

## LAKE WENATCHEE, NASON RIDGE SNO-PARK

## Description:

The Lake Wenatchee Sno-Park is a bit of a drive and doesn't get as much snow as ski areas nearer the passes but for the main part of the ski season it usually has enough snow to enjoy yourself as long as you are not one of those die hard skiers still looking for snow patches to jump on in May. The Lake Wenatchee ski trail system has about 12-15km. of ski trails groomed sporadically, and offers some skiing/snowshoeing on the lakeshore with some beautiful sweeping views up the lake to the northwest. If you are looking for a crowd beater the north area just across the river rarely sees many users even on weekends. This north system has 8km and is accessed by driving over the bridge across the Wenatchee River and left into the alternate sno-park area. Nason Ridge further out the state park road has one of my favorite groomed all day tour loops in the state. The whole loop is over 12 miles long and the top ridge section has some amazing vistas of the lake and surrounding mountains.

## Directions:

To get to this sno-park head east from Seattle on Hwy. 2 (Stevens Pass Hwy) to the summit, and continue for another 20 miles to Coles Corner. Turn left or north on Hwy. 207 for about three and a half miles to the turn off for Lake Wenatchee State Park. Turn left and stay right to get to the state park sno-park trails. To get to Kahler Glen trails take this last left and stay left for three more turns into the sno-park lot at the golf course. To get to the Lake Wenatchee State Park North Area do not take the left into the state park entrance but continue on Hwy 207 across the bridge over the Wenatchee River for another mile or so to the left into the North Campground.

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

