

PARKING/TRAILHEADS

CANYON CREEK: Five miles north of Columbia Falls

DESERT MOUNTAIN: Near Martin City, east of Columbia Falls

OLNEY: Near Highway 93, 18 miles northeast of Whitefish

SKYLAND ROAD: One mile west of Marias Pass

SWAN LAKE: On Highway 83 about 2 1/2 miles south of the village of Swan Lake

WHITEFISH: North end of Whitefish Lake

ELEVATION

Kalispell 2,956'; Trails to 7,000'

SAFE RIDER

Snowmobiling is a fun and exciting sport the whole family can enjoy. However, winter offers certain challenges that require snowmobilers to take precautions.

- Know your abilities and your snowmobile's capabilities and don't go beyond them.
- Know your riding area. Get a map. Talk to the local snowmobilers.
- Maintain your snowmobile in top form for a dependable ride.
- Cross roads carefully. Come to a complete stop and make sure no traffic is approaching from any direction. Then cross at a right angle to the road.
- Dress for changing weather conditions. Wear layers of clothing so you can add or remove clothing as needed. Always wear a helmet.
- Plan for the unexpected by carrying a tool kit, first aid kit and survival items. Let someone know your plans so searchers will know where to look if you are lost or overdue.
- Check ice conditions before traveling on frozen lakes or rivers.
- Learn to recognize avalanche areas and avoid them. Carry avalanche rescue equipment including a transceiver, probe pole and shovel, and know how to use them. Review the local avalanche advisory when available.
- Ride sober. Alcohol increases the chance of frostbite and hypothermia, and affects the skills you need to ride safely.
- Operate at safe speeds and be prepared to stop within your line of sight. Slow down and enjoy the ride.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Snowmobile trails in Northwest Montana are groomed from **December 1** through **April 15**.

AVALANCHE INFORMATION

Avalanche Advisories for the Glacier Country Avalanche Center region are a public service provided by the Flathead National Forest Service. Advisories begin the first Friday in December and are issued once a week (on Friday mornings) until the third week in December when they are issued Tuesday and Friday mornings until April. Beginning in April, advisories are again issued just on Friday mornings until the second Friday in April. Check the current Glacier Country Advisory at www.glacieravalanche.org on Tuesday and Friday mornings or call 406-257-8402.

Avalanche Hotline: 406-257-8402

PERMITS

- A \$10 state land use permit (\$20/family) is required for off-trail riding on State Forest Lands.
- There is a \$15 per machine fee for non-residents. Apply on-line at www.fwp.mt.gov
- These funds will be allocated to improve the trail-grooming program.
- Permits are available at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices.

TRAIL MAPS

Trail maps are available throughout the Valley, at snowmobile dealers and distributors, from the US Forest Service, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, and through city visitor information centers.

Our visitors are important to us.

Please...

dress for winter conditions,
be prepared for emergencies and above all...

PLAY SAFELY!



AREA INFORMATION

Flathead National Forest

650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT 59901

406-758-5204

www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead

Flathead Snowmobile Association

www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com

info@flatheadsnowmobiler.com

Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks - Region 1

490 Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901

406-752-5501

www.fwp.mt.gov/r1

fwprg12@mt.gov

Glacier Country Avalanche Center

406-257-8402

www.glacieravalanche.org



For more information about
Montana's Flathead Valley contact:

Flathead Convention & Visitor Bureau

15 Depot Park

Kalispell, MT 59901

800-543-3105

www.montanasflatheadvalley.com

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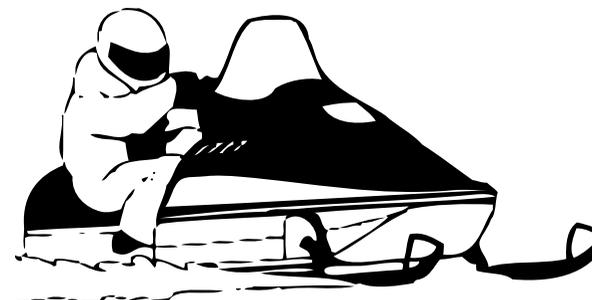


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SNOWMOBILING

Montana's
Flathead Valley



Montana's Flathead Valley
is your gateway to a winter wonderland with
approximately 200 miles of groomed trails and
nearly 2,000 miles of National Forest Service
roads to take you through pristine alpine
forests, along ridges with spectacular views
and into deep powder bowls.



1 CANYON CREEK

Located on the North Fork of the Flathead River drainage, the Canyon Creek trail accesses more than 80 miles of groomed trail and abundant mountain riding. Starting from the trailhead five miles north of Columbia Falls on Forest Service Road 316, the trail leads to the summit of Whitefish Mountain Resort on Big Mountain where you can take a break in the Summit House. You can also continue past Big Mountain to Upper Whitefish Lake or go into Kimmerly Basin, a favorite play area along the route.

Total length: 110 miles.

2 DESERT MOUNTAIN

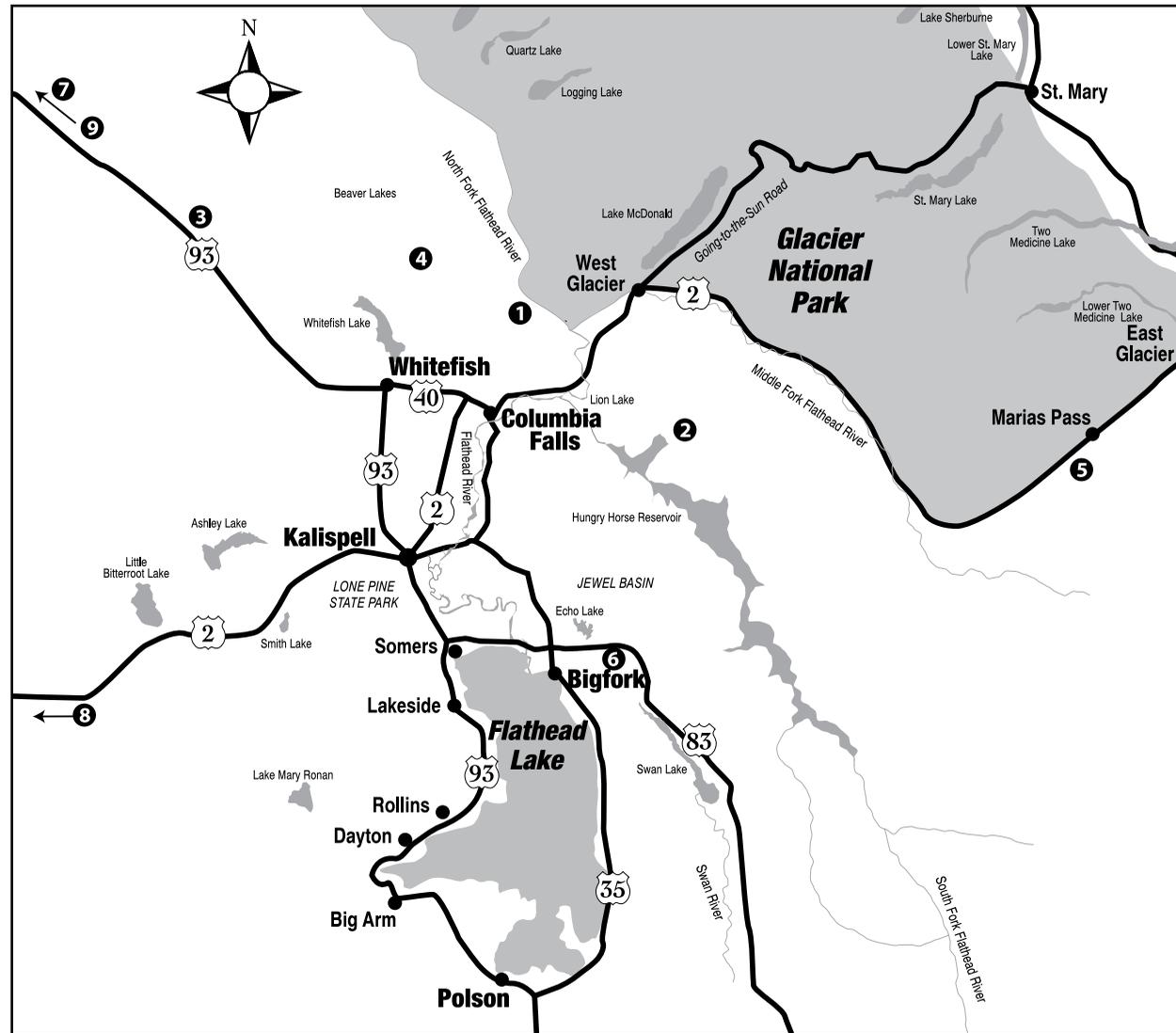
Known as one of the most spectacular trails in Northwest Montana, the Desert Mountain trail allows access to the summit of Desert Mountain overlooking Glacier National Park, the Hungry Horse Reservoir and the Great Bear Wilderness. From this trailhead you may also ride an ungroomed trail along the east shore of Hungry Horse Reservoir for about 35 miles to enjoy the scenery and some hill climbing.

Total length: 25 miles.

3 OLNEY/RED MEADOW

Close to Whitefish and just off Highway 93, the Olney Trail travels through open-field play terrain. The groomed trail connects to the Upper Whitefish Lake trail and the Stryker Trail. This is one of the longest loops you can take in one day, with the route winding from Olney, up and over 7,100 foot Werner Peak, up and over Whitefish Mountain Resort on Big Mountain and down into Canyon Creek where it ends at the Canyon Creek trailhead in Columbia Falls.

Total length: 70 miles.



4 UPPER WHITEFISH LAKE

This trail connects to the trails from Olney and Mount Marston, making a nearly 50-mile tour through the deep woods of the Whitefish Mountain Range. The area offers groomed trail riding as well as unlimited mountain climbing and play in open meadows. It takes about one hour to get to Upper Whitefish Lake from the Upper Whitefish Lake trailhead. Or, take the groomed trail to the east and head up to Werner Peak.

Total length: 42 miles.

5 SKYLAND ROAD

The Skyland road snowmobile trails straddle the Continental Divide at an elevation of more than 5,500 feet. The trail system is accessed from US Highway 2 about 60 miles east of West Glacier, or two miles from the summit of Marias Pass to Forest Service road 569. This area offers groomed trail riding as well as hill climbing and open play terrain. The high elevation gives you some of the deepest powder bowl playing in Northwest Montana.

Total length: 34 miles.

6 CRANE MOUNTAIN

Just outside Bigfork, you'll find 38 miles of groomed trail riding and unlimited play terrain in mountain meadows and old logging clearcuts. These trails offer views of Flathead Lake, the Swan Mountains and the Mission Mountains. Explore more than 100 miles of ungroomed logging roads. Reach the Crane Mountain trail system from Highway 209, six miles south of Bigfork, or from Highway 83, two miles south of Swan Lake.

Total length: 38 miles.

7 BIRCH CREEK RECREATION AREA/GRAVE CREEK

This area accesses the beautiful Ten Lakes Scenic Area beginning 16 miles southeast of Eureka. There are more than 50 miles of groomed trails with opportunities for ungroomed riding in some of Montana's most spectacular backcountry.

Total length: 50 miles.

8 QUARTZ CREEK

Located just west of Libby, the route travels north to the base of Turner Mountain ski hill.

Total length: 25 miles.

9 STRYKER PEAK/MOUNT MARSTON

The Mount Marston Trail is midway between Whitefish and the Canadian border on Highway 93. This ungroomed trail begins at Loon's Echo Resort on Road 900 and takes you over the Whitefish Divide to the groomed Upper Whitefish Lake trail. One fork goes to Mount Marston Lookout with an elevation of nearly 7,000 feet. The North Fork takes you to the Upper Whitefish Lake trail system that runs to the Canyon Creek parking area north of Columbia Falls and the Big Mountain in Whitefish.

Total length: 70 miles.

