

# WINTER WONDERLAND

CASPER MOUNTAIN IS A SNOWY PLAYGROUND FOR SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS ALIKE

If the first gentle snowflake of the season makes you yearn for the slopes...

Pack up your gear and head to *Hogadon Ski Area* (307-235-8499) for some winter adventure in Casper! Whether you're looking to cruise downhill on skis or catch some air with your board, *Hogadon* offers 600 vertical feet of terrain for riders of all disciplines.

Located just ten minutes from town on *Casper Mountain*, *Hogadon* offers something for skiers and snowboarders at every experience level. There are

bunny slopes for the beginners and steeper hills, including black diamond trails, for skiers with more experience. There's even a terrain park for the most adventurous of riders. Best of all, short lift lines mean more skiing and less waiting!

If you're new to winter sports and you're not sure which is right for you, here are a few things to consider: When alpine skiing, you'll use your poles to keep yourself in an upright position. Snowboarding, while easier on your knees, can put more stress on your ankles. If neither of these options sounds appealing, you may find nordic skiing to be a better fit. Nordic skiing is more akin to hiking, and the *Casper Nordic Center* (307-235-4772) with its 42 kilometers of groomed trails,

is a great place to glide. Located on Casper Mountain, the *Nordic Center* offers cross-country skiing day and night with overhead lights illuminating a popular section of trail until 10 p.m. most nights. There are trail levels for all abilities, so grab your poles and go!

Early snow and a full range of terrain are just two of the reasons the *Nordic Center* is a popular facility. In addition to the groomed track, there are nearly 50 kilometers





The trails at the *Nordic Center* are groomed for both classic and skate-style nordic skiing.

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of backcountry and snowshoe trails within the park itself. During the *Salt Lake City Olympics*, two Olympic teams trained daily in Casper. But don't let that intimidate you – most folks ski strictly for fun!

Lift ticket options for *Hogadon* include individual, group and season passes. Passes to ski the nordic trails also require a minimal fee and can be purchased through *Natrona County Road and Bridge* (307-235-9311), *Mountain Sports* (307-266-1136) and the *Nordic Center* itself.

Although it would be awesome to step onto the snow and shred like

professional snowboarder Shaun White, most of us could use a few pointers. *Hogadon Ski School* offers group and private lessons, available by reservation. Group and private lessons are also available through the *Nordic Center*.

Still not sure which activity is right for you? Why not try them all? Rent or purchase your skis, boots, boards, and bindings at *Ragged Edge Sports* (307-237-5560) or *Mountain Sports*. Regardless of the sport you choose, you'll meet experts at both shops to help you find just the right accessories for your winter adventure.

*Hogadon* offers challenging terrain for snowboarders of all skill levels.



# ESCAPE TO MOTORSPORT MOUNTAIN

When you've got a wonderland like Casper Mountain just minutes from town, skimming over the trails at 35 mph is a thrilling way to explore it...



...just ask guide **Don Higbee**, owner of **Karst Motorsports** (307-237-7680). “My favorite thing about the mountain is being able to go up there with the family and having it in such close proximity to Casper.” A lifelong enthusiast of snowmobiling and ATVing, Higbee speaks from experience. He and his family just recently moved here, but “we’ve been visiting Wyoming for 15 years. We’re really glad to be in town.”

Snowmobiling is one of the most popular winter sports in Wyoming’s *Adventure Capital*. A great

many trails can be accessed at **Beartrap Meadow**, the trailhead for snowmobiling on **Casper Mountain**. Located straight up Casper Mountain Road and just minutes from downtown, its parking lot is the perfect place to leave your trailer and head out on the groomed trails. From there, you can follow well-defined tracks over to **Muddy Mountain** and drop into some of the deeper powder snow known for great backcountry riding.

Easy access and well-groomed trails are just a few of the area’s highlights, according to Higbee. “It’s a good area for the beginning and mid-range type of snowmobiler to come and enjoy some of Wyoming’s scenery,” he says. “What attracts the beginning snowmobiler to **Casper Mountain** is the detail the county

uses on plowing the different roads, and making sure **Beartrap Meadow** is easily accessible. My daughter is just learning how to ride, and we allow her to ride up there.” The mountain features a variety of different terrain, offering something for all levels of snowmobilers.

As for the gear you’ll need? First, get a season permit, which is available from **Natrona County** (307-235-9370) for \$25. Higbee suggests taking food and water as well as spare belts and spark plugs – anything you might need to maintain your machine. You’ll find a full range of machines, clothing and helmets at Higbee’s **Karst Motorsports**, **Casper Mountain Motorsports** (307-266-4930) or **Just For Kicks** (307-265-0228).