

#### THE SUMMIT AT SNOQUALMIE NORDIC SKI CENTER

# Description:

The Summit at Snoqualmie has a Nordic Ski Center which is actually quite good for intermediate and up skiers. The trail network really starts at the top of a ski area chair lift the cost of which is included in your trail pass. The network of trails is about 50 km. of a variety of trails, many with beautiful views, some forested and some on windswept snowfields, for quite a variety of intermediate to advanced options. There are warming huts scattered around the trail network but no food service is available here so bring your own. At the end of the day you can download on the chair lift or ski down the cat track back to the base area, just make sure you end up at the same trailhead you started at. There are two trailheads/lodges: one at the old Hayak ski area (now Summit East) and one at the Silver Fir chair/lodge at the east end of Ski Acres (now Summit Central). The nordic center used to have two loops available at the highway level for beginners but the rumor is that these have been eliminated.

### Directions:

It is a short drive from Seattle to the summit of Snoqualmie Pass, where you want to take either the first of second exit to get to Silver Fir base area. If going to the second Hayak base take the third or last summit exit.

## Permits or Fees Required:

There are no parking fees here but there are trail passes required: \$27 for adults, and \$22 for seniors (62 and over). Come early and plan to spend the day if skiing here because of the time it takes to get up the chair and back down to the base area.

#### 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 jell or aerosol or alcohol/clorox hand wipes are next best, if contact time and concentration is sufficient.