



# Hatcher Pass – East Side, Summit Lake and Independence Mine Winter Recreation Conditions

April 29, 2024

Park Facility	Snowmobile Status	New Snow	Ave. Snow Depth	Conditions
Gold Mint Trailhead	<b>CLOSED</b>	0"	30"	<b>Parking &amp; camping fee. No cash accepted.</b>
Gold Mint Trail	<b>NON-MOTOR</b>	0"	30"	Narrow foot/ski pack for first 2 miles. Softer in the afternoon.
Archangel Trailhead	<b>NON-MOTOR</b>	0"	42"	<b>\$ 5 parking fee. Cash only.</b> Groomed 4/27. See below for further.
Archangel Valley	<b>CLOSED</b>	0"	42"	Variable snow depths. Punchy.
Fishhook Trailhead	<b>TRAIL ONLY</b>	0"	42"	<b>Parking &amp; camping fee. No cash accepted.</b>
Independence Mine Bowl	<b>NON-MOTOR</b>	0"	44"	<b>Parking fee. No cash accepted.</b> Ski trail groomed 4/28. See below.
Summit Lake SRS	<b>OPEN</b>	0"	20-50+"	Variable snow depths.
Mile 16 Ski Run	<b>NON-MOTOR</b>	0"	42"	Yikes.

It's been a warm one for the past few days in Hatcher Pass meaning the end of snow season is near. The upper elevations have only touched below freezing for a few hours the past few nights drawing us closer to an isothermic snowpack. On the bright side, crust skiing is reported to be excellent around Independence Mine and Archangel in the morning. Mat-Su Ski Club plans to groom around Independence Mine on Wednesday May 1st and either Saturday/Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>.

**Hatcher Pass is an AVALANCHE HAZARD AREA** . Forecasts are done for the year, but the avalanches are not. Visit [hpavalanche.org](http://hpavalanche.org) for the latest user observations and view [Current Weather Information](#) to make good backcountry decisions. Always carry a beacon, shovel and probe and continue to practice their use. Avalanche beacon checkers are located at Gold Mint, Fishhook and Independence Bowl fee stations. See attached Avalanche Hazard map for known avalanche paths.

**SNOWMACHINE INFORMATION: TRAIL ONLY FROM FISHHOOK TO SUMMIT LAKE.**

Gold Mint trailhead and the corridor between Fishhook and Gold Mint have been closed to snowmachines due to rapidly deteriorating conditions. While there are areas in which there are more than 30 inches of snow on the ground, the snowpack has largely become isothermic. These areas have been closed to protect underlying vegetation. Fishhook will remain open to snowmachines through May 5, 2024. **Stay on trail. The shortcut from the road crossing up to Summit Lake that cuts the road has areas of exposed tundra. Failure to remain on trail could result in an earlier closure.**

Please see the attached map and FAQ for general riding/parking information. Remain within motorized boundaries to reduce conflict with other users. Snowmachines must be currently registered and properly displayed to operate on public lands. Many boundary markers may be buried due to heavy snowfall.

A \$5 day-use fee or annual parking pass is required at most trailheads throughout the area.

2024 Annual Parking and Boat Launch Passes are available online at [AlaskaStateParks.org](http://AlaskaStateParks.org) or in-person at AKTive Soles located at 984 N Meridian Place in Wasilla or 642 S. Alaska St. Suite 100 in Palmer.

Click the link to visit [Alaska State Parks](http://Alaska State Parks) online for current conditions and for questions, call (907) 745-3975.



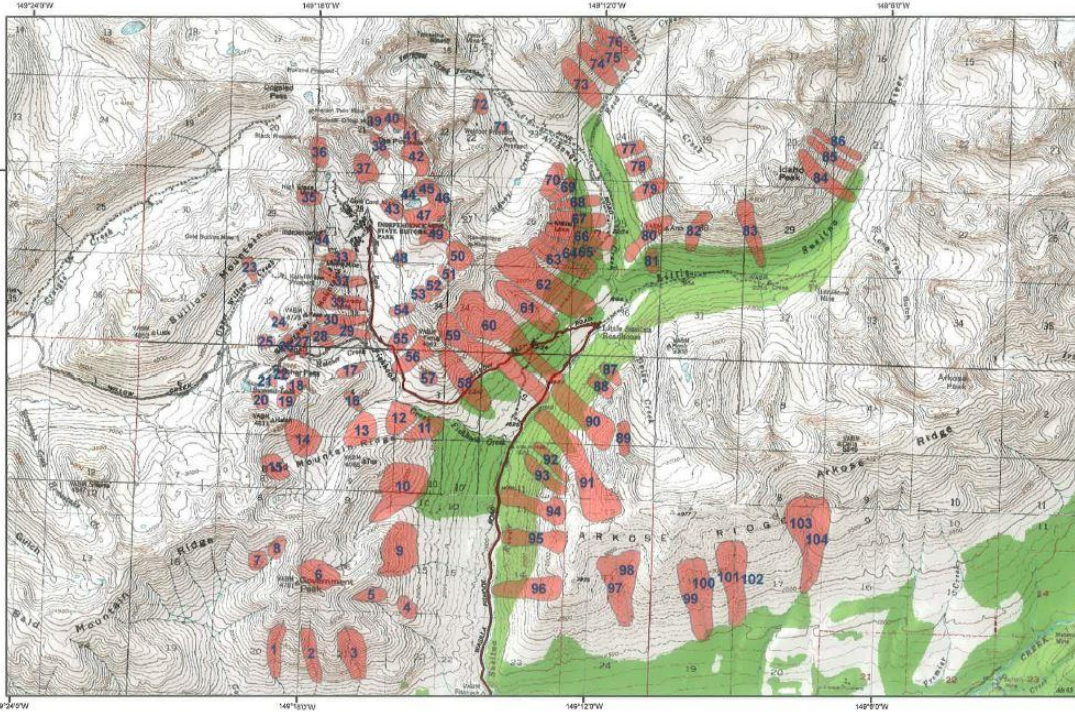
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## AVALANCHE PATHS OF HATCHER PASS AREA, ALASKA

### AVALANCHE PATHS

1. Government PK S 1
2. Government PK S 2
3. Government PK S 3
4. Upper Glades
5. Government PK E
6. Seldom Bean Bowl
7. Upper Government PK 1
8. Upper Government PK 2
9. Frostbite Ridge
10. Sunnydale
11. Fat Bob
12. Torch Light
13. Women's Run
14. Bear Den 1
15. Bear Den 2
16. Hatcher Ridge South
17. Hatcher Ridge North
18. April Bowl
19. April Bowl 2
20. Lake Run
21. Pass Saddle 1
22. Pass Saddle 2
23. Gold Dues Fault
24. W Skyscraper
25. W Skyscraper 2
26. Skyscraper 3
27. Skyscraper 2
28. Skyscraper 1
29. Skyscraper Pk 1
30. Skyscraper Pk 2
31. Eldorado
32. Martin Fault
33. Martin Mill
34. Portal Slide
35. High Grade
36. Friendship Pass
37. Death Traverse
38. Rock Garden
39. Upper Rock Garden
40. Upper Rock Garden 2
41. Pinnacle 1
42. Pinnacle 2
43. Gold Cord Lake 1
44. Gold Cord Lake 2
45. Gold Cord Lake 3
46. Gold Cord Lake 4
47. Nose Bleed
48. Rae Wallace
49. Swiftnin Tim's
50. Marmot Chutes 1
51. Marmot Chutes 2
52. Marmot Chutes 3



### AVALANCHE PATHS

53. Marmot Chutes 4
54. Lodge Slide
55. W Marmot 1
56. W Marmot 2
57. Fishhook
58. Marmot Gully 3
59. Marmot Gully 2
60. Marmot Gully 1
61. Archangel 1
62. Archangel 2
63. Archangel 3
64. Archangel 4
65. Archangel 5
66. Mabel 1
67. Mabel 2
68. Mabel 3
69. Sidney Creek N
70. Sidney Creek N 2
71. Arch Prospect
72. Wolffoot Prospect
73. Reed Trail 1
74. Reed Trail 2
75. Reed Trail 3
76. Snowdrift
77. Ishah Ridge 1
78. Ishah Ridge 2
79. Ishah Ridge 3
80. Divide Ridge 1
81. Divide Ridge 2
82. Beaver Dam
83. Gold Mine 1
84. Gold Mine 2
85. Gold Mine 3
86. Ishah Peak SE 3
87. Arkose
88. Arkose Ridge 6
89. Della
90. Arkose Ridge 5
91. Dairstep Run
92. Arkose Ridge 4
93. Arkose Ridge 3
94. Waterfall
95. Arkose Ridge 2
96. Arkose Ridge 1
97. Arkose S 1
98. Arkose S 2
99. Arkose S 3
100. Arkose S 4
101. Arkose S 5
102. Arkose S 6
103. Arkose S 7
104. Arkose S 8

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AVALANCHEMAPPING.ORG  
247, 837B, S. BROADWAY  
BOULDER, CO. 80305



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AND IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SKILL, EXPERIENCE  
AND PROPER EDUCATION. AVALANCHEMAPPING.ORG  
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100 Foot Contour Interval  
NAD 83 UTM 8

Data Source: USGS DRO's and DEM's  
Avalanche data referenced from Alaska  
State Parks and Avalanche Mapping  
GIS to location. It does not represent all the  
possible avalanches that could occur.



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## Snowmachine FAQ

### **Where do I park?**

Parking for trucks without trailers is available at Mile 17.5 (just below Hatcher Pass lodge on the left.) Parking for vehicles with trailers Fishhook (large parking lot on the right just past mile 16.) All parking areas are marked with a brown snowmachine sign. **No parking or unloading at Independence Bowl.** (large parking lot past Hatcher Pass Lodge)

### **Why does my snowmachine have to be registered?**

AS 28.39.010: A person may not operate a snowmobile within the state unless the snowmobile has been registered and numbered as required by this chapter.

Snowmachine registration dollars go into the SnowTRAC program which is now administered by the Department of Transportation. Groups around the state, including the Hatcher Pass Snow Riders Club, receive these funds to groom trails and improve motorized access throughout the state. HPSRC has already been out working to mark the trail this season and will begin grooming after equipment maintenance is complete. Groomed trails provide more access to grow the community.

Visit <https://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reg/snow.htm> or your local DMV for more information about how to register a snowmachine.

### **Where can I ride? See attached map. All areas in red are non-motorized.**

Fishhook to Summit Lake is open providing access to the West Side of Hatcher Pass. Follow the trail markers from Fishhook and either continue to Hatcher Pass Lodge (private property) or cross the road to follow Willow-Fishhook to the West Side.

### **What can I ride?**

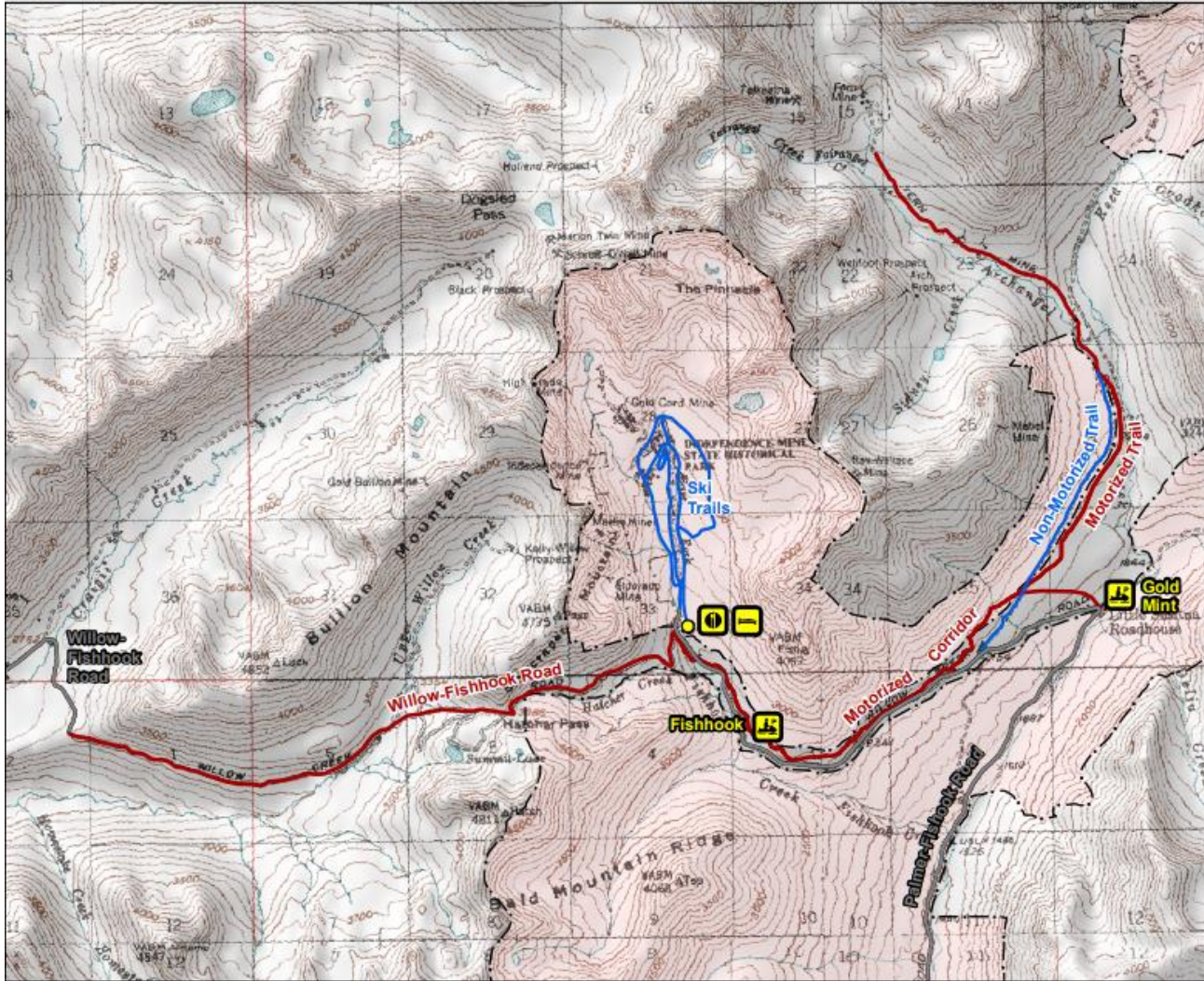
A snowmachine is defined by regulation as a self-propelled vehicle that:

- is primarily designed or altered for travel on snow or ice;
- has a curb weight of not more than 1,500 pounds;
- is not more than 72 inches wide;
- is supported in part by skis, belts, or cleats;



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This map represents Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council (SnowTRAC) approved trails. These trails are groomed using snowmobile registration funds.

This map is provided for reference only, and is not intended as a navigation aid.

This map was produced by the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Alaska State Trails Program. Last Update: 4/16/2015

For more information visit:  
[dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/groompl.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/groompl.htm)  
or call (907) 269-8700.

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