

It's snow time

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Here's where to go for some cool sledding



Photos by Nick de la Tr

Lauren Rondeau and 5-year-old son, Jordan, take advantage of a snow day in Flagstaff to sled at the Crowley Pit recreation area north of t

By John Stanley
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Face it. Valley residents are a bunch of cold-weather wimps. If we liked snow, we wouldn't live here.

Still, as long as we don't have to shovel it off our driveways and plow it off our streets, snow has a certain allure. Skiers and snowboarders have plenty of options, but what if you just want to spend a couple of hours making a snowman or do a little tubing or sledding? Where to go?

Almost anyplace there's snow will serve for an impromptu snowball fight or for dabbling in the art of snow sculpture, but for tubing or sledding, consider one of these areas:

Sunrise Park Resort:

Owned and operated by the White Mountain Apache Tribe in eastern Arizona, the ski resort has a designated tubing and sledding area.

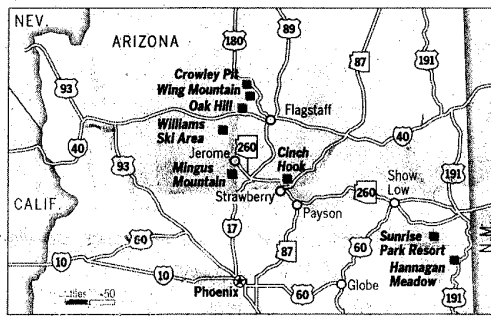
"It's like a bunny hill," says spokeswoman Myra Wagner. "We have lots of families come up and use it. (Snow tubing) is cheap, and it's easy. You just jump on and go. Any age can do it."

Rent a tube at the general store or bring your own. After a bout of tubing, visitors can enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Details: www.sunriseskipark.com or 1-(928)-735-7669.

Hannagan Meadow: The

Snow tubers take to the hills

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tubing hill is a huge hit with families, says Larry Innes, co-owner of the lodge near Alpine.

"It's right on our doorstep. Kids can go out and have all the fun they want, while Mom stays in a nice warm cabin," he says. "The kids just love it. They can play till they're frozen solid, then step inside, warm up and go back for more."

Tubes are available for rent at the store. Details: www.hannaganmeadow.com or 1-(928)-428-2225.

Williams Ski Area: In addition to ski and snowboard trails, the family-friendly ski area has a designated tubing area, perfect for kids. Details: www.williams-skiarea.com/ or 1-(928)-635-9330.

Wing Mountain and Crow-

ley Pit snow play areas:

These spots just off U.S. 180 northwest of Flagstaff are primarily winter parking areas that are plowed for cross-country skiers, snowmobilers and winter campers. They're popular for those seeking a casual romp in the snow, according to recreation ranger Steve Jenner of the Coconino National Forest. However, he notes, there are no services or facilities at the areas.

Locations: Wing Mountain — from Flagstaff, take U.S. 180 north. About three miles past Snowbowl Road, just before mile marker 226, turn west on Forest Road 222B and proceed about one mile to the parking area. Crowley Pit — from Flagstaff, take U.S. 180 north. About a mile north of the



Nordic Center Ski Area, look for the parking sign near mile marker 233. Details: www.arizonasnowbowl.com (click on Ski Area Info, then Snowplay) or 1-(928)-526-0866.

Mingus Mountain snow play area: New facilities at the summit, near Jerome, include four designated snow play runs, six picnic tables with grills (two are barrier-free for disabled access), a 60-car parking lot, restrooms and trash collection. There is a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle, valid for one day. Details: www.fs.fed.us/r3/recreation/demo/prescott.html or 1-(928)-567-4121.

Cinch Hook snow play area: Only tubes or lightweight plastic sleds are permitted at the area near Strawberry, which reopened last year after several years of closure.

Location: 7.4 miles north of Strawberry on Arizona 87. Details: 1-(928)-477-2172.

Oak Hill snow play area: From Williams, take Inter-

state 40 east Valley Exit (north, then p Historic Route two miles. D 635-4707.

Note: Neit bowl in Flag Lemmon, no currently ha areas for tut

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