



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Mount Rainier National Park

### Winter Trail Report – 01/29/15

Please note the date for reports and recognize changes may have occurred since report. If an area does not have a specific report, conditions are unknown as of the date of this summary. Check the Northwest Avalanche Center Report and the Mount Rainier Recreational Weather Report before heading out. Avalanche assessment and route-finding skills are needed for many winter activities in the park this time of year. Call the **Longmire Information Center** between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm if you have questions (360-569-6575).

Weather Report Link: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/get.php?wfo=sew&pil=REC&sid=SEW>

Avalanche Report Link: <http://nwac.us/avalanche-forecast/current/cascade-west-south/>

**Southwest Summary Report, 01/29/15:** Melting, melting everywhere. The conditions seem more like June than January currently which impacts everyone's winter recreation. The sledding and winter camping in the immediate Paradise area is still prohibited until we get more snow. Let's hope for snow together.

Any reports on conditions you experience are greatly appreciated; please stop by a ranger station after your trip to let us know what you saw.

**Longmire Area Trails, 01/22/15:** The trails are mostly snow free but muddy in the Longmire area.

Please note that multiple downed trees persist on the trails in the Longmire area. The foot bridge over the Nisqually to Carter Falls (near Cougar Rock Campground) is washed out.

A backcountry hiker reports the bridges are in on the Wonderland Trail over Kautz Creek, Pyramid Creek and Fishers Hornpipe Creep. Snow covering the loose rocks of the valley bottoms is a bit treacherous for finding your footing though.

Longmire Winter Trails PDF:

<http://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/upload/Longmire-Winter-Trails-Dec13.pdf>

**Paradise Area Trails, 01/29/15:** The Paradise weather station is reporting 51" snow-depth with measurements taken elsewhere (primarily the sledding area) snow depth is less than that.

Quite a bit of bare ground is seen in the Narada Falls and Reflection Lake areas. The poles used to mark the route are melting out and may need to be pulled soon without enough snow to hold them upright. A lot of Stevens Canyon Road is bare pavement due to melting. With these conditions snowshoes are still an option but skies are not recommended.

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In the Paradise and Mazama Ridge areas there is more snow but bare ground can still be seen. While not deep, tree wells are melting out and snow is melting away from rocks. Play it safe and treat it like the spring melt out, be wary of any snow underfoot possibly collapsing.

Most waterways are exposed but any still covered likely have very thin snow bridges. The bridge on Dead Horse Creek on Nisqually Vista is still marked and easily travelled. The bridge over Edith Creek near Myrtle Falls is not marked but visible and tapering to a narrow ridge on top.

Despite the low snow depth most folks are still using snowshoes as the warm temperatures are leaving the snow mushy instead of compact. We see many backcountry skiers on the weekends and while we do not get many reports of conditions from these users the reports we do get are less than enthusiastic about the skiing conditions. All visitors are reminded that staying off exposed vegetation is critical to the health and longevity of the Paradise meadows.

Three of our winter routes have been marked with orange and black poles. Please refer to the Paradise Winter Recreation PDF for marked routes and suggested routes to avoid avalanche terrain in the Paradise area. Remember navigation is your responsibility and tracks in the snow are not a trail.

<http://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/upload/Paradise-Winter-RecreationWmap-Nov13-1.pdf>

**East Side Area Update, 01/19/15:** One inch of wet slush at the SR410 boundary gate, just .5 mi after that the road is bare and wet all the way up to the White River Road junction. Predicted warm fronts will likely melt what remains down to a few lonely patches.

The Silver Creek Sno-Park (un-motorized) is currently accessible. Sno-Parks are located outside of Mount Rainier National Park and are operated by Washington State Parks. Please visit their website for further information.

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/130/Winter-Recreation>

For more information on where snowmobiling is allowed within Mount Rainier National Park please visit the winter recreation section of the park's website.

<http://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/winter-recreation.htm>

Self-registration set up at the north boundary arch bulletin board for wilderness backpacking. Self-registration is also set up at the White River Ranger Station for backpacking and climbing. (Climbers are directed to fill out a climbing card and to pay the fee utilizing a pre-addressed envelope when they return from their climb).

#### **Carbon/Mowich Area Update 01/19/14:**

Call (360) 829-9639 for the **Carbon River Ranch Ranger Station** hours. Self-registration for climbing and backpacking is set up outside when the Carbon River Ranch Ranger Station is not staffed.



Very little snow (practically none) can be found near the Carbon River Entrance. Between the entrance and the lower crossing of the Carbon River, approximately 7 mi beyond the entrance, the trail is 99% snow free. However flood damage has washed out sections of the trail past the Ispat Creek Campground, including a 50' section just before the lower crossing of the Carbon River. This would be a hazardous hike and is not recommended.

Bridges over the Carbon to Chenuis Falls and on the Wonderland Trail are out, as are the bridges over the Mowich River.

Mowich: very little snow on Hwy 165 up to Paul Peak but the road is very muddy with lots of potholes described as "epic".

No further reports in this area.