

## Cross Country Skiing / Snowshoeing Policy

### Policy

Only employees of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and their guests may ski/snowshoe on Institute property. This firm limitation exists because the trails were not designed with cross-country skiing in mind, and in many instances, run adjacent to plots set aside for research projects. It is only by limiting skiing to a manageable number of well-informed individuals who are sensitive to the fragility of an outdoor laboratory that we are able to permit it. The needs of the scientific program take precedence over our wish to recreate on our grounds.

### Rules

1. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are limited to Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies employees and their guests. Party size is limited to six and guests must be accompanied by the employee at all times. Employees are responsible for the conduct of their guests and any abuse of these rules may lead to withdrawal of these privileges for that employee.
2. Skiing/snowshoeing are permitted only on [designated roads and trails](#). These locations were chosen to minimize the visibility of ski/snowshoe tracks from public roadways. Some trails dead-end before reaching public roadways and it is important to turn around at the point on the trail where skiing ends.
3. On occasion, it will be necessary to plow some designated roads in order to gain access for research and maintenance vehicles. When this is done, skiing/snowshoeing is permitted on the road shoulders.
4. Skiers must allow time for maintenance staff to clear the designated parking areas (see list below) before parking so as not to hinder snow removal work. It is important to walk beyond public areas before you put on your skis to reduce the visibility of this activity to the public.
5. Enforcement of these rules will rest largely upon employees themselves when they are skiing/snowshoeing. Security staff will not patrol the trails. Every group encountered should include one of your fellow employees; if it does not, you should attempt to find out the identity of the individuals, inform them that they are not authorized to be on the property and request that they leave. The request should be courteous but firm. All incidents of skiing/snowshoeing by unauthorized people should be reported to Security.

**A Final Note** - The trails were not originally laid out with cross-country skiing in mind. Some of them have fairly steep downhill slopes and turns. You should choose trails suited to your experience level and exercise care at all times. Inexperienced skiers should always ski with another person and those more experienced are encouraged to do so as well. We cannot patrol the trails regularly, so we rely on the sound judgment of skiers to avoid dangerous



situations. Let someone know your itinerary and expected return time. All skiing/snowshoeing is at your own risk.

**Designated Ski Parking Areas:**

**Plant Science Building parking lot** (a good choice for early-birds as this is plowed first): gives access to the nature trails and internal roads; please walk beyond XC-ski sign before you begin.

**Lovelace Drive East of the Environmental Monitoring Station** (park at barrier and do not block Monitoring Station driveway): this provides access to unplowed internal roads and major woods roads; please walk beyond gates/barriers before putting on skis.

**Lee Lovelace House parking lot:** provides access to unplowed internal roads (lowland and upland) and major woods roads; please walk beyond gates/barriers before putting on skis.

**Marked parking area at corner of Knapp and Fowler Roads:** provides access to unplowed internal roads (lowlands and uplands) and major woods roads; please walk beyond gates before putting on skis.

**Cary West parking lot:** Provides access to Cary West woods roads only (do not access lowlands from this parking area). Please walk beyond XC-ski sign before you begin.

**North end of Knapp Drive:** provides access to unplowed internal roads and major woods roads; Drive inside Knapp Road gate at junction with Canoe Hill Road and park at end of plowed area.

**Woods road parking area off Canoe Hill Road ("Spruce Road" parking area):** provides access to major woods roads. Start skiing beyond the XC sign.

**Marked parking area on Canoe Hill Road Northwest of Henry House:** Park and walk toward Route 44 to access woods road opposite the Henry House. Begin skiing beyond the XC sign.

**Gifford House parking lot:** provides access to Nature Trails west of Carriage House; please walk beyond XC ski sign on Pine Alle'e before putting on skis. Note the eastern sections of nature trails are not open for skiing due to their extreme topography.

