

Oregon National Forests

The Oregon national forests contain:

- 3,257 miles of groomed winter trails
 - 3,043 miles of groomed trails open to snowmobiles
 - 214 miles of groomed trails closed to snowmobiles
- See Table A.

The Oregon national forests contain:

- 15,942,517 acres of land
 - 12,196,335 acres of land open to snowmobiles
 - 1,323,764 acres of non-wilderness land closed to snowmobiles
 - 2,379,902 acres of designated wilderness land, also closed to snowmobiles
- See Table C.

The NVUM surveys for the Oregon forests show there are an estimated:

- 458,769 cross-country ski and snowshoe visits annually
 - 177,812 snowmobile visits annually
- See Table B.

These numbers show that on national forest land in Oregon, there are 14 times more miles of groomed motorized trails than non-motorized even though NVUM participation figures show that statewide there are two-and-a-half times more skier and snowshoer visits than snowmobile visits. This disparity results in a density of 2,144 skier and snowshoer visits per groomed non-motorized mile compared to 58 snowmobile visits per groomed motorized mile.

In Oregon's case, the NVUM data corresponds with the Oregon SCORP. The statewide plan estimates that approximately 2.5

percent of the resident population participates in cross-country skiing versus 1.1 percent in snowmobiling.⁹²

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest shows an estimated 80,800 cross-country skier and snowshoer visits and only 3,000 snowmobile visits, yet not one mile of the 250 miles of groomed trails is designated non-motorized.

Mt. Hood National Forest shows the largest number of cross-country skiers and snowshoers of all the forests in the state – 148,000 skier and snowshoer visits compared to 25,000 snowmobile visits – yet only 37 miles of a total of 287 groomed miles are designated non-motorized. Though skiers outnumber snowmobilers by six to one in this forest, only one in seven groomed miles is non-motorized.

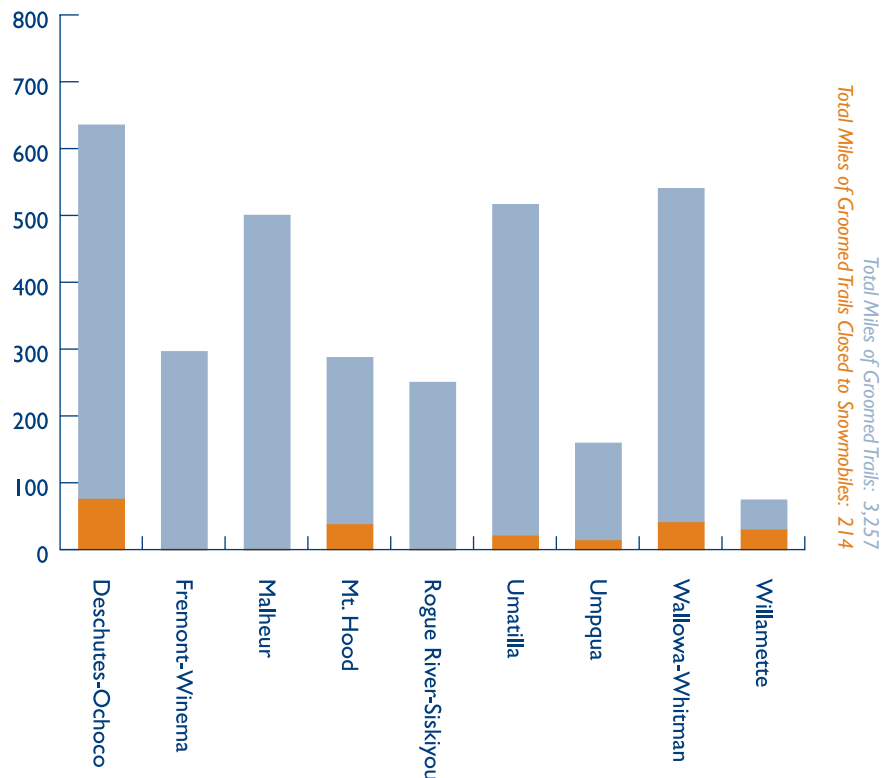
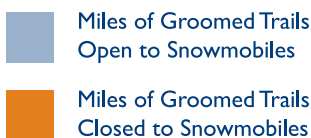
Similarly, in Deschutes-Ochoco National Forests, skier and snowshoer visits outnumber snowmobile visits by nearly three to one, yet only 12 percent of the trails are designated non-motorized. Here, the density is 1,269 skier and snowshoer visits per groomed non-motorized mile versus 66 snowmobile visits per groomed motorized mile.

The Fremont-Winema National Forest has 296 miles of groomed trails, but even with an annual 4,500 skier visits, none of the trails are non-motorized.

Even though there are two-and-a-half times more cross-country skier and snowshoer visits than snowmobile visits in the Oregon national forests, only one-quarter of the forest land is designated non-motorized and almost half of that is wilderness.

Table A: Total Miles of Groomed Winter Trails on National Forest Land Open and Closed to Snowmobiles

See Appendix 3, pg. 38, for comparison of snowmobiles vs. skiers/snowshoers per mile of motorized and non-motorized trails.

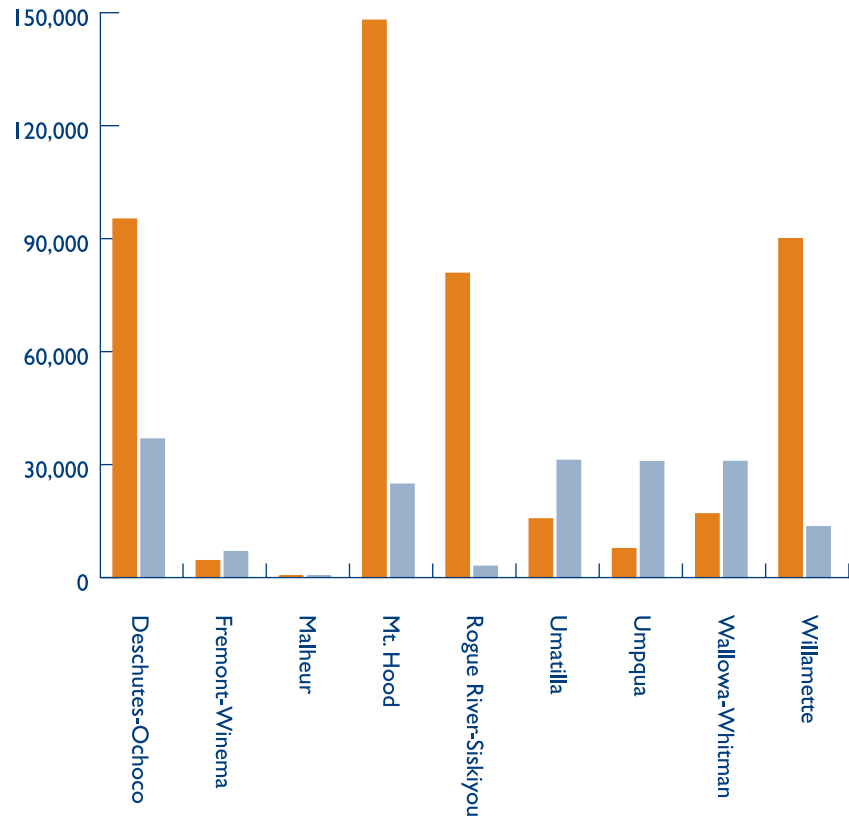


Siuslaw National Forest was not included since it has almost non-existent snow cover. Umpqua National Forest acreage is impossible to determine due to a forest rule that at least two feet of snow is required to go off trail in certain areas. That amount of snow is usually limited to above 4000-4500 feet elevation making a large part of the forest unavailable to snowmobiles.

Forests that are jointly administered supplied total acreages and miles for the combined forests, yet the NVUM data is for each forest separately. Thus, to arrive at ratios of user numbers to miles and acres, the total visits for each forest were added together to determine a combined forest-wide percentage of users for each activity.

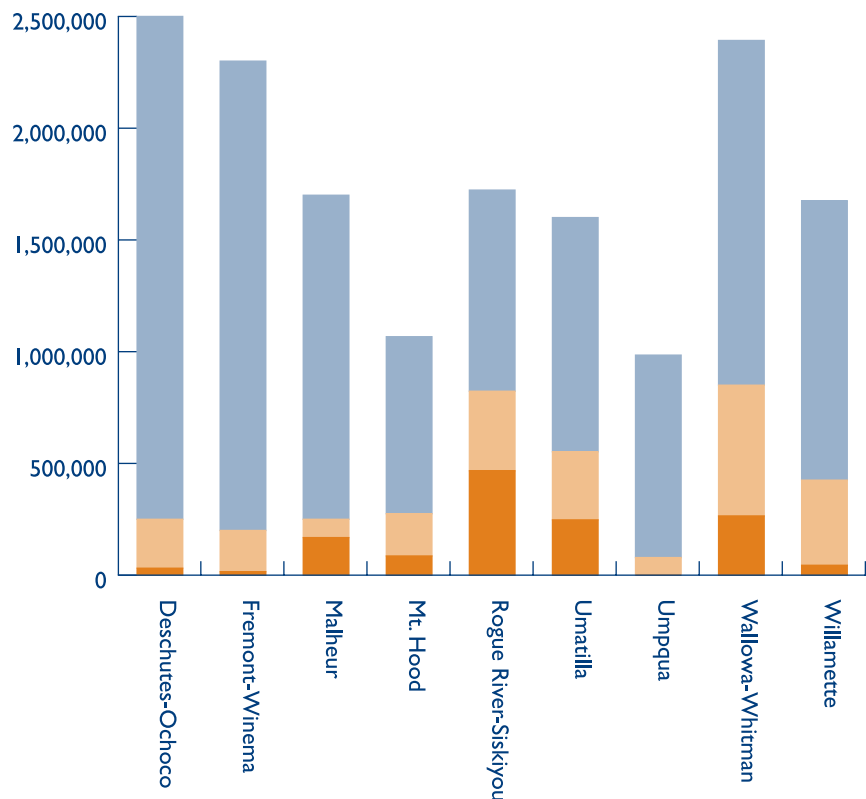
Table B: National Forest Annual Visits per Activity

Source: U.S. Government, National Visitor Use Monitoring data



Total Number of Snowmobile Visits: 177,812
Total Number of Cross-country Ski and Snowshoe Visits: 458,769

Table C: National Forest Acres Open and Closed to Snowmobiles



Acres Open to Snowmobiles: 12,196,335
Acres of Designated Wilderness Closed to Snowmobiles: 2,379,902
Acres of Non-Wilderness Closed to Snowmobiles: 1,323,764