



SKI TRACKS

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President's Message

It is now September and time to begin planning for the upcoming (2013-2014) ski season. First on the list is working on trails, both old and new, in preparation for grooming.

Last year the Forest Service gave us permission to open new trails north of the traditional Chief Joseph Ski Area. We opened some of those trails last year and plan to open a few more for this season.

During a meeting last spring (2013) with the Forest Service we were also given permission to groom (*for skiers*) the 3-mile section of Gibbons Pass Road which has been “officially” closed to snowmobiles for the last several years.

The Gibbons Pass Road needs no pre-grooming work. However, a couple of other trails that will serve as shortcut routes between the Overlook Trail and Gibbons Pass Road do need work. We need to prepare at least one of them for grooming this winter—if time permits, we will prepare both. If we have enough volunteers getting the first of the two ready should take less than a day. The second will take a comparable amount of time.

Most of the work for the new trails will consist of cutting very small trees, branch trimming, and moving a rock or two.

In addition, we need to make sure the traditional trails are in good shape for next winter. We did extensive work on them last year, so it's likely we won't need to spend a lot of time on them this time.

Two successive Saturdays are scheduled for trail work, September 21st and 28th. If additional work needs to be done, we should be able to finish during the first half of October.

Let me know as soon as you can if you'll be able to work either or both of the above dates. If you're available other days (weekdays for instance), let me know that, too.

Remember, the quality of winter skiing depends upon the work our all-volunteer organization does during the off-season. So please, volunteer!

Our last newsletter (*July*), reiterated the Forest Service's recent request for assistance with the maintenance of the Reese Cabin during the next ski season. If you missed it, you can access the newsletter on our website (<http://www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net/>).

After many email exchanges, the Club's Board has concluded that the Club will not resume maintenance of the Cabin. The fact that no one from the Club is currently willing to act as coordinator for the effort was one of the determining factors considered in the Board's deliberations.

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