

## MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 28, 2013

Agenda Item: Snowmobile Grants and Equipment Update

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 min.

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**Background** (Brief description of the issue, decision to be made, history, etc.):

Montana's snowmobile program consists of an annual allocation of grooming funds to (27) local Clubs who conduct grooming on approximately 4,400 miles of trail systems statewide. Each year approximately \$390,000 is allocated to these private Clubs to help pay for the direct costs of this grooming. The annual grooming fund allocations range from the West Yellowstone system (largest) to the Troy Snowmobile Club's efforts (smallest) in and near their local communities.

Additionally, many of the groomers utilized in the statewide program are State of Montana owned machines, provided to the Club's on a no-cost lease arrangement. Each biennium approximately \$420,000 is available to purchase replacement groomers and related support equipment. Given the other ancillary equipment needs of the program (trailers, implements, etc.), typically two used groomers are purchased each biennium. We strive to find quality 2-5 year old used groomers that are trade-ins for ski hill operations or similar uses. For the current cycle, replacement groomers are being purchased for the Lincoln and Eureka Clubs, with the existing Lincoln groomer being transferred to the Deer Lodge Club which was destroyed last year in a fire.

The Montana Snowmobile Program is administered by Montana State Parks. The Montana Snowmobile Program's funding sources include snowmobile registration fees, gasoline taxes, dealer registration fees and nonresident permit fees and are completely separate from all Montana State Parks revenues, camping fees and other related Parks' funding sources.

**Public Involvement Process & Results** (Brief description of the type of public involvement and summary of what we heard from the public):

The proposed allocation of grooming funds to Montana's (27) Snowmobile Clubs is currently in the public comment process. The public comment process will close September 11, 2013. This step follows the recommendations and input provided earlier this summer by the citizens Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SAC).

**Alternatives and Analysis** (Brief description of alternative solutions with analysis of the pros and cons of each): N/A

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale** (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it): Following the public comment process, the Board will be asked for concurrence on the proposed 2013/2014 grooming fund allocations at the October Board meeting.

**Proposed Motion** (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation): Informational only; no action required.