

China Wall Winter Recreation



Tahoe National Forest Foresthill Ranger District

The China Wall Staging Area, 14 miles east of Foresthill on the Foresthill Divide road, was developed with monies from the California Green Sticker fund for both winter and summer use by OHV enthusiasts and other Forest users. At an elevation of 5000', the site provides an ideal jumping off point for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The site has parking for cars and RV's, and has vault toilets and trailhead access.

Winter is a wonderful time to visit National Forest lands. People who are familiar with an area during the summer season can return to the same area in the winter and find an entirely different setting, with differences that can be quite striking. During the summer season, China Wall is the best access for motorcyclists who want to ride OHV loops 5 and 6 (contact the Foresthill Ranger Station for a map).

Where to Go

Snowmobiles can easily head up the Divide to Robinson Flat (16 miles), and from there travel north towards Soda Springs/Norden (40 miles), east or south to French Meadows (30 miles), or over Duncan Peak toward the Greek Store area (25 miles). Intermediate destinations include the American Hill area (12 miles), Tadpole Meadow (13 miles), and Sailor Flat (14 miles). These destinations are all located along unplowed road corridors, and many of the routes are groomed.

Cross-country skiers can easily access the Mitchell Mine area, south of China Wall, Humbug Ridge, immediately east, or the Mumford Bar trailhead area, three miles east. The level terrain in the area makes for easy skiing. There are no groomed XC ski trails.

The area immediately surrounding China Wall is ideal for snowman construction and other types of snowplay for kids and grownups alike.

Parking

Parking along the Foresthill Divide road is severely restricted to provide access for other vehicles, emergency vehicles, and snowplows. Vehicles parked illegally may be cited and/or towed. Please park in the Staging Area lot. Do not leave valuables visible in your car, and remember to lock your doors.

Winter Safety Tips

Before you travel anywhere in the mountains in winter, we recommend that you have:

- tire chains
- a shovel
- a full tank of fuel
- dry clothing
- extra food and non-alcoholic liquids to drink
- sunscreen
- matches
- a detailed map

as well as let others know where you are going and when you intend to return, as well as checking the latest weather forecast. Weather conditions can change rapidly in the Sierra Nevada, and each year many people are trapped, some tragically, in sudden snowstorms. You can prevent yourself from becoming a victim by planning ahead.

Tread Lightly

Many types of winter recreation are enjoyed each year on National Forest lands. Many people think that winter conditions and a blanket of snow make the land and vegetation invulnerable to damage, but improper OHV use and careless activities can and do cause resource damage. Activities that may damage National Forest resources are prohibited by Federal regulations. Please do your part to protect Forest resources. There are also private inholdings within the National Forest. Please respect the property-owner's rights. Due to budget restrictions, there is no trash removal from the area. Please, *Pack it in, Pack it out*. Wheeled-vehicle access is now prohibited beyond China Wall when there is a significant snowpack.

All are Welcome

Persons of any race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or with any handicapping condition are welcome to use and enjoy all facilities, programs and services of the USDA. Discrimination in any form is strictly against agency policy, and should be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250



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