Avalanche Basics

Avalanches don't happen by accident and most human involvement is a matter of choice, not chance. Most avalanche accidents are caused by slab avalanches which are triggered by the victim or a member of the victim's party. However, any avalanche may cause injury or death and even small slides may be dangerous. Hence, always practice safe route finding skills, be aware of changing conditions, and carry avalanche rescue gear. Learn and apply avalanche terrain analysis and snow stability evaluation techniques to help minimize your risk. Remember that avalanche danger rating levels are only general guidelines. Distinctions between geographic areas, elevations, slope aspect and slope angle are approximate, and transition zones between dangers exist.

No matter what the current avalanche danger, there are avalanche-safe areas in the mountains.

Information from the Northwest Avalanche Center, www.nwac.us

PLEASE TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Ride only in areas open to snowmobiling.

Avoid trails with low snow cover.

Ride at reasonable speeds.

Approach hill summits with caution.

Avoid riding over frozen water.

Comply with posted signage.

Manage avalanche risk by: avoinding travel in avalanche prone areas; checking for avalanche risk before you ride, checking for unstable snow pack periodically, and riding one at a time on slopes.

Ride with a buddy.

Don't mix riding with alcohol or drugs.

PLEASE RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams.
Stay on designated routes.

Be aware of unmarked hazards or obstacles hidden beneath the snow.
Spinning tracks damage plants and soils just below the snow's surface.

Avoid spooking wildlife, and respect wintering habitats.

Motorized vehicles or not allowed in Wilderness Areas.

PLEASE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Be considerate of others on the trail.

Ride single file, keep to the right and pass on the left only when the trail is clear.

When stopping, pull your sled as far right and off the trail as possible.

Yield the right-of-way to skiers, snowshoers and those passing or traveling uphill.

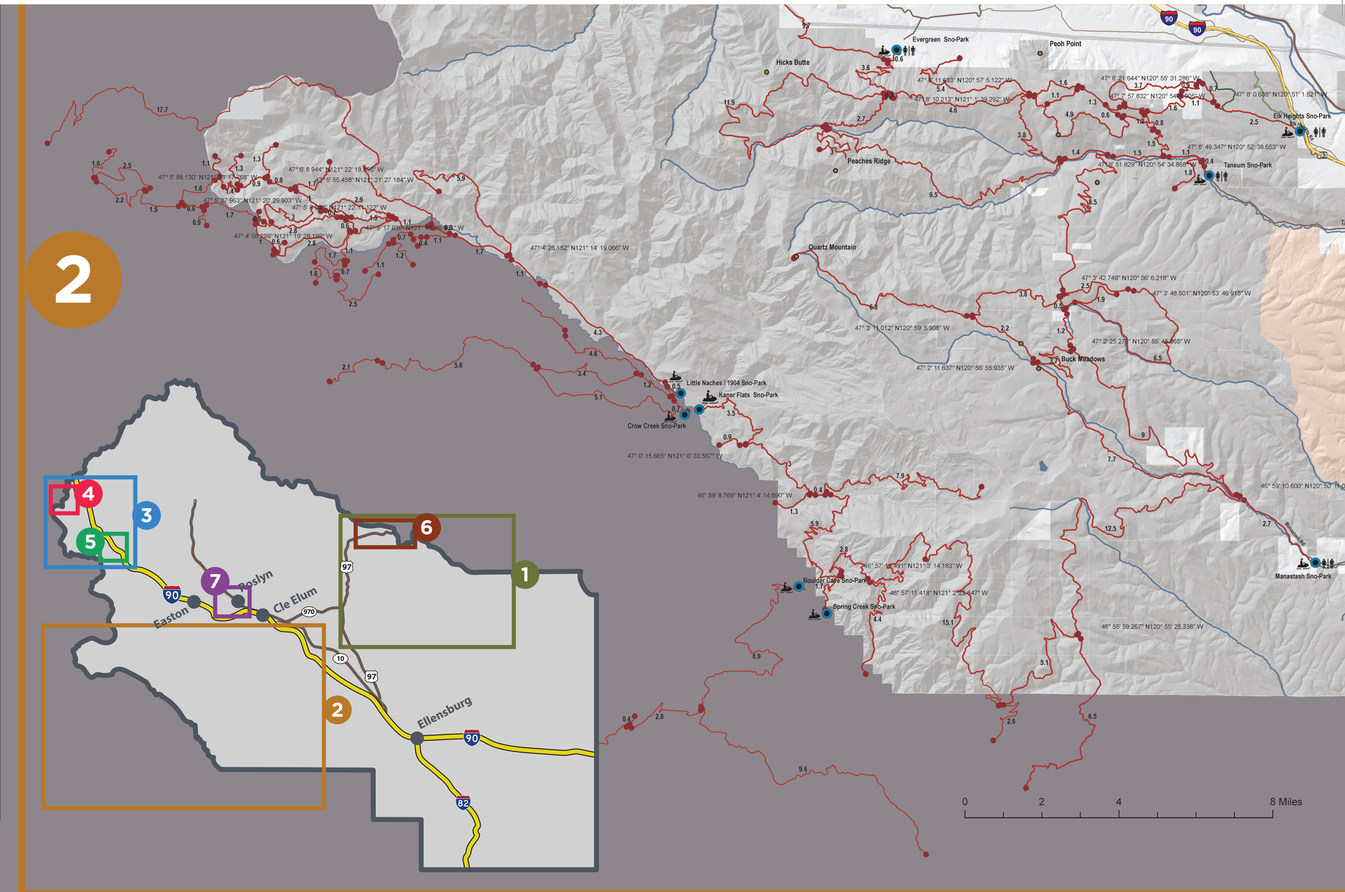
Use common snowmobiling signals to communicate with your group and other riders.

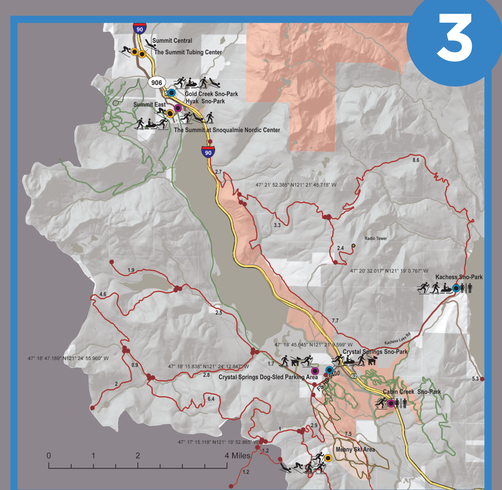
Gain permission before accessing private property.

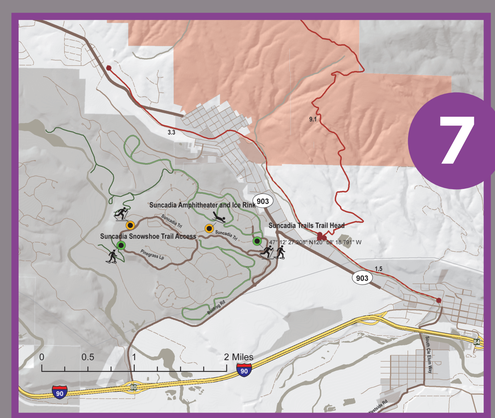
Avoid excessive and unnecessary noise, use proper noise supression.

Practice clean trail habits: Pack it in, pack it out.

For more information concerning safe and responsible motorized travel visit and consider supporting, www.TreadLightly.org







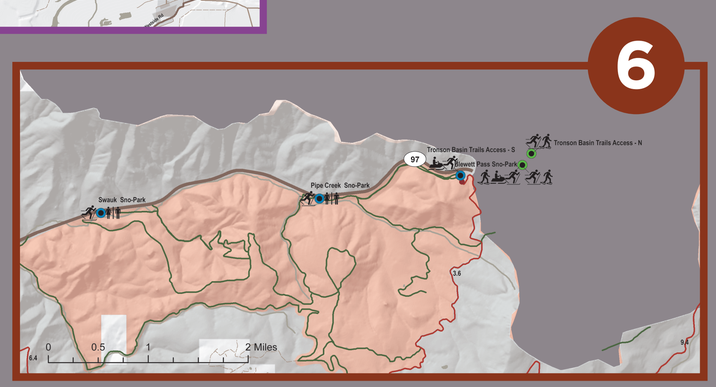
North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale

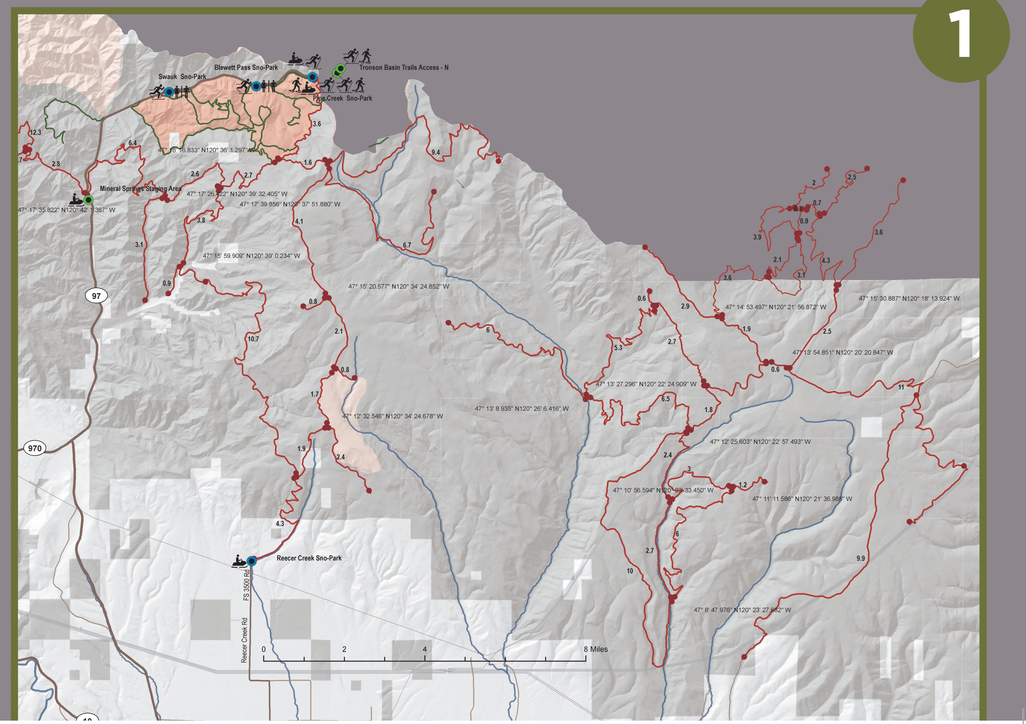
Avalanche danger is determined by the likelihood, size and distribution of avalanches.

Danger Level		Travel Advice	Likelihood of Avalanches	Avalanche Size and Distribution
5 Extreme	V	Avoid all avalanche terrain.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches certain.	Large to very large avalanches in many areas.
4 High	IV	Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.	Natural avalanches likely; human-triggered avalanches very likely.	Large avalanches in many areas; or very large avalanches in specific areas.
3 Considerable	III	Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding and conservative decision-making essential.	Natural avalanches possible; human-triggered avalanches likely.	Small avalanches in many areas; or large avalanches in specific areas; or very large avalanches in isolated areas.
2 Moderate	II	Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.	Natural avalanches unlikely; human-triggered avalanches possible.	Small avalanches in specific areas; or large avalanches in isolated areas.
1 Low	I	Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches unlikely.	Small avalanches in isolated areas or extreme terrain.

Safe backcountry travel requires training and experience. You control your own risk by choosing where, when and how you travel.

No Rating	?	Insufficient information to establish avalanche danger rating. Check zone forecast for local information.	By Grant Statham et al - CAC - Parks Canada, CC0





Map Legend

- X-Country Skiing
- Dog Sledding
- Snowmobiling
- Tubing & Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Downhill Skiing
- IceSkating

Pass

- Free- No fee or pass
- Fee
- Sno-Park Permit
- Sno-Park Permit & Non-Motorized Groomed Trail Sticker

Points of Interests

- Equipment Rental
- Information
- Trail Intersection

Winter Trails

- Groomed Snowmobile
- Bladed Shoulder
- Multi use groomed
- Groomed Nordic
- Groomed Nordic-skate
- Ungroomed ski route
- Groomed Dogsled
- Marked snowshoe
- BPA TLines
- Recreation Land

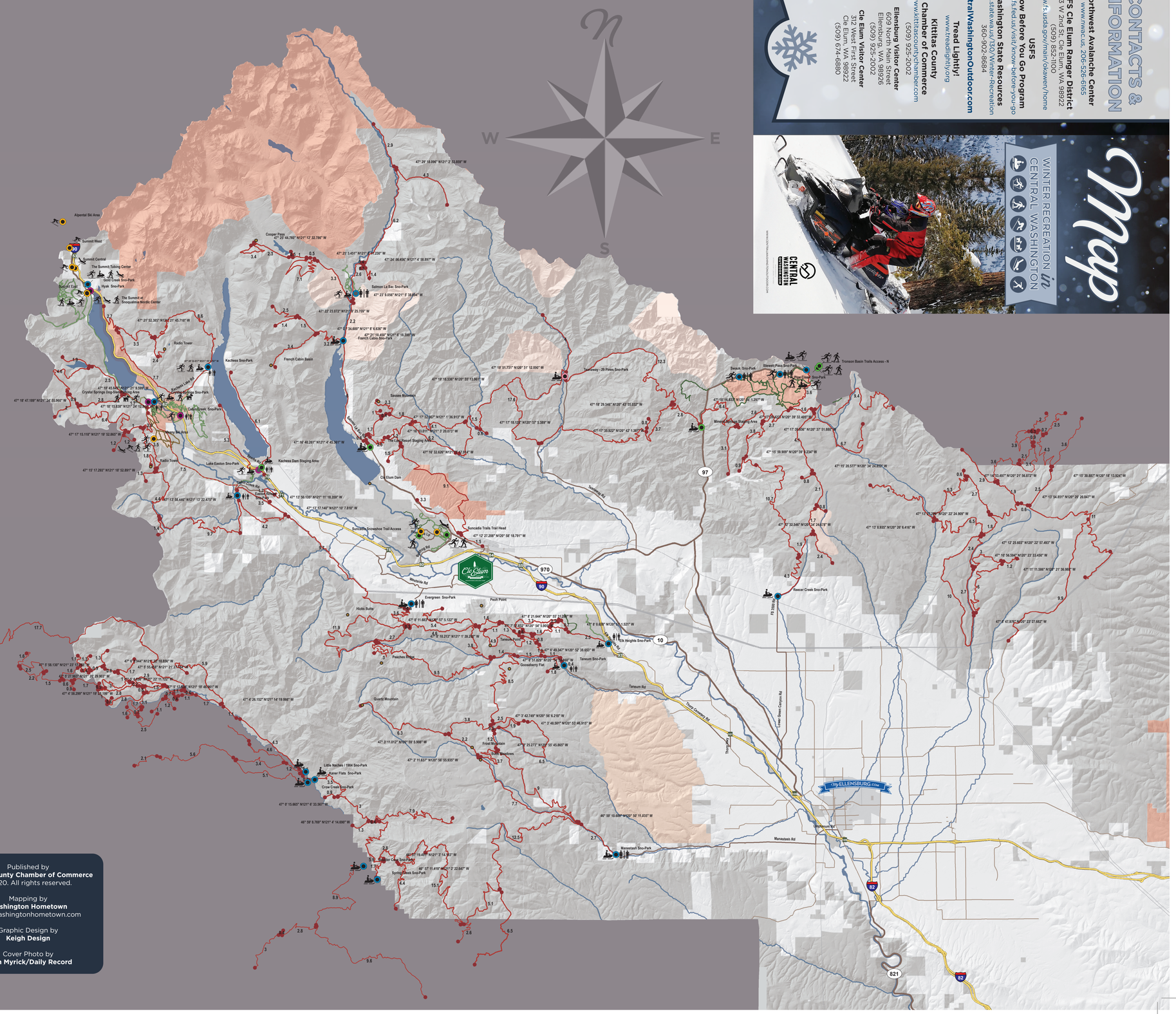
Restricted Use Areas

- Closed to Snowmobiles
- Voluntary Non-Motorized Winter Rec Area
- Winter Closure Area
- Urban Areas

A Discover Pass is also required at Crystal Springs, Easton Reload, Hyak and Lake Easton if using a one-day Sno-Park permit. It is not required with the Seasonal pass.

Snowmobilers need a Sno-Park permit. Non-motorized users with an annual Sno-Park permit are also required to have a special groomed trail sticker. The daily permit includes the special grooming fee.

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles


N
W
E
S
Alpental Ski Area
Summit West
Summit Central
The Summit Tubing Center
Gold Creek Sno-Park
Hyak Sno-Park
Snoqualmie East
The Summit at Snoqualmie Nordic Center
Cooper Pass
Salmon La Sac Sno-Park
French Cabin Basin
Radio Tower
Kachess Sno-Park
Crystal Springs Dog-Sled Staging Area
Cabin Creek Sno-Park
Stampede Pass Sno-Park
Lake Easton Sno-Park
Easton Reload Sno-Park
Kachess Dam Staging Area
Cle Elum Dam
Suncadia Snowshoe Trail Access
Suncadia Trails Trail Head
Cle Elum
Wildcycle Rd
Evergreen Sno-Park
Peoh Point
Hicks Butte
Peaches Ridge
Quartz Mountain
Little Naches / 1904 Sno-Park
Kaner Flats Sno-Park
Crow Creek Sno-Park
Cedar Creek Sno-Park
Spring Creek Sno-Park
Tanneum Point
Goosberry Flat
Tanneum Sno-Park
Elk Heights Sno-Park
Tanneum Rd
Thorp Cemetery Rd
Thorp Jeffs
Cedar Creek Canyon Rd
Manastash Sno-Park
Manastash Rd
Longmire Rd
Recreation Creek Sno-Park
FS 3300 Rd
Tuesday - 29 Pines Sno-Park
Swauk Sno-Park
Stevens Pass Sno-Park
Pine Creek Sno-Park
Ronson Basin Trails Access - N
Mineral Springs Staging Area
Teanaway Rd
Teanaway Rd
Teanaway Rd