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2015 Legislative Recommendations North Dakota Snowmobile Trail Program

Legislative Recommendations for 2015:

- Increase the snowmobile registration fee to \$60 per two year period (currently \$40).
- Transfer the snowmobile registration administration from the North Dakota Department of Transportation to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.
- Reduce the allowed riding age from 12 to 10 to enhance education opportunities and promote a fun family activity.

The overall snowmobile trail program costs have increased 43% since the last registration fee increase in 2003.

Demand for Snowmobile Recreation:

- 93% of North Dakota households feel outdoor recreation is important.
- 20% of outdoor recreation enthusiasts have a high interest in snowmobiling.

Economic Impact of Snowmobile Recreation:

- The average snowmobiler spends \$4,000 each year on snowmobile related recreation.
- Snowmobilers are caring neighbors and raise over \$3 million for charity annually.
- North Dakota snowmobilers spend seven nights a year in a lodge to enjoy the recreation.
- Snowmobilers in North Dakota spend over \$800 annually on parts, apparel and gear.
- North Dakota snowmobilers travel costs exceed over \$1,200 annually.
- The economic impact of snowmobiling in the United States is \$26 billion annually; worldwide its \$39 billion.

2013-2017 North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan Focus Areas:

- Equip groomers with GPS tracking system to provide analytic reporting for trail reimbursements and trail status reporting (if the trail has been groomed or not).
- Increased funding for the snowmobile program to assist with trail maintenance expenses.
- Transfer the snowmobile registration administration from the North Dakota Department of Transportation to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.
- Require that dealers register snowmobiles at the time of purchase.
- Reduce the allowable riding age to include under 12 to enhance education opportunities.
- Produce Public Service Announcements for trail safety and certification needs.

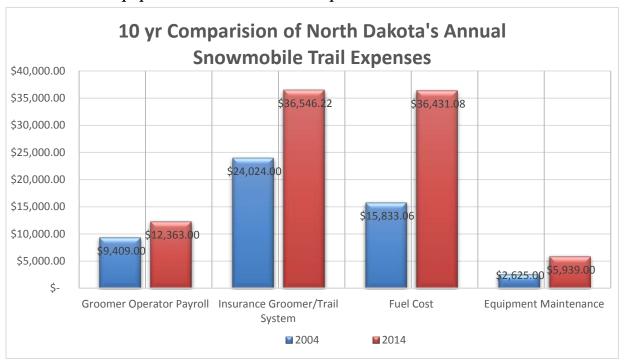
Did You Know:

- It is common for a state's natural resource agency to manage the licensing of snowmobiles.
- The average annual snowmobile registration fee is \$44.86.
- 10 states allow youth under the age of 12 to ride snowmobiles on public lands.

Snowmobile North Dakota (SND) is a non-profit organization that oversees the recreation of snowmobiling across the state. The organization is contracted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to manage the state trail system. The state trail system consists of over 2,800 miles of groomed trails and exists in 27 counties. The trail program relies heavily on snowmobile registration funding and on volunteer efforts to conduct trail maintenance.

Jurisdiction	Snowmobile Registration Administrator	Registration Fee	<u>Require</u> <u>Title</u>	Allow Youth Under 12 to Ride
Colorado	Colorado Parks & Wildlife	\$30.25/Year, .25 goes to Search & Rescue	No	Yes
Idaho	Dept. of Parks & Recreation	\$32.50/year	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Iowa DNR	\$17.75/year plus a \$17.75/year user permit	No	Yes
Manitoba	Dept. of Justice (MB Public Insurance)	\$15/year plus a \$125/year user permit	No	Yes
Michigan	Dept. of State, Sec. of State Offices	\$30 for 3 years plus a \$45/year user permit	No	Yes
Minnesota	MN DNR	\$75 for 3 years for residents plus a \$35/year user permit	No	Yes
Montana	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$60.50 for as long as you own the snowmobile	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	ND DOT	\$40/2 years	Yes	No
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Gov. Insurance	\$70/year (pursuing legislation to increase to \$90/year)	No	No
South Dakota	Dept. of Revenue	\$10/year	No	Yes
Wisconsin	WI DNR	\$30 for 2 years	No	Yes
Wyoming	WY State Parks Cultural Resources & Trails – Revenue Section	\$5/year plus a \$20/year user permit	Yes	Yes

In 10 years, fuel costs have increased 57% to establish the state snowmobile trail system. Equipment and trail insurance expenses have increased 34%.



Resources:

- 2013-2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- International Snowmobile Manufacturer's Association Snowmobiling Fact Book
- North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan 2013-2017