

CABIN CREEK SNOW PARK

Description:

The Cabin Creek Sno-Park trail network is probably the second most popular non motorized snow park in the state after the Hayak Iron Horse trailhead, for good reason. This sno-park is only about an hour drive from Seattle and they do a good job of trail grooming so even when the snow conditions in Snoqualmie Pass are not very good, which is pretty often, this area is usually still quite skiable. The trail system has about 20km. of trails including one that is long and quite scenic to the top of Mt. Amabilis.

To help avoid the crowds that are often here you ski mid week, or come early and or leave late in the day; the biggest crowds are typically between about 10:30-11am to about 1:30-2pm. Also the lower parking area sees less activity and it has a little used (and not as often groomed) trailhead right out of the south end of the lot.

Directions:

The driving directions are easy for this one. Head east on I-90 from Seattle, driving over Snoqualmie Pass and past Keechelus Lake, to exit #63. Turn south at the top of the exit ramp and park in the first lot or go another 1/4mi. to the lower lot.

Permits or Fees Requied:

This parking area requires a Washington State Sno-Park permit with a grooming tag. A seasonal permit is \$80 (including the \$40 grooming tag). A day use permit is also fine here which is \$20 for one to three cosecutive days (2021) and works a either groomed or non groomed sno-parks.



Winter Snow Driving:

A. Clothing:

1. Be sure to bring proper clothing for a winter drive, old jacket and gloves for shoveling & chains, bring extra layers and a blanket if stuck on the highway for a while.

B. Winter Driving equipment:

1.Chains:Link,Cable, Fabric Sock, Plastic. Link chains best for deep snow, cables for convenience.

2. Traction aid: Sand or kitty litter, rock salt, old rug, add weight (sand bags), use momentum.

- 3. Shovel, blocks
- C. Trip Preparation:
 - 1. Check pass report for closures or restrictions, if pass will be closed for avalanche control this will usually be posted.

a. Snoqualmie Pass is usually the first pass to close because the commercial truck traffic goes this way; Stevens tends to get more seasoned drivers, but road maintenance is not as good.

2. Check weather before you go. If a big storm is predicted for the afternoon you don't want to get stuck on an unplowed back road after a long day of skiing or snowshoeing.

3. Check avalanche forecast before you go:

a. Five levels: 1-Low, 2-Moderate, 3-Considerable, 4-High, 5-Extreme. There are safe places to go in most all conditions, but you do not want to be near potential avalanche terrain during hazardous conditions (https://www.nwac.us). D. Covid-19 precautions:

Bring your own food, drinks, hand cleaner, face mask, kleenex etc. so you do not have to stop.
If you have to stop for gas/bathroom bring disposable gloves or wash hands after touching gas pump or other high touch points.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{3.Always}}$ wear face filter mask over nose and mouth at trailheads, when passing people or when indoors.

4. Washing with soap and water is best as this virus is lipid (oil) encased and soap breaks down this encapsulation. Alcohol hand gel or aerosol or alcohol/clorox hand wipes are next best, if contact time and concentration is sufficient.