



Snowmobile Program Newsletter

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT
BUREAU

SNOWMOBILE AND OHV
PROGRAM

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 12, 2009

Cooperative Agreement Riders

The end of December riders were drawn up by DNR's legal staff for the snowmobile program in an attempt to strengthen the language contained in the cooperative agreements. The riders are designed to make the snowmobile grants more similar to other DNR grants, for example the REAP grants, which the DNR administrators.

Language was included regarding record retention, conflict of interest, tort protection, and language required by the Attorney General's Office in relation to termination provisions.

Every snowmobile club

has received a rider to their cooperative agreement. These must be signed and returned to Kathleen Moench at the DNR as part of your grant agreement. No funds can be awarded to a club until both of these forms are received by the DNR.

The language contained in the rider will be incorporated into the co-

operative agreement so that in the future only one form will be sent to the clubs for signature.

Much appreciation is extended to the clubs for all that is done with maintaining trails and equipment and the appropriate attention given to grants and necessary paperwork. Positive teamwork is a priority for the DNR.

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The 2010 International Snowmobile Congress hosted by ISSA will be held at Marriott Coralville Conference Center June 9—12.

E-mail Contact

Contact information for the clubs was taken from the grant applications submitted for the 2008 grant cycle. In general, the first person listed on the application was the contact information used to make the e-mail distri-

bution list used by program staff to contact clubs.

When possible the DNR prefers to use electronic communication to increase efficiency and decrease cost.

If the contact person

for your club needs to be changed, or if you would like to add an additional contact person, please provide this information to Rhonda at Rhonda.Fowler@dnr.iowa.gov.

Snowmobile Web Site

Final touches are being made to the new DNR Snowmobile Program web site. Information will be provided about the education program, special event permits, registration of machines, regulations, grant information, in addition to other useful information.

An opportunity to highlight any club activi-

ties or photographs that you would like to share will exist. Please send information and/or pictures to Rhonda for posting. Pictures need to have dates and captions.

It is anticipated that the web site will be active by February 2, 2009.

To access the web site, go to www.iowadnr.gov. Select

“Snowmobile Program” from the drop-down menu on the left-hand column of the page under “Choose a DNR Program.”

A valuable tool being added will be a section for education instructors. PowerPoints, PDFs, and lists of resources will be posted for use by volunteer instructors.



Changes in Waterways/Travel on Ice

In addition to moving many of the bridges on the trail systems, flooding this summer also changed some of the river beds and water depths that people have become accustomed to over the years.

Please take extra caution when operating on rivers and impoundments.

Riders must also be aware of potential dangers of debris in the ice and ice heaves due to changes in the water tables.

It is critical that the ice quality and type of ice is evaluated before you travel. Only clear, hard, new ice is recommended for travel.

Remember that snow on ice acts as a blanket and can prevent hardening of the ice and that all ice presents some risk.

The DNR advises that minimum ice thickness for new, clear ice for a snowmobile is 5 inches.



Dave Carmichael congratulates Bruno Andreini on his acceptance into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

Operational Reminders — Riding in the Median

The Iowa Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the DNR, has established a web site to provide snowmobile riders with information regarding legal riding practices. At this time, the DNR would like to highlight information about riding in the median. Please note that in general the IDOT discourages operation in the median.

Please keep these items in mind for your safety, legal operation of your machine, and an enjoyable riding experience:

- Limited access highways are restricted for snowmobile operation.

- If a highway only has access to the roadway for on and off ramps, riding is illegal in the ditch, in the median, and on the sides.
- If you can get to the roadway by some area other than on and off ramps (gravel or highway entrance), you may ride the median between sunrise and sunset. This would include Hwy 20 west of I-35.

For more information, go to <http://www.iowadot.gov/snowmobiles/areasofop.html>

Groomer Equipment Agreements

Grooming equipment in Iowa is designated as either club-owned or state-owned. All equipment which is on state inventory and in the possession of a snowmobile club will have an equipment agreement tied to it.

This agreement will be executed between the club and the Department and will detail the use, maintenance, care, and record-keeping requirements for the equipment according to standard procedures which the DNR is required to operate under.

The agreement will address the following issues: location of the groomer, record keeping and record retention, maintenance requirements, operator training, notification requirements for any safety concerns

or damage resulting from the operation of the groomer, disposition of the equipment, and a statement of the State's self-insurance coverage on the equipment.

Because the equipment is considered state equipment, the smoking policies of the state apply to the equipment and smoking is prohibited in the cab of any such grooming equipment.

As noted with the cooperative agreements, this language is designed to clarify the relationships, roles, and responsibilities between the DNR and the sponsor club. In general, these items are the operating procedures everyone is already using. The agreement clarifies these items in a written format.

The exact language for the agreement is

presently being reviewed by ISSA representatives and DNR's legal staff. Clubs with a groomer on state inventory should anticipate receiving their agreement by late January.

This agreement is valid for the usable life of the equipment and will only need to be signed once.

Groomer Log Reminders:

1. *When grooming both sides of the highway, be sure to include all of the miles groomed.*
2. *Receipts and copies of either bank statements or checks must accompany each reimbursement request.*
3. *Groomer certification cards must be carried with the operator. If you need a duplicate, please call Rhonda at 515-281-3208*



ISSA representatives Terry Durby and Jerry Kramer hold a groomer certification training in Coralville on January 3, 2009. Sixty-six people attended the training.

Special Events Permits

Special event permits are required for an organized race, exhibition, or demonstration of limited duration which is held on public land or ice which is under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission. Of primary concern to the DNR is the safety of participants and spectators as well as the protection of the natural resources of this state.

Applications are to be submitted 30 days in advance of the event. The DNR Conservation Officer for your county is the first level of approval for the event. After this approval is granted, the application is then processed by David Downing.

Event sponsors are responsible for providing an adequate patrol for the event as well as liability insurance for the event when required.

Applications can be obtained from your local officer or at the following link: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/law/atv/permits.html>. (Soon to be available on the snowmobile program web pages.)

Approximately 45 special event permits directly related to snowmobiling are processed by the DNR annually.



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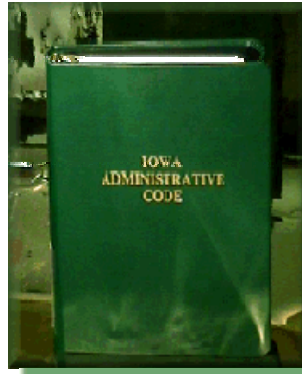
Phone Center
515-281-5918

Fax
515-281-6794

Administrative Rules

While most of the programs associated with snowmobiling have their basis in statutory language, the corresponding Administrative Code language is still in the development stages.

During the calendar year of 2009, the program intends to implement Administrative Rules which will cover volunteer education instructor certification requirements, snowmobile education courses, groomer operator certification requirements, course of education for groomer certification,



special events, snowmobile dealer requirements, sound regulation, and an update of the existing Administrative Code chapters that govern the Registration Revenue Cost-share Program (571 IAC 28) and snow-

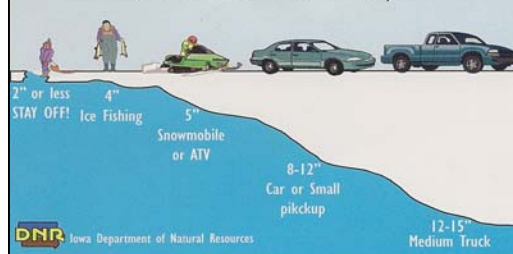
mobile titling, registration, and numbering (571 IAC 50).

As part of the rule-making process, public comment will be sought. In partnership with the ISSA, the program will take the extra step of distributing these rules via our e-mail distribution list in order to keep everyone informed about the proposed language.

Many of our programs benefit from the invaluable contribution of our volunteers and we want that continued infusion of assistance to be seen in our new rules.

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only



For copies of this ice thickness card for distribution to riders in your club or visitors to your trail system, please contact Rhonda Fowler at Rhonda.Fowler@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-281-3208.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is the government agency that leads Iowans in caring for their natural resources. It is responsible for maintaining state parks and forests, protecting the environment, and managing energy, fish, wildlife, and land and water resources in Iowa.

The DNR's Mission:

To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life for Iowans and ensure a legacy for future generations.

The Snowmobile Program's Mission:

To provide sustainable, responsible recreational opportunities for owners of registered snowmobiles.