

Snowmobiling at Mt. Spokane

has been a popular activity for many years, but in 2010, the mileage of groomed trails was reduced from over 50 to about 18. This was the result of the Inland Empire Paper Company's decision to eliminate recreational snowmobiling on its lands which surround the park. Riders were continually breaking the tops off of young trees in its plantations and not staying on the trails. The decision was only taken after numerous attempts to find a long term solution, with the Winter Knights Snowmobile Club, failed. From dark old growth forests, to open sub-alpine meadows, to ice covered streams, to a cozy wood stove in a 1935 log cabin, to a 3 state view from the summit, the attractions within the park have not changed, but currently, only a single loop trail remains.

Because motorized winter recreation often conflicts with the wide variety of other activities for which the park is also used, the following restrictions are necessary:

Designated Snowmobile Areas

Snowmobiling in Mt. Spokane State Park is permitted **only** in designated areas. Currently snowmobiling is permitted:

- ★On the groomed snowmobile trail as shown on the map.
- ★Within the Summit Corridor

★On designated ungroomed roads and trails which include the Day Road, the Blanchard Creek Road, the Connector Road between the Blanchard Creek Road and the Kit Carson Loop Road, and the single track Trail 130 from Trail 160 to Day Mountain.

★The open meadows around the CCC Cabin and Mt. Kit Carson.

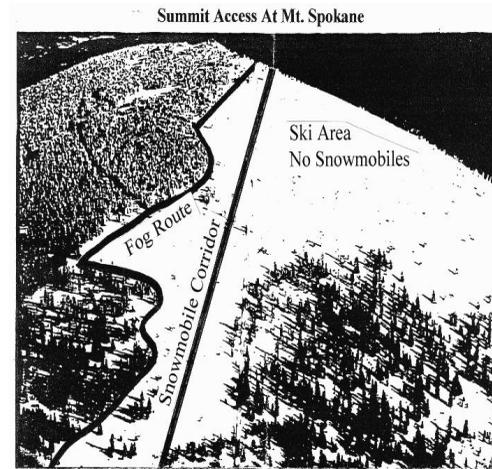
Snowmobiling is prohibited in all other areas of the Park including the Bald Knob Campground, Big Spring Picnic Area, all forested areas and undesignated meadows, all road berms and embankments, all plowed roads (except at designated crossings), the alpine and nordic ski areas, Ragged Ridge, marked snowshoe trails, and behind any "No Snowmobiles" sign.

This means that Mt. Spokane is *not* an area for hill climbing. Rather, it is a place to go for well groomed trails and scenic vistas. Violators are subject to fines and snowmobile impoundment.

Summit Corridor

A narrow corridor to the summit of Mt. Spokane is available so that snowmobilers can enjoy the magnificent view from the top. This route into the alpine ski area was made possible through a cooperative effort between the ski area

concessionaire, Washington State Parks, and the Winter Knights Snowmobile Club. Snowmobilers are expected to ride cautiously straight up the hill from the Cook's Cabin hairpin on the summit road (groomed snowmobile trail) to the KXLY towers at the top. From the towers, riders may proceed slowly to a parking area just before the top of the chair lift, in order to walk to the Vista House. Riders are then expected to ride straight back



down the slope and return to the groomed trail. The Vista House is open on Saturdays and Sundays during the ski season between 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM for hot drinks, chili, and snacks.

The corridor is marked with signs and poles, but these markers can be quickly obscured by rime and blowing snow. On days with very low visibility, riders should follow the tree

line on the northwest side of the route in order to avoid straying accidentally into the ski area. Riders who are unsure of the route should not attempt an ascent on foggy days. Riders must *always* watch for skiers and yield to them. Please be aware that repeated violations of these rules will result in closure of the summit corridor.

Also Remember:

- ★Never exceed a safe speed for the conditions.
- ★Yield to other recreationists whenever possible, especially alpine skiers on the Chair 4 Road.
- ★Never ride while under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drugs.
- ★Never harass wildlife.
- ★Always carry an emergency kit, extra food, and a map of the area.
- ★Always maintain a well tuned machine, including a legal muffling device.
- ★Always watch for and yield to trail grooming equipment.
- ★Always maintain a current snowmobile registration.
- ★Never ride on inadequate snow cover or in closed or undesignated areas.
- ★Never ride in the State Park after 10:00PM.

RCW 46.10 lists the Washington State snowmobile regulations and can be found at www.leg.wa.gov.

Park Office: 509-238-4258

Winter Snow Line: 509-238-4025