

WINTER RECREATION CONTINUED

Description: This trail takes off from the #801 Ponderosa Trail after one mile. It follows a ridge traveling through old ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest. There are many opportunities for practicing telmark turns as well as enjoying some excellent views of Mill Creek wilderness. This trail connects with McGinnis Creek trail after 1.2 miles for easy return to sno-park.

Sledding

Marks Creek Sled Hill

Ochoco National Forest
Big Summit Ranger District

Elevation: 4,700'

Season: December through March

Location: 27.5 miles east of Prineville along US Hwy 26. Sno-park permit is required November 15th through March 30th.

Description: Marks Creek Sled Hill has been used for many years by local residents for sledding. A state sno-park, just off US Hwy 26, was built by the Oregon Army National Guard. Caution: Sled at your own risk. No employees or emergency people are on duty.

Snowmobiling

Ochoco Divide

Ochoco National Forest

Elevation: 5,200'

Miles: 30+

Elevation: 5,200'

Miles: 30+

Facilities: State Sno-Park, toilet

Location: 28.5 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26. State Sno-park permit required November 15 through April 15.

Description: Many miles of marked snowmobile trail are easily accessed from this Sno-park. Check with the local Ranger station for snow conditions.

Access to Nature Creek, Walton Lake, Indian Prairie and Pisgah, for an easy 5-6 hour outing.

Snowmobile Trails

Ochoco National Forest

Elevation: 4,800'—6,200'

Miles: 87 miles of maintained trail

Facilities: 3 shelters, 1 Sno-park, 2 other parking areas

Location: Primarily around Ochoco Divide and Indian Prairies. Maps available at Ranger Stations, local stores and the Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center.

Parking Areas: State Sno-park is located 28.5 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26, other parking areas where a permit is not required (unplowed areas) are 1) Ochoco Ranger Station on County Hwy. 123 2) 6.5 miles up Forest Road 42 on Lookout Mountain and 3) Forest Road 2630 on Forest Road 22 near Walton Lake.

Description: Ochoco Snow Sports snowmobile club and the US Forest Service maintain these trails. The major travel routes are groomed periodically.

Trail skill level ranges from easy to most difficult. Length varies from one hour trips to all day adventures. For high country adventure head to Pisgah Mountain or explore the wide open spaces by circling Big Summit Prairie. Terrain varies from high mountain meadows to stands of old growth ponderosa pine. Snow shelters are located at Indian Prairie and Lookout Mountain.

Caution: This is a remote area. Always travel in pairs and carry safety essentials.

Snow Shoeing

Bandit Springs

Ochoco National Forest

Elevation: 4,700'—5,200'

Facilities: Snow shelter

Lookout Mountain

Ochoco National Forest

Elevation: 4,700'—6,900'

Facilities: Snow shelter

Location: (both above sites) 15 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26, then turn on County Road 123. Beyond the Ochoco Ranger Station .5 miles turn on Forest Road #42 and proceed for 6.5 miles. Access to parking area is limited. *These sites are also listed under cross country skiing.

Cover Photo: Winter in Prineville 1910

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WINTER RECREATION

Cross Country Skiing

Bandit Springs

Ochoco National Forest

Elevation: 4,700'—5,200'

Miles: 13 miles marked with blue diamonds

Facilities: Snow shelter

Location: 28 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26. State Sno-Park permit required November 15 through March 30th at Bandit Springs Rest Area.

Description: Bandit Springs is a superb area for cross-country skiing. The season is short, but the scenery is well worth the trip. Graceful stands of old growth ponderosa pine interspersed with meadows makes for excellent skiing. There are 2.7 miles of beginner trail, 5.9 miles of moderately difficult trail and 3.9 miles of most difficult trail. There is also plenty of back-country skiing on old roads and skid trails.

Lookout Mountain

Ochoco National Forest

Elevation: 4,700'—6,900'

Miles: 3.5

Facilities: Snow shelter

Location: 15 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26, then turn on County Road 123. Beyond the Ochoco Ranger Station, 5 miles turn on Forest Road #42 and proceed for 6.5 miles. Access to parking area is limited.

Description: This area is for the experienced skiers, it is remote and trails are not groomed. Be prepared to handle adverse weather and emergencies

alone. There are 3.5 miles of marked trail, however markings are difficult to find in open meadows near the summit. The snow and views are superb. Once you reach the summit, excellent 360° views and a snow shelter are yours.

Nordic Skiing

#811 Easy

Ochoco National Forest

Length: 1.3 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Location: 22 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy. 26. State Sno-park permit required November 15 through March 30 at Bandit Springs Rest Area.

Description: This trail forks off McGinnis Creek Trail after 2.1 miles, follows level road and connects back into McGinnis Creek Trail for easy return to sno-park.

#808 Independent Mine

Ochoco National Forest

Length: 8 miles

Difficulty: More difficult

Location: 15 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26, right turn on County Road 123, travel 8 miles, then just past Ochoco Ranger Station, turn right on Forest Road #42, travel 6.5 miles to trailhead.

Description: This 8 mile loop trail travels through mysterious old growth fir and pine thickets. As it gains elevation it wanders through beautiful mountain meadows and reaches to the top of Lookout Mountain. A shelter is located near the top. The trail follows an old road about .3 miles,

turns left and descends for 4 miles back to the starting point.

#802 McGinnis Creek Loop

Ochoco National Forest

Length: 4.2 miles

Difficulty: Most Difficult

Location: 22 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26. State Sno-park permit required November through March 30 at Bandit Springs Rest Area.

Description: Although rated more difficult, an intermediate skier should have no trouble here. The trail travels along abandoned roads, through beautiful forests of large old ponderosa pine. Winter snows provide excellent skiing on ungroomed trails from mid December to late February.

#806 Ochoco Way Loop

Ochoco National Forest

Length: 3.5 miles

Difficulty: Most difficult

Location: 22 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26. State Sno-park permit required November through March 30 at Bandit Springs Rest Area

Description: This trail forks off the #801 Ponderosa Loop Trail, crosses Forest Road #27 and heads northeast over a foot bridge. The first one-fourth mile is a steep climb. There is a second crossing on Forest Road #27 and an easy one-fourth mile ski to the snow shelter. This route is not recommended for beginning skiers.

#801 Ponderosa Loop

Ochoco National Forest

Length: 1.4 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Location: 22 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26. State Sno-park permit required November through March 30 at Bandit Springs Rest Area.

Description: An incredible forest of graceful old ponderosa pine growing on rolling hills, excellent skiing on ungroomed trails in powder quality snow. This particular trail in the Bandit Springs area primarily follows an old logging road.

#802A Ridge Trail

Ochoco National Forest

Length: .5 miles

Difficulty: Most difficult

Location: 22 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26. State Sno-park permit required November through March 30 at Bandit Springs Rest Area.

Description: This trail follows McGinnis Creek Trail for 1.4 miles then heads west. Look for blue diamonds on a hairpin curve. Ridge Trail accesses the snow shelter and connects to Ochoco Trail. There are two short sections of moderately steep climbing and slopes for telemark skiing.

#810 Woodpecker & 810A Tie Trail

Ochoco National Forest

Length: 1.2 miles

Difficulty: More difficult

Location: 22 miles east of Prineville on US Hwy 26. State Sno-park permit required November through March 30 at Bandit Springs Rest Area.