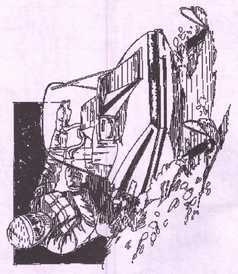
MADISON AREA SNOW TRAILS



Produced through a cooperative effort between:

Vigilante Snowmobilers

and

SERVICES

	GAS	FOOD	LODGING
Cameron		X	X
Elk Lake Resort		X	X
Ennis	X	X	X
Mc Allister		X	
Virgina City		X	X
Wade Lake Resort			X

WINTER CARE SAVES LIVES

AVALANCHE – Avalanches occur at any time during winter, especially on steep-sided slopes greater than 30 degrees. Learn how to recognize and avoid avalanche areas by attending an avalanche hazard assessment course. Carry and know how to use avalanche rescue equipment including beacons and probe poles. Bring a shovel!

Avoid steep terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high winds.
Steer clear of cornices, an overhanging ledge of snow on the leeward (downwind) side of mountain and ridge tops.
Stay on the windblown side of ridges.

More advice on avalanche conditions is available at local Forest Service offices or from the Avalanche Advisory hotlines listed on this map or on the web at www.mtavalanche.com.

ICE – Travel over frozen lakes, rivers, and streams is not recommended! Traveling on ice is dangerous. If you choose to travel on frozen lakes, rivers and streams, use extreme caution.

Snowmobiles are difficult to control on ice and fast stops are impossible.
Never travel on dark colored ice or ice covered with slush.
Areas with springs or currents erode ice and do not freeze solid.

OTHER POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

Reduce fossil-fuel emissions and protect Montana's unique environment.

Reduce idling time of any fossil-fueled powered vehicles, snowmobiles and automobiles. This not only avoids unnecessary adverse impacts to air quality, but saves gas and money too.

Perform pre-trip tune ups. This maintenance measure will also help ensure trouble free and safe winter travel.

Avoid areas of little or shallow snow cover. Avoid running over the exposed tops of trees. Mechanical damage to the ground and vegetation can cause spring soil erosion and damage to other valuable resources.

A wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts enjoy Montana's beautiful winter environment. There is room for everybody if we honor the rights of others. Be courteous and lend a helping hand when appropriate. Know before you go. Use trails and areas that are designated for your particular recreation use. Respect restricted areas.

Travel Plan maps are available from land management agency offices.

IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS TOTHE SPORT OF SNOWMOBILING AND THE PRUDENT SNOWMOBILER SHOULD BE AWARE OF SUCH RISKS AND TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Madison Ranger District
5 Forest Service Road
Ennis, MT 59729
(406) 682-4253

Hebgen Lake Ranger District
Box 520
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
(406) 823-6961

Island Park Ranger District
3726 HWY 20
Island Park, ID 83429
(208) 558-7301

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lakeview, MT
(406) 276-3536

Bureau of Land Management
Dillon Resource Area
(406) 683-2337

ALCOHOL AND SNOWMOBILES DON'T MIX

Drinking and riding can be fatal. Alcohol impairs coordination, vision and judgment, and slows reaction time. It also makes a person more susceptible to hypothermia. Operating a snowmobile while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is illegal. Don't drink and ride!!

WIND CHILL CHART

AIR TEMP(degF)	WIND SPEED (MPH) 5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
40	37	28	23	19	16	13	12	11
30	27	16	9	4	1	-2	-4	-5
20	16	3	-5	-10	-15	-18	-20	-21
10	6	-9	-18	-24	-29	-33	-35	-37
0	-5	-22	-31	-39	-44	-49	-52	-53
-10	-15	-34	-45	-53	-59	-64	-67	-69
-20	-26	-46	-58	-67	-74	-79	-82	-84
-30	-38	-58	-72	-81	-88	-93	-97	-100
-40	-47	-71	-85	-95	-103	-109	-113	-115

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

Physically Fit:
Strength and endurance are needed to handle and ride a snowmobile. Get in shape for the winter season.

Buddy System:
Travel in a group of at least three people and three snowmobiles.

Good Equipment:
Carry a tool kit; know how to make repairs. Carry survival equipment. Have enough gas with some to spare.

Trip Plan:
Plan where you are going and stick with the plan. Tell a responsible person about your plan and when you will return.

Check Weather forecast:
Don't travel in a storm or immediately after storm or wind events. Be alert to ground blizzard hazards. Turn back if the weather turns bad.

Stay on Safe routes:
Avoid avalanche terrain. Avoid thin ice and unsafe river crossings. Never follow unfamiliar trials at night.

23-2-654.M.C.A. SNOWMOBILER'S ASSUMPTIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY– DUTIES

(1) A snowmobiler assumes the risk and all legal responsibility for death or injury to himself or other persons or property that results from the risks inherent to the sport of snowmobiling. The assumption of risks includes but is not limited to death or injury caused by the following variations in terrain, surface or subsurface snow or ice conditions, cornices, avalanches, poor visibility, bare spots, rocks, trees, other forms of forest growth or debris, and plainly marked trail maintenance equipment.

(2) A snowmobiler is responsible for:

(a) Knowing the range of his own ability to snowmobile any slope, or trail, or area and for snowmobiling within limits of his ability considering the conditions;
(b) Maintaining control of his speed and course at all times while snowmobiling;
(c) Heeding all posted warnings; and
(d) Refraining from acting in a manner that may cause or contribute to the injury of anyone.

(3) The provisions of this section do not affect a products liability cause or action based upon the design or manufacture of snowmobile equipment or products or safety equipment used incidental to the operation of a snowmobile.

LEGEND

Snowmobile Trails

Groomed

P Parking (unloading area)

S Services(Food,Fuel,Lodging) See "Services Chart"

④ Route Number

Scale 1" = 1 Mi.

Trail Description

Route 4 – North Meadow Creek

12 mile groomed system featuring several loops

More Difficult: Trail beginning at Forest Boundary for the first four miles is easy, then the trail narrows and winds through timber.
Regular grooming lessens the difficulty rating, but steep upper sections offer plenty of challenge.

Special considerations: Old cabins and mills from Previous mining activity add interest to this area.
Caution !! This is a popular route.
Expect skiers and oncoming traffic.

CHECK LIST

- Avalanche Beacon
- Shovel/Probe Pole
- Matches (waterproof)
- Extra Gas
- Tools for Snowmobile
- First Aid Kit
- Map,Compass, GPS
- Hatchet
- Rope
- Emergency Flares
- Tarp (for temp. shelter)
- Proper Clothing & Extras
- Helmet,Goggles,Gloves,Boots
- Sunblock, Lotion etc.
- Snowshoes (in case of breakdown)
- Equipment (in top shape & tested)
- Enough Food (lunch & emergency rations)

HYPOTHERMIA

Be aware of the danger of hypothermia – subnormal temperature of the body. Lowering of internal temperature of the body leads to mental and physical collapse.

Hypothermia is caused by exposure to cold, and it is aggravated by wet, wind and exhaustion. It is the number one killer of outdoor recreationist.

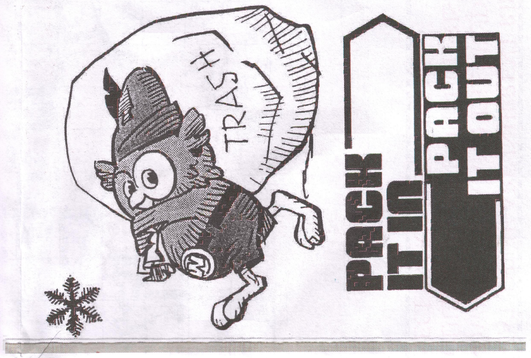
SYMPTOMS – If your party is exposed to the wind, cold, and wet, think hypothermia. Watch yourself and others for symptoms.

Uncontrollable fits of shivering.
Vague, slow, slurred speech.
Memory lapses, incoherence.
Immobile, fumbling hands.

Get the hypothermia victim out of the cold as soon as possible. Replace wet clothes with dry ones and put victim in a warm sleeping bag if one is available. Give the victim warm drinks. (Never give drinks to an unconscious person.) Try to keep the victim awake. The best way to pass heat to the victim is skin-to-skin contact inside a sleeping bag.

PREVENTION –

Stay dry.
Understand the cold. Most hypothermia cases develop in air temperatures between 30°F and 50°F.
Use your clothes. Put on raingear before you get wet. Put on thermal layers before you start shivering.
End exposure.
Get out of the wind and rain. Build a fire. Forestall exhaustion.



WILDLIFE WATCHING

Montana's abundant opportunities for wildlife viewing are a big part of why snowmobilers enjoy winter in Montana. As you enjoy snowmobiling or skiing, take time to look for wildlife. Follow these guidelines when viewing wildlife:

Give wildlife plenty of space. They have to preserve precious energy to survive the winter. Even a small disturbance causing them to run may deplete energy reserves critical for survival. Avoid any action which causes them to move or alter their activity.

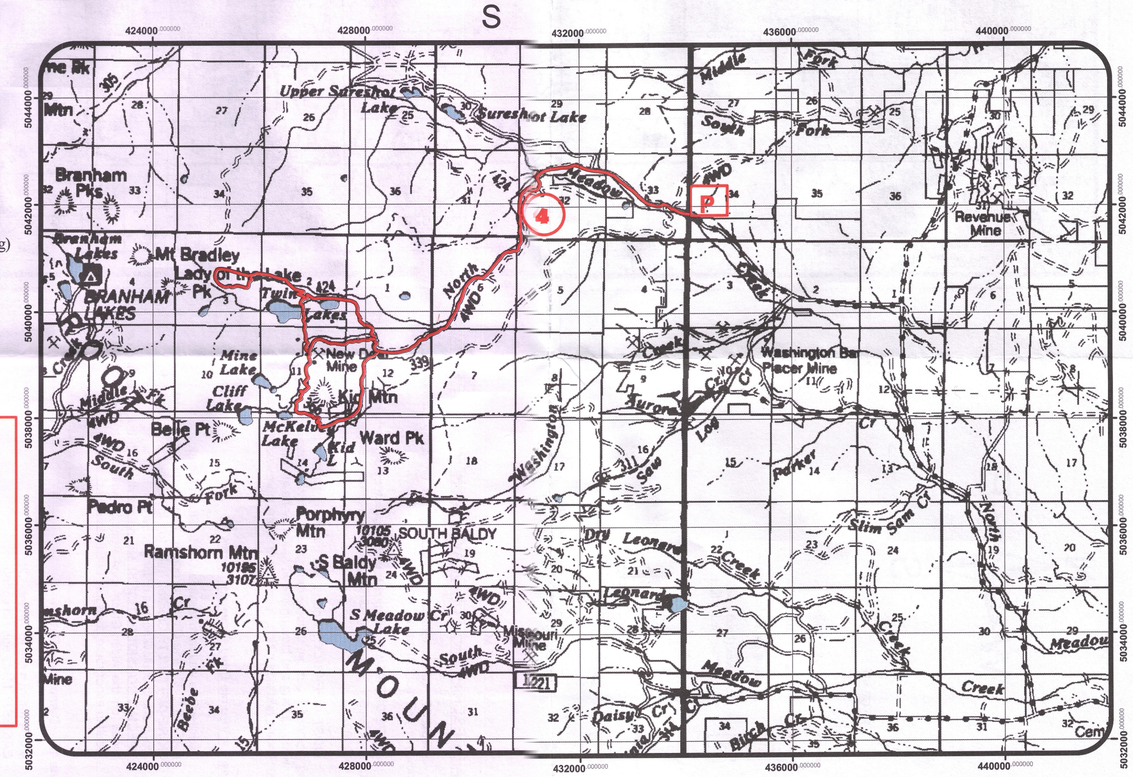
Observe animals from a safe distance. Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto camera lenses.

Stay seated on your machine and continue moving at a slow steady pace. (Stopping or getting off your machine is more likely to disturb wildlife.)

Respect closures or restrictions on wildlife wintering ranges.

ADVISORY and EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Madison Co. Sheriff	843-5301
Gallatin Co. Sheriff	582-2100
Madison Co. Search & Rescue	843-5301
Avalanche Advisory Center (Bozeman)	587-6981



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LEGEND

- Groomed Trails
- Marked Trails
- P — Parking (unloading area)
- S — Services (Food,Fuel,Lodging) See "Services Chart"
- 2 — Route Number
- Ski Trail
- Closed Area
- Forest Service Rental Cabin

Scale 1/2" = 1 Mi.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRAVELLY SNOWMOBILE ROUTES

EASIEST: Characterized by generally flat or gently rolling terrain on groomed or well marked trails.

MORE DIFFICULT: Routes requiring greater skill levels due to increased difficulty of terrain, side hilling, drifting or blowing snow, and narrow and winding trail sections.

MOST DIFFICULT: Routes are generally farthest from trailheads, often along exposed areas prone to severe ground blizzard hazards during periods of high winds; drifting and blowing snow, and may have very steep terrain requiring both climbing and side hilling. Sections of steep, narrow and winding trail.

Route 1 – Virginia City / Clover Meadows

24 miles one way from Virginia City to Clover Meadows.
EASIEST: Virginia City to Crockett Lake, 16 miles groomed.
MORE DIFFICULT: Crockett Lake to Clover Meadows, marked. Open areas of blowing and drifting snow.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Mining activity, with trucks hauling ore in winter on the Alder Gulch road from Summit City to Virginia City may result in minor route changes. Local inquiry advised.

Route 1A – Dump Road Return

9 mile return route to Virginia City.
EASIEST: Melts early in spring.

Route 2 - Red Rock Pass / Elk Lake

13 miles one way from Red Rock Pass to Elk Lake.
MORE DIFFICULT: Open areas of blowing and drifting snow. Section of narrow winding gully near Elk Lake.

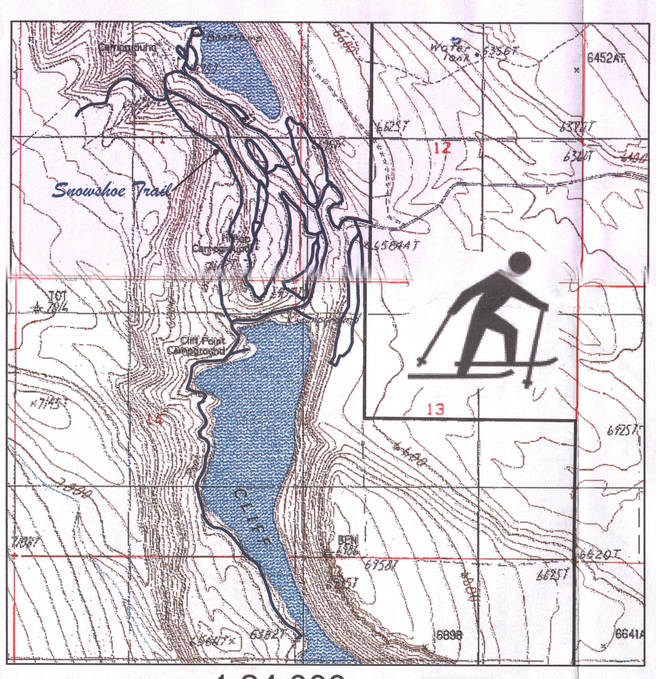
Route 2A – Antelope Basin

7 miles through Antelope Basin from Highway 87 to Route 2 (Junction A).
EASIEST: Watch for fence posts protruding from snow.

Route 3 – Black Butte Loop

50 miles beginning and ending at Lyon's Trail Bridge Trailhead.
EASIEST: From the trailhead, up the West Fork Road to Miller Flat (Junction J), and from the trailhead up the Standard Creek Road to Gold Butte.
MORE DIFFICULT: From Miller Flat (Junction J), up Lobo Mesa to Divide Mtn. and from Gold Butte to Black Butte Cabin.
MOST DIFFICULT: From Divide Mtn. west to the Gravelly Range Road, and then north to Black Butte Cabin.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Black Butte Cabin is available for rent. Contact the Madison Ranger Station in Ennis for rental information.

Cross Country Ski Trails



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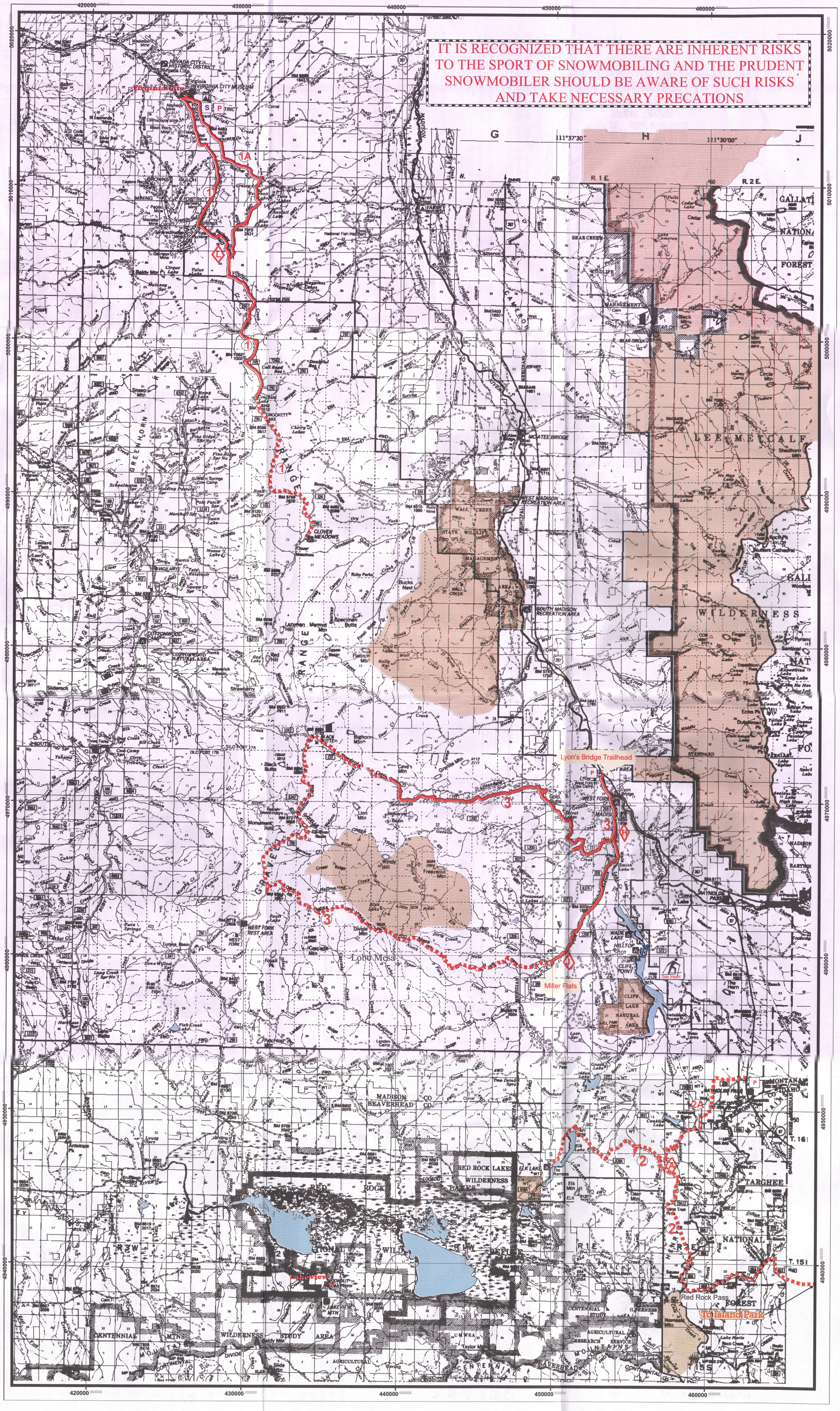
The Wade Lake Resort grooms 35 kilometers of set track ski trails.

The area has exellent opportunities for wildlife viewing.

Cabins are available. Call the resort for more information. (406) 682 -7560