

Snowmobiles in the Wilderness: A necessary prohibition

Each year, more and more people are riding snowmobiles into designated Wilderness areas, which is a concern for land managers, the public and many snowmobile groups.

This may be happening for a variety of reasons: many snowmobilers may not know where the Wilderness boundaries are or may not realize the area is closed.

Wilderness...a special place

Established by Congress through the Wilderness Act of 1964, "Wilderness" is a special land designation within national forests and certain other federal lands.

These areas were designated so that an untouched area of our wild lands could be maintained in a natural state. Also, they were set aside as places where people could get away from the sights and sounds of modern civilization and where elements of our cultural history could be preserved. Wilderness, as defined by the Act, "has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation."

The law prohibits the use of mechanized or motorized equipment, including snowmobiles, in Wilderness areas (36CFR261.16a). Local managers have no latitude in this matter, except in emergencies.

The law states that possession or use of motorized equipment in Wilderness areas is punishable by up to \$500 and/or six months in jail (36CFR261.1b).

Follow rules to protect opportunities

Respecting Wilderness boundaries helps everyone. When recreationists take responsibility, they help ensure continued support of snowmobile programs and opportunities rather than potential closures and stronger enforcement.

You can help

Join us in safeguarding winter recreation:

- When riding in a new area, obtain a map.
- Familiarize yourself with Wilderness boundaries, and don't cross them.
- Carry the message to clubs, groups and friends.

For more information about snowmobiling opportunities or Wilderness areas, please contact:

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	(360) 902-8552
Washington State Snowmobile Association	(800) 784-9772
North Cascades National Park	(360) 856-5700
Colville National Forest	(509) 684-3711
Gifford Pinchot National Forest	(360) 891-5000
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest	(425) 775-9702
Mt. Rainier National Park	(360) 569-2211
Okanogan National Forest	(509) 826-3275
Olympic National Forest	(360) 956-2300
Umatilla National Forest	(509) 843-1891
Wenatchee National Forest	(509) 664-9200

This information made available through the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Washington State Snowmobile Association.



Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
(360) 902-8500
www.parks.wa.gov



Commission members:

Patricia T. Lantz	Joe Taller
Fred Olson	Cecilia Vogt
Rodger Schmitt	Lucinda S. Whaley
Eliot Scull	

Agency director: Rex Derr

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

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. P&R 16100-06 (09/10)

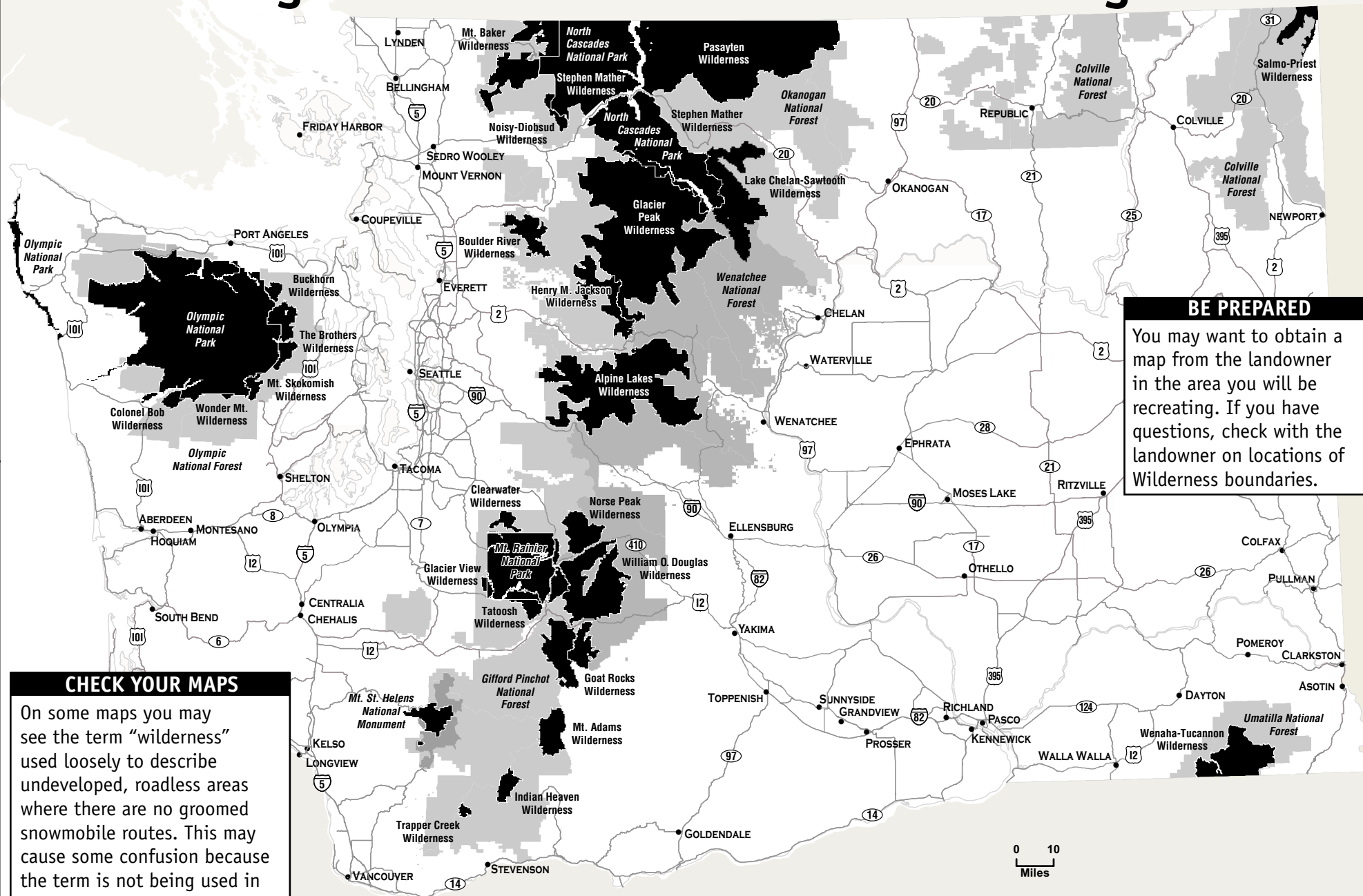


Wilderness Areas

where
SNOWMOBILES
are
PROHIBITED



Designated Wilderness Areas in Washington



BE PREPARED
You may want to obtain a map from the landowner in the area you will be recreating. If you have questions, check with the landowner on locations of Wilderness boundaries.

CHECK YOUR MAPS
On some maps you may see the term "wilderness" used loosely to describe undeveloped, roadless areas where there are no groomed snowmobile routes. This may cause some confusion because the term is not being used in the same way as the technical definition of Wilderness as described in this brochure.

■ = Wilderness Areas where Snowmobiles are Prohibited