Keeping Snowmobile Access in Today’s World

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137,000 miles of snowmobile trail across the United States – plus millions of acres off trail riding
This access is built upon RELATIONSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS established more than 40 years ago

- Private Landowners
- Legislators
- Local Government
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
Today’s Access: exists because snowmobilers brought resources to the table

- **Money:**
  registration fees, gas tax and user fees

- **Volunteers:**
  leadership, advocacy and labor for trail work
Future: cannot lose sight of what got us here or take our ‘access roots’ for granted

- Make no mistake about it: we would NOT have the same level of snowmobile access we enjoy today if we had to start over in today’s world – so we’d better work hard to keep it
Today’s ‘Top 5’ Access Threats

- Maintaining Relationships
- Maintaining Funding
- Maintaining Volunteers
- Defending attacks from environmental groups
- Winter travel planning
Defending Attacks from Anti’s

- Yellowstone roots
- Common theme: **Objection to the “sight, sound and smell of snowmobiles”**
- Impacts snowmobile access everywhere
3 Most Common Objections to Snowmobiles

**SIGHT:** some bothered by mere sight of sleds; will never win this, but glad to see ‘snow camo’

**SOUND:** snowmobile sound levels have decreased 94% compared to early models = must strictly enforce sound laws

**SMELL:** EPA rules reduced snowmobile fleet emissions by over 50% since 2002; new technology has dramatically changed snowmobiles = must promote this
Access Resources from ACSA available on-line at:  www.snowmobileinfo.org

Library of Research Studies Related to Snowmobiling Impacts

2008 Access Guide

ACCESS GUIDE FOR SNOWMOBILING ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS

2009 ‘Facts Book’
Defending Attacks from Anti’s: The Main Thugs Today

- Winter Wildlands Alliance
- Wilderness Society
- Sierra Club
- Numerous other national
- A multitude of regional and local groups
Winter Wildlands Alliance
National, Human Powered, Quiet Use

- Budget $476,400 (2010)
- Formed in 2000
- Founding member of the Outdoor Alliance
- **Prime Corporate Partners**
  Cliff Bar, REI, Patagonia, Keen & Atlas Snowshoe

- 5 full-time staff
- Based in Boise, Idaho
- Lists support from 26 ‘Conservation Partners’ and 15 foundations (including Sierra Club)
- www.winterwildlands.org
The Wilderness Society
Protect Wilderness & Inspire Care of Wild Places

- Assets: about $55 million
- Formed in 1935
- Over 500,000 members
- A top-ranked national charity

- 100+ full-time staff
- Based in Washington, D.C. with 9 regional offices across the U.S.
- www.wilderness.org
Sierra Club
Oldest, Biggest & Most Influential Enviro. Group

- Founded by John Muir in 1892
- Has huge budget & huge membership reach

Sierra Club Foundation
founded in 1960 = $100 million in assets, with 8 staff members

- 125+ full-time staff
- Based in San Francisco with legislative office in D.C & 64 chapters/offices across the U.S.

www.sierraclub.org
Maintaining Relationships

- Cannot take for granted
- Single most strategic action to protect access
- Must work from 3 levels: national, state and local
Maintaining Relationships

ACSA: Our Strong National Voice

• D.C. Fly-In
• Forest Service ‘Enlightenment Rides’
• Federal Highway projects
• ISC speakers
• Partnership with national groups
Maintaining Relationships
State Associations

• State government – favorable policies & legislation
• Sponsor rides & events to showcase snowmobiling
• Connections to state/federal land managers
Maintaining Relationships

Local Clubs

• At the ‘kitchen table’ with private landowners
• Working one-on-one with public land managers (state, city, county, federal)
• Connections to state & local politicians
Maintaining Funding

- **Support increased fees:** when needed to keep state trail & access funds healthy
- **Treat snowmobiling as a ‘charity’** = support Legal Action & Right to Ride funds versus giving all charity money to groups that do not actively support snowmobile access
Maintaining Volunteers
One of Our Greatest Threats

• Declining numbers overall
• Leadership burnout
• Private landowner work
• Fortitude to stick with lengthy federal land use planning
• Groomer operators & other trail work
USFS Winter Travel Planning

• Regardless of the outcome of the WWA/USFS court case in Idaho – we’re going to see more Forest Service travel planning

• Have seen bits & pieces of in the past = we always lose some acres, so had better get better prepared for the future
Questions & Discussion

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!