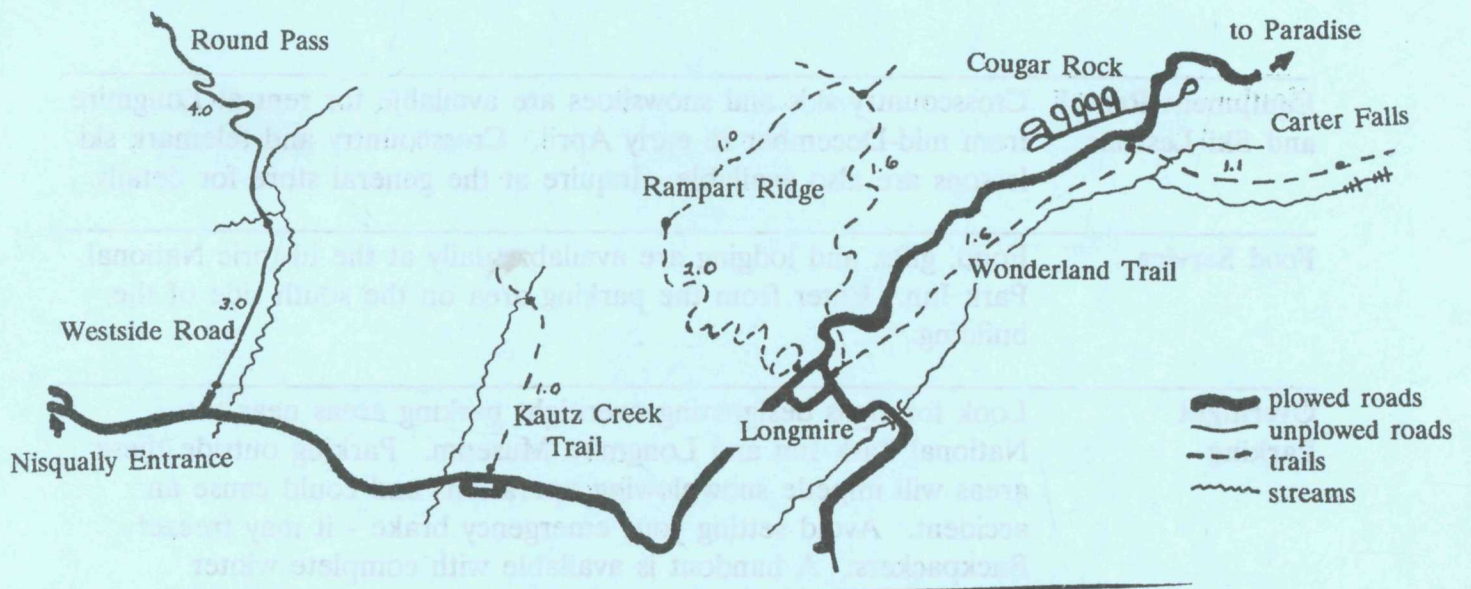


Longmire Winter Trails



At 2761', Longmire stays much warmer than higher elevations on the mountain. Hence, snow conditions vary from one winter to the next. Trails may be completely snow-free during mild winters or they may have three to five feet of snow during cold ones. Snowshoers and novice skiers often favor these forested trails. When blizzard conditions exist higher on the mountain, skiing among the trees can be a welcome alternative for everyone! Try these low-elevation trails:

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|-------------------------|--|
| Westside Road | 14 miles round trip to Round Pass. Begins at junction with main park road, one mile east of Nisqually Entrance. Gradually uphill all the way to Round Pass. Follows snow covered road. High avalanche potential at Dry Creek, where skiers first come into an open area at the base of Mount Wow. Novice: first 3 miles to Dry Creek. Intermediate: last 4 miles, Dry Creek to Round Pass. |
| Kautz Creek | 2 miles round trip to creek crossing. Begins at Kautz Creek parking area, three miles east of Nisqually Entrance. Flat terrain. Novice. |
| Rampart Ridge | 4.6 mile loop trail. Begins along west side of Trail of the Shadows, across road from the National Park Inn. Very steep terrain. Narrow trail through forest. Rampart Ridge not recommended for skiers. Advanced trail for snowshoers. Requires route finding. |
| Wonderland Trail | 3.2 miles round trip from Longmire to Cougar Rock Campground. Rolling terrain. Narrow trail through forest. Intermediate. Requires route finding. |
| Cougar Rock | Begins at campground entrance, 2 miles above Longmire toward Paradise. Flat terrain. Follows snow covered loops of campground. Novice. |
| Carter Falls | 2.2 miles round trip along Wonderland Trail to falls. Begins on curve below Cougar Rock Campground. Gradually uphill most of the way with some steep sections. Narrow trail through forest. Advanced. Requires route finding. |

Equipment Rental and Ski Lessons Crosscountry skis and snowshoes are available for rent at Longmire from mid-December to early April. Crosscountry and telemark ski lessons are also available. Inquire at the general store for details.

Food Service Food, gifts, and lodging are available daily at the historic National Park Inn. Enter from the parking area on the south side of the building.

Overnight Parking Look for signs designating overnight parking areas near the National Park Inn and Longmire Museum. Parking outside these areas will impede snowplowing operations and could cause an accident. Avoid setting your emergency brake - it may freeze! Backpackers: A handout is available with complete winter camping information. Backpacking permits, required for all overnight camping, are available at the Longmire Museum.

Snowmobiling Snowmobiles are permitted on designated roads only, when such roads are closed by snow to normal traffic. There are four areas within the park which have been designated for snowmobile use. Two of these are easily accessible from Longmire: The Westside Road and roadways within Cougar Rock Campground. If interested in this activity, please ask at ranger stations or visitor centers for complete information about snowmobile use.

Tire Chains Snow tires, studded tires or tire chains may be required in the park. Signs posted along the roadway will indicate traction device requirements. Chains are available at the Longmire gas station.

Nightly Road Closure For safety reasons and to facilitate plowing, the road to Paradise closes at Longmire each evening at 4:30 p.m. It reopens the next morning, usually between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., depending on weather and snow conditions. All vehicles being driven above Longmire must be equipped with properly fitting chains. * * * *
Remember: Conditions change rapidly! Although you may not need chains to drive up to Paradise, you may need them to drive down. If you need to chain up, do not stop in the roadway. Use pullouts where you will be safe!

