

# Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

# Selected Slides From the NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Unit 2017-2018 Season Review Presentation

Originally presented at the New York State Snowmobile Association Forum in Niagara Falls, April 21, 2018

# THANKYOU

For attending the 2018 SLEDNY Educational Forum and for the work you contribute to the trail system:

- Local Sponsors
- Club Volunteers
- Groomer Operators
- Club Administrators
- All NYSSA Members, Staff, & Volunteers
- Landowners
- <u>Everyone</u> who dedicates time & energy to making the NYS snowmobile system great!

#### Mission Statement

#### Per Article 21 of P,R,HP Law

- The legislature hereby finds that it is in the public interest to register snowmobiles as recreational vehicles for the purposes of enforcement of reasonable provisions concerning their use and control;
- to encourage the sport of snowmobiling as a family activity;
- to promote the proper and safe use and operation of snowmobiles;
- to provide an adequate safety educational program for youthful operators;
- to limit the operation of snowmobiles upon public highways and private property without the consent of the owner;
- to protect and preserve the state's natural resources, including its wildlife, wild forests, waters and scenic and wilderness character;
- to reduce the effect on the environment of excess noise;
- to insure privacy of remote areas;
- to afford opportunity for compatible enjoyment of various recreational activities on the state's lands and open spaces.
- to promote the safe and proper use of snowmobiles for recreation and commerce in this state by encouraging their use and development and minimizing detrimental effects of such use upon the environment.

# Who is involved?

DMV/OPRHP

54 Local Government Sponsors

Over 200 Trail Maintenance Entities (clubs/municipalities) / NYSSA

# NYS Snowmobile Trail Fund

Funds are generated from snowmobile registrations via a two-tier system

#### \$100 full registration:

- \$5 NYS Appropriation
- \$95 to Trail Fund

#### \$45 club member registration:

- \$5 NYS Appropriation
- \$40 to Trail Fund

Prior to October 1, 2016, the NYS (General Fund) appropriation was \$10 for each registration. The \$5 reduction in the appropriation infuses the trail fund with a much needed revenue boost. For 2017-2018 this resulted in approximately \$560,000 of revenue.

What does the trail fund support?

- Trail development, maintenance, and grooming (trail grant program)
- Safety education program
- Law enforcement (SLE grant program & training)
- Capital Projects (OPRHP & DEC)
- Trail insurance
- Program administration

### Snowmobile Unit Duties & Responsibilities

- Trail grant administration ~\$4-5 million grant, 10,000+ trail miles
- Law enforcement grant administration
- Law enforcement training for snowmobile operations
- Safety education program
- Office of record for snowmobile accident reports & tickets
- Response to FOIL requests
- Special event permits
- Create, update, and distribute publications (Snowmobiler's Guide, statewide maps, groomer guide, sign manual, etc.)
- Advise OPRHP commissioner/agency on snowmobile related issues
- Coordination with other states, federal agencies, associations, manufacturers, & user groups
- Promotion of snowmobiling & the state funded trail system
- Public outreach (NYS Fair, snowmobile shows, etc.)

The Snowmobile Unit is limited by law to three paid staff members!{PRHPL 27.17(2)}

Snowmobile Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018

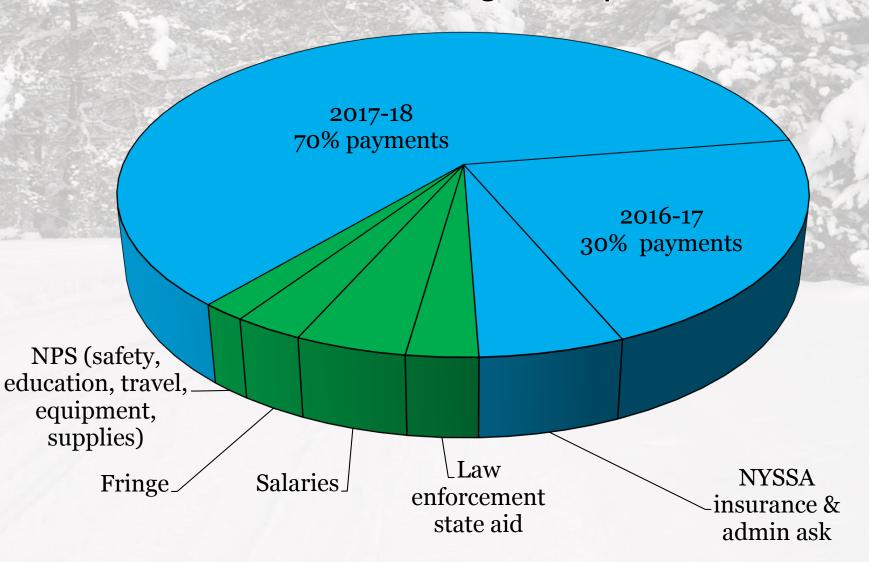
<b>Total Registrations in 2017/18</b>	112,020
Total program revenue	\$5,379,949
Registration fine revenue	\$14,294
Registration revenue	\$5,365,655
Additional Revenue from \$5 Increase	\$557,400
16,481 non-club registrations x \$90*	\$1,483,290
94,999 club registrations x \$35	\$3,324,965

<sup>\*</sup>An additional 542 registrations apply to government-owned machines and are thus exempt from paying a registration fee.

# Program Overview 2017-2018 Program Expenses

2016-17 30% payments		\$981,114
2017-18 70% payments		\$2,830,110
Salaries	Copy Ch	\$201,756
Fringe Benefits	The state of the s	\$126,875
NYSSA insurance & admin ask		\$264,206
Law enforcement – state aid	74 W 73A	\$130,119
NPS (safety, education, travel, equipment,	supplies)	\$81,025
Total program expenses		\$4,615,205
Total Revenue	\$5,365,655	
Total Expenses	\$4,615,205	<b>—</b>
Balance	\$750,450	

# Program Overview 2017-2018 Program Expenses



Season over Season Registration Statistics

	2017-18	2016-17	Change	%Change
Total Registrations	112,022	107,972	+4,050	+3.8%
Total Receipts	\$5,365,655	\$5,113,465	\$252,190	+4.9%
Club Registrations	94,999	92,673	+2,326	+2.5%
Non-Club Registrations*	16,481	15,299	+1,182	+7.7%
Renewals	85,220	84,192	+1,028	+1.2%
Originals	26,802	23,780	+3,022	+12.7%
NYS Registrations	93,566	90,655	+2,911	+3.2%
Out of State	18,456	17,317	+1,139	+6.6%

<sup>\*</sup>An additional 542 registrations apply to government-owned machines and are thus exempt from paying a registration fee.

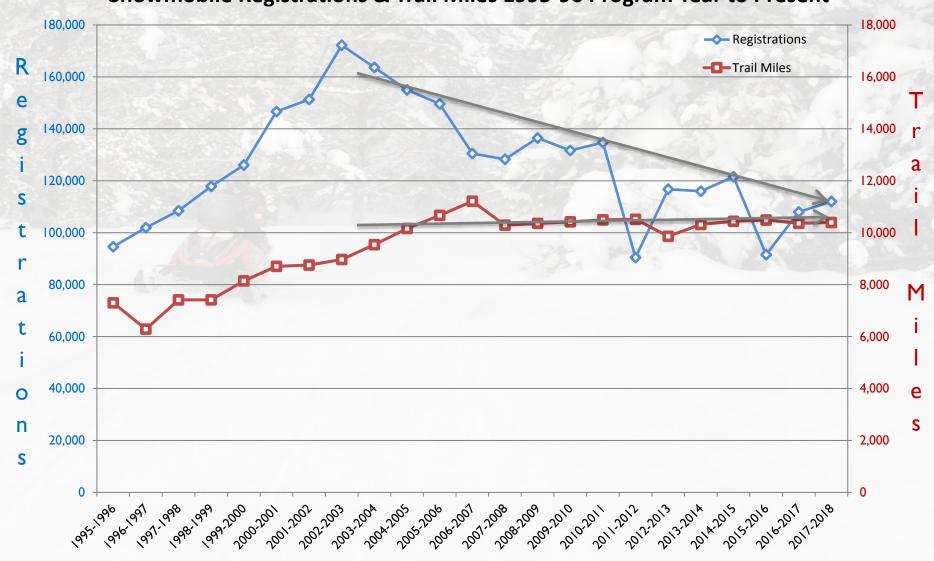
# Program Overview 2018-2019 Projections

Club registrations: 90,000 x \$40	\$3,600,000
Non-club Registrations: 16,000 x \$95	\$1,520,000
Registration fine revenue	\$20,000
Total Revenue	\$5,140,000
Non trail grant program expenses	-\$850,000
Funds Available for 2018-19 grant	\$4,290,000

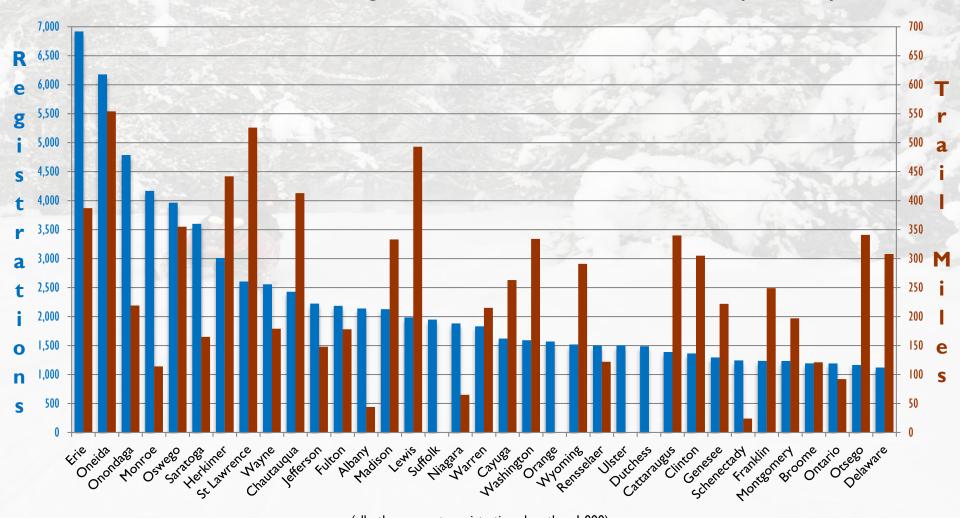
The program deals with two simultaneous fiscal years and partial revenues and expenses in those fiscal years. This example provides the basic math but there is some flexibility to make adjustments based on actual revenues.



#### **Snowmobile Registrations & Trail Miles 1995-96 Program Year to Present**

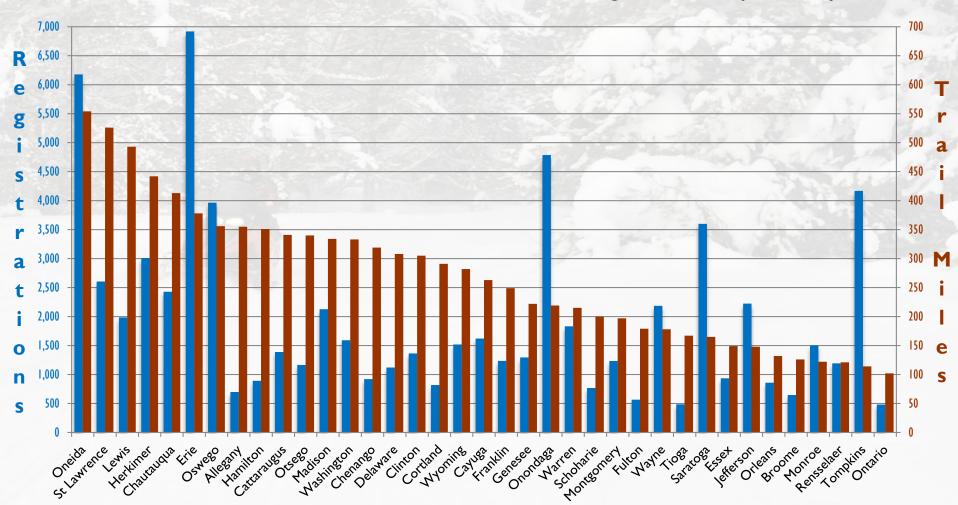


2017-18 Snowmobile Registrations vs. Funded Trail Miles by County



(all others: county registrations less than 1,000)

2017-18 Snowmobile Funded Trail Miles vs. Registrations by County



(all others: county trail miles less than 100)

### 2017-18 Snowmobile Trail Mileage Breakdown

Dollar amounts are used to calculate **maximum** award amounts; actual award reimbursements must be justified and properly documented

Classification	Miles	\$ / Mile	Total
Corridor A	6,167	\$325	\$2,004,275
Corridor B	593	\$267	\$158.331
Secondary A	3,120	\$325	\$1,014,000
Secondary B	513	\$267	\$136,971
High Snow	2,553	<i>\$286</i>	<i>\$730,158</i>
		Total:	\$4,043,735

#### Definitions:

Corridor: "Through trail" community connectors

Secondary: "Access trail" connecting trailheads/facilities/destinations to corridors

Class A: At least 12 feet wide, capable of handling groomer/drag units 8+ feet wide

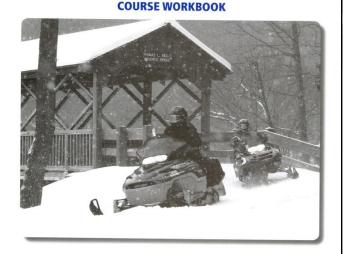
Class B: At least 8 feet wide, capable of handling groomer/drag units 4+ feet wide

High Snow: Area receiving an average of 110+ inches of snowfall based on 30 year NOAA data; sections of trail within the high snow area receive the high snow allowance as an addition to the maximum award amount

### Safety Education

New York State

Snowmobile Safety
Education Program
A course of study on the safe operation of snowmobiles





Youth ages 10-13 must pass a safety course and operate within 500' of an adult.

Youth ages 14-17 must pass a safety course or operate within 500' of an adult.

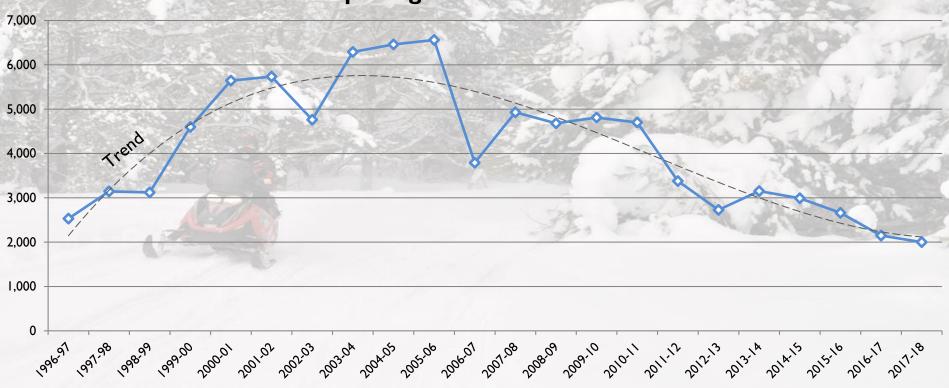
8 hour classroom course.

Over 300 certified **volunteer** instructors taught 2,000+ students in 120+ classes during the 2017-18 season.

Snowmobile Unit is currently undergoing revision of classroom material.

Safety Education

**Students Completing Snowmobile Education Course** 



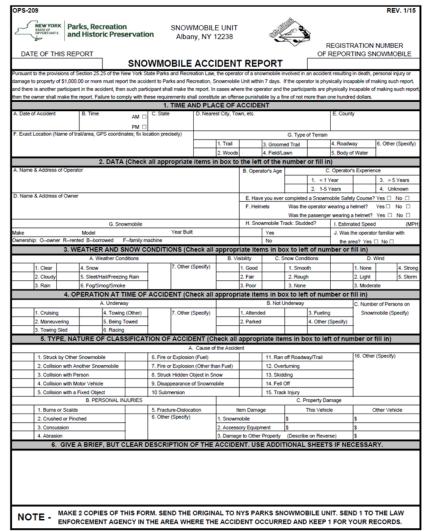
Why has this number been falling? The general trend has followed registration numbers. OPRHP continues to monitor and explore ways to introduce the safety message to more riders.

## Accidents – Form OPS-209 (Operator Report)

Also known as "civilian accident report", OPS-209 is to be completed and returned to OPRHP by the operator (or other involved party if operator is incapacitated) within 7 days of any accident involving **Death**, **Personal Injury**, **or \$1,000 or more of property damage.** A copy of the report is to be sent to the county sheriff or local law enforcement agency.

Forms are available at parks.ny.gov and should be furnished by law enforcement at the scene of an accident.

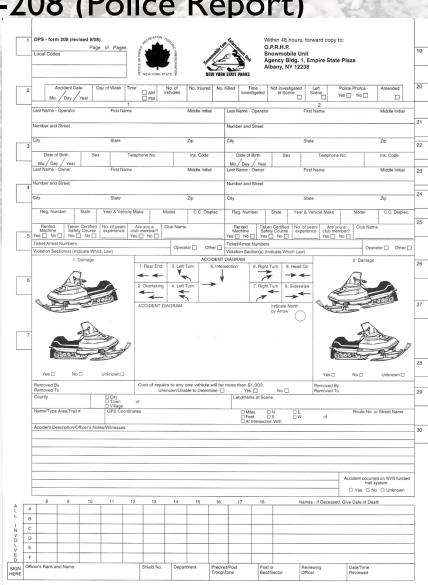
OPS-209 forms are used to collect statistics and information in addition to the police report. They do not replace the police report and law enforcement should still be notified (copy of OPS-209 must be sent to county sheriff).



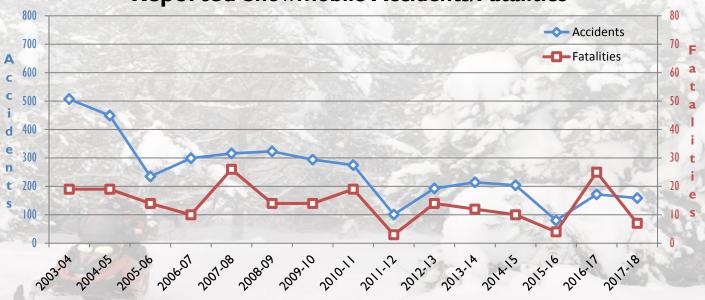
Accidents - Form OPS-208 (Police Report)

Primary method of gathering snowmobile accident statistics. Any peace, police, or judicial officer who receives information of an accident shall make a written report to submit to OPRHP.

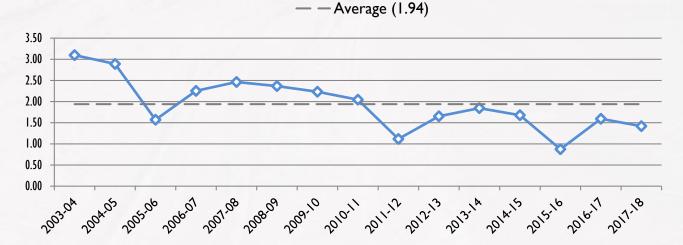
- As of May 1, 2018, 159 total accidents, 7 of which involved fatalities with 7 total fatalities
- Most accidents continue to involve speed as a primary factor
- Most are single-snowmobile collisions with fixed objects, such as trees
- At least 5 (71%) fatal accidents involved unsafe speed
- Alcohol was suspected in 2 (29%) fatal accidents



#### **Reported Snowmobile Accidents/Fatalities**



#### Reported Snowmobile Accidents Per 1,000 Registrations



2017-18 Snowmobile Fatality Summary				
Date	County	Primary Cause	Additional Information	
12/17/17	Ulster	Collision w/ Vehicle (ATV)	No Helmet	
12/30/17*	Oswego	Collision w/Tree	Alcohol Suspected	
2/8/18	Oswego	Collision w/Tree		
2/8/18	Washington	Collision w/Tree	Alcohol Involvement	
3/10/18	Herkimer	Collision w/Tree		
3/17/18	Wyoming	Collision w/Vehicle (Pickup)	San Tally See Land	
3/19/18	lefferson	Collision w/Tree		

<sup>\*</sup>Information being collected

Historically, alcohol is a factor in 33% of fatal accidents and 10% of all accidents.

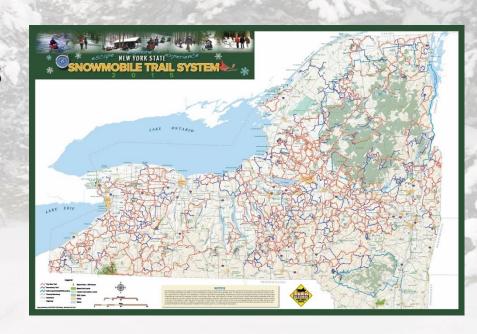
Three accidents occurred ON the state funded trail system, four occurred OFF funded trails.

#### **Publications**

#### **Print**

- Statewide Trail map Updated 2015
- Snowmobiler's Guide
- Trail Signing Handbook
- Groomer Guide
- Safety Education Textbooks –
   Undergoing Revision



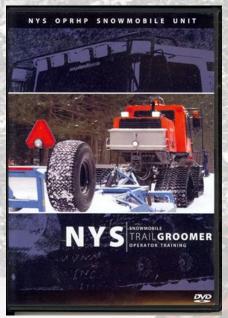


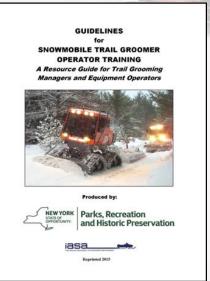
#### Available Online (parks.ny.gov)

All of the above, excluding safety education textbooks, plus:

- Google Earth Map
- Grant Documentation 2018-19 Now Available
- Season Reports/Accident Summary
- 1995 Snowmobile Trail Manual

# Groomer Operator Training





- Training DVD sent to every club in 2009
- DVD content available on YouTube: https://youtu.be/mkOYD6Izvhc
- Textbook available online; hard copies available for classes of 30 or more
- OPRHP completion certificates issued only for OPRHP administered classes
- Continually working with IASA to update and improve training

### Law Enforcement



#### NYS SLEDS: Snowmobile Law Enforcement Development School

- Basic Training Course
- For 2018, 26 students from 16 agencies
- Instruction includes basic and evasive operation, equipment maintenance, accident reports & scene investigation, patrols, checkpoints, snowmobile laws, etc.



# Law Enforcement

### Local Law Enforcement Grant 2016-17

- 50% reimbursement grant
- \$12,500 maximum award per county
- \$150,000 maximum statewide
- Allowed expenses: snowmobiles and snowmobile equipment, clothing, operation and maintenance, training costs, patrol payroll, etc.
- Payroll reimbursement no longer limited to officers who performed a minimum of 40 hours on snowmobile specific duties
- For 2016-17 patrol year paid in 2017-18 fiscal year:

15 participating agencies

Total expenses documented: \$320,227

Total reimbursement: \$124,978

### Local Law Enforcement Grant 2017-18

- 75% reimbursement grant
- \$37,500 maximum award per county
- \$200,000 maximum statewide
- Submission Deadline: May 31, 2018

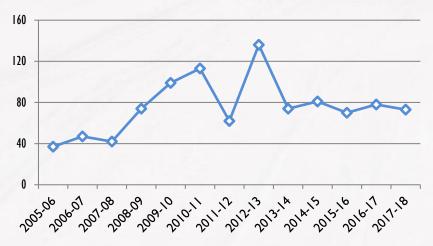
## Special Events

Special event permits exempt operators from speed, registration, and some equipment regulations, but not underage operation or helmet requirement

Completed application (found on nysparks.com) must be submitted 15 days prior to event

NYSSA insurance does not cover competitive events

#### **Snowmobile Special Event Permits Issued**





#### Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation snowmobile unit@narks.nv.gov

#### APPLICATION FOR SNOWMOBILE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT

INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED WITH THIS APPLICATION. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS SHALL BE CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF THIS EVENT PERMIT.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:		2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON-IN-CHARGE OF THIS EVENT:			
		PHONE #: EMAIL:		Fax#	ŧ:
3. SPECIFIC LOCATION WHERE EVENT IS TO BE HELD (NAME & ADDRESS):		4. TYPE OF EVENT: (OVAL, SNOWCROSS, DRAGS, ETC)  5. WILL EVENT BE ANNUALLY?  YES NO			
6. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY OBJECTIONS FROM OTHER	7. DURATION OF	SPECIAL EVENT:			
INTERESTED PARTIES?		DAY		DATE	TIME
☐ YES ☐ No	BEGINS:				□ AM □ PM
**IF YES EXPLAIN ON SEPARATE SHEET	ENDS:				□ AM □ PM
	ALTERNATE BEGINNING				□ AM □ PM
	ALTERNATE ENDING				□ AM □ PM
8. NAMES, ADDRESSES, & PHONE #S OF THREE (3) PERS		ED "SPECIAL ASSIST	TANT TO THE PER	RSON-IN-CHA	ARGE" OF THIS EVENT
1					
3.					
9. APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY AND WHAT TYPE OF SNOW PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT?	PETE OR	EVENT VENUE	INCLUDING S	RAWING OF THE ENTIRE PECTATOR, PIT & RACING AND PARKING, ETC.	
11. EXPLAIN THE USUAL TYPE AND APPROXIMATE NUMBER THIS EVENT IS TO BE HELD.	R OF COMMERCIAL A	ND PLEASURE TRAV	ELERS THAT WII	LL BE ENCOU	INTERED IN THE AREA THAT
12. ARE TRIAL RUNS NECESSARY IN THE AREA PRIOR TO THE START OF THIS EVENT INDICATED ABOVE?  YES NO		S ARE NECESSARY,			
14. By SIGNING AND SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION, THE PER				IN PLACE TH	ROUGHOUT EVENT.
DATE: SIGNATURE OF	PERSON-IN-CH	ARGE OF SPECIAL	. EVENT:		

#### IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

#### DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED WITH EVENT APPLICATION:

- CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15.00 PAYABLE TO NYS PARKS.
- LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FROM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. (MUST BE ON AGENCY LETTERHEAD)
- DETAILED DRAWING OF THE ENTIRE EVENT VENUE TO INCLUDE SPECTATOR, PIT & RACING AREAS, PROPER FENCING, & PARKING.

Three phase process:

<u>Phase I</u>: Prior approval process for new, updated, or reclassified trails (June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline)

<u>Phase II</u>: Formal grant application from local sponsor to OPRHP (September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline)

<u>Phase III</u>: Project year documentation submission and audits by local sponsor/OPRHP (May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline)

### Phase I is required for:

- New trails
- Previously funded trails to be rerouted, removed, or reclassified
- GPS data updates/corrections
- Reopening closed trails (funded at some time, but not in the previous project year)
- Transfer of trail maintenance responsibility to another TME

### Phase I GPS requirements:

Accurate, up to date GPS data is important for 911 response, municipal planning, riders using GPS units, accurate trail mapping, and the overall integrity of the trail grant program.

For 2016-17 all trails were required to have GPS derived GIS data no older than January 1, 2011.

There are no new requirements for 2018-19, only new trails or reroutes must be have updated GPS data.

Next GPS requirement: for 2020-2021 season, data must be no older than 2017. By then the current 2011 data will be **nine years old.** 

Local sponsors may set more stringent guidelines

### Phase I GPS requirements:

**Next Requirement:** As of June 1, 2020 (expected 2020-2021 Phase I due date), all trails must have GPS derived GIS data no older than January 1, 2017. This will be the next requirement.

Thereafter, each and every trail must have GPS derived GIS data no more than three years old. It is recommended that clubs stagger their GPS data collection efforts beginning in 2017 so they are not collecting data for all of their trails in the same year going forward.

Data no more than three years old will be the minimum requirement; clubs are encouraged to collect data more often if they are able and local sponsors may set more stringent requirements.

### **Phase II Application:**

All documentation is **required** and incomplete submissions may delay 70% payment for entire county. All permissions, SEQRA, etc. should be acquired for any trail submitted during Phase I **before** waiting for approval.

#### Notable updates:

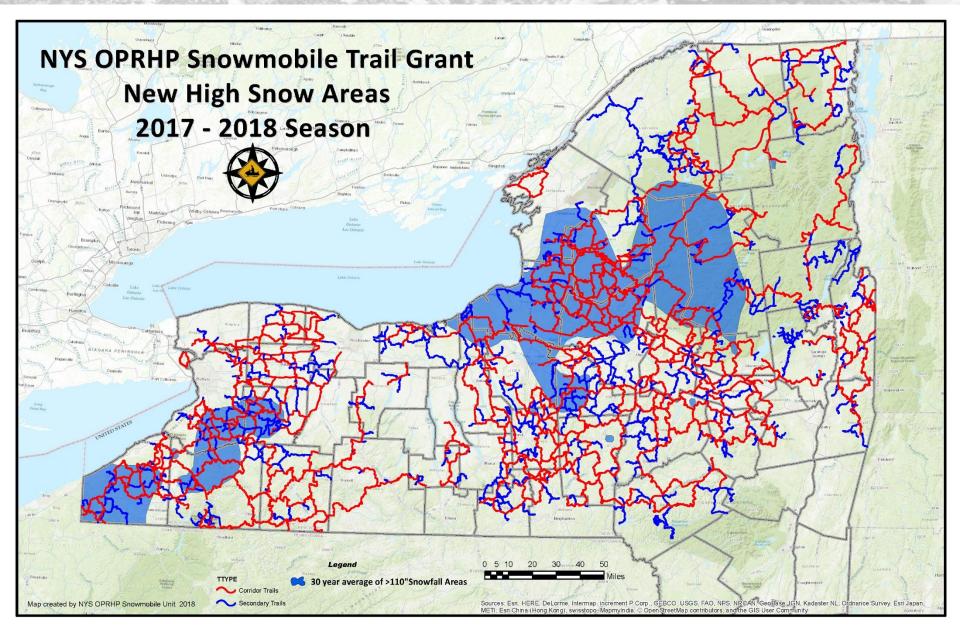
 Copies of land use agreements are not required with the Phase II submission to OPRHP. The permissions forms are sufficient if properly completed. Read all documentation fully and follow all directions.

#### Phase III:

The Automated Trails Grant Program (ATGP) is the sole method of entry for grant documentation. The system is continually being modified and upgraded based on your feedback to be as user-friendly as possible. To get ATGP access, contact your club president, regional coordinator, or local sponsor.

#### Notable updates:

- 60 day window. The 60 day window continues to be enforced. OPRHP is flexible in some individual circumstances. Entries needing supporting documentation (receipts, lease agreements etc.) should be entered as soon as possible and later edited to add attachments.
- Donated storage agreements are no longer allowable as an expense.
- ATGP User Guides updated



# High Snow

- High Snow map was updated for 2016-17 to reflect updated 30-year NOAA average (currently 1984-2014, previously 1971-2000)
- Some areas gained, some lost
- OPRHP is evaluating alternatives to develop a more equitable funding formula, keeping in mind that seasonal snowfall is unpredictable— avoid long-term responses to short-term trends

### **Trail Signage**

After a series of meetings with and significant input from NYSSA, particularly the trails committee, a new signage manual has been developed and is available in print and online:

https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/documents.aspx

While still adopting some of the IASA recommendations, the new manual also takes into account the unique nature of the NYS trail system and strives to ensure safety in a variety of conditions and situations.

Focus is on safety while also emphasizing rider responsibility. Signs are guidance but one set of rules cannot cover every trail situation and a false sense of security for riders should be avoided. **Ride to the trail, not to the signs.** 

Overall goal is a <u>uniform</u> system of signage.

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#### 2017-2018 Project Year

#### **2018-2019 Project Year**

April 1, 2018

Start of the project year. Grant documentation posted on OPRHP website

May 31, 2018 Phase III due and the AGTP is locked

June 1, 2018

Phase I application deadline

July, 2018 Final 2017-2018 payments processed (based upon available statewide fund balance and available documentation)

#### **OPRHP CLOSES OUT THE 2017 – 2018 FILES**

September 1, 2018

November 2018

March 31, 2019

May 31, 2019

July 2019

Phase II application deadline

70% payment process begins

End of grant-in-aid project year

Phase III due and the AGTP is locked

Final 2018-2019 Payments processed (based upon available statewide fund balance and available documentation)

**OPRHP CLOSES OUT THE 2018 – 2019 FILES** 

# Snowmobile Unit

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