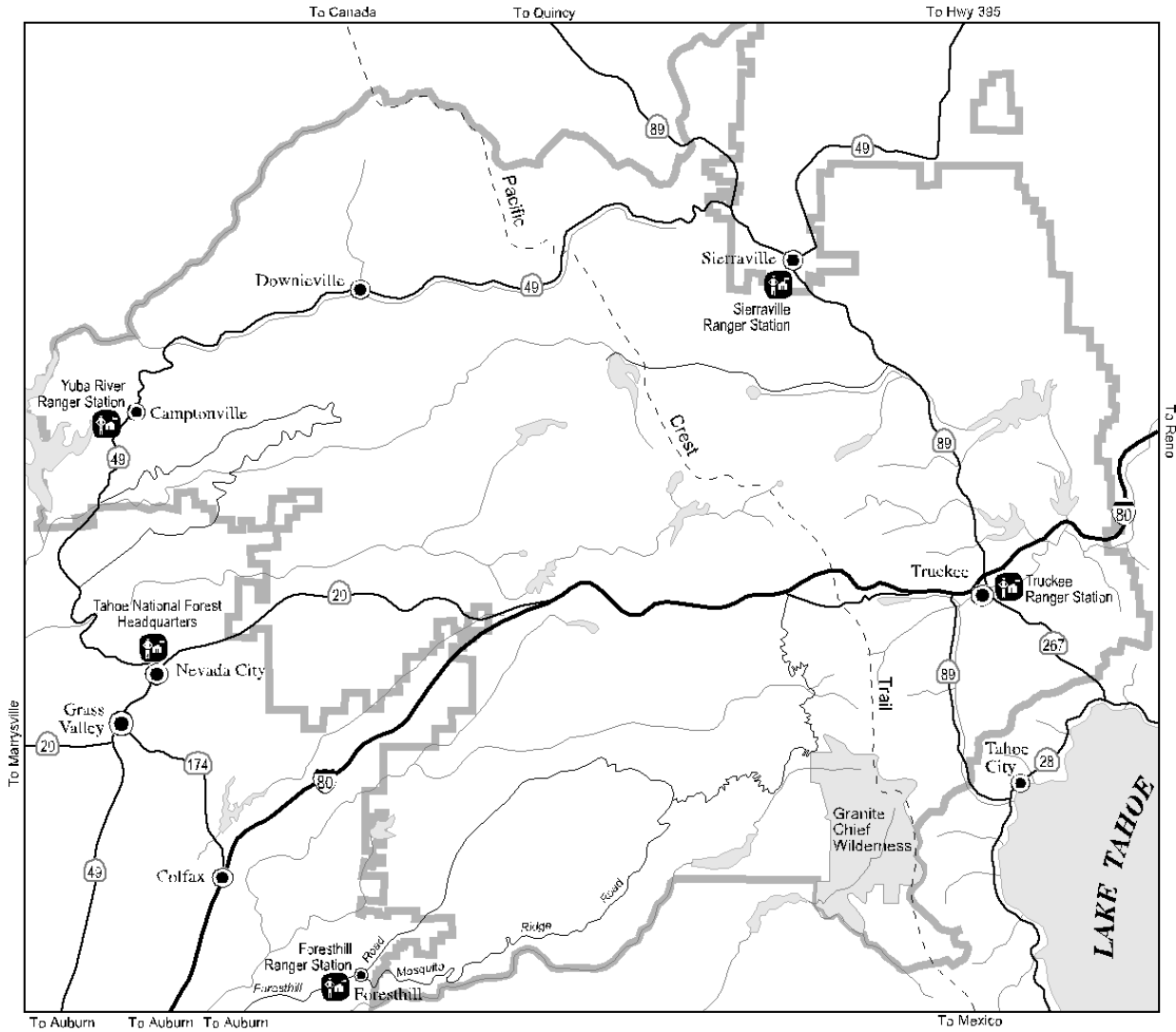


# Winter Recreation

## Tahoe National Forest



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

Welcome - Skiers, Snowmobilers, and Winter Sports Fans, to the Tahoe National Forest. Winter is a great time to explore the Sierra Nevada. Many miles of roads and trails on the Forest offer excellent cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Tahoe National Forest and Lakes Basin Winter Recreation Guides are available at Tahoe National Forest Headquarters and district offices. Several commercial downhill ski resorts are operated with special use permits on National Forest land. Snowplay and sledding can be enjoyed near many of the major highways.

In this brochure you will find descriptions of cross-country ski and snowmobile routes, as well as some snowplay areas.

## Sharing the Winter Experience

Many kinds of winter recreation are enjoyed each year on National Forest lands. Because the expectations and experiences of winter recreationists differ, conflicts can occur. Respect the rights of others by using the following trail courtesies:

- Keep to the right to allow passing.
- Yield the right-of-way to traffic moving downhill.
- Operate snowmobiles at minimum speed near skiers or snowshoers.
- Watch for snow trail grooming machines.

Please use courtesy and good trail manners to minimize conflicts. If an unsolvable problem does occur, please notify the closest Forest Service office.

## Weather Can Change Rapidly

In all your winter recreation, remember to plan carefully and use safety precautions. Winter in the Sierra can be harsh, and conditions can change rapidly. Without thorough preparation, a brisk winter weekend of fun can turn into tragedy. Take the extra time to plan carefully. Carry the extra weight for possible weather changes.

## Nature Dictates Conditions

Unless otherwise indicated, the ski and snowmobile routes mentioned here are not groomed winter recreation trails. Most routes are not marked or signed.

Use common sense and watch for potential danger signs in all aspects of your outing, including the terrain, snow conditions, fitness of yourself and your group, and weather.

Please use caution when travelling groomed routes. Even if the route is currently groomed, or has been groomed in the past, it may not be free of hazards. Trees can fall across trails at any time, rocks can roll onto the trail, and water holes can develop during warm weather, causing large gaps in the snow. Remember that nature dictates trail conditions.

## Before You Leave Home

- Check your equipment.
- Notify a friend or relative of your route and expected time of return.
- Plan your route carefully to avoid avalanche prone areas. Avoid steep terrain on open slopes and in narrow canyons
- Check weather and avalanche forecasts.

## Maps

Obtain the necessary topographic and Forest Service recreation maps. Recreation maps are available at each Ranger Station or at the Tahoe National Forest Headquarters for a fee. Topographic maps are available at many sporting goods stores.

## Things You Might Need

- Pocket Knife
- Matches (in a waterproof container)
- Fire Starter and Metal Cup (to melt snow)
- Map of the Area
- Extra Clothing (including rain gear)
- First Aid Kit
- High Energy Food
- 6' X 8' Plastic Tarp, and 100 feet of Nylon Cord
- Sunglasses, Sunblock, and Chapstick
- Compass
- Water

## If Skiing:

- Binding Repair Kit and Extra Ski Tip

## If Snowmobiling:

- Repair Tools
- Extra Drive and Clutch Belts
- Spark Plugs
- Plenty of Fuel
- Skis or Snowshoes (in case of a breakdown)

## What is Hypothermia?

Hypothermia is a rapid progressive physical and mental collapse due to chilling of the body's core. Caused by prolonged exposure to cold, hypothermia is greatly intensified by wetness, wind, exhaustion, and hunger.

## Symptoms of Hypothermia

Watch for early signs in your companions!

Victims are usually not aware of their hypothermia.

- Uncontrolled shivering and unreasonable behavior
- Reduced muscle coordination; slurred speech; stiff, fumbling fingers; stumbling walk.
- Reduced mental awareness; incoherent speech; apparent drowsiness; irrational or uncooperative behavior.
- Shivering may stop.

## To Treat Hypothermia

- Actively, but gently re-warm the victim.
- Get victim out of wind and rain.
- Move to a campfire or inside a dry sleeping bag, skin to skin with a healthy person.
- Give victim hot drinks (no caffeine or alcohol).

## Avoid Avalanche Hazards

To minimize avalanche danger avoid traveling on steep open side slopes. Be fully aware of avalanche potential, avalanche safety procedures and what to do if one of your party is caught in an avalanche. Your life may depend on your preparation and training.

For the current avalanche forecast or avalanche information, call (530) 587-3885 ext. 258 or go to the internet,

[www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/advisory](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/advisory).

This avalanche warning recording is updated as needed.

## On the Trail

Keep warm and dry. Know your ability and stay within your limits. Don't venture too far from your group. Follow your map and take notice of prominent landmarks. Turn back before you get too tired. Avoid skiing or snowmobiling alone.

## Help Protect Your National Forest!

The Tahoe National Forest is yours to enjoy, explore and protect. To keep your Forest beautiful, please:

- Pack out all trash
- Keep dogs under control and out of ski tracks
- Use snowmobiles only when the snow is at least a foot deep

- To reduce tree damage, don't drive over exposed treetops
- Do not take snowmobiles into closed areas including the Granite Chief Wilderness and other areas shown on the 2010 Tahoe National Forest and Lakes Basin Winter Recreation Map. These closures may not be signed on the ground.

## Please Respect Private Land

The Tahoe National Forest contains both public and privately owned lands. Please respect the rights of private property owners within the Tahoe National Forest while recreating and snowmobiling off of the groomed snowmobile trails.

## Parking Your Car

Since parking areas must be plowed, the number of spaces are limited. Plan to arrive early for best parking. Do not park on major highways or block any roadway or driveway. Tickets and tow-aways are the result of illegal parking. This is for your safety and the safety of others. Do not leave valuables in view.




## Sno-Park Program


Sno-Park, administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, provides parking for recreational users of California's mountain areas in the winter. It was created to meet an increasing need for off-highway parking in undeveloped areas popular with cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, and others who enjoy snow-based activities.


Sno-Park operates solely on revenues generated by the sale of parking permits. Sno-Park permits are available on both a daily and annual basis.

Day Permits are \$5 each. Annual permits are \$25 each. Both can be purchased at the following locations:

## Nevada County


-  Mountain Recreation - (530) 477-8006  
491 East Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945
-  Truckee Ranger Station - (530) 587-3558  
10811 Stockrest Springs Road  
Truckee, CA 96161
-  Boreal Inn - (530) 426-1012  
I-80, Castle Peak Exit  
19455 Boreal Ridge Road (3 miles east of Soda Springs)  
Soda Springs, CA 95728

 Mountain Hardware & Sports – (530) 587-4844  
11320 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, CA 96161


 The Back Country - (530) 582-0909  
11400 Donner Pass Road Ste. 100  
Truckee, CA 96161

## Placer County

 Alpenglows Sports - (530) 583-6917  
415 North Lake Blvd.  
Tahoe City, CA 96145

 Placer County Visitor Bureau  
(530) 887-2111  
1103 High Street  
Auburn, CA 95603

## Sierra County

 Sierraville Service & Country Store  
(530) 994-3529  
126 Lincoln Street  
Sierraville, CA 96126


Annual Sno-Park Permits can also be obtained by mail by sending a check for \$25.00 payable to "Sno-Park Program Manager" to this address plus \$1.00 shipping:

### Sno-Park Permits

CA Dept. Parks & Recreation  
OHMVR Division  
Attn: Permit Orders  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Ste. 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Or buy online/info at [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov)  
For further Sno-Park information call  
(916) 324-1222.

Sno-Park parking is on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Sno-Park sites within the Tahoe National Forest are:

 Yuba Pass

 Donner Summit.

Parking in Sno-Park sites is restricted to holders of valid Sno-Park Permits. Permits should display on the lower right (passenger side) of the vehicle dash-board.

## Snow Grooming

A variety of groomed snowmobile routes are maintained throughout the season. All snowmobile trail grooming is made possible through grants from the State of California OHMVR division grooming program. Various organizations, as well as Sierra County and the Forest Service maintain these trails.

Groomed routes are maintained for snowmobile use. ATV's and all other wheeled vehicles are prohibited.



## California Snowmobile

### Registration

In California, state law requires that all off-highway vehicles including snowmobiles, must be registered under the "Green Sticker" OHV registration program. The money collected through the Green Sticker program is distributed throughout the state to maintain and develop off highway vehicle (OHV) and over snow vehicle (OSV) trails and facilities. Fines for riding an unregistered vehicle can get expensive. By registering your snowmobile, you are helping to maintain a place to ride!

California honors out of state registration for off-highway vehicles, but vehicles brought in from states that do not have registration programs are required to obtain a non-resident OHV/OSV permit.


For more information concerning Green Stickers, please check the internet at [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov)




## Snow Play

The following areas are popular for snowplay.

### Along Highway 49

 Bassetts Station at Intersection of the Gold Lake Road and Highway 49.

### Along Highway 20

 Various turnouts offer many areas. Be careful not to block the highway.

### Along Interstate 80

 Blue Canyon exit.

 Soda Springs Ski Area. Snow Tubing. Parking at Ski Area.

 Donner Ski Ranch. Snow Tubing. Parking at Ski Area.



## Backcountry Use

The Forest Service encourages a broad range of recreation activities. Backcountry recreationists must match their skill level to the prevailing conditions. Going into the backcountry involves inherent risks. Risks can be minimized when individuals take personal responsibility to educate, prepare and equip themselves to deal effectively with backcountry conditions at any time.

## **Snow/Winter Camping**

Although Forest Service campgrounds are not open with services during the winter, several areas can be used. Visitors must pack out their trash, provide their own toilet paper, and bring their own drinking water. No fees are charged. Please be sure to leave a clean camp.

### **Along Highway 49**

Chapman Creek, Sierra, and Yuba Pass Campgrounds: Parking is limited at both Chapman and Sierra. Yuba Pass is quite popular as a day-use area and parking is available with a Sno-Park permit.

### **Along Highway 89**

Little Truckee Summit parking lot. Overnight camping is permitted between November 16 and April 14 for 7 days or less. This is a popular parking area for snowmobilers. Camping is also permitted in the upper loop of Upper Little Truckee Campground. Sometimes the access is blocked by heavy snows or CalTrans snow plow berm.

Prosser Campground is available, but requires a 1.5 mile ski or hike to the campground.

For more information contact the closest Ranger Station or Forest Headquarters:

#### **Tahoe National Forest Headquarters**

631 Coyote Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
(530) 265-4531  
TDD (530) 478-6118

#### **American River Ranger District**

22830 Foresthill Road  
Foresthill, CA 95631  
(530) 367-2224  
TDD (530) 367-2226

#### **Sierraville Ranger District**

P.O. Box 95, Hwy 89 N.  
Sierraville, CA 96126  
(530) 994-3401  
TDD (530) 994-3521

#### **Truckee Ranger District**


10811 Stockrest Springs Road  
Truckee, CA 96161  
(530) 587-3558  
TDD (530) 587-6907  
Avalanche warning recording  
(530) 587-3558 ext. 258


#### **Yuba River Ranger District**


15924 Hwy 49  
Camptonville, CA 95922  
(530) 288-3231  
TDD (530) 288-3656


## **Privately Operated Cross-Country Ski Facilities and Tours**

For cross-country skiers who enjoy organized tours or groomed trails, the following parties operate within or adjacent to Tahoe National Forest lands.

 **Alpine Skills International**, Truckee  
(530) 426-9191 [www.alpineskills.com](http://www.alpineskills.com)  
Tours, telemark lessons

 **Northstar at Tahoe**, Hwy 267  
(530) 562-1010 [www.nothstarattahoe.com](http://www.nothstarattahoe.com)  
Groomed trails for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, rentals and lessons

 **Tahoe Donner Cross Country**, Truckee  
(530) 587-9484 [www.tahoedonner.com](http://www.tahoedonner.com)  
Groomed track trails, cross country skating lanes, 4 snowshoeing trails, rentals, and lessons


 **Royal Gorge**, Soda Springs  
(530) 426-3871 [www.royalgorge.com](http://www.royalgorge.com)  
Groomed trails, rentals, and lessons

## **Downhill Skiing**




Five downhill ski complexes operate on Tahoe National Forest System land with Special Use Permits.

 **Alpine Meadows Ski Resort** - Hwy 89 south  
(800) 403-0206 [www.skialpine.com](http://www.skialpine.com)  
2,400 acres skiable terrain -1,770' vertical drop

2 surface lifts	25%		Least Difficult
5 double chairs	40%		More Difficult
3 triple chairs	35%		Most Difficult
2 high speed quads			
1 high speed six-pack			

 **Boreal Mountain Resort Ski** - Interstate 80  
(530) 426-3666 [www.rideboreal.com](http://www.rideboreal.com)

380 acres skiable terrain - 500' vertical drop

1 double chairs	30%		Least Difficult
3 triple chairs	55%		More Difficult
2 quad chairs	15%		Most Difficult
1 moving carpet			



**Donner Ski Ranch** - Interstate 80  
 (530) 426-3635 [www.donnerranch.com](http://www.donnerranch.com)  
 460 acres skiable terrain - 750' vertical drop

5 double chairs	25%	☺	Least Difficult
1 triple chair	50%	☑	More Difficult
2 surface lifts	25%	☒	Most Difficult



**Sugar Bowl Ski Resort**- Interstate 80 (530) 426-3651  
[www.sugarbowl.com](http://www.sugarbowl.com)  
 1,500 acres skiable terrain - 1,500' vertical drop

2 surface lifts	17%	☺	Least Difficult
2 double chair	45%	☑	More Difficult
3 fixed grip quads	38%	☒	Most Difficult
5 high speed express quads			



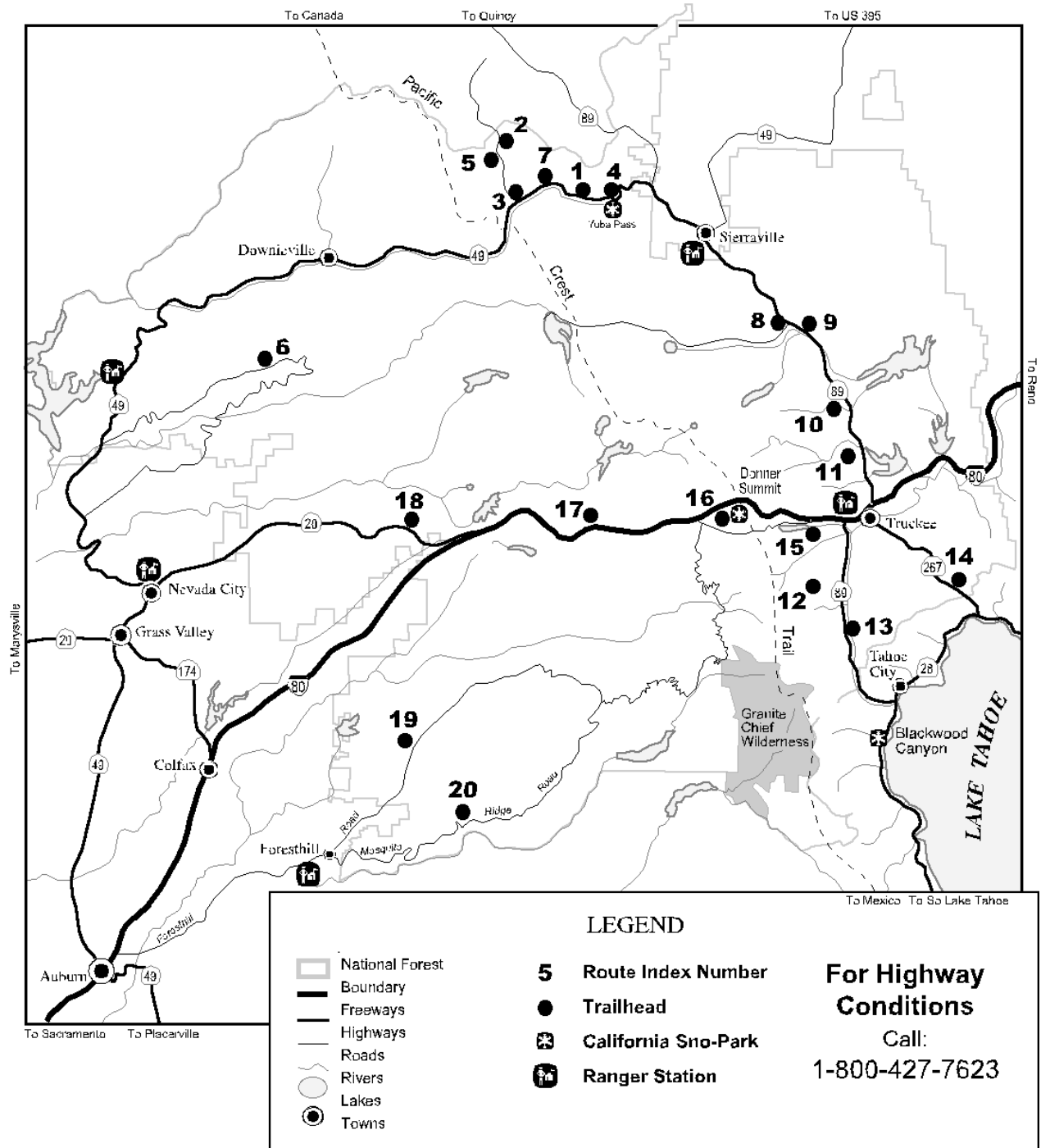
**Squaw Valley Ski Area** - Hwy 89 South  
 (530) 583-6985  
[www.squaw.com](http://www.squaw.com)  
 4000 acres skiable terrain - 2,850' vertical drop

5 surface lifts	25%	☺	Least Difficult
9 double chairs	45%	☑	More Difficult
8 triple chairs	30%	☒	Most Difficult
5 hi speed detachable quads			
3 hi speed detachable 6 paks			
1 funitel			
1 aerial cable car			

## All Are Welcome

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Tahoe National Forest Winter Trailheads



## LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Freeways
- Highways
- Roads
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Towns

- 5** Route Index Number
- Trailhead
- California Sno-Park
- Ranger Station


**For Highway  
Conditions**

Call:  
**1-800-427-7623**

## **Cross-Country Skiing and Snowmobile Route Descriptions**

### **Along Highway 49**

#### **1. Lunch Creek - Nordic Ski Trail**

**Level:**  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 9 miles

**Description:** (see map on back page)

There are several options available from the Lunch Creek trailhead on Highway 49. One is to ski north less than 100 yards to a fork in the trail (go left) follow the Lunch Creek Route west then north crossing Bear Trap Meadows where it joins with a snowmobile route. Take the snowmobile trail east (right) 1.5 miles to where Lunch Creek Trail goes to the left leaving the snowmobile trail. This ski trail goes east then south and back west where it rejoins the snowmobile trail. At this point you have 2 choices:

- 1) Turn north (right) onto the snowmobile trail, After 1.5 miles there is a ski trail to the left which goes down hill 2 miles back to the Lunch Creek trailhead. You can also stay on the snowmobile trail another 1/4 mile where 3 Knobs Ski Trail heads west (to the left). 3 Knobs Trail ends at Lunch Creek Trail. Go left 2 miles to the Lunch Creek Trailhead. This is an 11 mile ski trip.
- 2) Turn south (left) onto the snowmobile trail go 1 mile to Yuba Pass trailhead. **\*THIS IS NOT A LOOP\*** If possible, leave a car at both Yuba Pass and Lunch Creek Trailheads making an 8 mile ski trip.



**Trailhead:** Access to the trail is at Yuba Pass and at Lunch Creek Road, located approximately 1 mile west of Yuba Pass. Limited parking is available at Lunch Creek. Yuba Pass is a Sno-Park parking area and permits are required.

**Elevation:** 6,700 feet at Yuba Pass

**Use:** Light to moderate use by skiers. Moderate use by snowmobilers in immediate vicinity of Yuba Pass.

**Topographic Maps:** Haypress Valley, Clio, Calpine, and Sattley

#### **2. Gold Lake Road Cross-Country and Snowmobiling**

**Level:**  Easiest to  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 17 miles

**Description:** The Gold Lake Road is groomed for snowmobiling through the Off-Highway Vehicle Program.

Watch for snow grooming machines. Snow grooming can occur at any time, but rarely during daytime hours on weekends and holidays. Nordic Skiers are welcome to use all routes groomed for snowmobiling. The route follows the Gold Lake Highway, from Bassetts at Highway 49, to the snowline in Plumas County. The snow covered roadway offers excellent snowmobiling and nordic skiing opportunities for all experience levels. Wonderful views of the Sierra Buttes and the Lakes Basin area are enjoyed from this route. Limited parking is available at Bassetts.

Yuba Pass and Little Truckee Summit can be accessed from the Gold Lake Road. Travel 3 miles north from Bassetts to the Haskell Peak Road (Forest Road 09). Take Forest Road 09 east to Forest Road 09-15. Forest Road 09-15 continues south to Yuba Pass. The route to Little Truckee Summit can be accessed at Yuba Pass. These routes are marked. Parking is available at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park (Permit required).

**Trailhead:** Junction of Highway 49 and Gold Lake Road. Limited parking in the trailhead parking lot.



**Terrain:** The slope in any direction is gradual and travel is easy for a beginner.

**Elevation:** 5,400 feet at Highway 49 and Gold Lake Road junction. Elevation increases to 6,400 at Gold Lake.

**Use:** Heavy use by snowmobilers and cross-country skiers.

**Topographic Maps:** Haypress Valley, Gold Lake, and Clio

#### **3. Upper Sardine Lake Cross-Country and Snowmobiling**

**Level:**  Easiest to  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 3.5 miles one way. 7 miles round trip.

**Description:** This route is not marked, but follows Gold Lake Road approximately 1.5 miles, then turns left onto Sardine Lake Road. The route continues for approximately 1 mile to Lower Sardine Lake, branches to the right, and continues around the northern shore of Lower Sardine Lake for 1 mile to Upper Sardine Lake. It is very scenic and offers the visitor one of the best winter views of both Sardine Lakes and the Sierra Buttes.

**Terrain:** The slope of the route is fairly gradual and may be tackled by the beginning as well as



intermediate cross-country snow traveler. Beginners may have trouble with the first and last half mile.



**Trailhead:** The trailhead is located at the junction of Highway 49 and Gold Lake Hwy. (near Bassetts Station). Limited parking is available.

**Elevation:** 5,400 feet at junction of Gold Lake Hwy. and Highway 49. 6,000 feet at Upper Sardine Lake.

**Use:** This route receives moderate use by cross-country skiers and snowmobile enthusiasts.

**Topographic Maps:** Sierra City and Haypress Valley

#### 4. **Yuba Pass Area** Cross-Country and Snowmobiling

**Level:**  Easiest to  Most Difficult

**Mileage:** Offers 100 miles of opportunities

**Description:** The route north from Yuba Pass is popular with both snowmobilers and nordic skiers. It is a shared route for the first mile, then the nordic trail (snowmobiles prohibited) branches off to the east (right).

The ski route goes north for 2 miles, with lovely views of Sierra Valley, then west for 1 mile and rejoins the snowmobile trail. For a short loop trip, go south (a left) on the snowmobile route back to Yuba Pass. Alternately, you can continue west (straight) through a meadow for 1.5 miles, then go south (a left) onto Lunch Creek Ski Trail 1.25 miles, then north (a left) on 3 Knobs Trail for 1.5 miles. 3 Knobs Trail ends back at the snowmobile trail. Head south (a right) 1/4 mile where a ski trail goes downhill southwest (a right) along Lunch Creek 2 miles to Lunch Creek Trailhead. **\*THIS IS NOT A LOOP TRAIL\*** Leave a car at both Yuba Pass and Lunch Creek Trailheads for a nice 8 mile ski trip. Or stay on the snowmobile trail 2 miles back to Yuba Pass Trailhead.

Snowmobilers can head north on the trail and travel through to the Gold Lake Highway. Once there, you can head south to Bassetts or north to Gold Lake. This route offers a variety of terrain and beautiful views of the Sierra Buttes and the Lakes Basin.

There are a variety of trails heading south from Yuba Pass. Please refer to the map.

Yuba Pass is a Sno-Park (parking permit required).

**Terrain:** Variable

**Trailhead:** 6 miles east of Bassetts Station

**Elevation:** 6,700 feet

**Use:** Primarily heavy snowmobile use

**Topographic Maps:** Sattley, Webber Peak, and Haypress Valley

#### 5. **Packer Lake Trail** Cross-Country and Snowmobiling

**Level:**  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 5.5 miles one way. 11 miles round trip.

**Description** This route is not marked, but is groomed for snowmobiling. It follows the Gold Lake Road for approximately 1.5 miles, then turns left on the road to Sardine Lake. The route then turns right onto the Packer Lake Road and continues for approximately 4 miles to Packer Lake. The route offers a great view of the Sierra Buttes and Packer Lake.

**Terrain:** The slope is very gradual. The route may be used by beginners as well as intermediate skiers; however, the distance for a round trip to Packer Lake may discourage some beginning skiers.



**Trailhead:** Junction of Highway 49 and Gold Lake Road, near Bassetts Station. Parking is limited.

**Elevation:** 5,400 feet at the junction of Highway 49 and Gold Lake Road. 6,400 feet at Packer Lake.

**Use:** Moderate use by cross-country skiers and snowmobilers.

**Topographic Maps:** Haypress Valley, Gold Lake, and Sierra City

#### 6. **Heness Pass Road** Cross-Country and Snowmobiling

**Level:**  Easiest to  Most Difficult , depending on length

**Mileage:** Non-destination trips of varying lengths.

**Description:** This unmarked but well-defined county road that follows Henness Pass Road to Jackson Meadow where it ties into the Yuba Pass Trail. Skiers will enjoy winding through the tree plantations. Side roads provide snowmobilers with the opportunity for shorter loop trails. The ridge top location offers expansive views.

**Trailhead:** Take Alleghany turnoff from Highway 49. Follow paved road to Pliocene Ridge Guard Station. Plowing stops at the junction of Henness Pass and Pliocene Ridge Roads. Parking is limited.

**Terrain:** Since this route is a county road, the slope in any direction is gradual and travel is easy for a beginner.

**Elevation:** 4,900 feet

**Use:** Light to moderate

**Topographic Maps:** Alleghany, Downieville

## 7. Chapman Creek Nordic Ski Area

**Level:**  Easiest

**Mileage:** Loops add up to, at most, 1 mile.

**Description:** This is a marked area for the beginner nordic skier, children, or just for practicing. The route follows loops within the Chapman Creek Campground. It's a nice spot to just get off the highway and enjoy a leisurely ski. Snow camping is also an option.

**Terrain:** Almost level

**Trailhead:** Located 3.5 miles east of Bassetts or 3.5 miles west of Yuba Pass, on Highway 49.



**Elevation:** 5,700 feet

**Use:** Moderate

**Topographic Map:** Clio

## Highway 89 North

### 8. Little Truckee Summit Snowmobiling

**Level:**  Easiest to  Most Difficult, depending on length

**Mileage:** There are several marked routes totaling approximately 110 miles of groomed trails.

**Description:** Marked snowmobile trails follow roads to Webber Lake and Yuba Pass, Rim and Ridge Loops, Bald Ridge Loop and Treasure Mountain, Pass Creek Loop, Independence Lake Loop, Meadow Lake Loop, and Jackson Meadow. Most trails are groomed for snowmobile use through the Off-Highway Vehicle Program (please use caution when snow groomer is on trail). This trailhead also ties in with the north/south route from the Prosser OHV trailhead.

**Trailhead:** Intersection of Jackson Meadow Road and Highway 89 North, 17 miles north of Truckee. Parking is available. Overnight camping for seven days or less is permitted from November 16 to April 14 at the Little Truckee Summit Parking Area. Restrooms and fire rings available. No garbage services or water.

**Terrain:** Gentle slopes

**Elevation:** 6,300 feet at Little Truckee Summit

**Use:** Heavy snowmobile use. Because of snowmobile use, ski use is not recommended. Use of wheeled vehicles on snowmobile routes

is prohibited.

**Topographic Maps:** Sierraville, Sattley, Independence Lake, and English Mountain

### 9. Wheeler Loop Cross-Country

**Note:** Over-the-snow vehicle travel is restricted to the old Hennes Pass Road (County Road 450) and adjoining Forest Service roads from Feb. 1 to July 15 yearly due to waterfowl nesting in Kyburz Marsh. Cross-country skiing south of Kyburz Road is discouraged during this time of the year.

**Level:**  Easiest

**Mileage:** 5 mile loop from Hwy. 89

**Description:** Marked route follows county road around the north side of Kyburz Flat. The open, flat area offers plenty of skiable terrain. The access from Hwy. 89 is County Road 450.

**Trailhead:** Unmarked trailhead is about 1 mile southeast of the Jackson Meadow Road. Parking is difficult if road shoulder has not been plowed.

**Terrain:** Relatively flat area with open timber and marsh

**Elevation:** 6,400 feet

**Use:** Moderate use by skiers

**Topographic Maps:** Sardine Peak, Sierraville

### 10. Sagehen Summit Cross-Country

**Level:**  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 2 to 6 miles

**Description:** Unmarked route follows road up creek bottom. Lateral roads offer many side trips for the adventurous individuals. Sagehen Campground (2.5 miles west of Highway 89) makes a good winter camp.

**Trailhead:** At Sagehen Summit on the west side of Hwy. 89, 8 miles north of Truckee. Limited parking for Nordic skiers for one or two vehicles when plowed. Parking for snowmobiles is located north at Little Truckee Summit, and south at Prosser Hills staging area.



**Terrain:** Gradual incline

**Elevation:** 6,400 feet

**Use:** Light to moderate cross-country skiing

**Topographic Maps:** Hobart Mills, Independence Lake

**11.  Prosser OHV Trailhead**  
Snowmobiling

**Level:**  Easiest to  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 8 to 10 miles

**Description:** Marked and unmarked routes follow numerous roads. The bridge over Prosser Creek has been reconstructed, offering a connection to riding opportunities at Little Truckee Summit.

**Trailhead:** On west side of Highway 89, 4 miles north of Truckee. Paved parking lot with 15 spaces that will accommodate trailers. Restrooms and unloading ramps.

**Terrain:** Gentle rolling slopes

**Elevation:** 6,000 feet

**Use:** Moderate, primarily snowmobilers

**Topographic Map:** Hobart Mills

## Highway 89 South

**12.   Cabin Creek Trail**  
Cross-Country and Snowmobiling

**Level:**  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 3 to 6 miles

**Description:** A marked route follows along old logging roads and the Cabin Creek Road. This is a nice area for downhill practice while cross-country skiing.

**Trailhead:** From I-80 take Hwy 89 south 3 miles; turn right onto Cabin Creek Road. Unmarked trailhead is 1 mile from Highway 89. Limited parking in road cut, when plowed.

**Terrain:** Gentle rolling slopes

**Elevation:** 6,000 feet

**Use:** Moderate but gaining popularity among skiers. Moderate snowmobile use.

**Topographic Map:** Truckee

**13.  Pole Creek Trail Nordic System**

**Level:**    Variable

**Mileage:** 25 miles

**Description:** Unmarked trails follow roads along Pole Creek and Silver Creek Drainages.

**Trailhead:** 6 miles south of Truckee on Hwy 89. Some free parking on west side of the road.

**Terrain:** Trails follow Forest roads. Several loops offer downhill practice areas.

**Elevation:** 6,200 to 8,400 feet

**Use:** Cross-country skiing. **Closed to snowmobiling.**

**Topographic Map:** Tahoe City

## Highway 267

**14.   Martis Lookout Trail**  
Cross-Country and Snowmobiling

**Level:**  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 2 to 8 miles

**Description:** Unmarked route follows Martis Lookout Road to Martis Peak, with spectacular views of Lake Tahoe, the Sierra crest, and Mount Rose.

**Trailhead:** 0.25 mile north of Brockway Summit. A small area adjacent to the highway is plowed for parking.

**Terrain:** Moderate climb to Martis Peak

**Elevation:** 7,200 feet at trailhead; 8,650 feet at Martis Peak.

**Use:** Very popular. Parking is limited.

**Topographic Map:** Martis Peak

## Along Interstate 80

**15.  Donner Memorial State Park – Nordic Skiing**

**Level:**  Easiest

**Mileage:** 2.5 miles

**Description:** Flat, marked, loop trail follows the shore of Donner Lake and returns through the forest.

**Trailhead:** Southeast of Donner Lake exit off I-80. Parking available at Donner State Park Museum.

**Terrain:** Gentle

**Elevation:** 6,000 feet

**Use:** Heavy weekend and moderate weekday cross country skiing.

**Topographic Map:** Truckee

**16.  Peter Grubb Hut - Castle Peak - Donner Summit – Nordic Skiing**

**Level:**  More Difficult to  Most Difficult

**Mileage:** 3 miles

**Description:** A marked nordic ski trail begins at the Castle Peak/Boreal Interchange at Donner Summit and follows the road approximately .25 mile to an intersection. From this intersection nordic skiers can take the trail to the north which continues up Castle Valley and over Castle Pass. From there an unmarked trail continues on to the

Peter Grubb Hut. For the experienced skiers, more difficult routes continue on to Castle or Basin Peaks.

Reservations to stay at the Peter Grubb Hut can be made through the Sierra Club's Claire Tappan Lodge at Norden. (530) 426-3632

**Trailhead:** Sno-Park parking is available along Boreal frontage road to the PCT Trailhead, south of freeway. **A permit is required.**



**Terrain:** Moderate upslope toward the hut. Difficult downhill over Castle Pass.

**Elevation:** 7,200 feet at trailhead; 7,800 feet at Peter Grubb Hut; 9,100 feet at Castle Peak

**Use:** This is a very popular skiing area. Snowmobiles are prohibited in Castle and Round Valley, but are allowed west of Anedesite Peak and east of Basin and Castle Peak.

**Topographic Maps:** Norden, Soda Springs

### 17. **Rattlesnake** Cross-Country and Snowmobiling

**Level:**  Easiest to  Most Difficult

**Mileage:** 7 miles

**Description:** Groomed for snowmobiling. Marked route follows Rattlesnake Road to Magonigal Summit.

**Trailhead:** I-80 at Cisco Grove exit north of freeway. Parking for a fee is available at the private RV campground.

**Terrain:** Steep canyon and side slopes at lower end. Upper elevations feature ridges and bowls.

**Elevation:** 5,700 feet at trailhead; 7,400 feet at Magonigal Summit.

**Use:** Moderate snowmobile.

**Topographic Map:** Cisco Grove

## Along Highway 20

### 18. **Steephollow** (see map) Cross-Country

**Level:** Trails vary from  Easiest to  More Difficult

**Mileage:** Approximately 8 miles of marked trail.

**Description:** Cross-country trails are marked and rated by difficulty level. Generally the trails follow the roads.

**Trailhead:** Alpha Omega Rest Area, 17 miles east of Nevada City, and turnouts east of the rest stop. Parking usually available when plowed.

**Terrain:** Moderate slopes



**Elevation:** 5,100 feet to 5,800 feet

**Use:** This is a very popular area for skiing.

**Topographic Map:** Blue Canyon

## Near Foresthill

### 19. **Foresthill Divide** Cross-Country, Snowshoe, and Snowmobiling

**Level:**  Easiest to  More Difficult

**Mileage:** 15 miles from China Wall to Robinson Flat

**Description:** Marked route follows Foresthill Divide Road. Side trips include Humbug, Deadwood, and American Hill Ridges. Routes are groomed toward Robinson Flat.

**Trailhead:** China Wall OHV staging area on the north side of the Foresthill Divide Road 12 miles northeast of Foresthill. Paved parking lot with 20 spaces for vehicles and 12 spaces that will accommodate trailers. Restroom available at trailhead staging area.

**Terrain:** Relatively flat

**Elevation:** 3,300 feet at Foresthill; 5,000 feet at China Wall; 6,700 at Robinson Flat.

**Use:** Heavy snowmobile; occasional skiing; moderately popular snowshoe routes.

**Topographic Maps:** Michigan Bluff, Westville, and Duncan Peak

### 20. **Mosquito Ridge Road** Cross-Country, Snowshoe, and Snowmobiling

**Level:** Easiest  to More Difficult 

**Mileage:** 25 miles to French Meadows from Deller Spring

**Description:** Snowmobile and non-motorized use on the Mosquito Ridge Road from the Interbay turnoff (near Deller Springs) northeast to French Meadows. Snowline is variable. Routes are unmarked/ungroomed.

**Trailhead:** Limited parking and turnaround are usually available near the end of the plowed Mosquito Ridge Road.

**Terrain:** A gentle upslope to French Meadows. Length of trek determines difficulty level. Dense timber.

**Elevation:** 4,600 feet near the Interbay turnoff.

**Use:** Light snowmobile, snowshoe, and cross-country use.

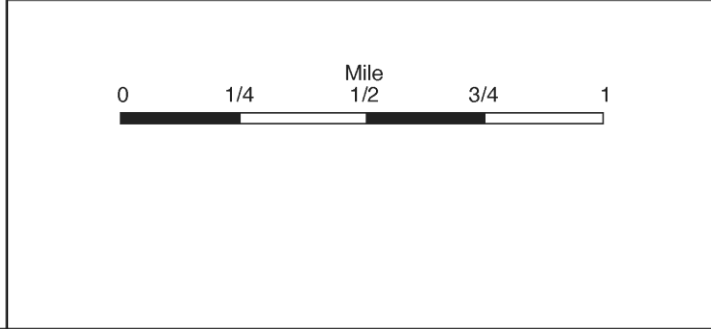
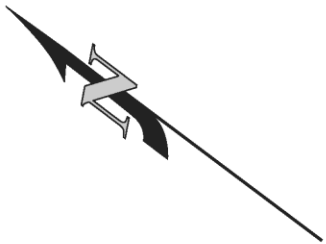
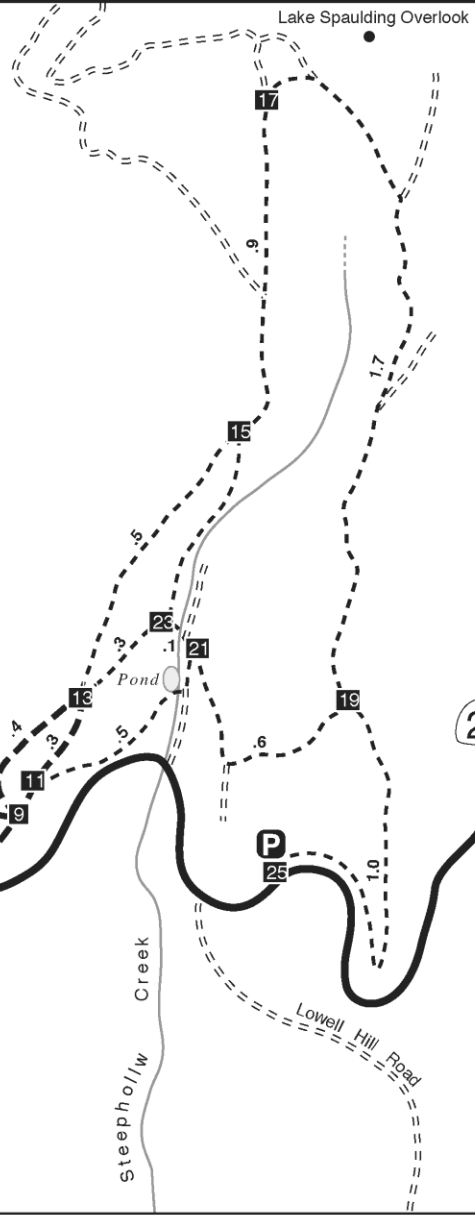
**Topographic Maps:** Michigan Bluff, Bunker Hill, and Greek Store

# 18 Steepollow Snow Trail System

Yuba River Ranger District  
Tahoe National Forest

## LEGEND

- |    |                         |  |                     |
|----|-------------------------|--|---------------------|
|    | Easiest Ski Trail       |  | Highway             |
|    | More Difficult          |  | Paved Road          |
|    | Most Difficult (none)   |  | Gravel or Dirt Road |
|    | Trail Junction Number   |  | River               |
|    | Trailhead Parking       |  | Restroom            |
| .7 | Miles between Junctions |  |                     |



# Snow Trail System

## Yuba River, Sierraville and Truckee Ranger Districts

### Tahoe National Forest

