privilege

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YOUR REGISTRATION DOLLARS AT WORK

REGISTRATION

WHAT ARE THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS?

On or before November 1 of each year, the owner of each snowmobile must register the snowmobile with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (department). The department or its authorized vendor(s) will issue the owner a registration. The registration fee for residents is \$32.50 (\$62.50 for rental machines). This includes \$1.00 for snowmobile related search and rescue efforts. The owner has the opportunity to designate their registration fees to the county snowmobile program of their choosing. The department sends 85% of the registration fee to that county (up to 15% of the registration fee may be used for administrative costs). All registrations are valid from November 1 to October 31 of the following year.

Snowmobile dealers: Each snowmobile must be registered before it leaves the premises at the time of sale from any snowmobile dealer according to section 67-7103, Idaho Code.





The purchaser of a used snowmobile, which has been previously registered, must transfer the registration within 15 days of the sale. The department or its vendor(s) will prepare a new registration with the purchaser's name and address. The transfer fee is \$4.50. Applications for an Idaho title must be filed at the nearest county assessor's office.

NONRESIDENT SNOWMOBILE FEES

Idaho requires all out-of-state snowmobilers to purchase a nonresident snowmobile user certificate. The certificate costs \$32.50 and is available at any authorized snowmobile registration vendor. Nonresidents may designate their certificate to the county snowmobile program of their primary use.

WHERE CAN I GET MY REGISTRATION?

- Snowmobile dealers
- Some County Assessor's Offices
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Headquarters and Region Offices
- On-line at www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/registrationrenewals.aspx

WHAT ARE THE COUNTY SNOWMOBILE AND STATE SNOWMOBILE ACCOUNTS?

Each county with a snowmobile program is entitled to 85% of the registration fees designated for that county during the registration period. The money may only be used for county snowmobile programs. The monies are used for the maintenance and operation of snowmobile trail groomers, signing of snowmobile trails, plowing parking lots, and maintaining warming shelters. Up to 15% of the state snowmobile account generated each year may be used by the department for administrative costs, such as the cost of the sticker and mailing renewal notices.

WHAT IS THE COUNTY SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

The County Commissioners of any county with a designated snowmobile program may appoint a snowmobile committee to serve in an advisory capacity relating to the spending of monies in the county snowmobile fund. Any person selected to be on the committee must be an active snowmobiler. Contact your County Commissioners for information on your county snowmobile advisory committee.

Idaho Snowmobile registration sticker fees fund education programs, grooming programs and maintenance projects throughout the state.

Idaho snowmobilers have the opportunity to have their registrator dollars put to work in the area they recreate. Included on page 23 is the Idaho Snowmobile Program location map. Please reference this map when noting your destination choice on your registration.

For a detailed map of Idaho's snowmobile locations and designations, please visit:

www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov



TRAIL GROOMING AWARENESS

TRAIL GROOMING OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of snowmobile trail grooming is to provide smooth trails that are suitable for all levels of rider experience. This can mean many things: establishing a trail base at the beginning of the season, having to re-establish a trail after heavy snowfall and/or winds have obliterated it, or having to work a heavily moguled trail back into a smooth surface (also called “restoring” the trail).

TIPS FOR ENCOUNTERING GROOMING EQUIPMENT ON THE TRAIL

- Snowmobiles are much more maneuverable than groomers, so always yield to a groomer.
- Recognize that trail groomers may be working on the trail at any time.
- When approaching an oncoming groomer on the trail, slow down and move your snowmobile to the far right side of the trail. If the trail is narrow or winding, you may need to stop at the far outside edge of the trail to let the groomer pass.
- When overtaking a groomer from the rear, slow down and assess the situation ahead. If there is good sight distance and the trail ahead is clear of oncoming traffic, pass the groomer while operating with caution.
- If you need to stop a groomer to ask for information or assistance, understand this should be done only in an area where there is good sight distance and it is safe to stop.

TRAIL QUALITY AND TRAIL SET UP TIME

- Trail grooming requires that “set up” time be allowed for the freshly groomed trail to re-freeze. This could be up to ten hours.
- Try to avoid riding a snowmobile on freshly groomed trails for at least two hours after the groomer passes by choosing an alternate route to help improve the quality and durability of snowmobile trails.
- Never follow behind a groomer because it immediately destroys the trail.
- If you come upon a groomer and you must use that route, try to minimize impacts to the trail: slow down; try to stay off the fresh grooming if the trail is wide enough to safely do so; operate only at the outside edge of the fresh grooming; ride in single file on the fresh grooming; and do not purposely fishtail or power through the soft snow.
- Understand that aggressive riding styles can impact the quality and smoothness of the trails you ride on. So the next time you hit the brake or throttle, think about how you may have innocently contributed to destroying the trails you would really prefer to be smooth.

WHERE'S THE GROOMER?

Snowmobilers often, mistakenly, comment; “the groomers can’t be doing their job because I’ve never seen one.” If snowmobilers do not see grooming equipment on the trails, that is generally a good thing. Groomers should work at night or when snowmobile traffic is the lowest to ensure that grooming efforts are the most effective and that there is proper time for the freshly groomed trail to re-freeze and set up. Trail grooming is very expensive so every effort should be made to ensure that it will be effective and create trails that are as durable as possible.

Groomers are working to provide you with smooth and safe trails. Give them a break and please do not follow them when they are working.

IDAHO SNOWMOBILE LAWS



DEFINITIONS IC 67-7101

- “Snowmobile” means any self-propelled vehicle under one thousand (1,000) pounds unladen gross weight, designed primarily for travel on snow or ice or over natural terrain, which may be steered by tracks, skis, or runners.
- “Bona fide snowmobile program” means services or facilities as approved by the department that will benefit snowmobilers such as snowmobile trail grooming, plowing and maintaining snowmobile parking areas and facilities, and trail signing.
- “Dealer” means any person who engages in the retail sales of or rental of snowmobiles, motorbikes, or all-terrain vehicles.
- “Department” means the Idaho department of parks and recreation.

- “Designated parking area” means an area located, constructed, maintained, and signed with the approval of the land manager or owner.
- “Operator” means any person who is in physical control of a motorbike, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile.
- “Owner” means every person holding record title to a motorbike, all-terrain vehicle, or snowmobile and entitled to the use or possession thereof, other than a lien holder or other person having a security interest only.
- “Public roadway” means all portions of any highway which are controlled by an authority other than the Idaho transportation department.

WHERE SHOULD I PLACE MY REGISTRATION STICKERS ON MY SNOWMOBILE?

The backing of the sticker has directions for placing the sticker on the snowmobile. The registration stickers must be placed on the right and left side of the cowling located just below the hood and be visible and legible at all times. Placing the registration stickers in a location other than the right and left side of the cowling invalidates the registration. (Idaho Code 67-7103)





ATV | OPERATION ON GROOMED SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

The use of all-terrain vehicles on groomed snowmobile trails varies from county to county. Please contact the sheriff's office within the county you plan to recreate in for up to date ordinance information.

The use of utility type vehicles on groomed snowmobile trails is not permitted.

Idaho code specifically allows the use of All Terrain Vehicles on groomed snowmobile trails, furthermore the state law empowers the court to make this decision. There is no provision in Idaho Code to allow UTVs on groomed snowmobile trails.

- 67-7112 — Any ATV operating on a groomed snowmobile trail, must purchase a snowmobile registration sticker. No other vehicle shall operate on groomed snowmobile trails unless specifically allowed by the county.
- 67-7125 — Noise abatement 96bd at a half-meter.
- 49-666 — Helmet under age 18.
- Title 67 Recreational Activities — www3.state.id.us/idstat/TOC/67071KTOC.html
- Title 49 Motor Vehicles — www3.state.id.us/idstat/TOC/49FTOC.html

For assistance with questions concerning vehicle registrations or program related questions, contact:

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Registrations Section
5657 Warm Springs Ave., Boise, ID 83716
(208) 514-2475 — Registration Section
(208) 514-2411 — OHV Program Manager

SAFE TRAVEL



ETHICS

I daho Department of Parks and Recreation recommends the following safe riding guidelines:

For additional information on safe riding and ethics visit:

www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

- Start by taking a safety course.
- Always ride in control. Ride within your abilities and your machine's capabilities.
- When riding a groomed snowmobile trail, always stay to the right side of the trail.
- Always wear the appropriate safety gear. At a minimum, this should include a helmet, shatter resistant eye protection, long sleeves, long pants, gloves, and boots that cover the ankle.



- Only carry a passenger if your snowmobile is specifically designed to do so. Carrying passengers can alter the balance of the machine, causing a loss of control.
- A responsible adult should supervise riders under the age of 16 at all times.

- Riders should be able to straddle the machine with a slight bend to the knees while both feet are on the running boards. Riding a machine that is too big is a major cause of injuries to young riders.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Provide them with a map of your intended riding area.
- Be prepared for any emergency. Always carry a tool kit and spare parts, a first aid kit, and survival equipment when you ride. Carry plenty of extra food, water and fuel.



- Check the weather forecast before leaving home. Always check the avalanche forecast before venturing into the backcountry. Avalanche information is available from the Avalanche Forecast Center at www.avalanche.org
- Never drink alcohol and ride.
- Travel only in areas open to snowmobiling.
- Be aware of unmarked hazards or obstacles hidden beneath the snow.

- Buddy up with two or three riders as riding solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or become stranded.
- Be considerate to others.
- When stopping on the trail, pull your snowmobile as far to the right off the trail as possible.
- Ride single file, and only pass on the left when it is safe.

SNOWMOBILE CODE OF ETHICS

All riders must be good ambassadors for the sport.

Generally, that means learning to share the trails with other users, as well as learning to take proper care of the environment.



- I will be a good sports enthusiast. I recognize that people judge all snowmobile owners by my actions. I will use my influence with other snowmobile owners to promote safe snowmobile conduct.
- I will not litter trails or parking areas.
- I will not damage living trees, shrubs, or other natural features. I will go out only when there is sufficient snow so that I will not damage the land.
- I will respect other people's property and rights.
- I will lend a helping hand when I see someone in distress.





- I will make myself and my vehicle available to assist search and rescue parties.
- I will not interfere with or harass skiers, snowshoers, ice anglers or other winter sports enthusiasts. I will respect their rights to enjoy our recreation facilities.
- I will know and obey all federal, state, and local rules regulating the operation of snowmobiles in areas where I plan to ride.
- I will not harass wildlife. I will avoid areas posted for the protection of wildlife.
- I will not ride under the influence of alcohol.

SNOWMOBILING IN TOWN?

In cities that allow snowmobile operation within their city limits, be sure you know the rules. Snowmobilers need to follow ordinances to ensure the privilege to continue. For more information please contact the county in which you plan to ride.



TRIP PLANNING CHECKLIST

Planning for your ride is always an important factor in making your trip a success. Whether you're going for the afternoon, the day, or camping overnight, make sure you have everything you need, and your snowmobile is in good working condition.

- First Aid Kit
- Avalanche Survival Gear
- Snowmobiling Gear
- Survival Gear
- Snowmobile Tool Kit

For a detailed list of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreations recommended supplies, please visit our website at www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

Snowmobile safety is about more than promoting safe riding. The key to responsible operation is knowing your machine, your abilities and skill level and being aware of the dangers of the sport. Snowmobile safety is about encouraging sledders, both novice and expert, to put safety into action.

SAFETY & EDUCATION

AVALANCHE AWARENESS

Idahoa Department of Parks and Recreation offers free avalanche awareness courses for registered snowmobilers throughout the state.

Contact your Region Trails Specialist or OHV Trainers for more information.

- Boise — (208) 514-2413/514-2480
- Idaho Falls — (208) 525-7121
- Coeur d'Alene — (208) 769-1511

EIGHT STEPS TO REDUCING YOUR AVALANCHE RISK

1. **Get smart!** The smart first step is to learn from the avalanche experts. This will take a commitment of time and effort on your part. Divide the task into three parts. First, take an avalanche course. Second, check out the videos on avalanche safety. Third, do some reading.
2. **Utilize your resources.**
www.avalanche.org
 - Sawtooth National Avalanche Center
(208) 622-8027
 - Idaho Panhandle National Avalanche Center
(208) 765-7323
 - Payette National Forest Avalanche Center
(208) 634-0409





- 3. Identify avalanche terrain.** Avalanches run repeatedly year after year in the same areas — slopes called avalanche paths. Avalanches most often start on slopes of 30–45 degrees but sometimes start on slopes as shallow as 25 degrees and as steep as 50 degrees. Knowing the slope angle is “rule number one” in recognizing avalanche terrain, for once slope angles reach 30 degrees, you are in potential avalanche terrain regardless of all other factors.
- 4. Read nature’s signs.** Sometimes the snow shows clear and present danger signs of an avalanche. Some signs are a fresh avalanche, snow collapsing beneath you or creating noticeable cracks. Some weather signs that signal increasing inevitability are heavy snowfall — more than one inch per hour — or strong winds blowing snow and snow plumes off the ridges.

Keep observing and evaluating all day long. Keep asking yourself these four questions: Is the terrain capable of producing an avalanche? Could the snow slide? Is the weather contributing to instability? Is there a safer route?

5. **Test the snow.** Look for test slopes where you can dig snowpits and perform stress tests. A test slope is a small, steep slope — preferably 30 degrees or steeper — where you will not be in danger of causing an avalanche, but is close to a larger slope that you are concerned about. You can learn all about snowpits while attending Idaho Parks and Recreation's Avalanche Awareness course.

6. **Travel smart.** There are several rules of backcountry travel that will help to minimize your avalanche risk. One at a time! Only one person at a time should go onto the slope.

Avoid the center. The greatest danger on any steep slope comes when you are in the middle of it. Stay on shallow slopes. You can always travel on avalanche-free slopes up to 25 degrees.

Never ride alone.

7. **Take your pulse.** In other words, check your attitude. It can get you in trouble. Are you so goal-oriented — to climb this peak or highmark that slope — that you are willing to take unwarranted risk? Do not overlook clear and present danger signs! Do not fall into peer pressure! Are you letting haste or fatigue get you in trouble? To prevent accidents from happening, you must control the human factor in your decision-making. Know your limitations.

8. **Be ready for rescue.** There are three parts to the rescue equation that will reduce your risk: what equipment to carry, what to do if you are caught, and what to do if a friend is caught.



HIGHMARK'N SAFETY

Anything steeper than 25 degrees can avalanche, but prime time slopes are 30–45 degrees, the same slopes most of us like to play on. You don't have to be on a steep slope to make it avalanche, you just have to be connected to it.

Highmarking accounts for more than 60% of the avalanche deaths involving snowmachiners.

Tracks do not mean that a slope is safe. **TIMING IS EVERYTHING!** You can play safely on steep slopes **ONLY** when snowpack is stable.

If you like to highmark, adopting the following habits will help keep you and the members of your group alive:

Stay alert for clues to instability, even while driving to the trailhead. Ride your sled onto small cutbanks to test snow stability. Periodically **STOP** your machine, remove your helmet, walk around to get a feel for the snow, and scan the area. If the snow is unstable, you should notice one or more of the following clues:

- Recent avalanches — (don't play on similar, unreleased slopes)
- New snow or wind-loading — (may be your only clue)



- Rain (weakens snow quickly, will stabilize when refrozen)
- Whumphing noises (indicate the collapse of a buried weak layer)
- Shooting cracks — (indicate snow is ripe for fracturing)
- Hollow-sounding snow — (indicates a buried weak layer)
- Signs of rapid or intense warming — (snow will weaken quickly)



CORNICE SAFETY

Cornices are overhanging deposits of wind-drifted snow that form along the leeward side of ridgecrests and gullies. Additional new snow, wind loading, warming, or the weight of a person or sled causes cornice breaks. If you like to jump cornices, know that even if you don't break the cornice the landing shock-loads the slope (like detonating a bomb) and can trigger an avalanche.

Bottom-line: Do not approach cornices from the bottom or ride on slopes that are overhung by cornices.

When approaching any ridge, slow down, think cornice, and make sure you are riding, parking, or standing on snow that has solid ground beneath it. Many riders have been fooled by bushes because these sometimes extend through the cornice from the slope below.



RESCUE SAFETY

The best defense is to not get caught, educate yourself and the individuals you recreate with by attending a free avalanche awareness course offered by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

You do not have time to go for help. **YOU ARE THE HELP!**

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT:

1. Try to ride to the side and stay on your machine. If knocked off your sled, push away from it to reduce your chances of being injured and **FIGHT HARD** to stay on top of the moving snow by “swimming.”
2. Attempt to roll onto your back; you have a better chance of survival if buried face up.
3. As the avalanche slows, thrust some part of your body above the surface. Expand your chest and use your arm to create an airspace in front of your face.
4. Try not to panic so that you will use oxygen at a slower rate and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide entering your lungs.

IF YOU ARE A RESCUER:

Watch the victim! Establish the last seen area.

1. If you did not observe the slide, question any witnesses about the number of victims, their last seen locations, and whether or not the victims were wearing beacons.
2. Make sure it is safe to search.
3. Conduct a thorough initial search of the debris below the last seen area.
4. Leave clues (including sleds) in place; they may help establish the victim's line of travel.
5. If wearing avalanche beacons, conduct a beacon search (which you should have practiced many times before!) simultaneously with the initial search. Be sure all members of the search party have their beacons turned to receive!
6. If the victim is not located by any of these methods, systematically probe the most likely search area.
7. When you locate the victim, dig fast but carefully. Free the victim's mouth and chest of snow first. It's not over yet! Have first aid gear and be alert for airway problems, hypothermia, and injuries.

TRAVEL SMART

- Stop periodically to look for clues to instability and discuss the avalanche hazard.
- NEVER travel above a stuck rider.
- Each rider should wear a transmitting avalanche beacon and carry a probe and shovel in a small pack.
- Ride with your helmet securely strapped.
- Assumptions can kill you. Avalanches don't care what you want to do or how skilled a rider you are.

Remember that you can have fun even on unstable days by staying away from steep slopes.

IDAHO'S TRAILS & RIDING AREAS



Idaho's Trails & Riding Areas

Idaho has over 5,600 miles of snowmobile trails in 29 grooming programs located throughout the state. Millions of acres of open riding areas exist on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State and some private land. The U.S. Forest Service provides travel plan maps that identify open and closed areas, closure dates and other details that help you plan an enjoyable ride. Many county snowmobile programs also provide trail maps of the areas that are groomed. For these maps please refer to the contact information that starts on page 24 of this booklet for the area(s) that you would like to visit.

Telephone numbers of various land managing agencies are included in this booklet on page 23. Always contact the local land managing authority for current trail maps and riding information.

IDAHO'S LAND MANAGERS

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

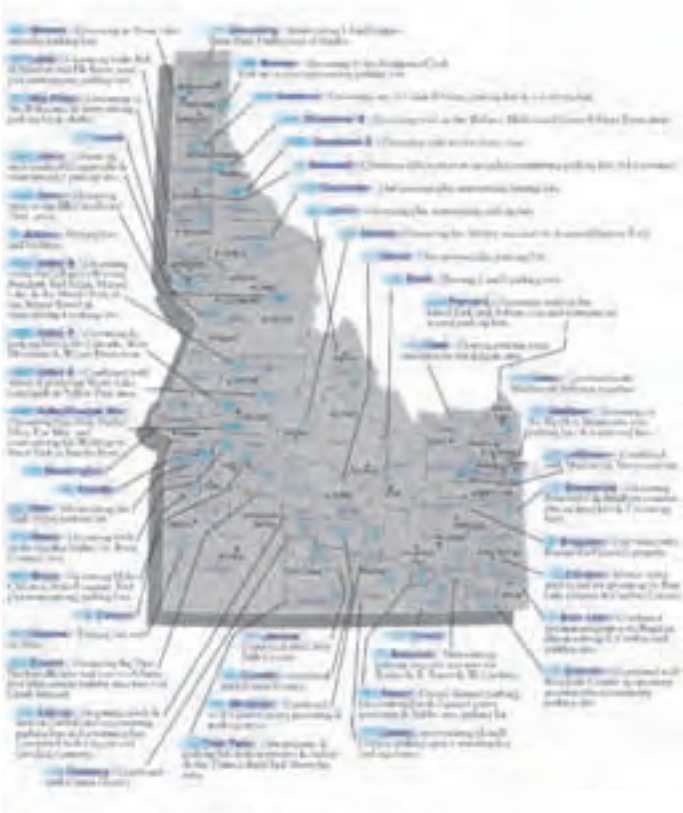
1. Idaho Panhandle National Forest
(208) 765-7223
2. Clearwater National Forest
(208) 476-4541
3. Nez Perce National Forest
(208) 938-1950
4. Payette National Forest
(208) 634-0700
5. Boise National Forest
(208) 373-4100
6. Sawtooth National Forest
(208) 737-3200
7. Salmon/Challis National Forest
(208) 756-5100
8. Caribou Targhee National Forest
(208) 524-7500

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1. Coeur d' Alene District Office
(208) 769-5000
2. Boise District Office
(208) 384-3300
3. Idaho Falls District Office
(208) 524-7500
4. Twin Falls District Office
(208) 735-2060

IDAHO DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

1. Boise
(208) 514-2413/514-2480
2. Coeur d' Alene
(208) 759-1511
3. Idaho Falls
(208) 525-7121



For a detailed map of Idaho's snowmobile locations and designations, please visit: www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov



1 PRIEST LAKE

State Designated Area: #9A

Elevation: 2,500–6,500

Prime Season:

Dec–March

Route: Idaho Highway 57

Lodging/Services Info:
(888) 774-3785

Fax: (208) 443-4160

Internet:

www.priestlake.org

Map Info: (208) 443-2512

Priest Lake boasts more than 400 miles of groomed trails that wind through heavy timber, endless windswept ridges and snow-filled bowls. North of Nordman, the Granite Pass trail system consists of four groomed trails stretching nearly 100 miles. Ten miles east of Nordman, the Old Mullan

Pass Trail offers first-rate snowmobiling opportunities. The highest peaks range from 6,000 to 7,000 feet. Snow depths can surpass ten feet in the higher elevations. Priest Lake accommodations range from luxury resorts, condominiums, rustic cabins, roadside motor inns and charming bed and breakfasts.

2 SANDPOINT and BONNERS FERRY

State Designated Area: #9B

Elevation: 2,500–7,200

Prime Season: Dec–March

Route: U.S. 95 and U.S. 2

Lodging/Services Info:
(208) 267-5922 (Bonners Ferry) or (800) 800-2106 (Sandpoint)

Fax: (208) 265-5289 (Sandpoint)

Internet: www.sandpointchamber.org

Map Info: (208) 263-5111

Located 40 miles north of Coeur d'Alene and 25 miles south of the Canadian border, the Sandpoint/Bonnors Ferry area offers more than 100 miles of marked and groomed trails. This area of breathtaking mountain peaks is Canada's gateway to Silver Country. Sandpoint and Bonnors Ferry are just hours from Spokane, WA, Cranbrook, B.C. or Libby, MT. Favorite riding areas include: Spruce Lake, Copper Ridge, Deer Creek, Canuck, Roman Nose Lakes, Apache Ridge and Dodge Peak to the southwest, and Cooks Pass to the west.

3 COEUR D'ALENE

State Designated Area: #28

Elevation: 3,000–5,000

Prime Season: Jan–March

Miles From Town: 12

Route: U.S. 95

Lodging/Services/Map Info:
(208) 664-3194

Fax: (208) 667-9338

Internet: www.fjynorthidaho.com

A tradition of timber and mining has created an extensive network of trails in the Coeur d'Alene/Kootenai County area. These trails provide snowmobilers with 350 miles of diverse riding conditions within easy access off Interstate 90. From straight high-speed "highways" to high-mountain switchbacks, there's a trail for any rider. The Coeur d'Alene system connects with the Wallace trail system and on to Haugan and St. Regis, MT, a 1,000-mile trek of unparalleled scenery, accommodations and accessibility. Closer to Coeur d'Alene at the Fernan Saddle, elevations range from 2,500 feet to more than 6,000 feet. Twelve miles east of Coeur d'Alene, the Fourth-of-July system offers 54 miles of trails for the snowmobile enthusiast. Numerous trail systems can also be found near the towns of Hayden and Hayden Lake, including the 43-mile Hayden Creek-Horse Heaven Loop. Ten miles southeast of Athol is the Bunco Trail System which takes in four groomed trails totaling 60 miles.

4 WALLACE

State Designated Area: #40

Elevation: 2,700–5,000

Prime Season: Dec–March

Full Service Towns: Wallace, Kellogg, Avery

Route: Interstate 90

Lodging/Services/Map Info:
(208) 753-7151

Fax: (208) 753-7151

Internet: www.wallaceidaho.com

Experienced snowmobilers and families love the challenge of this rustic area. Historic Wallace is Idaho's Snowmobile City, USA and features some of the finest high mountain snowmobiling in the world through its Silver Country 1,000-Mile Trail System. Historic Wallace is snowmobile-friendly and features an 'open streets' ordinance welcoming riders to access area trails from anywhere in town. Located high in the Bitterroot Mountains near the Idaho/Montana border, this beautiful 1880's Old West mining town is listed on the National Historic Register and is easily accessible via Interstate 90 from Seattle, Spokane and Missoula.

5 ST. MARIES

State Designated Area: #5

Elevation: 6,300–10,157

Prime Season: Dec–March

Full Service Towns: St. Maries

Miles From Town: 30 miles from St. Maries

Route: From St. Maries travel South on Hwy 5 to Santa, then South on Hwy 3 to Fernwood/Clarkia.

Lodging/Services Info:
St. Maries Chamber of Commerce (208) 245-3563

Fax: St. Joe's Ranger District (208) 245-6052

U.S. Forest Service (800) 245-2531

Internet: www.stmarieschamber.org/wsports.html

North Idaho has the snow and terrain to create a snowmobiler's paradise. Snowmobiling is one of the area's fastest growing sports. Because St. Maries is located in the Bitterroot Mountains, ski areas and snowmobiling opportunities are



plentiful. In winter months snowmobiling enthusiasts delight in miles of groomed trails and good snow. There are over 600 acres available just outside St. Maries for snowmobiling. Xmas Hills Recreation area is located approximately two miles east of St. Maries; it has a warming hut, restrooms and unloading docks. Potlatch Corp recreation permits are not required to ride at Xmas Hills Recreation area. In surrounding Benewah and Shoshone counties, the miles and miles of trails are endless for

snowmobiling. A history of timber and mining has left an extensive network of trails through the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

www.idahowinter.org.

Snowmobiling regulations and trail maps are available from U.S. Forest Service offices throughout the region. With the eminent success of snowmobiling projects throughout North Idaho, here's a recommendation: Make plans for your visit before the rest of the world gets here! To the south, the St. Joe/ Avery/St. Maries area is best known as the home of Idaho's St. Joe River and offers a southern access to the Silver Country 1,000 Mile Trail System.

6 AVERY

State Designated Area: #40b

Elevation: 2,700-5,000

Prime Season: Dec-March

Full Service Towns: Avery, Wallace

Lodging: www.fjynorthidaho.com

Map Info: (208) 245-4517

This once thriving railroad town is now a great place to stage your snowmobile ride. With connection to the Wallace (area 40) program to the north and the beautiful St. Joe River County to the south, Avery has many different things to offer snowmobilers. In the winter, Avery can be accessed by driving 47 miles up NFD Road #50 from St. Maries.

4 MOSCOW

State Designated Area: #29

Elevation: 2,300-6,000

Prime Season: Dec-March

Route: U.S. 95

Lodging/Services Info:

**Elk River City Call
(208) 826-3209**

Fax: (208) 882-6186

Internet: www.moscowchamber.com

Map Info: (208) 875-1131

Latah County offers 300 miles of groomed snowmobile trails spread over three areas. The largest is a 250 mile network of trails between the small towns of Bovill and Elk River. Northeast of Moscow on Moscow

Mountain, a smaller system of trails extends along the ridge, down into a loop trail and back up to a spectacular view at the mountain's summit (4,721 feet). East of the town of Harvard is a network of groomed trails with trailheads near Laird Park on Strychnine Creek and a few miles beyond at North Fork Creek.

OROFINO

State Designated Area: #18
Elevation: 3,000–6,000
Prime Season: Dec–Apr
Full Service Towns: Orofino, Pierce, Weippe
Miles from Town: 20
Route: U.S. 12, Idaho Highway 11
Lodging/Services Info:
(208) 476-4335
Fax: (208) 476-3634
Internet: www.orofino.com
Map Info: (208) 476-4541

In Clearwater County, a panoramic view of the region is found at Bald Mountain Lookout, the site of a winter survival cabin for snowmobilers. This area features more than 200 miles of groomed and several miles of ungroomed trails. Trail rides and hill climbs can be enjoyed at elevations ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 feet.

LEWISTON

State Designated Area: #35
Elevation: 3,000–5,000
Prime Season: Jan–March
Full Service Towns: Lewiston, Winchester
Miles from Town: 20
Route: U.S. 95
Lodging/Services Info:
(800) 473-3543
Fax: (208) 743-2176
Internet: www.ohwy.com/id/1/lewistcc.htm
Map Info: (208) 743-3531

Nez Perce County grooms 250 miles in the Waha Area in Nez Perce and Lewis counties. The trail system winds around Craig Mountain near Winchester and offers open and forested areas. Parking is available near Waha and Winchester.

GRANGEVILLE

State Designated Area: #25A
Elevation: 5,000–8,000
Prime Season: Nov–April
Miles From Town: 7
Route: U.S. 95, south on U.S. Forest Road 221
Lodging/Services Info:
(208) 983-0460
Fax: (208) 983-9188
Map Info: (208) 983-1950

The Grangeville area has a 150-mile groomed snowmobile trail system that begins seven miles south of Grangeville at Fish Creek Recreation Area. From there, groomed trails run south along the Old Milner Trail to the old town site of Florence and the breaks of the Salmon River. Side trips can be taken to the edge of the Gospel Hump Wilderness. The trail system to the west of Fish Creek has two groomed loops. The Goose Creek Loop provides access to High Camp, overlooking Grangeville and the Camas Prairie. The longer Service Flats Loop offers open ridges and views of the Seven Devils Mountains and the Salmon River Canyon.

ELK CITY/DIXIE

State Designated Area: #25B
Elevation: 4,000–7,000
Prime Season: Dec–March
Route: U.S. 95, Idaho Highways 13 and 14
Lodging/Services Info:
(208) 842-2383
Map Info: (208) 842-2245

Central Idaho County (Elk City, Red River, and Dixie) offers approximately 200 miles of groomed trails. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and local businesses, the Timberliners Snowmobile Club maintains these trails. A wide variety of snowmobiling is available ranging from trails in heavy timber to open snowfields. Major trailheads are available at Elk City, Newsome Creek, Trapper Creek and Dixie.

12 MCCALL

State Designated Area: #43A

Elevation: 5,000–8,000

Prime Season: Dec–April

Route: Idaho Highway 55
(Nearest parking is 3–5 miles from town)

Lodging/Services Info:
(208) 634-7631

Fax: (208) 634-7752

Internet: www.mccallchamber.org

Map Info: (208) 634-0427

This popular recreation area features some of the best snowmobiling in the state with well-groomed trails and backcountry play areas. Snowmobile trails take off from Cascade, Donnelly and McCall. The trail accesses the Lady Bug Play Area, where acres of powder await. The Railroad Pass Trail takes you into Warm Lake, Deadwood and into the town of Yellow Pine where fuel, food and lodging are available. Area byways offer access to backcountry areas such as

Goose Lake, Brundage Reservoir, Granite Lake, Little Payette Lake, Warren, Red Ridge, Burgdorf Hot Springs and Blue Bunch. Warren has food and lodging available. Parking areas west and north of McCall provide off-highway parking and easy access to trails.

13 SMITH'S FERRY/ CASCADE/WARM LAKE

State Designated Areas:
#43B, #43C, #43D

Elevation: 5,000–8,000

Prime Season: Dec–April

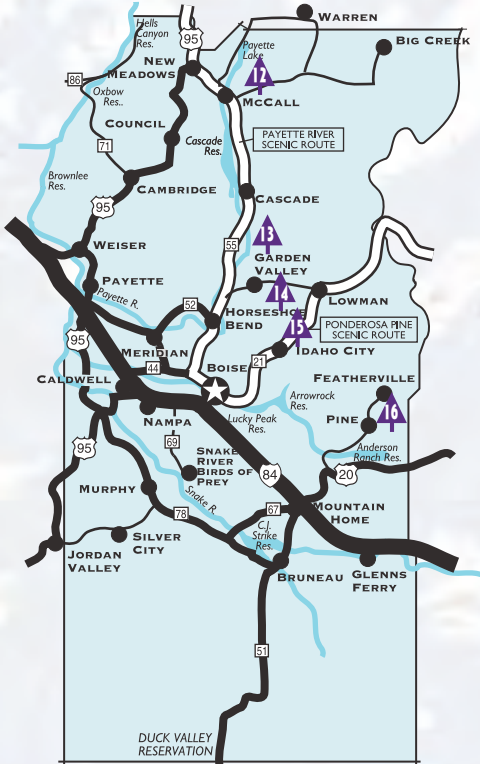
Route: Idaho Highway 55

Lodging/Services Info:
(208) 382-3833

(Call for events)

Map Info: (208) 634-0427

Sixty miles north of Boise on Highway 55, snowmobile trails take off from Smith's Ferry and 18 miles further north in Cascade. The Wellington Snow Park (near Smith's Ferry) offers 400 miles of trails, 250 of which are groomed, with access to McCall, Cascade, Ola,



Stanley, Warm Lake and Garden Valley. The Winter Wonderland Trail leaves the mountain meadows of Smith's Ferry, weaves past the towns of Cascade and Donnelly and crosses the mountains, offering spectacular scenic vistas at over 7,900 feet-before reaching McCall.



GARDEN VALLEY

State Designated Area: #8B

Elevation: 3,000–8,000

Prime Season: Dec–March

Miles from Town: 5

Route: Idaho Highway 55, turn east at Banks

Lodging/Services Info: (208) 462-5003

Fax: (208) 462-3703

Internet: www.gvchamber.org

Map Info: (208) 634-0427

The Garden Valley snowmobile trail system begins at the Terrace Lake Resort. A total of 137 miles are groomed, leading to Packer John and connecting with the trail system maintained by the Smith's Ferry grooming program. Trails are also groomed from Silver Creek Plunge to Six Mile, Boiling Springs, and Silver Creek Resort. Garden Mountain can also be reached from the trail system though the route is ungroomed.



IDAHO CITY

State Designated Area: #8A

Elevation: 3,500–8,200

Prime Season: Dec–March

Route: Idaho Highway 21

Lodging/Services Info: (208) 392-4148

Fax: (208) 392-6684

Map Info: (208) 392-6681

Located in the heart of Idaho's Gold Rush country, historic Idaho City is a starting point for more than 260 miles of groomed trails. Gentle, tree-covered mountain slopes offer a variety of riding conditions for the entire family. Idaho City's snowmobile trail system connects with the Stanley and Pine/Featherville systems. Food and lodging are located in Idaho City.



PINE AND FEATHERVILLE

State Designated Area: #20

Elevation: 4,500–9,500

Prime Season: Nov–April

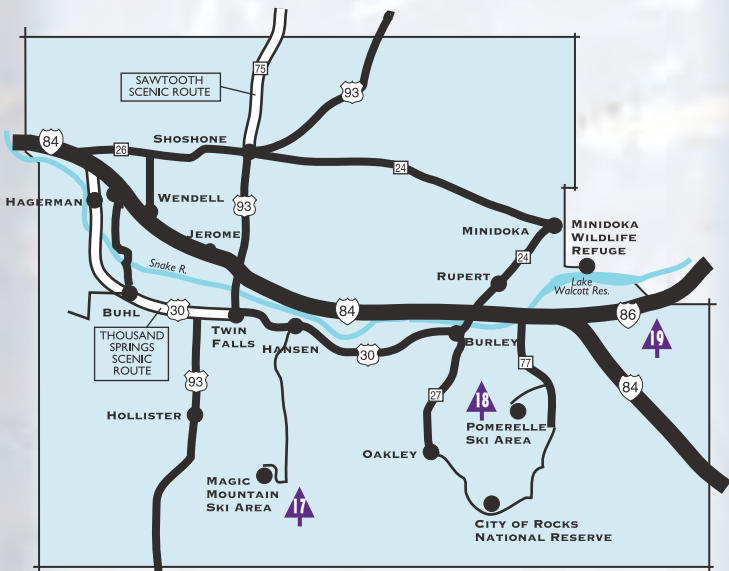
Route: U.S. 20

Lodging/Services Info: (800) 587-4464

Fax: (208) 344-6236

Map Info: (208) 587-7961

A network of groomed trails is located north of Highway 20 near Anderson Ranch Reservoir in southwest Idaho. More than 380 miles of well-marked, groomed trails offer snowmobilers nearly every kind of terrain imaginable for winter fun. The base elevation is near 4,200 feet and climbs close to 10,000 feet in the fabulous Trinity Mountains and the high-mountain prairies and rolling hills of Cat Creek. Popular paths include Trinity Lakes, Pfifer Creek, James Creek, Wagon Town Loop and Burnt Creek. Other trails lead to Featherville, Deer Creek, Prairie, Rocky Bar, Atlanta, Fall Creek, Pine and Nesters. Several locations in the Anderson Ranch Recreation Area offer lodging, food, gas and RV facilities. The Malcomson Parking Area, 14 miles west of Fairfield on Highway 20, provides a warming hut and access to more than 300-square miles of public and private land.



TWIN FALLS

State Designated Area: #42
 Elevation: 7,000–8,000
 Prime Season: Dec–March
 Miles From Town: 36
 Route: Twin Falls County Route G3
 Lodging/Services Info:
 (800) 255-8946
 Fax: (208) 733-3296
 Internet:
www.twinfallschamber.com
 Map Info: (208) 737-3200

South of Twin Falls, located in the foothills and mountains of the south rim of the Snake River Valley, lies the Diamondfield Jack Snowplay area. Easily accessible from Interstate 84 on County Route G3, the Diamondfield Jack area offers more than 200 miles of groomed and marked trails in 200-square miles of Sawtooth National Forest and BLM land. A plowed, 85-car parking lot provides access and the U.S. Forest Service maintains two warming huts and heated restrooms.

BURLEY

State Designated Area: #16
 Elevation: 6,000–10,000
 Prime Season: Dec–March
 Miles from Town: 25
 Route: U.S. 30
 Lodging/Services Info:
 (800) 333-3408
 Fax: (208) 733-9216
 Internet:
www.minicassiachamber.com
 Map Info: (208) 678-0430

Cassia County is much the same as the South Hills of Twin Falls. The area is known for its long snowmobiling season and fantastic views of the Snake River Plain. At Howell Canyon is a warming hut, heated restrooms and an 85-car parking lot. The area boasts some of the highest snowfall totals in south central Idaho. Cassia County has an extensive 120-mile groomed trail system in the Sublett Range east of Burley. The main access for the trail system is in North Heglar Canyon.

19 BEAR LAKE COUNTY

State Designated Areas: #4, #15, #21

Elevation: 6,000–8,700

Prime Season: Nov–April

Full-Service Towns: Montpelier, Preston, Soda Springs

Miles From Town: 10

Route: U.S. 89 and U.S. 30

Lodging/Services Info:
(800) 448-BEAR

Fax: (208) 945-2072

Map Info: (208) 847-0375

Straddling the Utah border in southeast Idaho, beautiful Bear Lake is accessible from Montpelier on Highway 89. In addition to a network of 350 miles of groomed trails, this area has extensive additional mileage in marked, ungroomed trails. Changes in elevation offer terrain varying from mountainous to open meadow. The St. Charles/Fish Haven Loop is one of the most popular routes. Other trails include: Paris, Mink Creek, Bloomington, Georgetown/Montpelier Loop, Crow Creek, Stump Creek, Eight-Mile Meadow Creek and Ant Canyon. A 40-mile groomed trail starts and ends at the Trail Canyon Warming Hut. Several parking areas make trails easily accessible. Snowmobile rentals, accommodations and tour packages are available throughout the Bear Lake area, with full services available in Montpelier. Services are also available in Preston, Soda Springs and several smaller communities along Highway 89.

20 BANNOCK COUNTY

State Designated Area: #3

Elevation: 5,000–8,000

Prime Season: Dec–March

Full-Service Towns: Lava Hot Springs, Pocatello

Route: U.S. 30

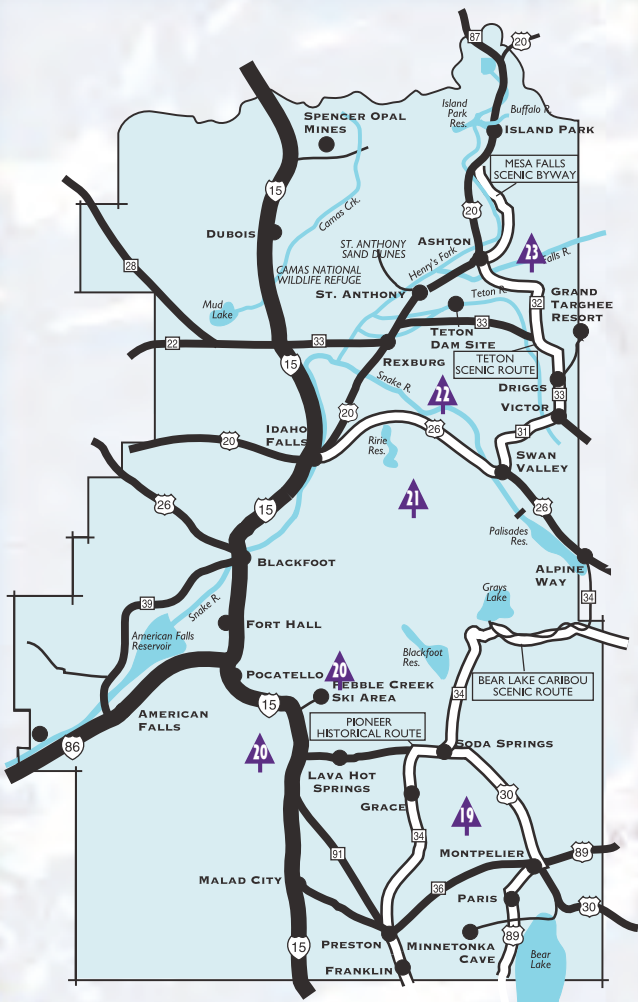
Lodging/Services Info:
(888) 201-1063

Internet:

www.pocatelloidaho.com

Map Info: (208) 236-7500

The Bannock County grooming program maintains 250 miles of snowmobile trails in Bannock, Power and Caribou counties. The two main areas with trail systems are the Scout Mountain-Mink Creek area and the Inman-Pebble-Toponce area. One warming shelter is available in each area. Parking lots are provided in both areas. After a long day, natural hot water pools welcome winter enthusiasts at Lava Hot Springs. Visitors can find local accommodations and a variety of snowmobile activities throughout the valley.



▲ BONNEVILLE and BINGHAM COUNTIES

State Designated Areas:
#10, #6

Elevation: 5,000–9,000

Prime Season:
Jan–March

Full-Service Town:
Idaho Falls

Miles From Town: 15

Route: Bone Road

Lodging/Services Info:
(800) 634-3246

Fax: (208) 523-2255

Internet:

www.yellowstoneteton.org

Map Info: (800) 634-3246

A network of 400 miles of groomed trails leads you to some of the world's finest snowmobiling playgrounds. This trail system also connects with the Bear Lake, Franklin and Caribou snowmobile trail systems. Majestic mountains, beautiful timbered areas, and open flats make this snowmobiling region one of the finest. Popular trails are Bone to Alpine, Brockman and Skyline, Wolverine and King Canyon. These wide groomed trails lead you to the great playgrounds of eastern Idaho. Three warming huts located along the trail system add to your comfort and safety.

MADISON, JEFFERSON, TETON COUNTIES

State Designated Areas:
#33, #26, #41
Elevation: 4,000–9,000
Prime Season: Dec–April
Full-Service Towns: Rexburg, Driggs
Miles From Town: 10
Route: Idaho Highway 33
Lodging/Services Info:
(208) 356-5700
Fax: (208) 356-5799
Internet: www.rexcc.com
Map Info: (208) 356-3102

Madison, Jefferson and Teton counties offer 280 miles of groomed trails and tens of thousands of acres of off-trail riding. Riders can sled between the communities of Rexburg, Teton and Driggs. Popular trails start in the west on Lyons Creek, Burn Siding and lead to Red Butte via 218, with a snowmobile slide that drops into 1,000 Springs Valley. Travel on to Green Canyon Hot Springs for lunch, gas, or soak in the pool or hot tub. Journey on to Packsaddle Basin for powder riding or hill climbing and then on to the Teton's Viewpoint and Driggs or back to Rexburg over the Roller Coasters.

ASHTON/ISLAND PARK

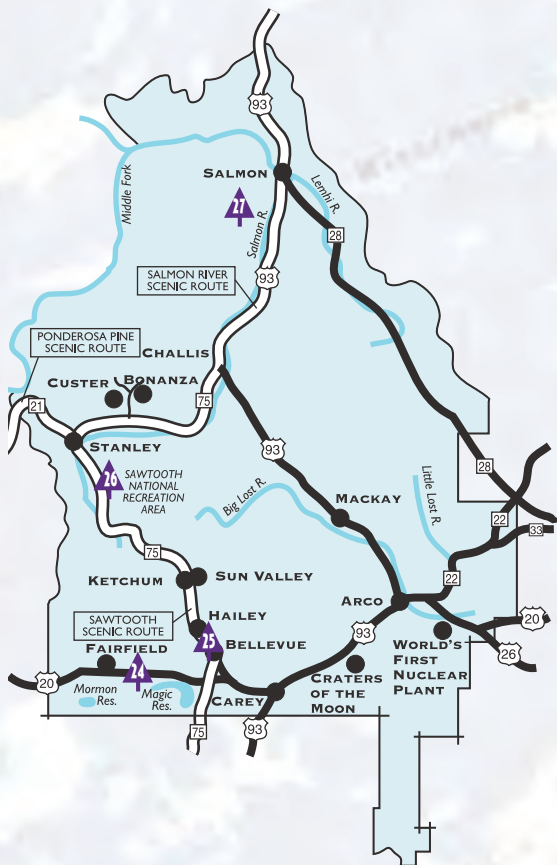
State Designated Area: #22
Elevation: 6,600–9,000
Prime Season: Dec–April
Full-Service Towns: numerous communities are located along Island Park's 32-mile "Main Street." (Full Service centers include Last Chance, Ponds Lodge, Mack's Inn and Island Park Village)
Route: U.S. 20
Lodging/Services Info:
(800) 634-3246
Map Info: (208) 624-7266

Ashton

With a view of the majestic Teton Mountains, groomed trails from Ashton provide routes to the popular Mesa Falls area, Yellowstone's Cave Falls and Grand Teton National Park. The area contains wide open powder riding across rolling hills. Snowmobilers can access 400 miles of groomed trails on private and public land through the Targhee National Forest. Trails from Mesa Falls lead north to Island Park and Yellowstone National Park. A 45-mph speed limit on groomed trails is enforced. Snowmobile rentals are available.

Island Park

Bordering Yellowstone National Park and connecting to the West Yellowstone and Continental Divide Trail systems, Island Park is Idaho's crown jewel of snowmobiling. Here, more than 500 miles of groomed trails connect with 800 more miles in West Yellowstone and Wyoming. Island Park also has thousands of miles of backcountry riding. The Island Park system is unique because it provides you with access to Yellowstone National Park through its northwest corner. Tour the park, exit the south gate and return to your motel via the Ashton area. Riders will take in breathtaking sights such as Big Springs, Mesa Falls, Mount Two-Top, South Plateau and the Centennial Range of the Rocky Mountains. Mount Jefferson and the WaHoo Chute, The Keg, Willow Creek, Lions Head and many more exciting places are options for the more experienced rider. Renowned Two-Top Mountain provides a spectacular view of Henry's Lake and Henry's Lake Flat. A 45-mph speed limit on groomed trails is enforced. Snowmobile rentals and guided tours are available.



24 FAIRFIELD

State Designated Areas: #13, #24, #32

Elevation: 5,000–9,000

Prime Season: Dec–March

Miles from Town: 10

Route: U.S. 20

Lodging/Services Info:

(208) 764-2222

or (208) 764-2506

Map Info: (208) 764-3202

The Fairfield snowmobile program grooms 220 miles of trail in Camas County and provides a snowmobile shelter north of Wells Summit. The area provides quality groomed trails and outstanding open play areas.

25 BLAINE COUNTY

State Designated Area: #7

Elevation: 5,000–10,000

Prime Season: Dec–March

Full Service Towns: Hailey, Ketchum, Sun Valley

Miles from town: 10

Route: Idaho Highway 75

Lodging/Services Info:

(800) 634-3347

Fax: (208) 726-4533

Internet: www.visitsunvalley.com

Map Info: (800) 634-3347

Blaine County is world-famous for skiing at Sun Valley, but the area offers fantastic snowmobiling as well. The Blaine County

snowmobile program grooms 120 miles of trail in the Baker Creek area north of Ketchum and the Wood River Recreation Area, three miles west of Hailey. The area also has lots of off-trail riding and spectacular scenery.

26 **STANLEY**

State Designated Area: #19
Elevation: 2,700–9,500
Prime Season: Nov–April
Full-Service Towns: Stanley, Lowman
Route: Idaho Highways 21 and 75
Lodging/Services Info: (800) 878-7950
Map Info: (208) 774-3000

Stanley and the surrounding area offers spectacular scenery and even more spectacular snowmobiling. The City of Stanley grooms more than 165 miles of trails as well as the Stanley-Lowman Trail. Here, riders find off-trail fun, some of the best scenic vistas in the West and heights up to 7,000 feet as they cruise alongside the Sawtooth Mountain range. Mountain trails, lakes and wide-open meadows offer great riding for beginners to experts. The Stanley trail system contains the northeast portion of the Highway to Heaven Trail that begins in Boise. Snowmobilers can also connect with the Boise and Valley county grooming programs. Trails are groomed weekly and sometimes more depending on the weather. Riders can play in the Sawtooth Valley up to Smiley Creek and the headwaters of the Salmon River. A warming hut can be found in Bear Valley. Towards the west, the meadows of Valley Creek provide more off-trail fun.

47 **SALMON**

State Designated Area: #30
Elevation: 5,000–10,000
Prime Season: Dec–April
Full Service Town: Salmon
Route: U.S. 93
Lodging/Services Info: (208) 756-2100
Fax: (208) 756-4840
Map Info: (208) 756-5200

Located in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains and the Continental Divide, Lemhi County's snow-laden mountains offer terrain suited to all types of rides and experiences. Two of seven groomed trails (225 miles total), provide immediate access to numerous points of interest. From Salmon, snowmobilers enjoy riding the Old Stage Coach Road to the ghost town of Leesburg, or select any of several other locations accessible from this route. Twenty miles south on Highway 28, the Warm Spring Loop offers all sorts of exhilarating conquests. A few of the most accepted excursions include miles of leisurely riding along the Continental Divide, big game sightings and dropping off into beautiful mountain meadows, lakes and some of the most pristine country anyone could hope to witness. The area has unlimited, uncongested recreational opportunities, with many areas remaining undisturbed all season long. Snow conditions range from good to excellent throughout the season.

PROTECT YOUR PRIVILEGE

Riding on public lands is a privilege, not a right. Because it is a privilege, it can be taken away if riders don't do everything they possibly can to protect it.

Responsible riders know that one way to protect their riding privilege is to respect the rights of all users. They also know that riding areas and trail systems can be closed because of the careless acts of irresponsible riders.

JOIN A CLUB

Join a snowmobile club or organization in your area and participate in their activities. Group rides provide a great way to meet new people and learn new places to ride. Another great way to make snowmobiling better is to participate in trail maintenance days where groups clean and repair designated trails. Working on a trail can be both fun and satisfying. Groups are also working to increase the number of designated trails available to snowmobiles. All of these worthwhile activities happen because of volunteers like you.

Being a member of an organized and recognized club is the best way to voice your concerns and interests in the future of off-highway recreation opportunities in Idaho.

IDAHO SNOWMOBILE ORGANIZATIONS

Idaho State Snowmobile Association —
www.idahosnowbiz.com

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Council of Snowmobile
Associations — www.snowmobilers.org

National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation
Council — www.nohvcc.org

Snowmobile Alliance of Western States —
www.snowmobile-alliance.org

Blue Ribbon Coalition —
www.sharetrails.org

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS — RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

Tread Lightly — www.treadlightly.org

