

DUBOIS OFFERS UNLIMITED WINTER ADVENTURES

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Outdoor adventures in Dubois don't end when the brief high country summer ends. Winter in Northwest Wyoming is long – from mid-December to April most years – but it's never long enough for the true winter sports enthusiast. Bright sunshine and crisp powder snow of up to 12 feet in depth in the high country around Dubois provide perfect conditions for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and dog sledding. You pick the adventure! You'll find it in the Dubois area along with excellent lodging and a variety of eating establishments that serve everything from a great burger to gourmet meals.

For the snowmobile buff, the high country around Dubois offers 150 miles of groomed and marked trails, ranging from easy to challenging, that connect to the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) system. The CDST is the ultimate snowmobile adventure. It travels 608 miles along the Continental Divide from Lander, Wyoming at the southern end to West Yellowstone, Montana in the north. For the past three years the CDST has been voted "Best of the Best" by readers of *SnoWest* magazine, the sport's leading authority on adventure snowmobile riding. *SnoWest* readers gave the top slot to the CDST based on its scenery, grooming, signage, map, off-trail snow quality, lack of crowds, terrain, available services, and weather. When you're not on the trail, lodging and restaurants are available near key trail access points. Snowmobile information, fuel, maintenance, and rentals or also available.

Non-resident registration and snowmobile trail user fees go to maintain and groom trails and are required by Wyoming law. For information and trail conditions, phone the Wyoming Recreation Commission Hotline at 307-777-7777 or visit www.wyotrails.state.wy.us. Registration decals and trail maps are available at licensed permit dealers in the Dubois area.


Snowmobiles aren't the only way to experience winter beauty in the high country. Cross-country skis and snowshoes allow adults and children to enjoy both scenery and solitude. For the less athletically inclined, sled dogs will take you in to the high country on a comfortable sled pulled by trained sled dogs. Families with young children can enjoy the winter scenery and wildlife in comfort with an experienced guide to take care of the logistics.

Marked cross-country ski trails are available in the Shoshone National Forest west of Dubois, and opportunities are unlimited for experienced backcountry skiers and snowshoers to enjoy miles of deep powder. Cross-country ski trail maps and Shoshone National Forest maps are available at the Shoshone National Forest's Wind River District Office and the Dubois Chamber of Commerce. Whenever you're in the backcountry in winter, you may sight elk, deer, moose, fox or ermine.

The beautiful Wind River flows through Dubois, and fishing in the river doesn't end when the temperature drops.

Warm springs flow into the river near Dubois and keep it ice-free all winter long. Dedicated angler will also love ice fishing at Torrey and Trail lakes south of Dubois or at Brooks Lake and Wind River Lake west of Dubois. Ice fishermen routinely bring home impressive strings of fish from a day on the ice. Wyoming fishing licenses are available at a number of Dubois businesses.

Dubois' annual Winterfest, scheduled for Feb. 6 and 7 this year, offers sled dog and ski joring races both days at a snow oval west of town. Other events – children's arts and crafts, bread and soup cooking contest, and a Hootenanny – will be held at various locations around town during the weekend.

While you're off the trail, check out gift shops along Dubois' wooden boardwalks and visit the National Big Horn Sheep Center and the Dubois Museum/Wind River Historical Center. The National Big Horn Sheep Center offers winter tours to view the largest herd of wintering bighorn sheep in the continental United States. Learn more about the history of the Dubois area at the Dubois Museum. 

Information about Dubois and Dubois events can be found on the community website duboisywoming.org.



~Norma Williamson is a Dubois free-lance writer, a former newspaper and magazine editor who is currently the director of the Dubois Museum.