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## Seasonal Road Closures in Eastern Snohomish County Begin Thursday, Dec. 7

*Snohomish County Public Works and U.S. Forest Service to temporarily close sections of Mountain Loop Highway and Index-Galena Road for the winter season*

**EVERETT, Wash., Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023** – With winter weather picking up at higher elevations, Snohomish County Public Works, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office, will close two roads for the season.

- **Mountain Loop Highway:** Closed as of Dec. 7, between Deer Creek Gate to the west to Bedal Gate to the east. The closure is about 18 miles east of Verlot.
- **Index-Galena Road:** Closed as of Dec. 7, between the access gates near milepost 10 to the west and milepost 14 to the east. This is the first seasonal closure of this road for Snohomish County Public Works since flooding washed out the road between mileposts 6 and 7 about 17 years ago.

“Every year, Snohomish County Public Works coordinates with the U.S. Forest Service, the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office, and many of the surrounding towns to plan the Mountain Loop Highway closure,” Snohomish County Public Works Director Kelly Snyder said. “This year, for the first time in 17 years, we’re also temporarily closing access to a four-mile section of Index-Galena Road. With the potential for snow and ice in the coming weeks, it is both prudent and practical to close the roads now and maintain safety.”

A 14-mile gravel stretch of the Mountain Loop Highway is closed every winter due to snow and road conditions. Each spring, the Public Works Road Maintenance Division coordinates with the U.S. Forest Service to perform any necessary maintenance on the road prior to its reopening. The route reaches its peak popularity during the summer months, with up to 200 cars traveling each day on the weekends.

Index-Galena Road, historically affected by seasonal road closures, was under a permanent closure at milepost 6 from 2006 until Nov. 4, 2023. While the temporary closure of the road for snow is coming shortly after the road project was finished the road reopened, the winter-weather closure location is further east than the former construction project zone, allowing for winter access to some properties for the first time in 17 years. The four-mile stretch of road, which ends just west of Forest Service Road NF-63, will remain closed until spring.

View the Snohomish County [road closures webpage](#) to get up to date information on closed county roads.

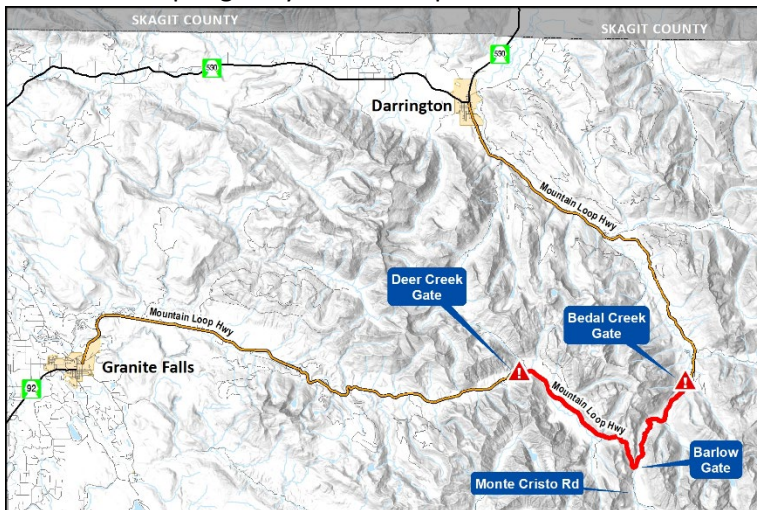
## About Snohomish County Public Works

Snohomish County Public Works is responsible for approximately 1,600 miles of county roads, more than 200 bridges and manages about 200 traffic control signals. The department also processes nearly 600,000 tons of garbage per year. Its mission is to focus on safety and mobility while practicing fiscal responsibility and preserving the environment. Public Works has won numerous state and national honors for its work and is the largest department within Snohomish County government with approximately 500 employees plus seasonal staff. Its main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201.

Visit [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks) or follow the department on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#) (formerly Twitter) for more information about Snohomish County Public Works.

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### Mountain Loop Highway closure map



### Index-Galena Road closure map

