

Volunteers needed for Gordon Reese Cabin



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WISDOM -- The Forest Service is looking for winter recreation enthusiasts to volunteer at the Gordon Reese Cabin located at the Chief Joseph Cross Country Ski area this winter.

Volunteers are welcome to assist in maintaining this popular facility throughout the winter season. Each Tuesday and Friday is set aside for volunteers to help maintain the cabin and trailhead facilities during the day and stay overnight for free. It is not necessary for volunteers to stay at the

cabin throughout the day. Volunteers and their guests are encouraged to enjoy and explore the trails and surrounding area. The Forest Service asks that you occasionally return to the warming hut to make sure the fire is going, hot and cold drinking water is available, and the cabin is clean and comfortable for visitors using the trails during the day.

Duties include meeting and greeting the public, answering questions, shoveling snow from the paths that lead to the outhouses at the cabin and the trailhead, clearing snow from the deck and doors, keeping the cabin and both outhouses stocked and clean, restocking firewood to the main floor, keeping the fire going, and reporting problems to the Wisdom Ranger District office.

To volunteer at the Gordon Reese Cabin, contact Lori Stevenson, Mikal Reese or John Ericson at the Wisdom Ranger District office at 406-689-3243 beginning Oct. 1.

The Gordon Reese Cabin is available to the public to rent from Dec. 1 through April 15. The cabin is used by cross-country skiers as a warming hut during the day and then available to be rented for overnight stays. The cabin is located at Chief Joseph Pass off of Montana State Highway 43, approximately 10 miles south of Sula, and 25 miles west of Wisdom. The cabin can be reached from the parking area at the Chief Joseph Pass Trailhead and is an easy one-half mile from the parking area. Access to the cabin is by foot, snowshoes or cross-country skis. Chief Joseph Pass Ski Trails cover over 30 miles of trails groomed weekly by volunteers from the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club.

As with other rental cabins renters are responsible to keep the cabin clean and to pack out everything they pack in. During the day, the cabin is available as a warming hut to cross-country skiers, so renters do not have exclusive use of the facilities and are expected to act in a welcoming manner. The upstairs sleeping area can be closed off to provide limited privacy during the day. Pets are not allowed at the cabin or on the trails.

Reservations are \$9 per day and can be made beginning Oct. 1. online at www.recreation.gov, or by calling 877-444-6777. Cancellations are also handled through recreation.gov. However, due to the popularity of renting the cabin, last minute reservations and cancellations may be

filled by contacting the Wisdom Ranger District office at 406-689-3243.