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Happy New Year from the Alaska Avalanche Information Center here with your New Year's Snow Report thanks to support from our friends at Alaska Snowmobile Salvage and Country Legends.

Winter is coming! As we launch into 2018 snow conditions across SouthCentral are expected to improve. Colder temperatures with a chance of snow by the latter part of the weekend should help riding and touring at all elevations.

There is good riding reported in Hatcher Pass with a limited corridor opening to access the goods. Please, stick to the trails to avoid damaging the tundra and forcing a closing. And don't forget your state parking pass.

North on the Glenn you'll find the trails groomed around Eureka and lots of snow further north toward Lake Louise. The northern trails have been ridden but not groomed although reported to be in good condition. Remember, Dog teams use these trails and have the right of way so be respectful.

Petersville and points north on the Parks are also reporting good conditions but you might want to stick to the trails if you don't want to spend your day digging out your sled.

Evaluate snow and terrain carefully, exposing only one person at a time. It's up to you to be aware and keep it safe. Before you head out for your adventures, check current conditions at AlaskaSnow dot org, carry safety gear like beacon, shovel and probe and know how to use them.

That's it for this week. Have a safe, happy start to the New Year and keep THINKING SNOW!