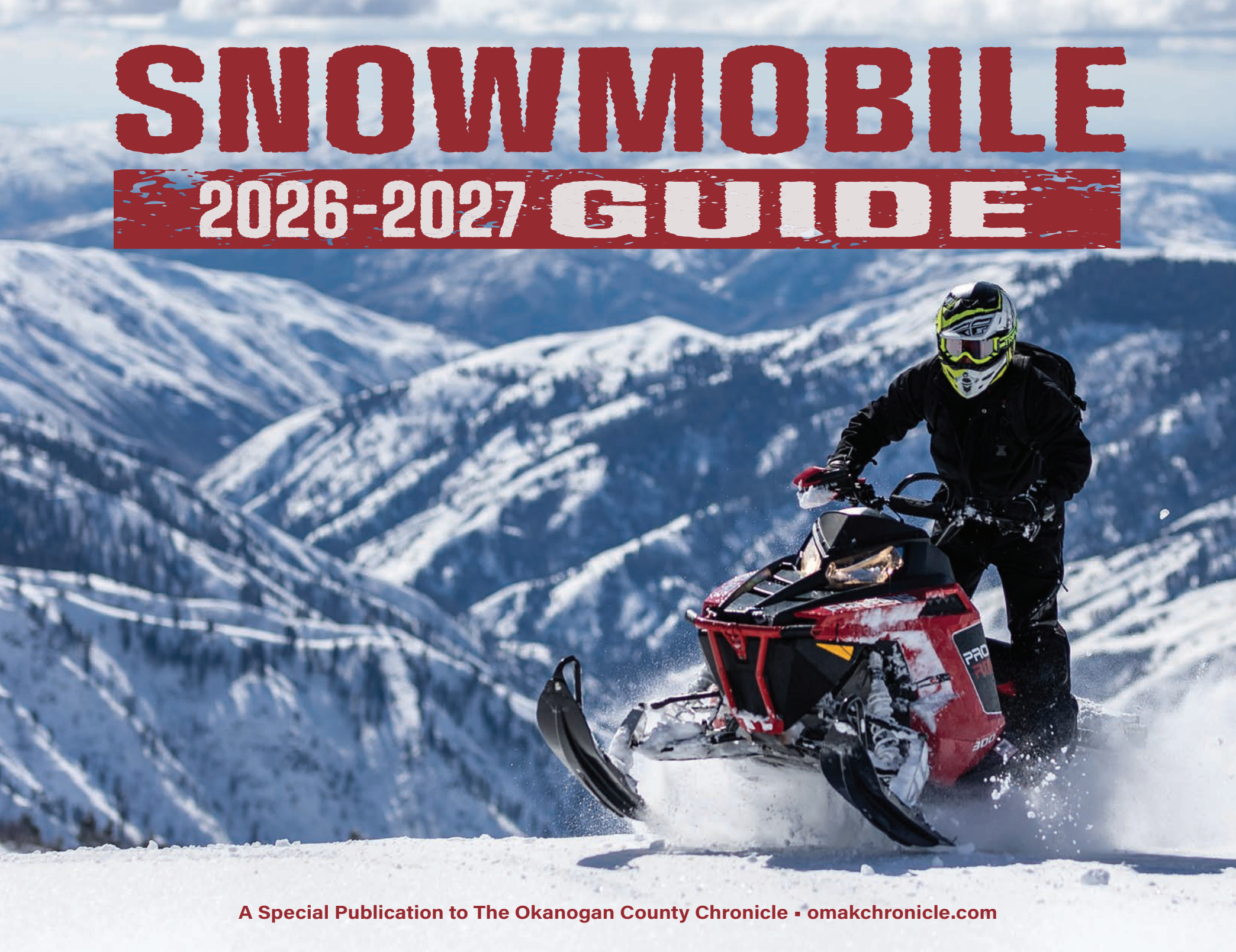
SNOWMOBILE

2026-2027 GUIDE



A Special Publication to The Okanogan County Chronicle ▪ omakchronicle.com

HIT THE SNOW: WINTER RIDING IN OKANOGAN COUNTRY

There's something special about seeing Okanogan Country in winter from the seat of a snowmobile.

When the snow settles into the forests and mountains, familiar summer landscapes take on a whole new personality. Trails wind through snow-covered timber, across wide-open high desert and into the high country, offering riders miles of room to explore.

For snowmobilers, Okanogan Country is a winter playground.

Okanogan County alone boasts nearly 400 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, with access from nine Sno-Parks scattered throughout the county. And that's just the beginning. Across the greater Okanogan Country region, hundreds of additional miles of trails stretch through mountain terrain and flatter countryside, giving riders plenty of options for a day on the snow.

Some trails are maintained by local snowmobile groups or private resorts, while others are groomed by Okanogan County. The county also opens certain roads to snowmobilers. Riders should be aware that some of these are dual-use roads, where snowmobiles and motor vehicles share the same route. A little extra caution goes a long way when everyone is enjoying the winter landscape.

And there's no need to make it a race to get back home. Many riding areas feature cabins and shelters where snowmobilers can stop, warm up, grab a snack and enjoy the scenery before heading back out.

Among the popular destinations in Okanogan County are Black Canyon in the southern Methow Valley; Bonaparte, north of Wauconda; Boulder Creek and Eightmile, both north of Winthrop; and Kerr, northwest of Conconully.

Across the county line in Ferry County, riders can explore the Boulder Pass area between Curlew and Orient, accessible from the Boulder Pass Interpretive Center and information site. Hall Creek and Empire Lake are also favorites for those looking to put some miles on their machines.

Of course, winter riding comes with a little homework. Before heading out, riders should check with national forest offices to make sure their destination is open. Recent wildfires have affected some popular riding areas, and access restrictions may be in place.

And behind the scenes, local volunteers and officials are already working to keep the trails ready for the season. Okanogan County snowmobile grooming meetings resume in November and continue through March, with meetings held the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Okanogan County Public Works conference room at 1234 2nd Ave. S., Okanogan.

So dust off the sled, check the forecast, pack the layers and make sure the trail is open.

Then head for the hills.

Winter in Okanogan Country is waiting!



Maps of groomed trails

Albian Hill Sno-Park 7
Black Canyon Sno-Park 14
Bonaparte Lake Sno-Park 5
Boulder Creek 8
Eightmile 8, 11
Empire Lake 16
Goat Creek 11
Hall Creek 15
Highlands Sno-Park 6
Kerr Sno-Park 8
North Summit Sno-Park 9
Quartz Ridge 15
Twisp River Sno-Park 13
Yellowjacket Sno-Park 11

Okanogan Country 2026-2027 Snowmobile Guide

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Owned and operated by Thomas and Ann Mullen
Teresa Myers, editor and publisher and advertising manager

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Special thanks to Washington State Parks & Okanogan County Tourism Council

Wildfire season may have impacted the closing of several parks for the 2026-2027 season, so make sure you're in the know before you go. Before you head to a park, please check its page for closures, alerts and other important information to make sure you have a fun, safe and informed trip. Please visit https://parks.wa.gov/find-sno-parks for the most up to date snowmobile route information before planning your trip.

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WINTER SHARED TRAILS ETIQUETTE

Winter recreated shared trails require respect for all user groups. The following are guidelines for different user groups:

SNOWMOBILERS

- In populated areas, snowmobilers should ride to and from the operator's intended destination.
- Obey all rules that apply to automobile traffic.
- Helmets are highly recommended.
- Current registration decal required.
- Do not operate in such a way as to endanger human life, wildlife or animals
- It is unsafe to pass a dogteam unless they know you are there and have waved you by. Be at least two team lengths beyond a musher team before accelerating.
- Yield the right-of-way to all motor vehicles, pedestrians and to uphill traffic.
- When traveling in groups, proceed in single file, do not block the trail when stopping, always respect public and private property, keep to the right, respect designated areas, trail use signs and established trails.
- Slow down and use caution approaching or overtaking another recreationist.
- Snowmobile operators must be 16, or between 12 and 16 and have completed a snowmobile safety course certified by the State of Washington, and be under the direct supervision of a qualified adult snowmobile operator.
- Additional operator skill is required when operating a snowmobile that is towing a cargo sled or another sled.
- Snowmobile operators are subject to Washington State DUI and controlled substances laws.
- Pack out your garbage.

MUSHERS

- Be in control of your animals.
- Wear a head lamp and reflective clothing after dark. Reflective tape should be on dog harnesses and on the dog sled.
- Snowmobilers and Mushers should indicate how many others are coming behind them to oncoming recreationist.
- Mushers should be listening for oncoming and overtaking traffic at all times and should position their team, which may include stopping and holding their dogs for a safe pass.
- Pack out your garbage.

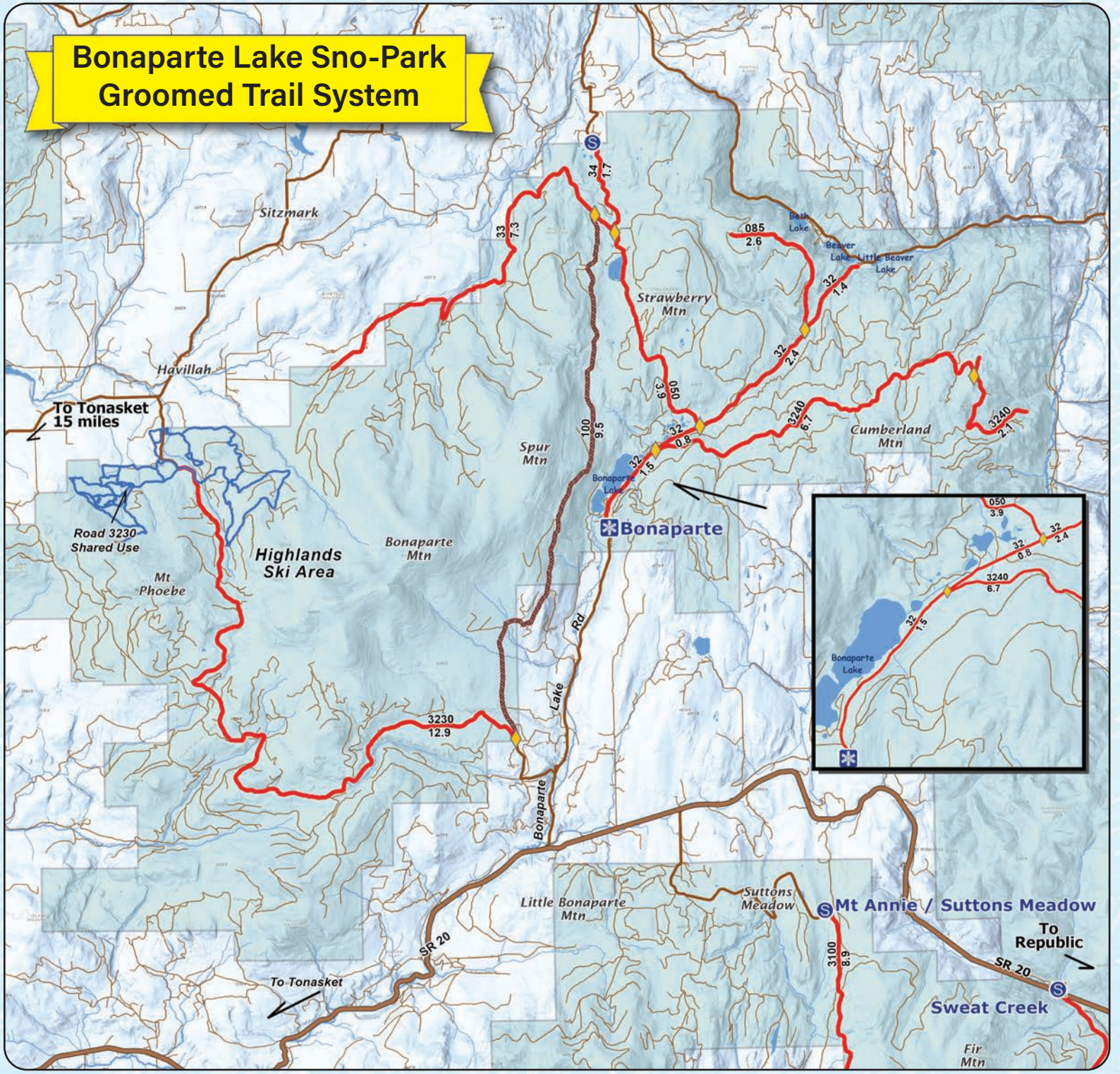
X-COUNTRY SKIERS, SKATERS, SNOWSHOERS

- Pets must be on a short leash.
- Single file.
- Obey rules of the road.
- Please keep to the right.
- Wear reflective clothing after dark.
- Obey trail signs.
- Avoid snowshoeing in the groomed ski tracks used by cross-country skiers.
- Pack out your garbage.

Respect private land and residential areas.

Okanogan Highlands Alliance advocates a spirit of cooperation amongst recreation trails and works together for multiple use of our public lands.

Bonaparte Lake Sno-Park Groomed Trail System



EXPLANATION

- Snow-Park
- Staging Area, Limited Plowing & Parking
- Restroom
- Major Junction
- Groomed Cross Country Ski Trail
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Okanogan National Forest
- Road Closure

Area has 52 miles of groomed trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles

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Highlands Sno-Park Groomed Trail System



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15 miles

Tonasket - Havillah Rd

To Havillah
.5 mile

Lower Parking Lot

3230

Straight Edge

Ida's Ford

Bobcat

Goshawk

Ranger's Run

Whitetail

Sunshine Loop

Sunshine

Hej Bue

Twista Vista

Chutes & Ladders

Woodland Weave

Shared Use

Hello Kitty

Aava's Draw

Antoine

Creek

Pome de Pin

Whitetail

Highlands
Elev. 3830'

Mill Creek

Antoine Loop

Antoine Loop

Stinger

Telemark Trail

Windsong

×4252'

×4340'

×4680'

×4600'

×4977'

×4800'

×4450'

3950'

3230

12.9



⚠ Trails groomed with a skate lane and set with tracks. Arrows show directionof climb. Please remember--No dogs or snowshoes on groomed tracks. Do not walk on the groomed trail. Downhill skiers have the right of way. Trails may become more difficult during icy conditions.



EXPLANATION

- Non-Motorized Sno-Park
- Groomed Ski Trail
- Marked Ski Route
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Trail Junction
- View
- Elevation in Feet
- Restroom
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Okanogan National Forest
- Private Parcels within USFS Administrative Boundary

Area has 30 kilometers (18 mi.) of groomed cross country ski trails. Trail name and distance labeled between intersections

Kilometers

- Easiest
- More Difficult
- Most Difficult

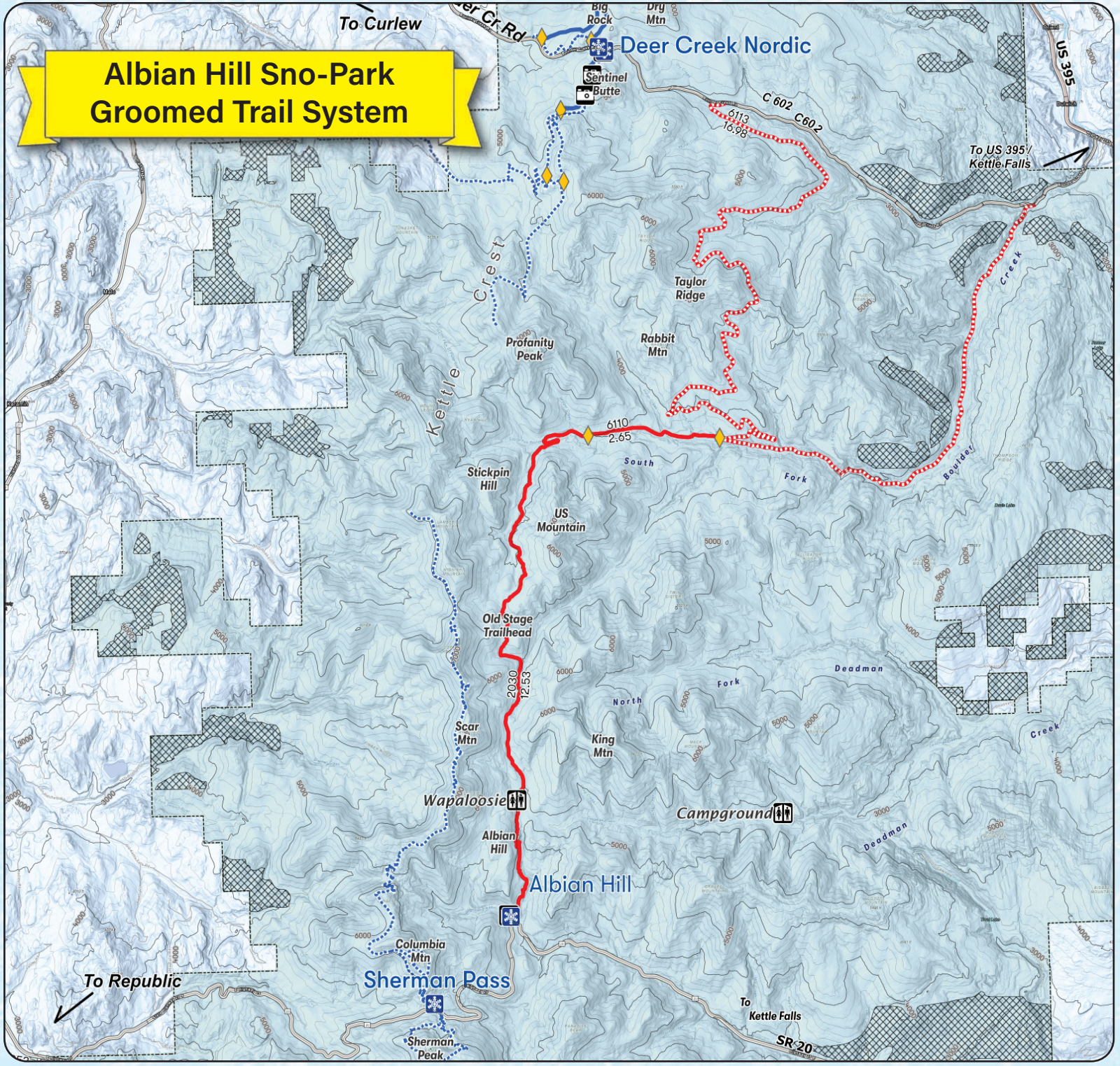
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Albian Hill Sno-Park Groomed Trail System



EXPLANATION

- View
- Sno-Park
- Staging Area, Limited Plowing & Parking
- Restroom
- Shelter
- Major Junction
- Groomed Ski Trail
- Marked Ski Trail
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Utility Corridor
- Winter Wildlife Closure Area
- Colville & Okanogan National Forest

Albian Hill has 32 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles

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Kerr Sno-Park
Boulder Creek
Eightmile
Groomed Trail Systems

Numerous road, trail and area closures exist in this area. For a complete map, please see the current Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan, available at Forest Service offices in Winthrop, Tonasket, Okanogan, or contact those offices for further information.

EXPLANATION

- View
- Sno-Park
- Major Junction
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Restroom
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Wilderness Area

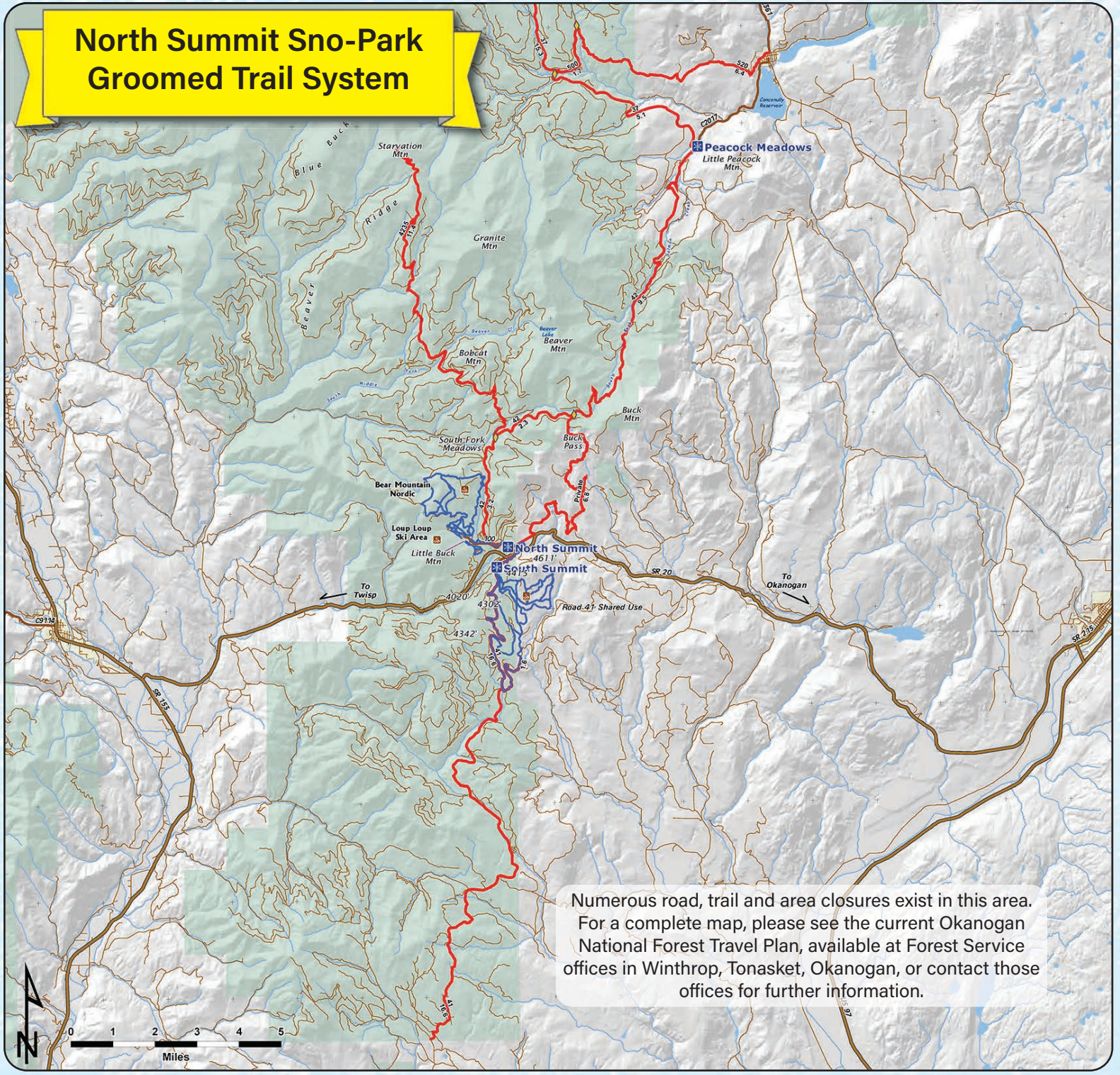
Area has 128 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles



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North Summit Sno-Park Groomed Trail System



Numerous road, trail and area closures exist in this area. For a complete map, please see the current Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan, available at Forest Service offices in Winthrop, Tonasket, Okanogan, or contact those offices for further information.

EXPLANATION

- Sno-Park
- Restroom
- Major Junction
- Groomed Cross Country Ski Trail
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Utility Corridor
- Okanogan National Forest

Area has 34 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles

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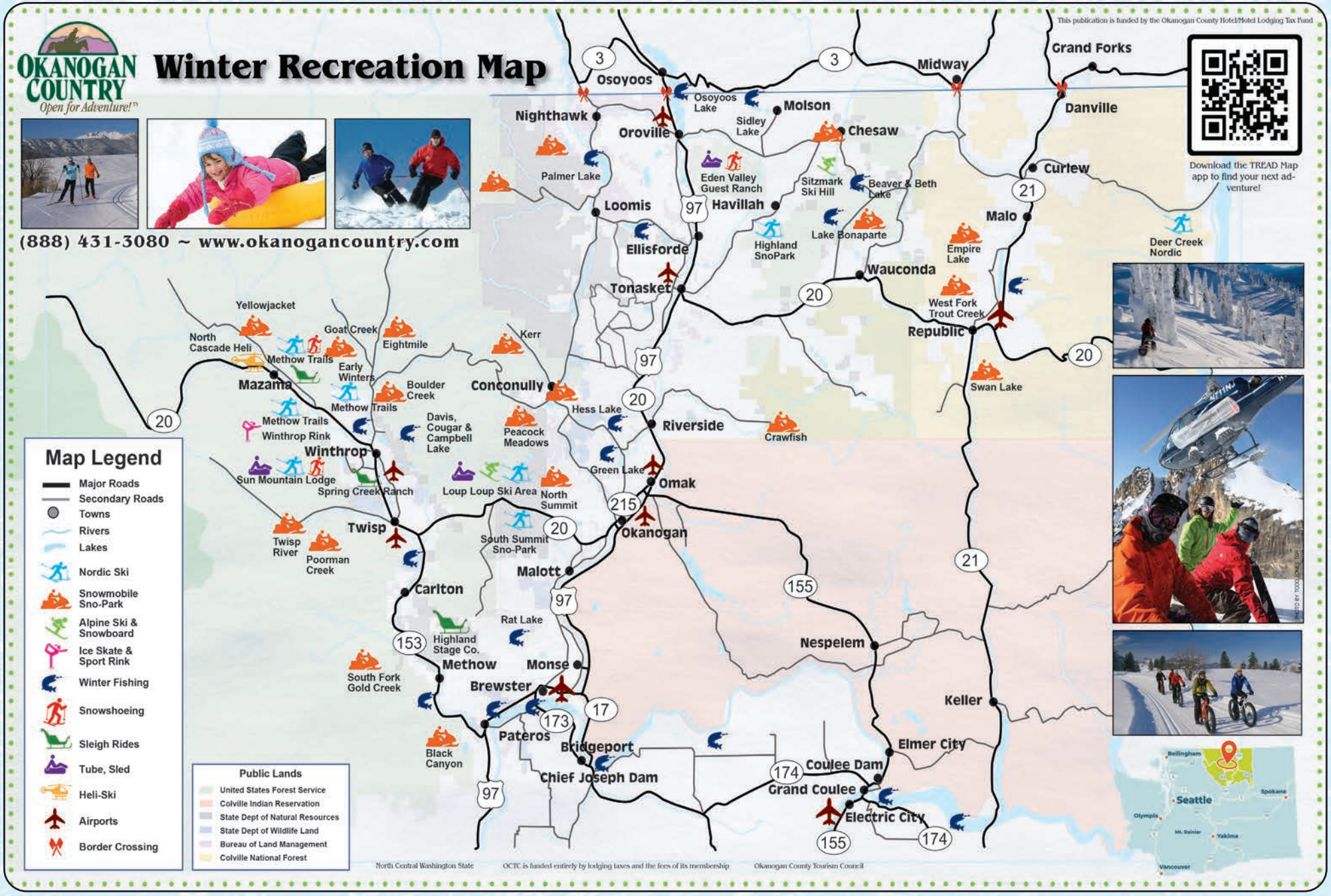
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Winter in Okanogan Country is an adventure, so be prepared! OCTC maps & directions are for planning and informational purposes only. Road construction, traffic, road closures, mapping errors, weather conditions and/or other events may cause actual road conditions and directions to differ. In rural areas GPS can be unreliable or unavailable. Check the weather report and road conditions at www.wsdot.wa.gov and www.noaa.gov. The Northwest Avalance Center at www.nwac.us has updated avalanche reports for each region. Thank you, and enjoy your stay!

Yellowjacket Sno-Park
Eightmile & Goat Creek
Groomed Trail Systems

Numerous road, trail and area closures exist in this area. For a complete map, please see the current Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan, available at Forest Service offices in Winthrop, Tonasket, Okanogan, or contact those offices for further information.



EXPLANATION

- Sno-Park
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Groomed Intermittently
- MVSTA Groomed Cross Country Ski Trail
- Major Junction
- View
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Ski Area, No Snowmobiling
- Wildlife Closure Area
- Wilderness Area
- Okanogan National Forest

Area has 119 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles

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Twisp River Sno-Park Groomed Trail System



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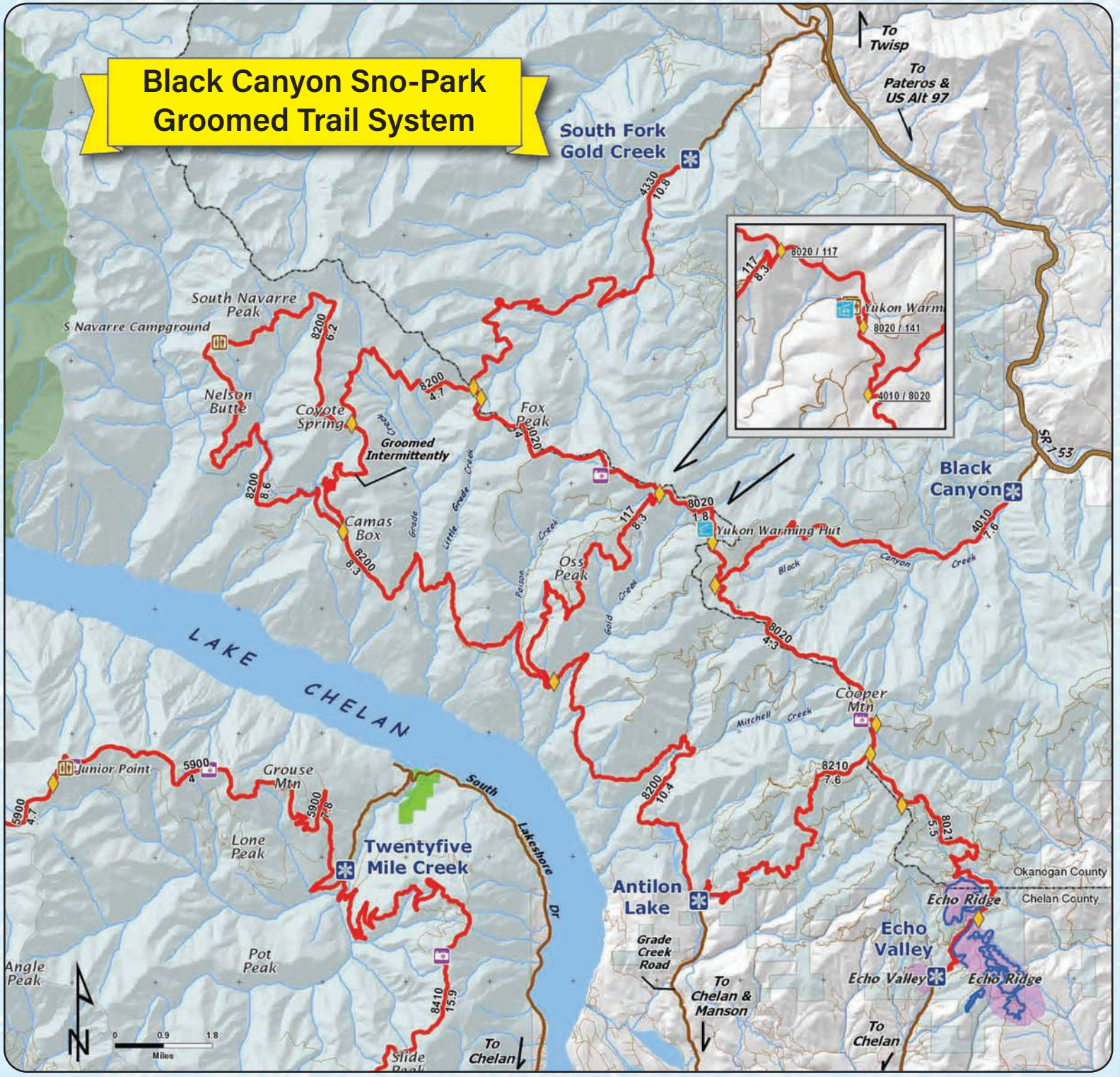
EXPLANATION

- Snow-Park
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Groomed Cross Country Ski Trail
- Temporary Closure
- Major Junction
- Shelter
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Ski Area
- Wilderness Area
- Okanogan National Forest

Area has 58 miles of groomed trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles





EXPLANATION

- Snow-Park
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Groomed Cross Country Ski Trail
- Major Junction
- Shelter
- Restroom
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Ski Area
- Wilderness Area
- Okanogan- Wenatchee National Forest

Area has 100 miles of groomed trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

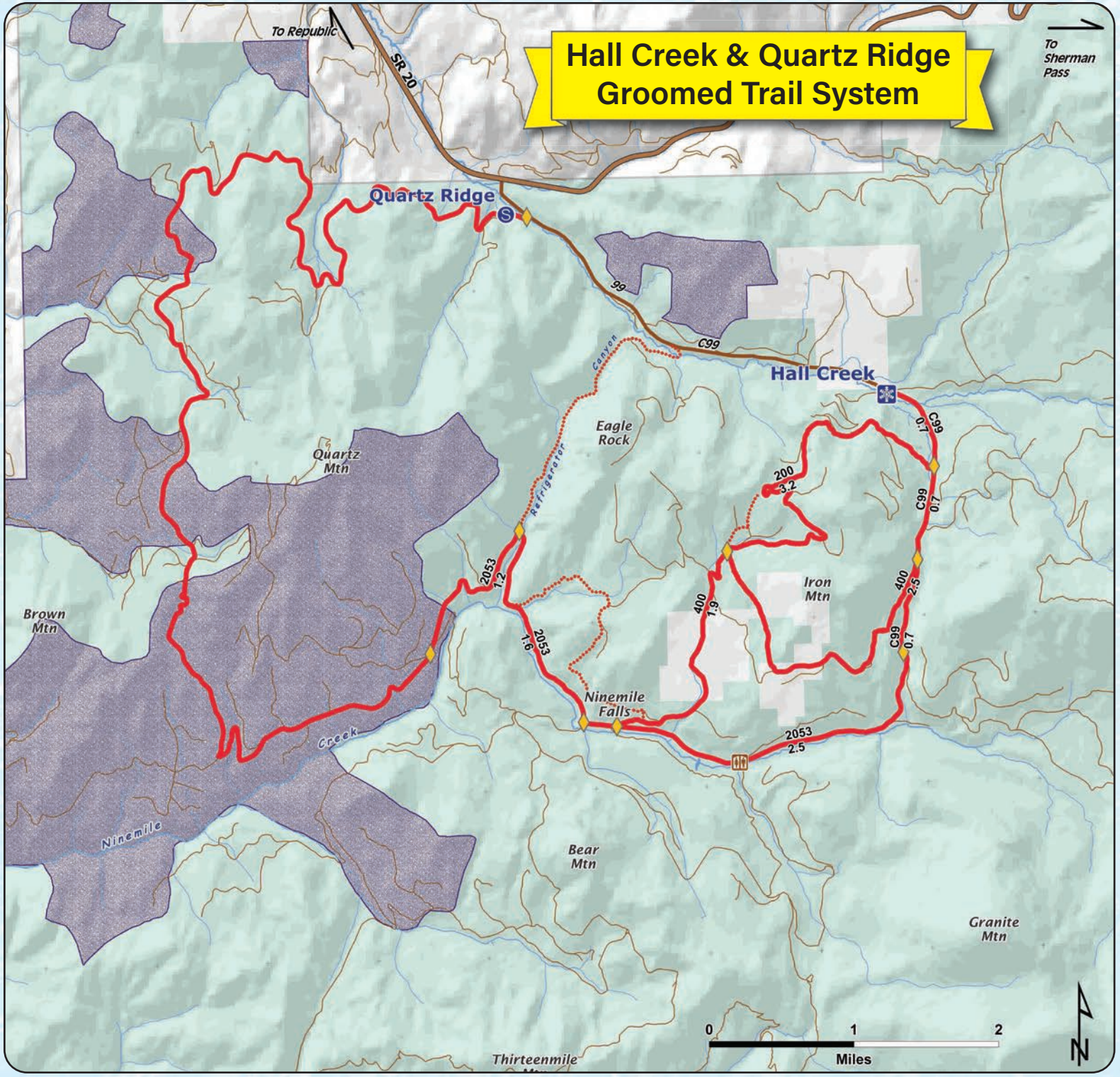
Road Number
Road Miles

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EXPLANATION

- Snow-Park
- Staging Area, Limited Plowing & Parking
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Ungroomed Trail
- Major Junction
- Restroom
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Winter Wildlife Closure Area
- Colville & Okanogan National Forest

Area has 38 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Road number and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles

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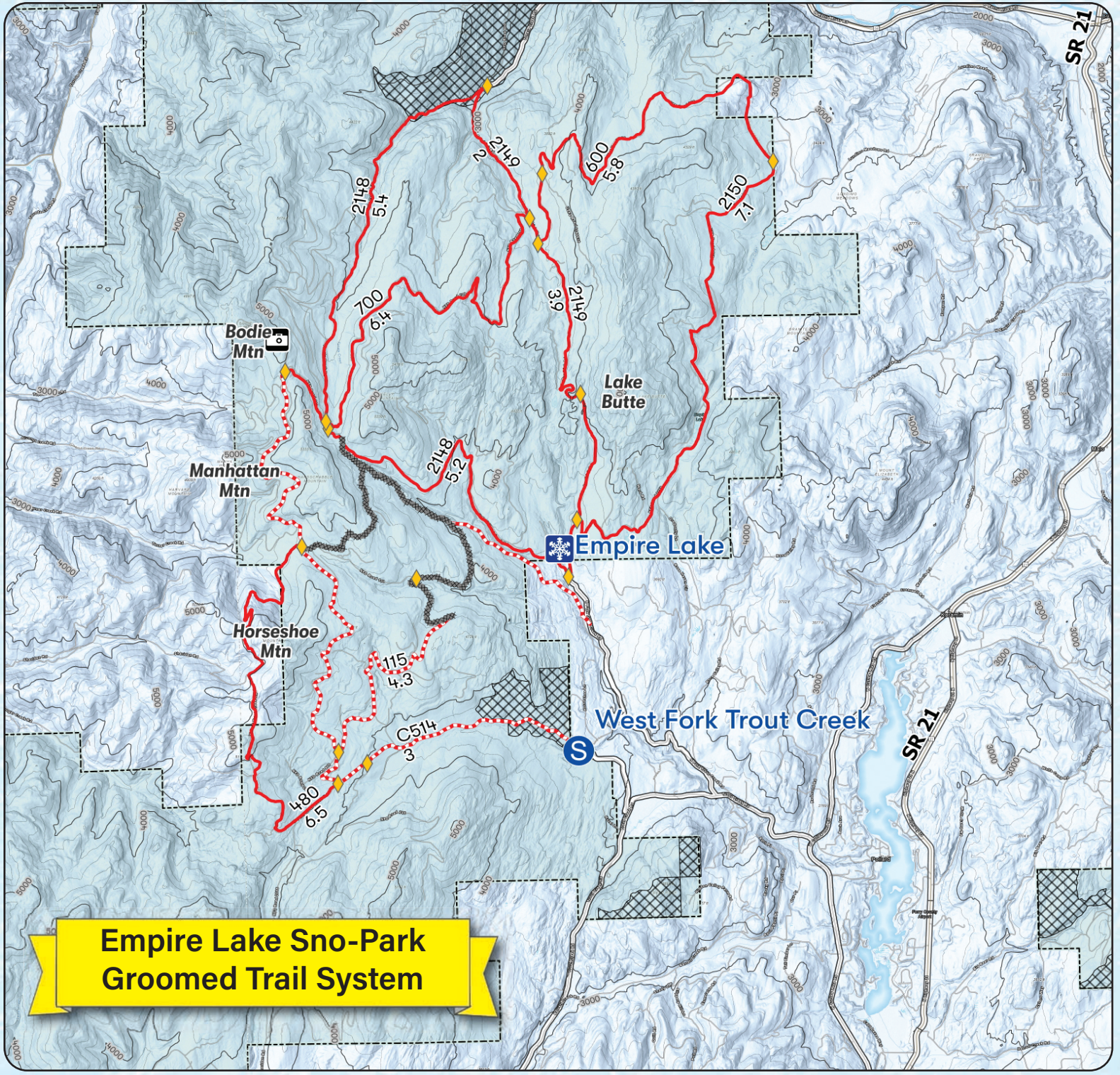
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EXPLANATION

- Snow-Park
- Staging Area, Limited Plowing & Parking
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- Trail Closed for Grooming
- Major Junction
- Restroom
- Highway
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Road
- Winter Wildlife Closure Area
- Colville & Okanogan National Forest

Area has 57 miles of groomed trails. Road # and mileage labeled between junctions.

Road Number
Road Miles

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RIDE SAFE. STAY SAFE.

SNOWMOBILING SAFETY CHECKLIST

WEAR A HELMET & GEAR
Head protection, layers, insulated gear

CHECK CONDITIONS & WEATHER
Review forecasts, warnings, avalanche risk

STAY ON MARKED TRAILS
Avoid private property, open water, thin ice

RIDE SOBER
Never operate under the influence

CARRY ESSENTIALS
Emergency kit, tools, navigation

KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT
Check lights, brakes, fluid levels before riding

NEVER RIDE ALONE
Use the buddy system, share your plan



PLAN. PREPARE. PROTECT.

Enjoy the Ride Responsibly. Be a Safe Rider!

AVALANCHE SAFETY FOR SNOWMOBILERS:

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO. PLAY SAFE. STAY ALIVE.

1 CHECK THE FORECAST



Get the daily avalanche bulletin & weather forecast before riding. Avoid high-risk zones.

2 CARRY THE ESSENTIALS



MUST HAVE & KNOW HOW TO USE. Ensure your equipment is in proper working order.

3 RIDE SAFELY & RESPONSIBLY



Ride one at a time on suspected slopes. Maintain spacing. Communicate dangers. Use spotters.





4 RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

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