



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

March 24, 2023

Park Facility	Snowmobile Status	New Snow	Ave. Snow Depth	Conditions
Gold Mint Trailhead	OPEN	3"	54"	Parking/camping fee required. Motorized trail groomed.
Gold Mint Trail	NON-MOTOR	3"	52-62"	Narrowly packed. Snowshoes/skis recommended.
Archangel Trailhead	NON-MOTOR	3"	48-57"	Parking fee required. New snow atop firm crust.
Archangel Valley	OPEN	3"	48-62"+	Deep and wind-affected snowpack with new snow atop a firm crust. Ski trail last groomed Mar 17.
Fishhook Trailhead	OPEN	3"	36-51"	Parking/camping fee required. New snow atop firm crust. Variable snow depths. Motorized trail groomed.
Independence Mine Bowl	NON-MOTOR	3"	49-62"	Parking fee required. New snow atop a firm crust. Ski trail last groomed Mar 10.
Summit Lake SRS	OPEN	3"	40-62"+	Wind affected & variable snow depths. Motorized trail groomed.
Mile 16 Ski Run	NON-MOTOR	3"	46-53"	Variable snow depths, obstacles and ice may be covered by new snow

3+ inches of snow fell since last week's report. Currently dust over crust on maintained trails, but with another 6" - 8" forecast for today, conditions shall improve. Be aware - Snow loading effects avalanche conditions, see info below. If groomers get to the trails at Independence, Archangel and the motorized east-west sno-mo trail, this weekend should prove to be the best in weeks. Forecast is calling for sunny skies for tomorrow (Saturday) and cold temperatures with warming into next week. Mat-Su Ski Club website is an excellent source of information for ski conditions.

The roadway is currently snow and ice covered and unplowed since the latest snowfall. Please yield to DOT plow trucks on the road and in parking areas. Parking lots and facilities can be icy. For the most up to date road information visit <https://511.alaska.gov/> and view the Mile 15 Palmer-Fishhook **Road Conditions Camera**.

Hatcher Pass is an AVALANCHE HAZARD AREA. For avalanche information, click the links to visit [Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center](#) and view [Current Weather Information](#). Bring your beacons, shovels and probes with you and practice using these tools regularly. Avalanche Are You Beeping beacon checkers are at Gold Mint, Fishhook, and Independence Bowl fee stations.

All designated snowmachine areas are open to riding. Know the designated motorized and nonmotorized areas before you ride. Trails and riding areas are marked however **it is your responsibility to know where you are riding. Violators are subject to a \$220 fine for riding in non-motorized areas.** Plus, riding in closed areas makes snowmachiners look bad. Maps are available online and are posted at Gold Mint and Fishhook fee stations. Click the links to view [Hatcher Pass East Management Area Winter Recreation Map](#) and/or the [Hatcher Pass Motorized Access Map](#).

Snowmachines must be currently registered (2023 and up) and properly tagged to operate on public lands. Funds from snowmachine registration support trail grooming efforts throughout the state.

A \$5 day-use fee or annual parking pass is required at most trailheads throughout the area. 2023 Annual Parking and Boat Launch Passes are available [here](#).

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