

*We are human power in action.
We promote wilderness values.
We preserve and protect our public lands.*



Connecting Kids to the Winter Wildlands

Our commitment to growing the next generation of stewards

Snow School is an outdoor educational experience designed to get students out on skis and snowshoes to experience winter. This winter, Snowlands Network helped facilitate the first Snow School program in Nevada. Winter Wildlands Alliance has created a network of Snow School programs to foster environmental stewardship and a love for human-powered snowsports among school age children (www.snowschoolorg.org).

The Snow School program in Nevada was a cooperative effort between Washoe County schools, Snowlands Network, and

Great Basin Institute and was supported by REI Reno and Columbia Sportswear. In spite of this year's short winter season, the Snow School program was able to host nearly 300 students. The students were able to participate in interactive winter ecology lessons at the Galena Creek Recreation Area and Visitor Center off of the Mt. Rose Highway.

In addition to the Snow School program in Nevada, there are several established Snow School programs in California, all with the common goal of connecting kids with the outdoors in winter. Many

of the students that participate in these programs have never had an opportunity to experience XC skiing or snowshoeing. By providing these opportunities for students and nurturing the relationship between kids and the winter wildlands, we are growing our next generation of stewards.

With the state of public education in a crisis, there is a void that the Snow School program fills by providing enriching experiences for students. Much of the curriculum of Snow Schools is aligned to state standards and can address every core curriculum subject.

There is no better classroom or playground than the winter wildlands of California and Nevada. Snowlands Network will continue to provide opportunities for and improve access to human-powered snowsports for kids (of all ages).

*Laurel Harkness, Executive Director
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Brice Harkness (8) and Tate Harkness (10) at Castle Peak, Tahoe National Forest.

Snow Schools in California and Nevada

- Great Basin Institute
www.thegreatbasininstitute.org
- Tahoe XC - Winter Discovery Center
www.tahoexc.org
- Mt. Shasta Nordic
www.mtshastanordic.org
- Mammoth Nordic
www.mammothnordic.com

Protecting Winter Wildlands

By Bob Rowen, Vice President for Advocacy

Snowlands Network continues to represent the growing community of all those who participate in human-powered snowsports. We each utilize different modes to access the winter wildlands: touring skis, snowshoes, skate skis, A/T skis, splitboards, telemark skis, or boots. However, we all seek the same high quality experience in the most pristine areas of California and Nevada. The winter wildlands are a finite resource and as the use of these areas increases, our efforts to protect these areas also must increase. Each of our advocacy efforts is focused on seeking sustainable solutions to winter recreation planning.

Snowlands Network was disappointed in February when Judge Kenny in Sacramento Superior Court ruled against its lawsuit challenging the State of California's snowmobile program under the California Environmental Quality Act. The petitioners, which include Winter Wildlands Alliance and the Center for Biological Diversity, have appealed. The snowmobile program shapes winter recreation opportunities in California to the detriment of skiers, snowshoers and others desiring a clean and quiet winter recreation experience. Petitioners have a similar lawsuit under the National Environmental Policy Act pending against the United States Forest Service.

In addition to its lands monitoring program and its two lawsuits, Snowlands Network advocacy has been very active in the last few months, participating in forest service reviews of the Rubicon Trail, the Giant Sequoia Monument management plan, a possible new OSV trailhead near Lake Davis, and several snowmobile outfitter permits. In addition, Snowlands Network has been addressing snowmobile issues in the Lake Tahoe basin, participating in a set of collaborative meetings arranged by the Forest Service. All of these efforts are focused on bringing about substantial improvements in the management of motorized winter recreation, which is missing in some national forests and seriously lacking in others.



Snowlands' President Gail Ferrell and Mount Rose Snowmobile Alliance founder Greg McKay at an on-site meeting of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Winter Collaboration group.

Snowlands Network Teams With Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

Save the date! September 17th in Chico, CA, Snowlands Network will host an inaugural benefit screening of the Banff Mountain Film Festival - Radical Reels Tour in the super-plush "Big Room" at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. For ticket information, stay tuned to www.snowlands.org

Friend of Snowlands Network

Nordic Skiers of Nevada County is an active group of winter backcountry enthusiasts, organizing regular outings on snow for all ability levels. Members of this group have been long-time stewards of the Pole Creek winter trails off of Hwy 20. Nordic Skiers of Nevada County meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in Nevada City at Seaman's Lodge in Pioneer Park. www.nordic-skiers.org

Backcountry Experience Reports

Snowlands Network continues to receive valuable snow-season information from citizens via our web-based reporting system. The Backcountry Experience Report page on our website makes it quick and easy to document conditions encountered on National Forest units in California and Nevada, such as a snowscape roiled with evidence of snowmobile violations.

Backcountry Experience Reports provide much of the field data which informs Snowlands Network's efforts to protect both winter wildlands and opportunities for clean and quiet recreation in these special places. Snowlands Network qualifies the reports and shares the information with public lands managers, often providing data which would otherwise be unknown to public agencies.

The near absence of central Sierra snowfall from November through January compressed our 2011-2012 snow season into late

February, March and April. Chronically thin snows concentrated the recreational use at higher-elevation trailheads, and even modest snowfalls were quickly exploited.

The Backcountry Experience Reports are designed to help the public lands agencies better utilize their limited resources for winter wildlands management and focus patrols on the areas that need it the most.

Most important is Snowlands Network's ever-growing database, our season-upon-season testament to the need for improved winter recreation planning for public lands. To submit a Backcountry Experience Report to Snowlands Network, go to this URL on our website:

www.snowlands.org/report

Keeping Snowlands Strong

When you make a donation to Snowlands Network, you strengthen the voice of human-powered winter recreation, you help us increase awareness about issues that impact the winter wildlands in California and Nevada, and you help our efforts to collaborate with public lands managers to improve access to and experience within our winter wildlands. We are a small organization with a tenacious presence that remains vital because of our commitment to protecting these wintry places that we value today and for future generations.

To donate online, visit www.snowlands.org and click "JOIN US". For more information on giving your support, contact us at (530)265-6424, or info@snowlands.org.

Winter Trail Stewardship Opportunities

Snowlands Network is committed to continuing to assist the USFS with some grassroots trail stewardship. We are working with the public land managers to identify various projects for summer/fall trail work. This year the projects will likely be in the Truckee, Tahoe, Lassen, or Mt. Shasta regions. We will be rounding-up volunteers willing to donate a weekend this fall. If you would like to be informed of opportunities to help Snowlands Network improve

winter trails, then please send us a note to info@snowlands.org or call us at (530)265-6424 and we will put you on our contact list.

Sharing The Trails

Winter Trail Etiquette Marcus Libkind, Chairman

Snowshoeing is the fastest growing winter sport. It has gone from a minor use to a major use of popular destinations over the last ten years. The reason is obvious: if you can walk you can snowshoe.

The increase in snowshoeing has led to the need for greater awareness of how those who share our winter trails affect each other. Please be considerate of other winter trail users by following a few simple rules of trail etiquette.

- Do not walk or snowshoe on established ski tracks if possible.
- Skiers and snowshoers should yield to a descending skier.
- Control your speed when descending where there are other trail users.
- Step aside when being overtaken by a faster skier or snowshoer.

We're all out to enjoy quiet and safe winter recreation. Let's work together to make it enjoyable for all.

Snowlands Network

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Support Snowlands Network today and help us protect winter wildlands.

Contact us today to find out how you can contribute! Call (530)265-6424 or visit us on the web at www.snowlands.org.

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Mission

We promote opportunities for quality human-powered winter recreation and protect winter wildlands. We educate the public and government agencies about winter recreation and environmental issues.