



Greetings from the Black River State Forest! Winter has arrived at the property and we want to remind people of the many great recreational opportunities that are available. With some of Wisconsin's best cross country ski and snowmobile trails right in our backyard it is not necessary to travel far to enjoy the best of winter sports.

Traditionally December 15th marks the opening of our snowmobile and ATV trails. This year winter has come early, and the trails opened on December 11th. There are 51 miles of snowmobile trails on the property with 32 miles of these also open to ATVs. The trails connect up with larger regional trail system offering days of quality riding.

For those who prefer cross country skiing, the property offers a 24 mile trail system in the southern half of the property. This system is considered one of the two best in the entire state. It features a variety of loops for the beginner, intermediate, and advanced skier. The trails travel through a mixture of forest types including oak and pine and offer several amazing vistas.

There are two large parking lots that access the ski trails. The Wildcat parking lot is located off of Settlement road, about seven miles south of Hwy 54 or four miles north of County Highway O near Millston. The Wildcat lot sits in the middle of the trails and features a new informational sign with a map of all of the ski loops. There is also a bathroom on site.

The Smrekar parking lot is located one mile north of County Highway O off of Smrekar road. This lot lies in southern portion of the system and also has a new trail sign and a bathroom. An additional feature offered is the warming house. This was constructed in 2006 by the Black River State Forest Trail Foundation as a donation to the property. It is a full log building with benches and tables and a fireplace. The building is open to the public during the ski season. It is a great place to warm up after a day of skiing.

For those of you seeking more information please visit our winter recreation page on our website. This includes links to snowmobile regulations and additional property brochures: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/StateForests/SF-BlackRiver/BlackRiver-rec-winter.htm> . Paper copies of these brochures are available at the Black River Falls DNR Service Center which is open Tuesday through Friday from 8:15-1:00 and 2:00-4:00. If you have any questions please call us at (715) 284-4103.