

Winter Recreation Code of Ethics:

1. I will respect all public and private property and the rights of all winter recreationists to enjoy the beauty.
2. I will park considerately without blocking other vehicles or impeding access to trails.
3. I will keep to the right when meeting other winter recreationists and yield the right-of-way to downhill traffic.
4. I will slow down and use caution when approaching or overtaking another.
5. I will respect designated areas, trail-use signs and established ski tracks.
6. When stopping, I will not block the trail.
7. I will not disturb wildlife and will avoid areas posted for their protection or feeding.
8. I will not litter and will pack out everything I packed in.
9. I realize that my destination and travel speed are determined by my equipment, ability, terrain, weather and traffic on the trail. In case of an emergency, I will volunteer assistance.
10. I will not interfere with or harass others, recognizing that people judge all skiers or snowmobilers by my actions.

Enjoying Washington's

Fragile Winter Wildlife



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Parks and Recreation Commission**

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All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

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Winter Recreation and Washington Wildlife

Washington wildlife plays an integral part in our enjoyment of winter recreation. Through cross-country skiing, mountain climbing, snowshoeing, winter camping, dog sledding and snowmobiling, we are able to enjoy the remote areas of our state.

Viewing wild birds and animals can enhance this outdoor winter experience. In the winter, however, wildlife is particularly vulnerable to cold temperatures and often lacks adequate food. Native birds and mammals should not be disturbed. By viewing them from a distance, we can help to keep the wildlife population safe.

Wildlife in winter

Winter is demanding. The survival of animals is often precarious, and disturbance by humans can result in death.

Wildlife maintains itself by creating fat reserves and limiting all unnecessary movement to conserve energy. Fat is needed to sustain body temperature in the extreme cold. Because plants are dormant and have low nutritional value during the winter, wildlife must create sufficient energy reserves during the summer months. Unnecessary movement caused by escape from a predator in the winter, or the fear generated by a human disturbance, speeds the loss of fat reserves and decreases the chance of an animal's survival.

Remember

- Be sensitive to the needs of animals. Stop and go around them or wait for them to move. Avoid close contact with wildlife. Minimize noise.
- Help animals conserve their food supply. Avoid damaging brush, trees and grass. Little food is available to animals in winter.

- Respect the privacy of wildlife. Stay on established routes or trails. Show your concern by viewing birds and animals from a distance.

Animals you may see

Various field guides identifying birds and mammals may be obtained at your local bookstore, and specific wildlife fact sheets are available from the nearest state Department of Fish and Wildlife office.

Birds

- Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, goshawk, sharp-shinned hawk
- white-tailed ptarmigan, blue grouse, spruce grouse
- great horned owl, saw-whet owl
- flicker, pileated woodpecker, hairy woodpecker
- gray jay (camp robber), Steller's jay, common raven, common crow, Clark's nutcracker, mountain chickadee
- brown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet, evening grosbeak, pine grosbeak, red crossbill, dark-eyed junco

Big game

- elk, deer, mountain goat, mountain sheep

Small mammals

- long-tailed weasel, porcupine, varied hare, coyote, red fox, raccoon, marten, mink, fisher, ermine, wolverine, skunk, lynx, bobcat