

## Agency/State Association Letterhead

Grooming operations contributes greatly to the overall enjoyment of riders. It is typically the largest budget item for organizations that manage trail networks. The International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) and the International Snowmobile Media Council (ISMC) would like to remind snowmobilers and businesses about the aspects to maintain a snowmobile trail. As lead organizations in promoting snowmobiling and the management of organized recreational snowmobiling, its important riders take into consideration the following factors.

Please take into account the following factors:

1. **Temperatures:** If temps are too cold or too warm, grooming efforts are ineffective. In order for a snowmobile trail to compact for premium trail conditions, there has to be the right amount of moisture. The snow has to be the right consistency so it bonds together to create the smooth trail base we all enjoy. Too warm of temperatures (above freezing) will cause the snow to stick together and not compact and refreeze. In too cold of temperatures (-20 and below) the snow won't stick together and will not compact into a solid base.
2. **Setup Time:** In order for trails to stay smooth for a longer period of time, the snow molecules need time to create a stronger bond (freeze). This reduces the snowmobiles immediate impact, providing better trail conditions for a longer period of time.
3. **Snow Mechanics:** Just like in everything, there are mechanics to grooming operations. Snowmobile trail associations are usually fortunate enough to find heavy equipment operators and mechanics that assist them. However, these individuals usually require additional training for a better understanding of how to process the snow for the best trail base. Training includes learning how to cut the moguls, optimum grooming speeds for the best compaction and how to operate the equipment to pull in snow and so much more.
4. **Funding:** Snowmobile trail systems are self-funding through snowmobile registrations and trail passes. It's often found there is never enough funding to cover the rider's demands for snowmobile trail grooming.
5. **Volunteers:** If it wasn't for the countless hours of volunteer efforts, snowmobile trails wouldn't be as successful as they are today. Annually, volunteers spend hundreds of hours to manage trail leases, inspect trails, clear brush, install trail signage, repair bridges and groom trails. The volunteers are the workhorse and if it wasn't for them there would not be trails to ride today. Show your appreciation and say thanks for their hard work but most important, get involved and see how you can help.
6. **Grooming Operations:** Snow conditions dictate where grooming operations can occur. If there is not enough snow to meet trail grooming requirements, the trail system may not be maintained. It's the hope that each season trail systems can be maintained on a regular basis

but if snow conditions don't meet the requirements, trail operations will stop there. Managing organizations not only have to answer to snowmobilers grooming demands but have to meet requirements set forth by land owners, legislators and enforcement officers to ensure access for years to come. Grooming usually happens at night, so don't expect to find all the groomers out on Saturday afternoon.

As you head out this season, please keep these factors in mind to ensure a successful snowmobiling future.

### **About IASA**

IASA is a self-organized, nonprofit organization comprised of snowmobile program administrators representing 27 US states, 10 Canadian Provinces, 3 Canadian Territories, and 1 European Country, Sweden, to facilitate communications among administrators. The organization promotes sound management of recreational snowmobiling throughout North America, including snowmobile safety; uniformity and enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations; International, Federal, State, Provincial, and Territorial cooperation and coordination; harmonious relationships with the environment; and the collection, development, and dissemination of information; in collaboration with other trail user groups.

### **About ISMC**

ISMC is dedicated to promoting snowmobiling as a safe and exciting family recreation. The Council consists of editors and publishers of snowmobile related media and others interested in snowmobiling.