Skiing – Both downhill and cross-country skiing options are available during the winter months in the Southwest region. Downhill: The Pine Creek Ski Resort near Coveville (northeast of Kenton) (www.pinecreekskiresort.com) at (360) 279-3201. Cross-country: The Bear River Trails near Bear River State Park/Greenway or Purple Sage (10-mile) Golf Course. In the Bear River Valley, a pathway extends from Lyons, Urie and Mountain View. In Kenton, you can access the Skagit Island Golf Course (9-hole). Head south up to the Mountain Mountains (30 miles from Ellensburg) to the Lily Lake trailhead to enjoy miles of scenic ski trails.

Fishing/Flying/Kayaking – The region is abundant with rivers for a variety of activities during the winter months. The Bear River traverses the Ellensburg, while Hanford Fish passes through the Kemmeren/Diamondville area, and near the Bridge Valley on the eastern side. The White River flows through the Black’s Fork, Smith’s Fork and Hanford’s Forks Valley. The Green River can also be accessed in South Lincoln County. To learn more about the regions near your destination, please contact the Ellensburg Game & Fish Department at (509) 777-4600 or www.wdfw. wa.gov.

Scenic Byways/Bikeways – Experience the region by journeying along the areas scenic byways. They include: Mirror Lake (Ellensburg to Kress); U.T.I. Big Spring (Kemmeren to Cokane/Allston to Alpine), Bridge Valley Historic (Fort Bridger to Lummy), Muddy Creek Historic Backway and Mount View Backway in Kemmeren Historic District. The Pavilion is available at Bear River State Park, Bridge Valley State Historic Site, Fossil Butte National Monument and other regional locations.

Lakes & Reservoirs – For outdoor aficionados of all tastes (fishing, camping, boating). Near Kemmeren/Diamondville – Lake Vicofore, Hanford Fish Recreational Area, Fortenotte Reservoir; Near the Bridge Valley – Mead Cabin Reserve, Golf/Ranch Reservoir (private); Near Ellensburg—Raven Creek Reservoir, Woodford Namox Reservoir.

Hunting/Shooting – Hunters can scout for antelope, big horn sheep, elk, mule, forage, turkey, pheasant, sage grass, black bear and mountain lions during various seasons. The area is also rich with a large variety of bird life (Ellensburg Recreation Center) shooting ranges. For more information about hunting in southwest Washington, please contact www.wdfw.wa.gov or (509) 777-4600. For more information regarding shooting ranges, please contact the Everett Recreation Center at (425) 898-1770 or the Kemmeren Recreation Center at (509) 285-2365.

ATV and snowmobiling – The Umta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest is a destination location for both ATV and snowmobiling enthusiasts. A little further north, the Bridge-Teton National Forest is a great area for winter enthusiasts with a large network of groomed and ungroomed trails. To learn more about the trails, please contact the Ellensburg-Naughton District (Umta-Wasatch-Cache) at 1500 Hwy. 156, Suite A, Ellensburg, WA 98923, (509) 739-3194 or the Kemeren Ranger Station (Bridger-Teton) at 300 Hwy. 189, Silver Gate, MT 59873, (406) 878-3073.

Hiking/ Biking/ Wildlife Viewing – In the Bridge Valley, a hiking/biking trail connects Lyman, Urie, Fort Bridger and Mountain View. Near Kemmeren at Fossil Butte National Monument, visitors can hike like a 1-mile nature trail or a 2.5-mile historic trail. In the Bridge Valley State Park and the Bear River Greenway, recreationists can explore more than 7 miles of connected paved and unpaved pathways. Bear River State Park also features mountain bike trails and a pump track.

Fossil Digging – Beyond Fossil Butte National Monument (FBNM), there are several fossil quarries available for those wanting a one-of-a-kind experience. The quarries offer a variety of ‘fossil tours.’ Please contact FBNM for more information regarding the various quarries at (509) 822-4045 or www.rnpa.org/fbnm.

Geocaching – The outdoor recreational activity is an exciting way to explore the region’s wildlife habitats, geology, archaeology, and human history. To participate, simply download a Geocaching System (GPS) receiver or mobile device with an App (available to help and seek collectables, called/geocaches or caches, at specific locations is a popular activity for citizens and visitors to the area. There are over 400 geocaches in and around Southwest Washington.

Mormon Trek Tours – Another popular and unique activity in the region are Mormon Trek re-enactments. Several routes can be followed today, and many modern facilities, trails and vehicles make it very easy for you to guide yourself. And, travelers must be sure to get permission when needed. For more information about the Mormon Trek route trails, please contact (360) 187-1797 or www.pioneertrekadventures.com.