



# Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Recreation Report

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**TREAD LIGHTLY**  
ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND



Editor's Note: Recreation Reports are printed every other week.

March 29, 2016

## Signs of Spring--Changing Weather, Muddy Roads and Ticks

Spring has arrived in the lower elevation areas of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. With spring come quick changes in weather conditions, from sunny skies to torrential downpours to surprise mountain snow storms. Forest visitors need to be prepared for all types of weather conditions.

Snowmelt and recent rainfall has created muddy road conditions. Remember, mudding is not permitted anywhere on the national forest. Mudding is an illegal activity where people drive four wheel drive vehicles and other off highway vehicles through wet meadows, muddy areas and stream beds in an attempt to sling mud onto their vehicles. Mudding on roadbeds that are still soft from the spring melt leads to damage of the road surface as well as erosion. Please, do not drive on forest roads that are muddy or still snow covered, wait until they dry out and the road surface hardens.

Be on the lookout for early blooming wildflowers, especially on south facing slopes. You might see glacier lilies growing in low elevation forest areas this time of year. Arrowleaf balsamroot is starting to pop out along Highway 97A between Entiat and Chelan. Other wildflowers that should soon be visible include yellow buttercups, bluebells, spring beauty, ball head water leaf, prairie violets, and flowers in the parsley family. When out looking for wildflowers, please tread carefully and don't cause any resource damage by hiking on really muddy trails or driving on muddy roads.

When out enjoying the national forest be aware ticks are out. Reports are that there are a lot of them so be sure to check yourself, children and pets for these critters.

Many people have inquired about mushrooms growing in the national forest. So far, only a few mushroom sightings have been reported. Morel mushrooms commonly grow in late spring and early summer in burned areas the year immediately following wildfires.

Morel mushrooms usually grow in valley bottoms near the end of April but that depends upon spring weather. Soil moisture, temperature and drying winds usually determine when, how many and for how long morels will occur in burned areas. Commercial mushroom harvesting permits will go on sale on April 18.

When heading into the backcountry it is important to be prepared by carrying and using the right equipment for the conditions and planning for the unexpected. Some key equipment to currently carry into the backcountry includes cross-country skis, ice axes, ropes and crampons. Expect to encounter all types of snow conditions.

Please contact local national forest ranger stations for the most up-to-date information on roads, trails, campgrounds, mushroom permits, woodcutting permits and other early spring time conditions in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

## Other Forest Related Information

### OFFICE ADDRESSES and PHONE NUMBERS:

**Chelan Ranger District**, 428 W. Woodin Ave., Chelan, WA 98816; 509-682-4900; hours M-F 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., closed for lunch 11:30 to 12:30

**Cle Elum Ranger District**, 803 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922; 509-852-1100; hours M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

**Entiat Ranger District**, physical address 2108 Entiat Way, (P.O. Box 476), Entiat, WA 98822; 509-784-4700; hours M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Methow Valley Ranger District**, 24 West Chewuch Road, Winthrop, WA 98862; 509-996-4000; hours M-F 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Naches Ranger District**, 10237 Hwy. 12, Naches, WA 98937; 509-653-1401; hours 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed for lunch noon to 12:30 p.m.

**Okanogan Valley Office**, 1240 South Second Ave., Okanogan, WA 98840; 509-826-3275; hours M- F 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed for lunch 11 a.m. to noon

**Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters office**, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801; 509-664-9200; hours M-F 7:45-4:30

**Tonasket Ranger District**, 1 W. Winesap, Tonasket, WA 98855; 509-486-2186; hours M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed for lunch 12:30 to 1 p.m.

**Wenatchee River Ranger District**, 600 Sherbourne, Leavenworth, WA 98826; 509-548-2550; hours M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### WOODCUTTING INFORMATION:

Woodcutting permits expired on December 31, 2015. New woodcutting permits will be available in late spring 2016 once roadways have dried and travel conditions improve.

### HAZARDS FOUND IN WILDFIRE AREAS:

Following are a variety of hazards to watch out for when traveling through areas burned in wildfires.

- Snags and damaged trees—blackened dead trees or green trees burned through at the bottom—can fall at any time possibly striking people or property; they can block trails or roads, including your exit even though travel was unimpeded when you entered the area.
- Snags can make travel difficult if a lot of trees have fallen across the landscape.
- Stump holes and root channels can still be burning and often are hidden from sight until stepped upon.
- Steep slopes and loss of vegetation may cause rolling rocks and debris flows off hillsides at any time but the likelihood increases with rain and freeze-thaw events.
- Loss of vegetation increases the potential for erosion to occur with any rain event. Water runoff may cause flooding that impacts or clogs road culverts and storm drains; sediment may move downstream affecting lands a long distance from the burned areas.
- Even with minor precipitation, road culverts can become plugged with material and cause debris flows.

Some things to do to be prepared when traveling through burned areas:

- Don't loiter in the burned areas, travel quickly through burned areas to reach your favorite recreation sites outside of the burns
- Carrying a saw or axe with you is a good idea when traveling on forest roads
- Stay current on weather forecasts and avoid areas that have been severely burned
- Do not try to cross an active mud or debris flow
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return home

For more information, please call the local national forest office or go to the forest web site at

[www.fs.usda.gov/okawen](http://www.fs.usda.gov/okawen) .

## INTERAGENCY PASS PROGRAM (America the Beautiful National Parks & Federal Recreation Lands Pass):

This pass combines the benefits of existing recreation passes from five federal agencies into one comprehensive Interagency Pass called “**America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.**”

- The pass covers recreation opportunities on public lands managed by National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Forest Service.
- The pass applies to those locations that currently have entrance or standard amenity fees.
- The annual pass sells for **\$80**, the lifetime senior pass is **\$10**, and the lifetime access pass and the volunteer passes are **free**.
- Passes are valid for **one full year** from the month of purchase.
- Passes provide entrance or access to the pass holder and accompanying passengers in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle at federally operated recreation sites across the country.
- Passes cover the pass holder and three (3) accompanying adults age 16 and older at sites where per person entrance fees are charged. No entry fee for children 15 and under.
- Passes are **NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE**, and **cannot** be replaced if lost or stolen.
- This program replaces the **Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and the Golden Access Passports as well as the National Parks Pass. Existing passes will remain valid until expired, lost or stolen.**
- These passes can be used in lieu of the Northwest Forest Pass.

## RECREATION PASS PURCHASE INFORMATION:

A \$5 day use fee is required at many trailheads and day use sites across the national forest. The Northwest Forest Day Pass, Northwest Forest Annual Pass, and America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass are honored at all Forest Service-operated recreation sites where a day use fee is required. For a complete list of recreation sites where a day use fee is required, please visit <http://go.usa.gov/2YXA> or call your local ranger station.

Passes are available at **all ranger district offices** and the **forest headquarters** office in Wenatchee. The cost is \$30 for an annual pass and \$5 for a day use pass. For information about the Northwest Forest Pass call 1-800-270-7504 or to order it online go to [www.discovernw.org](http://www.discovernw.org).

- **Wenatchee area:** Northwest Forest passes are available at Arlberg Sports Inc., Hooked on Toys, Bi-Mart, and Big 5.
- **Chelan area:** Passes are available at the Chelan Ranger District office.
- **Entiat area:** Passes are available at Cooper’s General Store and at the Entiat Ranger District office.
- **Lake Wenatchee area:** Passes are available at Midway Village Grocery, Parkside Grocery and Plain Hardware.
- **Leavenworth area:** In Leavenworth passes are available at Der Sportsman, Icicle Quik Stop 76 gas station, Sleeping Lady Mountain Retreat Gift Shop, and Pioneer Market in Cashmere.
- **Cle Elum area:** Northwest Forest Pass vendors include Cle Elum Ranger Station and
  - Sportland Mini Mart Shell Station, 4402 Bullfrog Road, Cle Elum. Located 1 mile north of the Ranger Station on Hwy 903. Their phone number is 509-649-2260.
  - Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce Cle Elum Visitor Center, 312 W 1<sup>st</sup>, Cle Elum, 509-674-6880
  - Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, 609 N Main, Ellensburg, phone 509-925-2002.
  - Mountain High Sports, 105 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ellensburg, phone 509-925-4626.
  - Bi-Mart, 608 East Mountain View, Ellensburg, phone 509-925-6973.
  - Mac A Bee Gifts of the Southwest, 1401 Airport Road, Cle Elum, phone 509-674-7055.
  - Stewart Lodge LLC, 805 W 1<sup>st</sup> St Cle Elum, phone 509-674-4548
- **Methow Valley area: Passes are available at the Methow Valley Ranger Station office, 24 W. Chewuch Road in Winthrop, and**
  - Winthrop Mountain Sports, 257 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, phone 509 996-2886.
  - Methow Cycle and Sports, 19210 Hwy 20, Winthrop, phone 509 996-3645.
  - Valley Hardware/Do-It Center Hardware, 429 E. Methow Valley Hwy., Twisp, 509-997-3355.
  - Mazama Country Inn, 15 Country Road, Mazama, phone 509-996-2681 (Day passes only).
  - Goat Beard Mountain Supply, 50 Lost River Road in Mazama, 509-996-2515.
  - Do It Center Valley Hardware, 309 Highway 20 South in Twisp, 509-997-8541.

- **Naches area:** Northwest Forest passes can be purchased at the following locations.
  - Naches Ranger District office, 10237 U. S. Hwy 12, Naches, phone 509-653-1401.
  - Slim's Market, 9951 US Hwy 12, Naches.
  - Rimrock Grocery Store, 34090 U.S. Hwy 12, Naches, phone 509-672-2251.
  - Bi-Mart stores in Yakima, Sunnyside and in Ellensburg.
  - Naches Chinook Center, 10450 Hwy 12, Naches, WA 98937, 509-653-2797

**E-PASSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:** Northwest Forest passes can be purchased online. A day pass is \$5 and an annual pass is \$30. Go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/okawen/passes-permits/recreation> to purchase these permits.



## ***CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT***

Office phone number: (509) 682-4900

**OFFICE HOURS:** The Chelan Ranger District office is located at 428 West Woodin Avenue in Chelan with office hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday **with a one hour closure for lunch from 11:30 to 12:30**. The Chelan Ranger District also serves as an information center for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

**SNOW:** On Mar. 28, there was 172 inches of snow at Lyman Lake at 5,980 feet elevation.



**ECHO RIDGE:** Grooming has ended for the season and day use fees/season passes are no longer required. All trails at Echo Ridge are open for hiking and winter recreation opportunities where the snow is holding out. Lower trails are bare, but some still have approximately 10 inches of base snow. Depending on temperature, expect good spring-like skiing conditions higher up. For the final skiing and grooming report from Echo Ridge, please go to [http://www.eigenvector.com/ski/Nordic\\_Report.html](http://www.eigenvector.com/ski/Nordic_Report.html) or Lake Chelan Nordic Club at <http://www.lakechelannordic.org/>.

**LAKE LEVEL:** The level of Lake Chelan is 1,087.82 feet above sea level. For more information on the lake level, please visit the Chelan County Public Utility District website at:

<http://www.chelanpud.org/parks-and-recreation/lake-chelan-lake-levels>.

**SNOWMOBILING OPPORTUNITIES:** For current snow grooming information go to <http://parks.state.wa.us/130/Winter-Recreation>. Trails are no longer snow covered at the Chelan Ranger District Sno-Parks--Antilon Lake, Echo Valley and 25-Mile Creek--but there is still some good riding in the high country. Be sure to check avalanche conditions prior to any outing; go to [www.nwac.us](http://www.nwac.us) for current avalanche conditions.

**ROADS & SNOWMOBILING:** Seasonal road closures remain in effect that restrict motorized wheeled vehicle use on the Chelan Ranger District.

Annually, these roads are closed to four-wheeled vehicles and open to snowmobiles:

- **Grade Creek Road** (FS Road No. 8200) and **Upper Joe Creek Road** (FS Road No. 8210), are closed beyond Antilon Lake Sno-Park.
- **Washington Creek Road** (FS Road No. 8021) and **Cooper Mountain Road** (FS Road No. 8020) are closed above Echo Valley Sno-Park.
- **Slide Ridge Road** (FS Road No. 8410) and **Shady Pass Road** (FS Road No. 5900) are closed above 25 Mile Creek Sno-Park.
- **Purtteman Gulch Road** (FS Road No. 8010) is used as an ungroomed snowmobile trail and a non-motorized Nordic trail.

Conditions can change rapidly on forest roads. Please carry tire chains and extra supplies for emergencies. Remember, there is limited turn around space available on most forest roads. Always travel with plenty of fuel and check on road conditions with district offices before heading out. Four-wheel-drive and high vehicle clearance is always recommended for travel on forest roads.

**TRAILS:** Snow covers most district trails.

**CAMPING:**

Campground	Status	Elevation	General Info/Services
Antilon Lake	Accessible	2,400 feet	Accessible. Dispersed camp sites, no services.
Grouse Mountain	Snow covered	4,425 feet	Accessible. Dispersed camp sites, no services.
Handy Springs	Snow covered	6,300 feet	Snow covered. Primitive camping conditions.
Junior Point	Snow covered	6,600 feet	Snow covered. No services.
Snowberry Bowl	Accessible	2,000 feet	Accessible. Services and fees expected to resume in May.
Windy Camp	Snow covered	5,900 feet	Snow covered. Primitive camping conditions.
South Navarre	Snow covered	6,475 feet	Snow covered. Primitive camping conditions.

**DOCK PERMITS:** Dock permits are not yet required but are available for purchase at the Chelan Ranger District office. However, some docks will remain inaccessible until the lake level begins to rise for the summer. All boat-in campgrounds are open except for Lucerne and Refrigerator Harbor which are closed.

Beginning on May 1, dock permits will be available at Kelly’s Ace Hardware, Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, Reed’s Marine, Manson Parks and Recreation, Lake Chelan State Park, 25-Mile Creek State Park, and North Cascades Lodge at Stehekin.



The office phone number is (509) 852-1100.

**WINTER OFFICE HOURS ARE IN EFFECT:** Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a 45-minute closure for lunch from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

**SNOW:** Spring weather has arrived bringing rain to the low to mid elevations. Snow level is around 2,500 feet elevation in most areas, with south facing slopes being snow free as high as 3,900 in some areas. Snow is rapidly melting throughout the district. Use caution when traveling on snow. Ditch lines, streams, stumps, downed logs, and other hidden obstacles are emerging from the snow.

Streams are running higher than normal and can be much higher in the afternoon than other times of the day. A stream that is easily crossed in the early morning hours may become impassable later in the day when temperatures accelerate snow melt. Check current weather and avalanche forecasts before venturing out; go to [www.nwac.us](http://www.nwac.us) for current avalanche conditions.

**SNO-PARKS:** The winter recreation/sno-park program concludes on March 31. Grooming operations have concluded for the season on Table Mountain and Lake Kachess/Keechelus Ridge. Year-end maintenance on the snowcats will be completed and they will then go into storage until next November. Sno-park permits will continue to be required for parking until April 1, 2016. Sno-park areas will remain available into early April, however, toilets and trash receptacles will be removed. Please pack out your waste.

**SNOQUALMIE PASS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER** is now closed after another successful winter season. It will open for the summer season on May 27, 2016.

**LOGGING UPDATE:** Logging operations are underway in the Stafford Creek area. Please use caution and observe all warning signs in the area. Harvest is expected to continue into the month of May, or possibly longer, in the Stafford Creek drainage. Once complete, operations will move into the North Fork Teanaway near Beverly Creek.

**ROADS:** As of March 28, all roads remain closed to wheeled vehicles. Several low elevation roads, including Teanaway Road No. 9737, Lion Gulch Road No. 9712, Iron Creek Road No. 9714, Cougar Gulch Road No. 9718, and Taneum Road No. 3300, will be evaluated in the coming days and the lower portions will be opened if found to be snow free, dry and stable. Please protect roads by not driving on soft muddy roads. Do not drive off the road to go around snow or other winter debris as you will likely only make it a short distance further before encountering obstacles that prevent further travel. It's fun to "push the snow," but ask yourself if the damage that will cause to the road and environment is really worth it.

**TRAILS:** Folks are anxious to hit the trails on the Cle Elum Ranger District. As of March 28, all trails remain under snow and open to winter recreation activities.



***Reminder - All trails on the Cle Elum Ranger District are closed to motorized use until June 15 to prevent rutting, erosion and to protect fragile soils and water quality.***

**CABIN RENTALS:** The Cle Elum Ranger District usually offers the **Teanaway Guard Station** for public rental; unfortunately, it is closed. Flood water in November caused damage that must be repaired prior to reopening the cabin. Repairs will be made once snow melt allows access. We expect the cabin to be available for use in mid to late May 2016. For more information or to make reservations for later in the year, contact National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777 or online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## ***ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT***

The office phone number is (509) 784-4700.

**OFFICE HOURS:** 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**SNOW:** Pope Ridge remote Snotel weather station, located at 3,590 feet elevation, reported 38 inches of snow on March 28. Temperatures at Pope Ridge range between 30 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The Snotel weather station site is approximately 32 miles up Entiat River Road. Deeper snow has accumulated at higher elevations.

**SNO-PARKS:** The Entiat River and Mad River Sno-Parks are open and Porta Potties are available. The first thousand yards starting at the Mad River Sno-Park are snow free; beyond that expect to find spotty conditions. The Entiat River Sno-Park is the best option at this time.

Sno-park permits are required from December through April. Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program manages sno-parks (cleared parking areas) in close proximity to groomed and backcountry trails. Check with Washington State Parks Winter Recreation for rules, regulations and maps at <http://parks.state.wa.us>.

- Snowmobile sno-parks are open to both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation.
- Shady Pass Forest Service Road No. 5900 has been groomed from the Twenty-Five Mile Sno-Park to the Entiat River Road Sno-Park.
- Non-motorized sno-parks are only open to winter recreation sports such as cross-country skiing, dog sledding, snowshoeing, and snow play.

**SNOW GROOMING:** For updates call the Lake Wenatchee/Entiat snowmobile grooming hotline at 509-784-4633. For Lake Chelan/Entiat areas visit the Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club Facebook page or call 509-687-7669. Information is also available at the Entiat Ranger Station. *Remember, snowmobiles are not allowed on plowed roads or any roadway that is open to wheeled motor vehicles unless otherwise posted.*

**WOLVERINE AND DUNCAN FIRE AREA CLOSURES TEMPORARILY LIFTED:** Duncan Fire closure and Wolverine Fire closure areas on the Entiat Ranger District have been temporarily lifted to allow for winter recreation opportunities. When there is snow on the ground the risk of debris flows and flooding is reduced. Forest users are advised to check the latest conditions as warm winter storms can cause rapid melt-off and high water events. Later this spring, Forest Service personnel will reassess both closure areas and look at possibilities where they can be reduced to allow more public access in areas where threats to human safety have decreased.

**ROADS:** Winter road conditions still exist. Four-wheel-drive and high vehicle clearance are always recommended for travel on forest roads. If roads are muddy and snowy and your vehicle is damaging the road surface, please turn around to prevent further road damage. Remember, there is limited turn around space available on most forest roads.

Road and trail conditions can change quickly so check for current conditions and closures before you go. The best way to be prepared is to think ahead about what you would do in a potential emergency situation and have proper equipment and supplies with you. Closed roads include main groomed snowmobile routes and do not reflect all roads and spurs that are closed.

Road Name	Road #	Status
Entiat River Road	5100	From Entiat River Sno-Park (at mile marker 25) on up valley--open only for motorized and non-motorized winter recreation. The <b>seasonal road closure</b> is now in effect which restricts motorized wheeled vehicle use, including UTVs and side-by-sides with tracks, on the Entiat Ranger District. Closed roads include the main groomed snowmobile routes and do not reflect all roads and spur roads that are closed.
Mills Canyon/ Entiat Ridge	5200	<b>Seasonal road closure</b> is in effect which restricts motorized wheeled vehicle use, including UTVs and side-by-sides with tracks, on the Entiat Ranger District. Closed roads include main groomed snowmobile routes and do not reflect all roads and spur roads that are closed.
Forest Service Road/ Dinkelman	5210	
Preston Creek	5501	Open, expect to encounter winter conditions.
Tommy Creek	5605	<b>Seasonal road closure</b> is in effect which restricts motorized wheeled vehicle use, including UTVs and side-by-sides with tracks, on the Entiat Ranger District. Closed roads include main groomed snowmobile routes and do not reflect all roads and spur roads that are closed
North Fork Road	5606	
Tyee	5700	Open, expect to encounter winter conditions.
Tillicum Creek	5800	<b>Seasonal road closure</b> is in effect which restricts motorized wheeled vehicle use, including UTVs and side-by-sides with tracks, on the Entiat Ranger District. Closed roads include main groomed snowmobile routes and do not reflect all roads and spur roads that are closed.
Forest Service Road/ Moe Ridge	5801	
Forest Service Road Tillicum Creek Ridge	5808	
Shady Pass & Big Hill	5900 & 112	

**CAMPGROUNDS:** Expect to encounter snow at all district campgrounds. Pine Flats, Fox Creek, Lake Creek, and Silver Falls campgrounds are gated closed, no amenities are available. Call the Entiat Ranger Station for further information.



Campground	Location	Status
Pine Flats	14 miles from Highway 97A, Mad River Road	<b>Closed</b> for the season with no fees. Walk in/walk out access is permitted. No water or garbage services are provided. Campers need to pack out all their garbage. Please use "Leave No Trace" camping techniques.
Fox Creek	27 miles from Highway 97A, Entiat River Road	
Lake Creek	28 miles from Highway 97A, Entiat River Road	
Silver Falls	30 miles from Highway 97A, Entiat River Road	
North Fork	33 miles from Highway 97A, Entiat River Road	<b>Closed</b> due to public safety concerns resulting from the Duncan & Wolverine fires.
Spruce Grove	34 miles from Highway 97A, Entiat River Road	
Three Creek	36 miles from Highway 97A, Entiat River Road	
Cottonwood	38 miles from Highway 97A, Entiat River Road	<b>Closed</b> due to public safety concerns resulting from the Duncan & Wolverine fires. Cottonwood Cabin is <b>not</b> available for reservation rental.

**TRAILS:** Forest visitors will encounter snow and winter conditions on all forest trails. Good resources to check for recent postings and conditions from fellow hikers are [www.NWHikers.net](http://www.NWHikers.net) [www.WTA.org](http://www.WTA.org) and [www.Cascadeclimbers.com](http://www.Cascadeclimbers.com) .

## **METHOW VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT**

The office phone number is **(509) 996-4003**.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**WEATHER:** A local weather forecast is available at <http://go.usa.gov/f4y> .

**SNOW:** On March 28, there was 124 inches of snow at Hart's Pass, at 6,500 feet. Winthrop, at 1,801 feet elevation, had 0 inches, Rainy Pass at 4,800 feet had 108 inches of snow, Washington Pass, at 5500 feet elevation, had 125 inches, and Mazama, at 2,170 feet elevation, had 16 inches of snow.

**SKIING:** Some cross-country ski trails are still being groomed for skiing. For Methow Trail conditions for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and trails open to fat bikes go online to <http://www.methowtrails.org/winter-trails>.

The Loup-Loup Ski Bowl is now closed. Some Loup Loup Nordic trails were last groomed on March 18. The South Summit Sno-Park cross-country trail system is open.

**SNOWMOBILING:** For current online snowmobile trail grooming schedule information go to <http://mountaintrailsgrooming.blogspot.com/p/schedule.html> .

**NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY 20:** Due to avalanche danger, North Cascades Highway remains closed from milepost 134 near Diablo to milepost 178 near Early Winters. Seasonal snow removal began on March 21 and usually takes about six weeks to reopen the highway.

**ROADS:** District roads not listed below are not plowed and are blocked by winter snow accumulation.

For the most current trail information go online to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/alerts-notices/?cid=stelprd3820244> .

Road Name and Number	Conditions	Updated
Hart's Pass Road 5400	<b>Closed to wheeled vehicles</b> Dec. 1 to April 1. Open to snowmobiles.	3/25/16
McFarland Creek Road 1020-200	Snow covered.	3/25/16
Finley Mountain 1590-300	This is a snowmobile route through a closed area. The road is <b>CLOSED to wheeled</b> motorized travel from Dec. 1 through April 1.	3/25/16
Finley Canyon 1590-370	Road access is blocked by winter snow accumulation.	3/25/16
Black Canyon 4010	<b>CLOSED for the winter to all vehicles, including snowmobiles</b> , due to a road wash-out. The road will reopen when repaired.	3/25/16
Black Canyon 4010-050	<b>CLOSED to all vehicles, including snowmobiles for the winter</b> due to a road wash-out. The road will reopen when repaired.	3/25/16
Black Canyon 4010-100	<b>CLOSED to all vehicles, including snowmobiles for the winter</b> due to a road wash-out. The road will reopen when repaired.	3/25/16
Yockey Creek 4150-200	This is a snowmobile route through a closed area. The road is <b>CLOSED to wheeled</b> motorized travel from Dec. 1 through April 1.	3/25/16
North Summit 42	The road is a groomed snowmobile route Dec. 1 through April 1, and is closed to motorized wheeled vehicles. The road is <b>CLOSED to all methods of travel</b> from Buck Pass in the southeast quarter of section 17, T35N, R24E, to the junction with Road 4200-300 in T35N, R24E, sec. 22.	3/25/16
Starvation Mountain 4235	The road is a groomed snowmobile route Dec. 1 through April 1, and is closed to motorized wheeled vehicles.	3/25/16
Beaver Mountain 4235-100	Access blocked by winter snow accumulation.	3/25/16
West Fork Buttermilk 4300-550	<b>CLOSED</b> --The bridge is condemned and unsafe. The road is damaged near the bridge from a 2011 washout. The road is snow covered.	3/25/16
West Fork Buttermilk 4300-560	<b>CLOSED</b> --The bridge is condemned and unsafe. The access road is damaged near the bridge from a 2011 washout. The road is snow covered.	3/25/16
South Fork Gold Creek 4330	<b>CLOSED to wheeled vehicles.</b> The road is groomed and open to snowmobiles Dec. 1 to April 1.	3/25/16
South Fork Gold Creek 4330-600	<b>CLOSED to wheeled vehicles.</b> The road is groomed and open to snowmobiles Dec. 1 to April 1.	3/25/16
North Fork Gold Creek 4340	<b>CLOSED to wheeled vehicles.</b> The road is groomed and open to snowmobiles Dec. 1 to April 1.	3/25/16
Middle Fork Gold Creek 4340-100	Closed by winter snow accumulation.	3/25/16
Foggy Dew 4340-200	Closed to motorized wheeled vehicles and snowmobiles, Oct. 1 through April 1 for deer winter range.	3/25/16
Crater Creek 4340-300	Closed by winter snow accumulation.	3/25/16
Long Creek 5200-500	<b>CLOSED</b> – the road is washed out.	3/25/16

**WOODCUTTING:** Firewood permits expired December 31, 2015. Firewood gathering season is May 1 through December 31.

**CAMPGROUNDS & TRAILS:** Most district forest roads become groomed snowmobile routes, closed to wheeled vehicles December 1 to April 1, blocking motorized wheeled vehicle access to all campgrounds and winter snow accumulation blocks access to district forest trails. For current campground and trail information go online to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/alerts-notices/?cid=stelprdb5308308> .

## ***NACHES RANGER DISTRICT***

The office phone number is (509) 653-1401.

**OFFICE HOURS:** The Naches Ranger Station foyer is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with handouts and forest information available to the public during non-office hours. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office is closed daily for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30. No permit sales after 4 p.m.

**WOODCUTTING:** Woodcutting season will reopen on May 2, 2016; woodcutting permits will **not** be sold prior to this date.

**SNOW:** There is still patches of snow 1-2 feet deep with an ice layer on top at the lower elevation areas and snow 2-3 feet deep in the higher elevation areas.

White Pass Ski Area reported 88 inches of snow at the base on March 14, with 20 inches of new snow on March 13.

The only trail open at this time for hikers is Bear Canyon Trail, off of U.S. Highway 12, located on Washington State Department of Natural Resource land which requires a Discover Pass.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS:** The last time track was set for cross-country skiers on the North Fork Trail/FS Road No. 1207 located on White Pass/U.S. Highway 12, and on Bumping Trail/FS Road No. 1800 and Hells Crossing, both located on Chinook Pass/State Route 410 was the last week in February. Conditions have changed since then. Snowshoers using these trails are asked to step to the side of the set tracks.

Motorists can drive to the Hells Crossing Sno-Park but cannot drive pass Hells Crossing Campground area due to a road closure sign that is posted on State Route 410.

**Travel alert for motorists**—due to water over the roadway at Miners Creek at milepost 78, the seasonal closure on State Route 410 has been moved from Morse Creek at mile post 74.5 to mile post 83 near Hell's Crossing Campground.

**SNO-PARK PERMITS:** Sno-Park permit season officially ends on March 31. Sno-park permits will no longer be required after March 31.

**ROADS:** Snow grooming and berming on seasonal winter recreation routes officially ends on March 31. Visitors driving on forest roads should be on the lookout for snowmobilers on the roadway in areas where snow still exists. Driving on soft, muddy roads is still prohibited. This is for public safety and to prevent damage that occurs to roadbeds from driving on muddy roads.

U.S. Highway 12 is open to traffic, Washington State Department of Transportation crews are working adjacent to the traffic light that is directing traffic through a single lane near the repaired areas both east and west of White Pass. Drivers can expect delays at the signals.

Please check with the Washington State Department of Transportation for more up to date information on mountain pass roads. The most current updates on mountain pass conditions are available at <http://www.Wsdot.com/traffic/passes> .

**SNOWMOBILERS BE AWARE -- DAMAGED ROADS THAT REMAIN CLOSED:**

Road Name and Number	Damaged Roads that are CLOSED
<b>FS Road No. 1040</b> (Bear Creek area)	<b>Closed</b> due to road damage from a washout.
<b>Wildcat Road</b> No. 1306	<b>Closed</b> to all motorized traffic because of a 30 foot slump in the road and a large culvert that is eroded and damaged.
<b>Indian Creek Road</b> No. 1308	<b>Closed</b> due to flood waters and large debris that washed out and blocked the last portion of the road to the trailhead.
<b>Little Rattlesnake Road</b> No. 1501	The road has been decommissioned 5.1 miles from the junction of Forest Road 1500/1501 to the junction of Forest Road 1501/1503.
<b>McDaniel Road</b> No. 1502	<b>Closed</b> to all traffic due to bridge damage and a road washout.
<b>Gold Creek Road</b> No. 1703	The road has been decommissioned from milepost 2.0 to 2.1. Areas <i>below</i> the decommissioned area can be accessed via Forest Road No. 1703. Areas <i>above</i> the decommissioned area can be accessed via Forest Road No. 1705. The road is open to trail users and snowmobiles.

**TRAILS:** Due to snow accumulations, snow melt, and muddy conditions, motorized use trails are closed. Grooming for snow travel officially ends on March 31. Sno-park permits will no longer be required for the season after March 31. An official order is in place prohibiting motorized, wheeled vehicles on motorized trails through June 15. This is to prevent damage from vehicles traveling on muddy trails, as snow continues to melt late into spring.

Before leaving home, always leave a detailed written trip itinerary with a responsible family member or friend. Washington Trails Association web site ([www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)) is also an excellent site for obtaining updates on current trail conditions.

**WILDERNESS TRAILS:** The snow level has dropped to approximately 2,500 feet elevation making access to and hiking on wilderness trails difficult. Be prepared for winter conditions while visiting any area of the forest. Crow Lake Way Trail is closed until further notice due to extensive flood damage.

**CLOSED -- BOULDER CAVE, BOULDER CAVE DAY USE SITE and TRAIL:** Boulder Cave, Boulder Cave Day Use Site, and Trail No. 962 leading to Boulder Cave are closed until further notice to protect the Pacific Western Big-Eared bats that live in the cave. **People entering or using these sites will be ticketed.**

This highly beneficial species is in rapid decline due to disturbance during hibernation. The big-eared bat is extremely intolerant to human disturbance. Bats must survive the winter months on a limited supply of stored fat; any disturbance that may awaken bats will deplete this food supply resulting in their death. Humans within sight or sound of the bats create sufficient disturbance to awaken them. These bats eat a large amount of mosquitoes which is very beneficial.

Boulder Cave is home to the only known population of Pacific Western Big-Eared bats in this part of Washington State. A small population of 50 bats use Boulder Cave as a winter roosting area. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Boulder Cave bat population numbered in the thousands.

The earliest date the cave will be open to the public is May 27, 2016 depending upon weather, trail conditions and maintenance work at the site.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** All Naches Ranger District campgrounds are currently closed. They are expected to reopen mid-late May, weather depending. Soda Springs Campground is closed to all public access. Soda Springs Campground has over 70 trees that fell across campground facilities during a fall wind storm. Major damage has occurred to the shelter and campsites.

Campgrounds that accept reservations are now taking reservations for the summer season on [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Campers may reserve sites up to six months before their planned stay date.

**CAMPGROUND HOSTS NEEDED:** The Naches Ranger District is seeking campground hosts to work in local campgrounds during the 2016 camping season, usually May through September. To apply, please contact Kevin Hill at the Naches Ranger District office; his phone number is 509-653-1436 and his email is [kehill@fs.fed.us](mailto:kehill@fs.fed.us).

**GROUP RESERVATION SITES:** American Ridge Lodge and American River Guard Station group reservation sites are open year-round; there is no access by motorized vehicles to American Ridge Lodge during the winter season due to unsafe road conditions for vehicles. The other group sites have closed for the season. Reservations for group camp sites need to be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service by calling their toll free number 877-444-6777 or by going online to their web site at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

Winter recreation at American Ridge Lodge, including skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, sledding, or other recreation use is permissible only with a reservation.

Area	Group Reservation Sites	Daily Fee	Registration Fee
Chinook Pass State Route 410	American Ridge Lodge - Open	\$100	\$10
	American River Guard Station - Open	\$ 50	\$10

**TRAVEL ESSENTIALS:** Always be prepared for any kind of weather and/or road conditions. Bring extra clothes, food and water, map, compass and/or GPS, matches, fire starter, pocketknife, first aid kit, sunglasses, flashlight and extra batteries. Please have extra blankets, a shovel, flares, tire chains, basic tools, and toilet paper in your vehicle.

## **TONASKET RANGER DISTRICT**

The office phone number is **(509) 486-2186**.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a 30-minute closure for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

**SNOW:** On March 28, there was 23 inches of snow at Salmon Meadows at 4,460 feet elevation and 21 inches at Muckamuck snotel site located at 4,470 feet elevation.

**SNO- PARKS:** Sno-park information is available at <http://parks.state.wa.us> . Parking in a designated Sno-Park requires a Sno-park permit. Permits are available at the Tonasket Ranger District office. This permit is typically sold to cross-county ski and snowshoe enthusiasts. Annual Sno-Park permits are \$42 and one-day permits are \$22.

- **Highlands Nordic Sno-Park**—grooming ceased on March 16. The lower trails have been closed and bare patches are starting to show up on the upper trails. Depending on snowfall, the season will end April 1.
- **Kerr Sno-Park:** Trails have not been groomed since March 15. Depending on snowfall, the season will end April 1.
- **Peacock Meadows Sno-Park:** Trails have not been groomed since March 15. Depending on snowfall, the season will end April 1.
- **Sitzmark Ski Area:** Open to skiers and snowboarders, rental services are also available at the Ski Shop. Open Thursdays, weekends, and holidays. For more information, please visit; [www.skitheloup.com](http://www.skitheloup.com) .

**CAMPGROUNDS:** Sugarloaf Campground opened on March 28. All other district campgrounds remain closed. Those which are not gated or closed with a physical barrier can be used until snow prevents access. No amenities are provided, so remember to bring drinking water and toilet paper and pack out all garbage. Please do not park vehicles in front of the locked gates at campground entrances. Also, please be aware that area closures with a physical barrier and lock are there for your own safety, please do not break the locks or force barriers open.

The group site at Lost Lake Campground is closed until May 2016. Reservations may still be made for dates after that time. This site is generally booked far in advance. Please make your reservations early. Go online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777 to reserve the Lost Lake group campsite. All other campsites on the Tonasket District are available on a first-come, first-serve basis with no reservation needed.

**AREA CLOSURES:** Two area closures are in effect due to hazards resulting from the North Star Fire and the Okanogan Complex Fires. Road closures, trail closures and campgrounds are affected; go to the forest interactive closure map at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/okawen/alerts-notice/?aid=30418> for closure locations. Please call 509-486-2186 for more information or please visit our website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/okawen/home> .

**ROADS:** Use caution when traveling on narrow forest roads. Most forest roads are still snow covered. Annual road closures went into effect on December 1, please call the Tonasket Ranger District office for additional information or visit Washington State Department of Transportation's website [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov).

Be sure to look at the free Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan Map for more information (available at national forest offices or online at <http://go.usa.gov/64Kk> ). Some closures are year round and this Travel Plan can help you know where you can go.

Road Number and Name	Condition
3200 Bonaparte Lake to Beaver Lake	Closed
3200-050 Strawberry Mountain	Closed
3230 Henderson Creek/Mill Creek	Closed
3235 Phoebe Mountain (Burge Mtn.)	Closed
3300 Meyers Creek and 3300-100 Spur Mountain Road to Lost Lake	Closed
34 Four Corners to Chesaw	Closed
30 Aeneas/Crawfish	Closed to motorized wheeled vehicle use, open to snowmobiles. Expect snowy conditions.
3000	Expect to encounter logging truck traffic; please drive slowly.
3000-200 Aeneas Valley to Tunk Mtn.	Closed. It skirts an area closure due to the Tunk Fire.
3000-285	Closed for logging
3000-290	Closed for logging
3000-100 Dugout Mountain Road	Closed, an area closure is in effect
3115-100 West Fork Sanpoil Road	Closed coming off of the end of Aeneas Valley Road to the Colville Indian Reservation on the east side of the ranger district.
3120 Coco Mt Road	Closed
3125 Gardner Creek Road	Closed
3575-120 Cow Camp Road	Closed
37 Middle Salmon-Boulder Creek to 3700 West Fork	Closed
3800 North Fork Salmon Creek	Closed
3800-025 Ray Road/Muckamuck	Closed
3810	Closed
3820 Lone Frank Pass	Closed
39 Toats Coulee to Long Swamp	Closed
3900-100 14 Mile	Closed
3900-500 Iron Gate	Closed
4200 southwest of Conconully	Closed. This road is normally used for snowmobiling activities in the winter but this year it will not be accessible due to hazards from last summer's fires.

**WOODCUTTING PERMITS:** The district firewood cutting program is currently under review.

Firewood permits will not be available before April 1, 2016. More information will be provided as it is received.

**TRAILS:** Whistler Canyon Trail and Schalow Mountain Trail No. 361 are now open. Snow continues to cover all district trails. With predicted sunshine and warmer weather, we anticipate more trails will be ready to open by mid-April. A portion of the Pacific Northwest Trail No. 340 is closed until further notice due to Newby Lake Fire damage. This trail is in the extreme northeast corner of the Pasayten Wilderness. Please call 509-486-2186 for more information. Go to the forest website at <http://go.usa.gov/8fKA> for a complete list of trails and directions.

# WENATCHEE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

The office phone number is (509) 548-2550.

**WINTER OFFICE HOURS:** 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**NO THROUGH ACCESS ALLOWED AT LEAVENWORTH COMPOUND:** There is no public access through the ranger station compound, all gates are locked because of safety issues and vandalism.

**SNOW:** Snow is melting at lower elevations. On March 28, the Lake Wenatchee area had 8 inches of snow on the ground at 1,900 feet elevation, and 74 inches of snow at Trinity, at elevation 3,000 feet. Grooming on the snowmobile trails will ends April 1, but snowmobile opportunities can still be found at higher elevations. Please remember most forest roads are still snow covered and as they melt out become soft, muddy and easily damaged. Please tread lightly and avoid traveling on muddy and snow covered roads to help prevent long term damage to the road surface.

**WEATHER:** Go to [www.NOAA.gov](http://www.NOAA.gov) for current weather conditions; use zip code **98826** for conditions in the Leavenworth and Lake Wenatchee areas. Remember, weather conditions change rapidly. For the latest avalanche conditions go to the Northwest Avalanche Center website at [www.NWAC.us](http://www.NWAC.us) . Remember to use safe travel practices and carry proper rescue gear when traveling in avalanche terrain.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** All campgrounds in the Icicle drainage, Little Wenatchee River and White River areas, plus most campgrounds in the Chiwawa River area, are closed until May. Although these campgrounds are closed, visitors are still able to camp in the campgrounds but no services are provided. Remember to bring drinking water, toilet paper and pack out all garbage.

- Please do not park vehicles in front of locked gates at campground entrances.
- Check road conditions before traveling, some roads leading to these sites suffered storm damage.

Campground Name	Status
<b>Tumwater</b>	CLOSED indefinitely due to flood hazard potential. No camping permitted.
<b>Nason Creek</b>	CLOSED for the season, no camping permitted.
<b>Goose Creek</b>	CLOSED for the season, no camping permitted.
<b>Meadow Creek</b>	CLOSED for the season, no camping permitted.
<b>Grouse Creek Group Camp</b>	CLOSED for the season, no camping permitted.

**CAMPGROUND RESERVATION SITES:** To reserve one of the large group sites at Eightmile, Bridge Creek, Tumwater, and Grouse Creek Campgrounds, or campsites at Eightmile Campground, please call the National Reservation line at 1-877-444-6777 or via the Internet at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) . Reservations may be made up to one year in advance but cannot be made less than seven days from the stay date.



**TRAILS & ROADS:** It is still winter in the high country. Forest visitors will encounter snow and winter conditions on all forest trails and roads. Good resources to check for recent postings and conditions from fellow hikers are [www.NWHikers.net](http://www.NWHikers.net) , [www.WTA.org](http://www.WTA.org) and [www.Cascadeclimbers.com](http://www.Cascadeclimbers.com) .

The gate on the road at Bridge Creek, which leads to the Eightmile and Colchuck/Stuart Lake trailheads, is locked for the spring and will remain locked until the snow has melted and conditions are good enough to allow motor vehicle use without causing damage to the road. Be prepared to hike 3.5 miles to the trailhead until further notice.

Trail Name	Trail No.	Status
Rock Mountain	1587	Expect winter conditions
Ingalls Creek	1215	Expect winter conditions
Mission Ridge	1201	Open from the Devils Gulch side
Little Wenatchee	1525	Little Wenatchee Road No. 6500 is gated closed at the quarry
Nason Ridge	1583	Expect winter conditions
Heather Lake	1526	Little Wenatchee Road No. 6500 is gated closed
Top Lake	1506	Closed
Minotaur Lake	1517	Closed
Chiwaukum	1571	Open, no dispersed camping in the trailhead area
Fourth of July	1579	Expect winter conditions
Hatchery Creek	1557	Closed due to safety concerns resulting from the 2014 Chiwaukum Fire
Phelps Creek	1511	Closed
Eightmile	1552	Eightmile Road No. 7601 is gated closed
Stuart & Colchuck	1599/1599A	Eightmile Road No. 7601 is gated closed
Snow Lakes	1553	Expect winter conditions

Road Name	Road No.	Status
Beehive	9712	The gate is locked
Tronson Meadow	7240	The gate is locked
Icicle	7600	There is snow on the roadway. The road is closed to wheeled traffic at Bridge Creek junction.
Chiwawa	6200	Snow on the roadway, conditions unknown
Little Wenatchee	6500	The gate at the quarry is locked
White River	6400	The road is closed by snow beyond Tall Timbers

**Note: Please do not park vehicles in front of any gates whether they are open or closed!**

**ENCHANTMENT PERMITS: NEW!** To protect the Enchantments area from overuse, the Wenatchee River Ranger District has expanded its limited entry overnight permit season for the entire Enchantment Permit Area within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Permits for overnight stays will be required from **May 15 through October 31**.

The 2016 Enchantments lottery online application period has ended. Remember to log back on to [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov) by **March 31** to see if you are a winner and to pay for your permit; do not forget to indicate your alternate group leaders and exit date. **This will be your only opportunity to list your alternate group leaders. The second chance to claim any unclaimed lottery permits online is April 1 at 7 a.m.**

Four parking passes are provided with each awarded overnight permit. Wilderness party size is limited to eight and no overnight camping in excess of 14 days is allowed.

***For more information please go to the [Enchantments Permits webpage](#).***

Wilderness self-registration day hiking permits are still required and available at Alpine Lakes Wilderness trailheads. A Northwest Forest Pass for your vehicle is required at trailheads accessing the Enchantments; these passes are available at Enchantment trailheads, at many businesses in Leavenworth, and at the Wenatchee River Ranger Station. ***Be prepared for all types of weather conditions.***

**RECREATION PASSES** are required at the following trailheads on the Wenatchee River Ranger District.

This list includes only the trailhead names and does not show each individual trail.

Basalt Ridge	Hidden Lake	Red Hill
Buck Creek (Trinity)	Ingalls Creek	Rock Creek
Blackpine	Icicle Creek	Round Mountain
Chiwaukum Creek	Icicle Gorge	Snow Lakes
Devil's Gulch (Lower)	Jack/Trout	Stuart Lake
Dirtyface	Little Wenatchee	Twin Lakes
Eightmile	Lower Chiwawa	White River
Estes Butte	Nason Ridge	

Recreation day use passes cost \$5 per vehicle per day or \$30 for an annual **Northwest Forest Pass**.

Passes are available locally at the Wenatchee River Ranger District office, Dan's Market, Leavenworth 76 gas stations on Highway 2 and at Icicle Junction, Der Sportsman, Sleeping Lady Gift Shop, and Pioneer Market in Cashmere. In the Lake Wenatchee area, passes are available at Midway Village, Parkside Grocery and Plain Hardware. **Interagency Passes** are also honored at trailheads and are available for purchase at the ranger district office.

