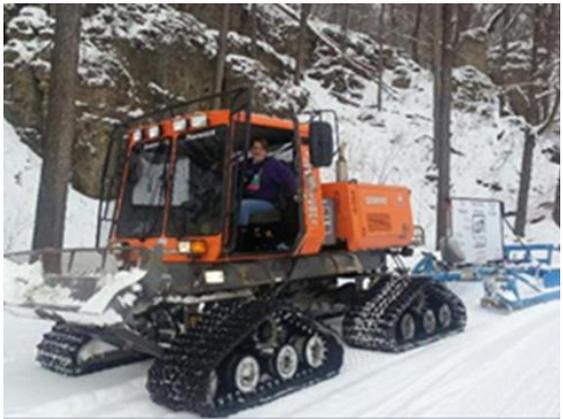




Each fall, snowmobilers create the largest public trail system in Iowa, 8800 miles of groomed and marked public trails primarily on private land through agreements with local snowmobile clubs.



Each spring the trails are taken out, and snowmobile club volunteers do it all over again the next fall.



Club volunteers become licensed Groomer operators. Snowmobilers pay their own way through snowmobile registrations, which is the primary funding for the program.



Snowmobiling is a great family recreation activity which has huge economic impact and supports good environmental stewardship.



Iowa Snowmobile clubs in partnership with the Iowa DNR provide education and certify youth to become safe snowmobile operators.



For information on the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and Iowa Snowmobile clubs call 563-920-0911

Iowa State Snowmobile Association



2017 ISSA Legislative Priorities

The ISSA will introduce legislation in 2017 to improve the Iowa Snowmobile program, enhance the ISSA partnership with the Iowa DNR, and ensure the best use of snowmobile registration dollars at the local level.



www.iowasnowmobiler.com

After a comprehensive study of North American snowmobile programs for various states, the ISSA included the best practices in this legislation proposed for 2017:

1) Consolidation of the registration decal and the trail pass sticker into a single decal and fee.

2a) Clarification of DNR and ISSA - local fund percentages of registration dollars.

2b) Transfers many snowmobile program responsibilities to ISSA working with local clubs for groomer management, trail funding and administration and allows for tourism and enhanced recreation promotion. Law Enforcement and registration administration become the primary focus for the DNR.

3) Allows registration and trail access for Snow Bikes, new snow vehicles and conversions becoming popular in Iowa.

1) Consolidation of the registration decal and the trail pass sticker into a single decal and fee.

- Eliminates the Iowa resident user permit (trail pass) \$15 decal.
- Iowa Resident Snowmobile Registration changes from \$15 to \$30
- User permit (trail pass) system will remain in effect for out of state users.
- Simplifies the purchase and display to one registration decal and eliminates one writing fee, lowering overall cost.
- Simplifies identification for law enforcement.

2a) Clarification of DNR and ISSA - local fund percentages of registration dollars.

- The percentage designated for the ISSA and local club use shall be changed from at least 50% to 80%. This restores the amount designated for DNR use to pre-user fees dollar amounts with many responsibilities transferred to the ISSA.
- Clarifies how snowmobile registration funds are to be used to allow for administrative costs incurred by ISSA for local club grants, transitioning to a sub-grant process, to allow for expenses incurred participating in tourism and promotion, and to clarify the program use of deobligated funds.

2b) Transfers many snowmobile program responsibilities to ISSA working with local clubs for groomer management, trail funding and administration and allows for tourism and enhanced recreation promotion. Law Enforcement and registration administration become the primary focus for the DNR.

- The DNR has indicated that they would like to transfer administration of the groomer inventory to the ISSA to ensure as much of the registration dollars as possible is used at the local level.
- Collaboration among snowmobilers and tourism is the best way to expand inclusion in tourism materials, access to more trails and parks and touching non-snowmobilers. This in return, develops great respect of snowmobiling and expands the draw of new snowmobilers.
- 100% transparency (not DNR codes) reporting by the DNR and the ISSA on where all funds are spent and annual report.
- Allow for exemption of registration and user permits for antique and competitive snowmobiles participating in sponsored special event in 321G.

- Add a section of code to administrative code 571 chapter 44 under special events for snowmobiles.
- There is a need for an exemption of registration and user permits in sponsored competitive events and vintage rides. Without such an exemption events may be eliminated and tourism will be greatly affected.



3) Allows registration and trail access for Snow Bikes, new snow vehicles and conversions becoming popular in Iowa.

- Snowmobilers in Iowa are asking to have legislative wording changed to allow snow bikes to be registered and to ride on Iowa Snowmobile trails.
- Currently, snow bikes can only be ridden on frozen lakes with an exemption of registration or on private areas. Registration wording changes are needed for trail access, events and organized rides. Without Snow Bike registration events may be eliminated and tourism will be affected.

The ISSA appreciates the support of our legislators to implement these changes for the enhancement and realignment of the Iowa Snowmobile Program to be in line with current DNR priorities and the advancement of outdoor wintertime recreation and tourism in Iowa.