

Inside Stevens

Thursday, December 20, 2007

Greetings Skiers and Snowboarders!

Today we would like to go over with you some of the reasons for, and some science behind grooming. At Stevens we prefer to open with a high quality mountain product rather than being the first to open our slopes. This takes 24-36 inches of snow depending on its structure or makeup. Once we receive this snow we will then look at the ground temperature, the temperature within the snow pack and the surface temperature. These, along with our forecasts of coming weather and expected freezing levels, give us an idea of how the snow pack will be changing its structure. This information will be the basis of our decisions on when to fill creeks, when to track pack versus grooming, as well as when to stay off our snow pack. At Stevens, we monitor these conditions daily throughout the winter and strive to offer a quality mountain experience on our groomed runs.

Why do we groom? At Stevens, we groom for many reasons, what stands out most for us is an enjoyable experience for our guests. Grooming also provides an excellent snow surface for beginning skiers and snowboarders to learn the basic techniques of our sport. It also provides that same great surface to our intermediate skiers and snowboarders to help them advance more quickly. Grooming provides easy access to our lodges, base area, and lifts in all weather conditions for all skiers including those expert skiers and snowboarders looking for access to and from our backcountry and ungroomed slopes. Another reason we groom is to prolong the snow coverage on our runs throughout the spring season. Part of our grooming program is to take the tons of snow that has been skied downhill and to the sides of our runs during the day and replace it back uphill and to the center of the runs. This not only provides the best possible snow surface for the next day, but also plays a huge role in maintaining a consistent snow pack on our runs throughout the spring season.

How much should we groom? This is a great question and one we do not take lightly. By listening to your input over the years we have found there is a fine line to the answer of this question. Many skiers and snowboarders of all age levels and experience prefer groomed runs, while many prefer moguls, glades and natural ungroomed terrain. At Stevens, we strive to accommodate all of our guests and your input has been a very useful tool for us and has brought about several changes in the way we groom at Stevens.

We are always interested in your questions and comments. Please sent them to:
customerservice@stevenspass.com.

From the Grooming Team at Stevens, we would like to wish you an enjoyable and safe experience at our mountain during the upcoming holiday season!

Gary Smithson
Grooming Manager

