

Hey all you snow and recreation lovers, this is Debra with the North America Outdoor Institute bringing you another edition of the Q99.7 Snow Trail and Activity Report. If you know of any trail information or activities the public should be aware of, please let us know so we can share it right here.

Well winter in Alaska is once again bringing us a crazy mix of weather. The latest warm blast of wind has significantly reduced our snowpack but the good news is the NWS reports more snow on the way along with cooler temperatures.

You'll likely find the best riding, mushing and cross country skiing north on the Parks Highway in the Talkeetna and Trapper Creek area. They received about 10 inches of snow last weekend and reported on Tuesday they'd been blessed with another 14 inches. And it was STILL snowing. With forecasts calling for even more snow, it should be a great weekend to get out and explore the trails in this area.

Northeast toward Lake Louise, Eureka and Sheep Mountain they are reporting about 6 inches of snow on the ground and trails in marginal condition. High wind, warmer temperatures and rain have not helped but forecasts call for 3 to 6 inches of snow in the next few days and a bit cooler which should dramatically improve things in this area.

Chief Ranger Dan Amyot reports Hatcher Pass has been scoured by high winds resulting in a lot of snow transfer. This means snow has been blown off the ridges and peaks and settled in deep pockets and bowls so you'll likely find a lot of rocky thin areas and other places where the snow is 1-2 feet deep. Although there has been little sign of avalanches in Hatcher Pass recently, the ground is frozen and there is faceted snow with no cohesion connecting the pack to the dirt making it more likely to slide with the right trigger. This is a good warning for backcountry travelers to be wary of terrain traps like dips, gullies and bowls.

The best snow can be found below Hatcher Pass Lodge. The entire pass remains closed to snowmobiling and will need significant snow before opening will be considered. Remember all you SLEDDERS, SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS, avoid roadways and come prepared with beacons, shovels, probes and the knowledge to use them. And don't forget to get a parking pass.

Close in between Palmer and Wasilla, the Crevasse Moraine trail system has received about 17" of snow in recent days and trails have been packed. If the temperature drops and we get a little fresh snow on top, this area should provide great cross country skiing opportunities this weekend.

All of us at the North America Outdoor Institute remind you to carry safety equipment and get informed about safe riding and winter travel. We invite you to join us for a backcountry skills clinic on Sunday, Dec. 6th at Hatcher Pass Lodge. Learn more or sign up online at besnowsmart.org. We hope you enjoy safe riding, mushing or hiking adventures as you get outdoors and explore Alaska.