



WINTER RECREATION UPDATE

12/19/2025

Plan Ahead • Check Conditions • Recreate Responsibly

Recent storms have significantly altered winter travel and recreation conditions across Washington. Significant snowfall is expected in the coming days, following periods of rain, flooding, and landslides that reduced snow coverage and damaged access in several mountain corridors.

As colder temperatures and significant snowfall arrive, some winter recreation opportunities may improve. However, access, conditions, and services will vary widely, and multiple mountain highways and access roads remain closed or subject to closures, delays, and travel restrictions. With the holiday period approaching, visitors should expect fewer open routes and destinations, changing conditions, and the need to adjust or postpone plans.

Winter recreation organizations urge the public to plan conservatively, stay informed, and make decisions based on current access, conditions, and forecasts.

What to Expect

- Significant new snowfall with rapidly changing conditions
- Early-season and storm-related hazards, including thin or variable snowpack and buried obstacles
- Dynamic road status, delays, or uncertain access
- Uphill travel may be closed or restricted; check ski area policies in advance and do not enter closed terrain
- Parking enforcement will be in place in areas that remain open
- Limited services at some destinations

What to Do Before You Go

- **Check road conditions before and during travel**
Mountain road conditions can change quickly during storms. Follow WSDOT advisories and respect all closures.
- **Check the status of ski areas and sno-parks, as well as uphill travel policies**
Uphill access varies by location and may be limited or restricted due to early-season conditions, storm response, or avalanche control work.
- **Check avalanche and weather forecasts**
New snow, wind, and warming can rapidly increase avalanche danger.

- **Prepare for delays and changing plans**

Carry emergency supplies, including warm layers, food, water, traction devices, a charged phone, and a small saw in the car. Be prepared to adjust plans or postpone trips if conditions deteriorate.

Recreate Responsibly

Make conservative decisions that reduce risk to yourself, emergency responders, and surrounding communities. Resources are already stretched thin. Ski areas and winter recreation providers will open or expand operations only when snow coverage, access, and safety systems allow.

Essential Resources

- Road conditions and closures (WSDOT):
<https://wsdot.com/Travel/Real-time/Map/>
- Ski area conditions and uphill travel policies:
<https://pnsaa.org/membership/member-resorts/>
- Avalanche forecasts and mountain weather (NWAC):
<https://nwac.us/>
- Ski Area Mountain Safety Guide:
<https://safety.pnsaa.org/>
- Grooming report: <https://www.snowrec.org/grooming-report>
- Washington sno-parks alerts: <https://parks.wa.gov/about/news-announcements/alerts>
- Following ski area social media updates is encouraged