



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

Winter Trail Report – 12/18/14

Please note the date for reports and recognize changes may have occurred since report. If a trail or 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, 12/18/14: Much of the lower elevation snow has melted and the higher elevations have received little snow since last report. Another bout of strong winds has brought down a few more trees.

Longmire Area Trails, 12/18/14: Remnant snow can be found on Rampart Ridge near 4000' otherwise the trails are snow free. Expect many downed branches and trees due to recent windstorms. Two trees are reported as a challenge to get around. Both trees are approximately 3/4mi up the Wonderland Trail, one to the east and one to the west (part of Rampart Ridge loop).

The foot bridge over the Nisqually to Carter Falls (near Cougar Rock campground) is washed out, no report on the trail beyond that point.

Navigation should not currently be an issue with any trails found on the Longmire Winter Trails PDF.

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

Paradise Area Trails, 12/18/14: Paradise 5400' the snow is still a dense 2' with a few inches of fresh snow on top. After a couple of light snowfalls snowshoers and skiers are no longer reporting icy conditions, but traction devices are still highly recommended. Commonly used routes (west Skyline and Nisqually Vista trails in the summer) have received enough use that snowshoes are not necessary for loft but very helpful for traction.

While we all wait patiently for snowfall please help protect our fragile subalpine plants by avoiding any area with plants and branches sticking out of the snow.

See the [Paradise Autumn Recreation PDF](#) for suggested routes and avalanche terrain in the Paradise area. Remember navigation is your responsibility and do not trust tracks in the snow.

East Side Area Update, 12/3/14: SR 123 and 410 are closed at the park boundary. Silver Creek sno-park is not up and running yet, but parking lot is accessible.

No report on trail conditions, use the southwest area conditions as an estimate.

There is self-registration set up at the north boundary arch bulletin board for wilderness backpacking. There is also self-registration 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 12/3/14:

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

There is light snow on the ground near the Carbon River entrance, the warming trend and rain will likely melt this snow. There is snow and ice on the road to Mowich outside of the park boundary with approximately 1.5' of snow at Mowich Lake itself.

The lower elevations trails can be quite icy, traction devices recommended but without enough depth for snowshoes yet. The old road bed to Ispat Creek campground has sections washed out with the remainder being very muddy.

Recent flooding has created numerous hazards and difficulties in the Carbon River/Mowich area.

Bridges are washed out to Chenius Falls, over the Mowich Rivers on the Wonderland and on the approach to Carbon Glacier on the Wonderland.

The trail to Carbon Glacier also had sections wash out and other areas blocked by landslides. With bridges and sections of trail washed out, sections of trail blocked by landslide and icy conditions elsewhere this trip would be very hazardous. For any experience back-country user who still is considering this hike please use extreme caution.
