Winter Sports
In Your National Forests
Arizona New Mexico
WINTER SPORTS
IN YOUR
NATIONAL FORESTS

Issued for the information of
the winter sports public

by
Southwestern Region
FOREST SERVICE
U. S. Department of Agriculture

1941
Winter sports have opened a new horizon for recreation in the national forests of Arizona and New Mexico, and have amplified its year-long scope. The people's forests, vital for watershed protection, timber supply, wildlife and livestock grazing, have gained further usefulness.

This region, mistakenly thought of by some as "desert", boasts high mountain country with an abundance of opportunities for winter sports. Highways, railroads and airlines put the opportunities within reach.

All winter sports areas in these national forests are public and free. Where permission has been granted for erection of a tow by a ski group, the operators are allowed to charge a small fee for its use.

Generally, skiing facilities are developed for novice and intermediate-class skiers; experts in the sport have the vast outdoors over which to ski-tour.
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ARIZONA

COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Flagstaff, Ariz.

ARIZONA SNOW BOWL
Elevation 9000 to 12600 ft.

Location: 14½ miles northwest of Flagstaff. Road kept open by Coconino County.

Seasons: General, December 15 to April 15. Best, January 1 to March 15.


Ski Lift: Rope tow 1750 ft., with vertical rise of 340 ft.; capacity 1200 per hour. Also 600 foot portable rope tow. Operates Saturdays, Sundays and holidays also any other day if arrangements are made in advance. Operated by Ski Club.

Ski Runs: Practice slope 5000 ft. long averaging 600 ft. wide; slope 13½ at bottom to 30½ at top. Also 2000 acres in lower Hart Prairie, 10% to 13½ slopes; Scissorbill Park, Bald Spot and other smaller slopes with steepness up to 35½ and 40½.

Ski Trails: Four downhill trails for intermediates and experts, ½ to 2 miles long, averaging 25% but running up to 60%. Veit Ranch road parallels Snow Bowl road for 4 miles. Other posted shorter cross-country trails. One long one, about 16 miles, over the top of San Francisco Peaks to Deadman Flat.
Shelters: Main shelter at parking area. Two temporary shelters.

Equipment: Rental skis at area. Equipment purchasable in Flagstaff.

Instruction: Professional instructor available at area every afternoon, under auspices of Flagstaff Ski Club.

Meals: Hot lunches at area, weekends and holidays. Restaurants in Flagstaff.

Lodging: Hotels and tourist courts in Flagstaff.

First Aid: First-aid equipment and Ski Patrol at area on weekends. Physicians, 2 hospitals in Flagstaff.

Ski Clubs: Flagstaff Ski Club, affiliated with Intermountain Ski Association.

Forest Ranger: Flagstaff.

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Williams, Ariz.

WILLIAMS EAST  Elevation 6800 ft.

Location: 3 miles east of Williams, 2 miles east of McHat Inn, on U.S. 66.

Seasons: General, December 15 to March 1. Best, January 1 to February 15.


Ski Lift: None.
Ski Runs: Two runs, maximum grade 36%, length 2000 ft., intermediate - expert. Two of moderate grade for novices.

Ski Trails: None.

Shelters: Adirondack shelter with fireplace.

Equipment: Obtainable in Williams or Flagstaff.

Instruction: None available.

Meals: Lunches and sandwiches at McHat Inn; also in Williams.

Lodging: Rooms and cabins at McHat Inn; hotels and cabin camps in Williams.

First Aid: 3 physicians and hospital in Williams.

Ski Clubs: None.

Forest Ranger: At Station 2 miles southwest of area.

**PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST**
Supervisor at Prescott, Ariz.

**MINGUS MOUNTAIN**
Elevation 7300 ft.

Location: On Prescott-Jerome highway (State 79) at top of the divide, adjacent to Aiken's Service Station, 26 miles east of Prescott, 8 miles west of Jerome.

Seasons: January 1 to March 31. Area lighted at night.

Ski Lift: None.


Ski Trails: None except ski run.

Shelters: None.

Equipment: Purchasable at Prescott.

Instruction: No regular instructor available. However, C.E. Long, 110 Pennsylvania Ave., Prescott (Phone 9707) gives instructions.

Meals: Jerome and Prescott. Soft drinks, groceries can be purchased near the area.

Lodging: Jerome and Prescott.

First Aid: Physician and hospital at Jerome, eight miles.


Forest Ranger: Yaeger Canyon Ranger Station, 3 miles east.

**INDIAN CREEK (St. Agatha)** Elevation 6000 ft.

Location: On Whitespar Highway, U.S. 89, six miles south of Prescott.

Season: January 1 to March 31.


Ski Lift: None.
Ski Runs: Two intermediate - expert, 1500 ft. each. One-acre novice practice slope and play area, 3% to 15% slope.

Ski Trails: None except ski runs.

Shelters: One open-front.

Equipment: Can be rented from Jack Flynn of Prescott.

Instruction: No regular instructor available. However, C.E. Long, 110 Pennsylvania Ave., Prescott (Phone 9707) gives instruction.

Meals: Restaurants and hotels in Prescott.

Lodging: Hotels in Prescott.

First Aid: Physician and hospital at Prescott.


Forest Ranger: Union Building, Prescott, phone 158.

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Phoenix, Ariz.

The Tonto National Forest has no developed winter sports areas, and no locations where accessibility, topography, reliable snow and enthusiasts are in a workable combination. However,
exploring recreationists who do not mind traveling can at times find snow around Pine, east of Payson, and in the Sierra Anchas. For dependable winter sports opportunities, the residents of Phoenix and the Salt River Valley may go north to the Prescott, Kaibab and Coconino National Forests, or east and north to the Sitgreaves and Apache National Forests. This the local people are doing in increasing numbers. They are sometimes joined by small parties of the Valley's winter visitors — out-of-state guests attracted to southern Arizona because of its lack of winter, who like the novelty of adding snow tan to sun tan.

CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Tucson, Ariz.

"Winter" recreation use of the Coronado National Forest is high, since its lower country forms an important part of Arizona's "winter" playgrounds. However, the terms "winter" and "winter sports", when applied to the Coronado,
have a meaning directly the opposite of that elsewhere in this folder. "Winter" visitors here are seeking a continuation of Indian summer and a complete avoidance of snow, which generally is a sought-after essential of winter resort business. Even so, the Coronado National Forest has developed one true winter sports area at Rustler Park, described below. In addition, Mt. Lemmon, rising abruptly to the north of Tucson, becomes snow-capped and provides local residents an opportunity for winter outings.

**RUSTLER PARK**

**Elevation 8300 ft.**

**Location:** One of the farthest south ski areas in the United States — only about 40 miles air-line from the Mexican border. West from U.S. 80 at Rodeo, M.M., via Portal and Cave Creek, Ariz.

**Seasons:** General, December 15 to February 28. Best, January 1 to February 15.

**Land:** National Forest. Parking: 25 cars.

**Ski Lift:** None.

**Ski Runs:** One intermediate 800 ft. long; 2 acres of novice area, 5% slope.
Ski Trails: None.

Shelters: One, open-front.

Equipment: None for sale or rent.

Instruction: None.


Lodging: Portal, Ariz. and Faraway Ranch.

First Aid: Portal, Ariz.

Ski Clubs: None

Forest Ranger: Portal, Ariz.

CROOK NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Safford, Ariz.

While there are no developed winter sports areas on the Crook, there is skiable country, and reliable snow conditions can be expected during the height of winter. These opportunities are somewhat restricted, as roads are not kept cleared for winter travel. Enthusiasts, content to go by car to the snowline and to then utilize the opportunities beyond, will find natural winter play-fields, ski slopes and runs, trails and ski-touring chances of
interest to all classes from novice to very expert. Mt. Graham, west of Safford and reached via the Swift Trail, is probably the best possibility, with Pinal Mountain just southwest of Globe second, and with an unlimited country lying along the Coronado Trail (U.S. 666) north of Clifton.

**SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST**  
Supervisor at Holbrook, Ariz.

**SPRINGER MOUNTAIN**  
Elevation 7200 ft.

| Location: | 3/10 of a mile east of Arizona State highway 77, half-way between Lakeside and Pinetop. |
| Seasons: | General, December 15 to March 15. Best, January 1 to February 15. |
| Ski Lift: | None. |
| Ski Runs: | One novice — intermediate, 630 ft. and skiers can continue through natural opening for another 200 ft. or more. |
| Ski Trails: | None, but skiing can be practiced through natural openings paralleling roads. |
| Shelters: | One open-front shelter with fireplace. |

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Equipment: Purchasable at Lakeside.

Instruction: None.

Meals: Lakeside and Pinetop.

Lodging: Hotel and camps at Lakeside.

First Aid: Doctor at Lakeside. Hospital and doctor at McMary, 6 miles distant.

Ski Clubs: None.

Forest Ranger: Lakeside, Ariz.

APACHE NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Springerville, Ariz.

No developed winter sports areas. Practically unlimited natural opportunities for winter recreation activities and suitable for all classes of enthusiasts, novice to expert. Entrance through Springerville with accommodations there and possibly also at Greer (inquire at Springerville). U.S. Highways 60 and 250 generally open. These, supplemented by a few miles of other feeder roads, should allow excursionists to reach a variety of snow fields.
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Taos, N. Mex.

AGUA PIEDRA Elevation 8400 ft.

Location: On Taos-Las Vegas highway (State Highway 3), 27 miles from Taos and 48 miles from Las Vegas.

Seasons: General, December 1 to April 1.
Best, December 15 to March 15.


Ski Lift: 900-ft. rope tow with vertical lift of 225 ft. Operates on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday (other times by arrangement). Operated by Ski Club.

Ski Runs: One-mile race course; 40 miles of touring terrain; practice slope from less than 10% grade up to a maximum of 61%; level meadow at base of run, 500 ft. wide and 1000 ft. long.

Ski Trails: Many old wagon roads and logging flumes with single and compound curves and grades for expert as well as beginner.

Shelters: Log cabin with fireplaces.

Equipment: For rent at nearby resorts; on sale at Taos.
Instruction: No professional. Club members give free instruction to beginners.

Meals: At two lodges one mile from area.

Lodging: Two lodges, each with capacity of twenty guests.

First Aid: Doctor on course week-ends and holidays. Hospitals in Taos and Las Vegas. Ski patrol and standard Red Cross cache at area.

Ski Clubs: Agua Piedra Winter Sports Club (an association of the clubs of Taos, N.M., Las Vegas, N.M., and Amarillo, Tex.).

Forest Ranger: Penasco, New-Mex.

Palo Flechado

Elevation 9000 ft.

Location: 12 miles east of Taos and 12 miles southwest of Eagle Nest Lake on State Highway 64.

Seasons: General, December 15 to March 30; Best, January 1 to March 1.


Ski Lift: None.

Ski Runs: Large natural open mountain parks suitable for practice slope skiing occur along highway.
WINTER SPORTS AREAS IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO
Ski Trails: None.

Shelters: Open-front with fireplaces.

Equipment: Purchasable in Taos.

Instruction: None.

Meals: Taos and Eagle Nest.

Lodging: Laguna Vista Lodge 8 miles west of area. Also at Taos and Eagle Nest.

First Aid: None.

Ski Clubs: None.

Forest Ranger: Taos, N. Mex.

EL RITO

Elevation 8900 ft.

Location: 14 miles north of El Rito; 46 miles northwest of Espanola (20 miles on U.S. highway 285, 12 on State Highway 96 and 14 on a Forest Service road).

Seasons: General, December 15 to March 30th. Best, January 1 to March 1.


Ski Lift: None.

Ski Runs: One novice - intermediate, 600 ft. Five acres of novice practice slopes and play area. Accessible to three sections of open rolling country at 10,000 ft. elevation for experts cross-country.

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Ski Trails: None.

Shelters: None.

Equipment: Purchasable in Santa Fe, N.M.

Instruction: None.

Meals: Harris hotel, El Rito, or Ojo Caliente hotel, Ojo Caliente.

Lodging: Harris hotel, El Rito, or Ojo Caliente hotel, Ojo Caliente.

First Aid: Physicians and hospital at Espanola.

Ski Clubs: El Rito Ski Club.

Forest Ranger: El Rito, N.M.

SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Santa Fe, N. Mex.

HYDE STATE PARK  Elevation 8500 ft.
Developed by National Park Service

Location: 8 miles northeast of Santa Fe. Entire area and facilities under supervision of Santa Fe Winter Sports Club.

Seasons: General, December 15 to March 15. Best, January 1 to March 1.


Ski Lift: Length 700 ft., vertical lift 175 ft. Operates Saturday and Sunday. Available other days (except Monday) on a $3.00 guarantee. Operated by Ski Club.
Ski Runs: 2 acres practice slopes for all classes. Slope 5° to 50°.

Ski Trails: Beginners trail, length 1/2 mile. Advanced skiers' trail, 1/2 mile.

Shelters: 1 large shelter, glass front, facing practice hill.

Equipment: Purchasable in Santa Fe.

Instruction: Instructor resides at area. Rates reasonable.

Meals: At ski lodge.

Lodging: Hotels and tourist courts at Santa Fe.

First Aid: Ski patrol on week-ends. Physicians and hospital at Santa Fe.

Ski Clubs: Santa Fe Winter Sports Club.

Forest Ranger: Santa Fe, N. Mex.

BIG TESUQUE

Elevation 10,000 ft.

Location: 15 miles northeast of Santa Fe.

Seasons: General, December 1 to April 30. Best, December 15 to April 15.


Ski Lift: None.
Ski Runs:  
Open park 1/2 mile by 200 ft., suitable for beginners; cleared practice hill 100 ft. by 1/4 mile; 1/8 mile suitable for beginners.

Ski Trails:  
4 miles cleared trails; 1 mile paralleling road is suitable for beginners. Lake Peak, 12,000 ft., and adjoining open burn accessible.

Shelters:  
Small open-front.

Equipment:  
May be purchased or rented in Santa Fe.

Instruction:  
None.

Meals:  
At Hyde State Park and Santa Fe.

Lodging:  
Hotels and tourist courts in Santa Fe.

First Aid:  
On weekends, ski patrol at Hyde State Park. Physicians and hospital in Santa Fe.

Ski Clubs:  
Santa Fe Winter Sports Club.

Forest Ranger:  
Santa Fe, N. Mex.

GALLINAS CANYON (El Codo)  
Elevation 8000 ft.

Location:  
19 miles west of Las Vegas on Scenic Highway.

Seasons:  
General, December 15 to March 15. Best, January 1 to March 1.

Land:  
Ski Lift:  None.

Ski Runs:  Cleared practice hill 200 ft. wide, 300 ft. long; slope 5% to 45%.

Ski Trails:  None.

Shelters:  1 small open-front.

Equipment:  Purchasable in Las Vegas.

Instruction:  None.

Meals:  Las Vegas.

Lodging:  Hotels and tourist courts in Las Vegas.

First Aid:  Physicians and hospital in Las Vegas.

Ski Clubs:  Las Vegas Ski Club.

Forest Ranger:  Las Vegas, N. Mex.

SAWYER MESA  Elevation 8500 ft.

Location:  9 miles west of Bandelier National Monument and 45 miles northwest of Santa Fe on State Highway 4.


Ski Lift:  No installation; but Valle Grande Road paralleling ski trail permits automobile haul to top.
Ski Runs: 1-acre practice slope suitable for beginners or more advanced skiers.

Ski Trails: 1½ miles downhill trail.

Shelters: None.

Equipment: May be purchased at Los Alamos Ranch School and purchased or rented in Santa Fe.

Instruction: None.

Meals: At Bandelier National Monument.

Lodging: Hotel at Bandelier National Monument.

First Aid: Registered nurse at Los Alamos Ranch School, 9 miles distant. Physician at Espanola, 30 miles distant.

Ski Clubs: None.

Forest Ranger: Espanola, N. Mex.

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Albuquerque, N. Mex.

SANDIA MOUNTAIN (La Madera) Elevation 8700 ft.

Location: 29 miles northeast of Albuquerque (16 miles east on U.S. Highway 66, 6 miles northeast on State Highway 10 and 7 miles northwest on Loop road).


Ski Lift: 2000 ft. long; 300 ft. vertical lift. Operates Wednesday afternoon, Saturday afternoon and Sunday (other days by previous arrangement, $5.00 minimum). Operated by Ski Club.

Ski Runs: One 10,200 ft. expert; one 1000 ft., expert; 5 acres practice slopes 3% to 12%; one beginners slope, 300 ft. by 150 ft.

Ski Trails: 4 miles of bridle trails.

Shelters: Enclosed shelter under construction.

Equipment: Purchasable in Albuquerque. Minor repairs at area.

Instruction: Instructor available Wednesdays, weekends and by appointment, $2.00 per hour, auspices Albuquerque Ski Club.

Meals: Lunches at area. Restaurants at Albuquerque.

Lodging: All kinds at Albuquerque.

First Aid: Available at area. Physicians and hospitals at Albuquerque.

Ski Clubs: Albuquerque Ski Club.

Forest Ranger: Tijeras Ranger Station, Cedro Canyon.
SAKDIA MOUNTAIN (Tree Springs)  Elevation 8400 ft.

Location:  27 miles northeast of Albuquerque
           (16 miles east on U.S. Highway 66, 5 miles northeast on State Highway 10
           and 5 miles northwest on Loop Road).

Seasons:  General, November 25 to March 31.
           Best, December 20 to March 15.


Ski Lift:  None.

Runs:  1-acre ski practice and beginners
toe 3% to 12%. One limited
toboggan run.

Ski Trails:  2 miles of bridle trails.

Shelters:  2 open shelters.

Equipment:  Purchasable in Albuquerque.

Instruction:  Available at La Madera area, 2
           miles north, charge; $2 per lesson.

Meals:  Lunches at La Madera area.
           Restaurants at Albuquerque.

Lodging:  All kinds at Albuquerque.

First Aid:  At La Madera area, 2 miles north.
           Physicians and hospitals at
           Albuquerque.

Ski Clubs:  Albuquerque Ski Club.

Forest Ranger:  Tijeras Ranger Station, Cedro
               Canyon.

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McGaffey


Seasons: General, December 15 to March 15.
Best, January 1 to February 15.


Ski Lift: Construction of 600 ft. tow with vertical lift of 130 ft. proposed for 1941, to be operated by Ski Club.

Ski Runs: One 2000 ft. expert; one 800 ft. novice. Several acres of gentle slope for beginners and play areas.

Ski Trails: None posted; country well adapted to cross-country skiing.

Shelters: None.

Equipment: Limited supply at Gallup.

Instruction: None.

Meals: Restaurants in Gallup.

Lodging: Several cabins in McGaffey; hotels and tourist courts at Gallup.

First Aid: Physicians and hospital at Gallup.

Ski Clubs: Gallup 20-30 Ski Club.

Forest Ranger: McGaffey, N. Mex.
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Alamogordo, N. Mex.

CEDAR CREEK  
Elevation 7800 ft.

Location: 4 miles northwest of Ruidoso (which is on U.S. 70); 45 miles from Alamogordo, 135 miles from El Paso.

Seasons: General, December 15 to March 1. Best, January 1 to February 15.


Ski Lift: Planned.

Runs: One novice - intermediate ski run, 1000 ft. One toboggan run, 500 ft.

Ski Trails: Cleared ski trail 1/2 mile long, near ski run. Many roads and open canyons in locality; meadows and steep hillsides up to 12,000 ft.

Shelters: Two open-front shelters.

Equipment: Skis, sleds and toboggans may be rented in Ruidoso.

Instruction: No professional instructor.

Meals: Ruidoso.

Lodging: Hotels, tourist camps and cottages in Ruidoso.

First Aid: Ruidoso.

Ski Clubs: Ruidoso Ski Club.

Forest Ranger: Mesa Ranger Station.
CLOUDCROFT

Location: One mile from business district of Cloudcroft, N. Mex., State Highway 83; 25 miles from Alamogordo, 115 miles from El Paso.

Seasons: General, December 15 to March 15. Best, January 1 to March 1.

Land: Private (Cloudcroft Reserve)
      Parking: Unlimited.

Ski Lift: 1000 ft. long, vertical lift of 125 ft.

Runs: One 1200 ft. expert; 30 acres of meadow for ski beginners; slopes for tobogganing and sledding; skating rink.

Ski Trails: None. Open canyons and hillsides on two sections of adjacent land.

Shelters: One open-front.

Equipment: Skis, toboggans, skates may be rented in Cloudcroft.

Instruction: Professional instructor part-time.

Meals: Cloudcroft.

Lodging: Rooms, camps and cottages in Cloudcroft.

First Aid: Cloudcroft.

Ski Clubs: None at present.

Forest Ranger: Fresnal Ranger Station, High Rolls, N. Mex.
GILA NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor at Silver City, N. Mex.

There are no developed winter sports areas on the Gila. A large part of this National Forest is not accessible by car, even in summer. On the remainder of its high country the roads, with the exception of State Highway 180 which crosses the Black Range, are not kept open for winter travel, although many of them remain passable up to elevations where snow stops travel and winter sports opportunities set in.

Emory Pass (elevation 8,173 feet) crossed by State Highway 180, and its vicinity, particularly Iron Creek, have fairly reliable snow in the height of winter and receive light, casual use for snow sports. East from Mogollon the Bursum road climbs rather rapidly into rugged timbered country which skiers of intermediate or better ability might enjoy exploring. The North Star road, north from the Mimbres Ranger Station, climbs onto the Continental Divide at an elevation of about 7,000 feet, giving access to snow on varied topography. North of Silver City and Pinos Altos via Cherry Creek, towards Redstone there is again opportunity for winter exercise on natural fields and slopes.
"RULES OF THE GAME"

Like all sports, skiing has its "rules of the game." Here are some do's and don'ts, presented for the sake of sportsmanship and safety:

DO Drive carefully — use tire chains.
DO Park your car so others will not be blocked.
DO Consider the safety and enjoyment of others by learning to ski in safe control.
DO Fill your chuck hole ("sitzmark") after a fall.
DO Be ready and willing to help beginners.
DO Bring your own ski wax.
DO Keep your equipment in proper adjustment.
DO Help pack the hills and trails when needed.

DON'T Wear loose clothing when riding ski tows.
DON'T Expect others to get out of your way. It is up to you to safely miss beginners and persons skiing slowly, climbing, or standing on the hills.
DON'T Stand and converse in the trails or on the hills. Ski to one side first.
DON'T Walk on the ski trails or hills. Footprints can be dangerous.
DON'T Yell "Track" unless the trail ahead is invisible. It is unfair to ask others to get out of the way.
DON'T "Schuss" (run straight) down a hill unless you are sure of being able to miss other persons on the hill and reasonably sure of landing "right side up" at the bottom.

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DON'T Ski alone. You might be hurt and have no one to help you. Rescue expeditions are always harrowing.

DON'T Bring dogs to the ski hills; their presence introduces an extra and serious hazard to skiers.

DON'T Leave papers or other refuse on the hills or trails. Think how it will look when the snow is gone.

SLEDS AND TOBOGGANS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE SKI HILLS OR TRAILS. USE THE HILLS PROVIDED FOR THEM.

IF YOU GET LOST--

Lost persons should remember the figure 3. The SOS call in the mountains is three signals of any kind, either audible or visible -- three whistles, three flashes from a flashlight, etc. The answer to a distress signal is two audible or visible signals. When lost sit down and use your head, not your legs. If caught by night or a storm, make camp in a sheltered spot, gather plenty of dry fuel and make a fire. Save your strength. And don't quit!