



News Release

United States Department of
Agriculture - Forest Service

Plumas National Forest
P. O. Box 11500
Quincy, California 95971

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2007

**Contacts: Michele Jimenez-Holtz (530) 283-7744
Lee Anne Schramel Taylor (530) 283-7850
News Release #08-04**

PNF Snowmobile Route Restrictions

Many snowmobile routes on the Plumas National Forest are closed to all wheeled motor vehicles including all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) effective December 18, 2007, through March 31, 2008, by forest order. Wheeled motor vehicles create ruts on maintained snowmobile trails which result in hazardous conditions for snowmobile operators. The forest has several major snowmobile areas: Four Trees, Bucks Lake, La Porte, and Lakes Basin.

Violations may cost \$5,000 for an individual, \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months or both in addition to the cost associated with restoring the trail.

Visitors are reminded that the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area is closed to all motor vehicles and bicycles. In previous years, snowmobile operators have been prosecuted for knowingly venturing into the wilderness area. With approximately 1.2 million acres and over 5,000 miles of roads and trails, Plumas National Forest has enough space for all types of outdoor recreational use.

When winter recreating in a vehicle, travelers should maintain a safe operating speed, wear helmets and warm clothing, and be aware of weather and current snow conditions. Travel plans should be shared with family or friends including an expected return time. If stranded, you should stay with the vehicle because it provides shelter, and it is easier to locate a vehicle in the forest than finding people on foot. While waiting for help to arrive, travelers can signal distress by using emergency flashers and by tying a handkerchief or flagging onto the antenna or mirror. The tailpipe should be kept clear and a downwind window open if the engine is run periodically for warmth.

Funding for Plumas NF snowmobile trail maintenance comes from the State of California Off Highway Vehicle Division.

Additional information about restricted areas or current conditions may be obtained from the following offices or the forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas>:

Beckwourth Ranger District, Mohawk Rd., Blairsden, CA 96103, (530) 836-2575
Feather River Ranger District, 875 Mitchell Ave., Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 534-6500
Mt. Hough Ranger District, 39696 Hwy 70, Quincy, CA 95971, (530) 283-0555
Supervisor's Office, 159 Lawrence St., Quincy, CA 95971, (530) 283-2050
-end-

Key points:

- 1) **Groomed snowmobile routes on the Plumas NF are closed to all wheeled motor vehicles December 18, 2007, through March 31, 2008, by forest order.**
- 2) **The Bucks Lake Wilderness Area is closed to all motor vehicles, including snowmobiles and bicycles.**
- 3) **Contact any local Plumas National Forest office for more information, or visit the website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas>.**