

A Proposal for Groomed Nordic Skiing in Cloman Park

The Pagosa Nordic Club (PNC) has recently established a sub-committee with the mission of identifying and securing parcels of land that would provide a large venue(s) (30 km – 50 km) for groomed X-C Nordic Ski trails. The sub-committee is also charged with developing a long range plan and budget that would include securing grants for the purchase of a snowcat groomer that will enable the PNC to provide a world class Nordic skiing experience, right here in Pagosa Springs. The goal is to be able to offer a 30k - 50k venue(s) that would lure destination Nordic skiers from around the country and world and provide our residents with a higher quality product further adding to the quality of life in Pagosa Springs.

PNC has served as the local advocate for X-C ski trails in our community for the last 7 years. Generous awards from the BOCC 6 years ago, allowed PNC to purchase grooming equipment and beginning grooming higher quality trails. We have successfully coordinated efforts with the Forest Service, Wolf Creek Ski Area, Wolf Creek Trail Blazer snowmobile club and the Town of Pagosa Springs to promote groomed X-C Ski trails in our community.

PNC's current proposal to PROST and the BOCC is to allow the PNC to groom trails in Cloman Park, with the intent of securing permission from the neighboring property owners to groom on their ranches, that would open up a 30 km – 50 km venue, helping to achieve PNC's long range goals in short order. We have had very positive conversations with one of the neighboring property owners.

PNC is interested in Cloman Park because of its beauty, central location in Pagosa, relatively high elevation and good snow, the existing parking lot and its gentle ski terrain. We like that it is already in use as a recreational venue, the access from town, and existing trailhead with parking. We believe that Cloman Park is big enough for a quality, in town, after work and school trail network and provides an excellent trail head for expansion onto adjacent properties.

We intend to ask several adjacent landowners to grant us permission to groom trails on their land as well, to be accessed via Cloman Park. Our vision is that the Cloman Park Nordic ski trails would complement our other existing and hoped for venues that are further from town.

PNC thinks that Cloman Park would comfortably accommodate five kilometers of ski trails. We understand that there are existing winter user groups such as walkers, snowshoers and snowbikers, whom we would not wish to exclude from the area, however, due to trail damage PNC would prefer to prohibit their use on the groomed trail surface. As dogs are currently welcome in the park we would embrace them as well.

The existing plowed parking and toilet are key parts of the necessary infrastructure. In addition, a few small culverts, perhaps a gate, and signage that goes away in the spring is all that would be necessary. No changes to the forest or the land would be needed other than minor brush cutting and tree limbing. PNC would like the trails to be open to the public, all daylight hours, seven days a week in the winter season as snow allows. It would be our wish to have a donation box at the trailhead for users to contribute money to cover trail grooming expenses.

PNC asks that the Archuleta County PROST committee provide a recommendation to the BOCC regarding the use of Cloman Park for groomed X-C ski trails, plowing and maintenance of the trailhead parking lot, maintenance of the portable toilet, and permission to access other parcels of land through Cloman park. Our proposal and request to PROST and the BOCC includes:

- 1) Allow PNC to groom (approx 5 km) X-C trails in Cloman Park for Classic and Skate Skiing.
- 2) Allow PNC to limit the use of such groomed trails to skiing activities only. This is necessary due to damage from other trail users. PNC would welcome and work with other user groups to share the area and groom trails for their specific users for example; snowshoeing and fat tire biking.
- 3) Allow the connection to neighbor properties through Cloman Park with property owner permission.
- 4) Allow PNC to post signs regarding trail maps, KM markers, allowable use and trail etiquette.
- 5) The County will maintain the trail head parking lot and plow after snow events.
- 6) The County will maintain the portable toilet during the winter.
- 7) Allow PNC to conduct trail maintenance during the summer months such as tree trimming, stump removal and brush clearing for trail alignments.
- 8) At this time, we are not asking for any funding from Archuleta County.

We would appreciate your recommendation to the BOCC for allowing the PNC to provide a fantastic winter recreation area in Cloman Park.

Sincerely,



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