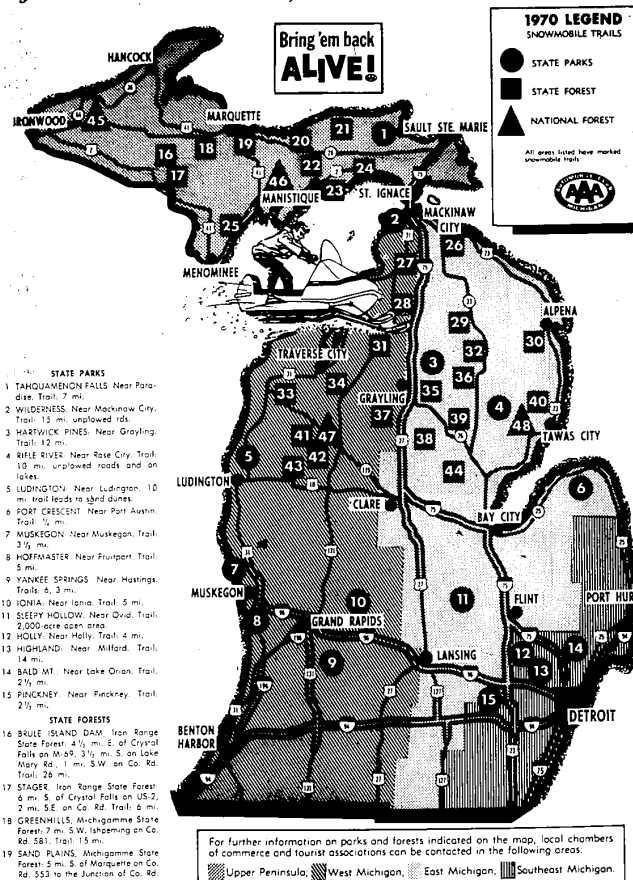


Guide to Marked State, Federal Snowmobile Trails



Clip These Answers About State Regulations

What's the law?
 The operation of snowmobiles in Michigan is governed by a state registration act. The following questions and answers from the Rockford Snow Trail Atlas provide a handy guide to the letter of the law.

Must all snowmobiles in Michigan be registered?

Yes, unless it is used on the owner's property exclusively.

Where do I register my snowmobile?

At any local branch office of the Secretary of State. Don't send your fee to Lansing.

What is the registration period?

Registration is for three years. Fee is scaled down from the first year (a three-year registration) to the third year (one-year registration).

How much are registration fees?

3 years (1969-1970-1971)—\$5; 2 years (1970-1971)—\$3; 1 year (1971)—\$2.

Do snowmobile owners get registration certificates?

You bet. These certificates have numbers which each snowmobile owner has to place on his snowmobile.

How are numbers placed on snowmobiles?

The numbers...same as those on the registration...have to be placed on both sides of the front part of the snowmobile. They can be painted or attached in a permanent manner. Letters must be of block type. They must be at least three inches high and read from left to right from either side.

What do I do if my snowmobile is abandoned or destroyed?

Notify the Michigan Department of State, Lansing, Michigan 48918, within 15 days. Send in your ownership certificate and your registration will be cancelled.

What if I move?

Send in your registration with one dollar. Upon receiving your buck, a certificate of registration will be changed to your new address.

What if I sell my snowmobile?

You must assign the old registration to the new owner. The new owner, in turn, should request a transfer of registration within 15 days of the sale. He should state his name, address, and the registration number of the snowmobile and pay \$1.00 to the Michigan Department of State to handle the transfer.

If my registration is destroyed or lost, can I get a duplicate?

Sure enough, by applying and paying a \$2.00 fee to the Department of State.

If I'm a resident of another state or Canadian province, do I have to register my snowmobile?

You can use your snowmobile under your existing registration for up to 20 days. After that, you have to get a Michigan registration.

Can I zip my snowmobile around anywhere I want to when it's registered?

Afraid not. The law says you can't drive "upon the main traveled portion of any roadway or on a highway or street within 10 feet of such roadway."

What about highways and freeways?

When your snowmobile is registered, you may cross highways. But you can't cross limited access highways or freeways. Highways may be crossed only when the crossing is safe and doesn't hinder traffic.

Snowmobiles must yield the right of way to motor vehicles on highways.

Can I drive my snowmobile on country roads?

You can if the county road system is not maintained for winter wheel vehicles by snow removal.

What about times of emergency?

When the crossing is safe and doesn't hinder traffic, snowmobiles run on a street or highway during a properly declared emergency.

What if a county highway doesn't have the necessary right of way space?

Snowmobiles may be operated on county highways not having 10 or more feet of usable right of way off the traveled part of the road.

Snowmobiles Up 50 Pct., Boosting Tourist Trade

Michigan's winter tourism season—aided by an expected 50% jump in the number of snowmobiles now in use—should be a roaring success, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

Currently, there are 75,000 snowmobiles in this state with 35,000 more expected to be purchased by spring.

THE ECONOMIC impact of snowmobiling on Michigan since the first machines were introduced four years ago is set at \$150 million. If peak sales are reached this winter, Michiganders will pour another \$55 million into the economy.

"This does not take into account the additional millions which will be spent on gas to operate machines, the cost to tow machines by car or the cost of lodging and meals for persons away from home," states Jerry Fisher, Auto Club's touring manager.

He predicts that if Michigan has heavy snow across the state this winter, gasoline sales alone could total \$4 million. On a good weekend, 100,000 machines could use a half million gallons of gas costing \$200,000.

Nobody can predict the exact number of snowmobiles which will operate this year. One of the state's leading distributors of snowmobiles, Health International, headquartered at Richmond, Mich., points out the industry is so new that a sales curve has not been established.

"Dealers themselves have consistently underestimated sales," states Bert Swanson, Health's vice-president for recreational sales.

HE ADDS that Michigan could easily have 130,000 snowmobiles in use by spring.

In 1963, his firm had 10 Ski-Doo's in stock as demonstrators.

Today, Swanson says, Health has 180 Michigan dealers who should sell 18,000 Ski-Doo's this season. Health also has distributors in 10 other states which makes this firm the third largest Ski-Doo distributor in the nation and fifth largest in the world.

Buyers have a wide range of manufacturers from which to choose a snowmobile, with new makes appearing monthly.

Currently, there are 82 manufacturers nationally.

One of the new names is Yamaha—a Japanese manufacturer which also has had an impact on trail bike sales.

But many of the little seekers are getting killed.

In the hands of inexperienced or careless operators or used states which makes this firm the third largest Ski-Doo distributor in the nation and fifth largest in the world.

They don't have to be dangerous. The hours of fun and enjoyment they have given thousands of people are proof of that.

A group of adventurous outdoor men recently gave added proof.

They completed a trip across boundaries of miles of frozen snow and ice to the North Pole on the rugged little vehicles.

Articles from the nation's newspapers collected by the Institute for Safer Living tell a story of a man who died in a frightening number of people who started off on fun outings on their new snowbuggies and failed to take proper precautions.

Through careless operation the snowbuggies are smashing into things, and one another, are toppling over on top of their passengers, and are plunging through ice on lakes and rivers.

Among tragic reports about the speedy little snow craft is that of a Mentor, Minn., family of five who drowned together early in December when their snowmobile plunged through the ice of Maple Lake.

Another tells about a caravan-like snowmobile trip by a group of young men at Harver, N.H., when one vehicle skidded into another, puncturing the gas tank which exploded. One boy was dragged from the wreck badly burned; a companion suffered a fractured skull.

In Spicer, Minn., a businessman, who he failed to see a barbed-wire fence in the dark. One of the strands struck his neck and killed him. His wife was thrown clear unharmed.

Dozens of other stories of similar kind pile up a growing record of accidents caused by misuse of the popular new snowmobiles, which the Institute for Safer Living emphasizes, are motor vehicles, not toys, and must be treated as such.

THE INSTITUTE's analysis of the reports shows that the greatest number of accidents—65%—involved either collisions with immovable, hard-to-disturb objects or breaking through ice. Taken together, these two classifications account for 85% of all fatalities and 95% of all injuries to snowbuggy accidents.

More than 50% of all the accidents occurred while the snowmobile was moving, hard-to-disturb objects, and 75% of these accidents occurred after darkness.

Turnovers and collisions with moving vehicles bring the total to 82% of all the snowbuggy accidents reported.

Principal hazards to the

The "Ferrari" of snowmobiles is what Bozell calls it 760 Grand Prix which sells for \$1,550 complete with built-in-cigar lighter. It has a 74 cc, 45 horsepower engine.

Above the cost of machines, the average snowmobile enthusiast will spend a minimum of \$100 for clothing. Snowmobilers must wear special clothes since temperatures drop dramatically at high speeds due to the "chill factor."

On a day when there is no measurable wind, the temperature is at zero (F), and the snowmobile travels 25 miles per hour, the actual temperature on exposed skin is 45 degrees below zero.

Clothes that are warm for skiing, hunting or ice fishing are usually inadequate for snowmobiling.

It is recommended that the novice consider these items and costs: boots, \$20; one-piece suit (avoid two-piece), \$75; mitts, \$10; helmet \$17 to \$25 (recommended for high-speed machines); otherwise a hood or cap with ear flaps for under \$10 is adequate; goggles, \$4; face mask (wool), \$4; thermal underwear, \$12; socks, \$5; and sweater, \$25. (Children's clothing is between one-third to 50% less, depending on quality.)

MACHINE RENTAL is another new industry facet which got underway last winter.

At Cabela's Ski Lodge, near Cadillac, there are 10 snowmobiles for rent from Thursday through Sunday at \$8 an hour. Lewiston Lodge, near Lewiston, has seven machines at \$10 per hour for the first hour, and \$9 hourly thereafter.

One of the larger rental businesses in the state is at Fonce Ski Lodge, near Comins where 30 machines are available for a two-day rate of \$75. Persons who want to rent by the hour are charged \$10 for the first 60 minutes and \$8 hourly thereafter.

One of the surprising entries into the rental business is Holiday Inn, at Mt. Pleasant, which has a dozen machines for patrons.

There are thousands of miles of snowmobile trails which are open to the public. The locations of 48 marked snowmobile areas on state and federal lands in Michigan are shown on the accompanying Auto Club map.

IN ADDITION, there are two publications which list many Michigan trails, both public and privately operated: "The Rockford Snow Trail Atlas" and "The Snowmobile Guide".

Auto Club advises all snowmobilers to keep these simple safety rules in mind during the winter before starting out on any trip.

Know trails and stay on marked trails.

Carry area maps plus a compass.

Be aware of state regulations in the Snowmobile Law.

Stay off ice on lakes and streams if conditions are not ideal.

Avoid alcohol.

Never travel alone. You usually can't walk out of forests in an emergency if snow is on the ground.

Carry safety gear such as snow shoes, flare gun, first aid kit, axe, extra fuel, new spark plugs, tools for minor repairs and rations.

Always wear seat belts, for increased safety when snowmobiles are equipped with roll-over or deflector bars.

Be sure the snowmobile is lighted well enough to enable the operator to see where he is going and others to see his vehicle's motion from any angle when operating after dark.

Make sure operators know their vehicles thoroughly and that they gain experience operating them in safe and familiar areas before taking them into unfamiliar places where there are obstructions.

Play off ice unless it is at least seven inches thick.

Take care of the snowmobile. The thickness is generally more than enough to support a snowmobile and its load, the operator should consider the minimum standard because of the many variable factors that can and do affect ice strength.

Snowmobiles are great fun, but they must be used with good sense and with attention to these safety rules.

So get aboard, the Institute for Safer Living urges, understand the hazards involved and strength to defend the object how to avoid them, and go out or vehicle or to rapidly decelerate and stop the vehicle if you it passes under a solid barrier, snowmobile.

NEVER operate a snowmobile after sunset or in periods of reduced visibility without deflector bars and roll-over bars. Deflector bars should run from front to rear over the driver's head and around the vehicle's sides, and should be of sufficient strength to deflect the object how to avoid them, and go out or vehicle or to rapidly decelerate and stop the vehicle if you it passes under a solid barrier, snowmobile.

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Area Trails Now Open

The State Department of Natural Resources has announced the opening of snowmobile trails when snow conditions permit.

Nearby trails are located at the Pictured Rocks National Recreation Area and Dodge No. 4 State Park on Cass Lake. Other trails are at: Rochester - Ulica, Highland, Holly, Pontiac Lake and Bald Mountain Recreation Areas.

Snowmobilers are cautioned that they may travel only on designated snowmobile trails with moving, hard-to-disturb objects, and 75% of these accidents occurred after darkness.

Turnovers and collisions with moving vehicles bring the total to 82% of all the snowbuggy accidents reported.

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It's The Law!

Can I drive my snowmobile on a street or highway for a special snowmobile event?

You can, providing the event is of limited duration and set up by a government unit with jurisdiction.

Do I have to have lights on my snowmobile?

Absolutely...one headlight and one taillight.

Can my city or village pass a snowmobile ordinance?

Sure can. Local ordinances may be passed as long as they meet minimum state law requirements.

What about operating a snowmobile under the influence of liquor?

Nix on the booze. Also taboo is operating one after taking narcotic drugs. This includes barbiturates or any derivative of barbitol.

Any restriction on forests, planting area, and the like?

You bet. You shouldn't operate a snowmobile in any nursery, planting area, or natural area of forest reproduction and where growing stock can be damaged.

How about transporting firearms on my snowmobile?

It's okay. But make sure they are securely encased.

If I violate any provisions of the snowmobile law, what happens to me?

Look out. You'd be guilty of a misdemeanor. It's punishable under provision of Michigan law.

There is no age limit for operating snowmobiles in Michigan. But use good sense. Youngsters driving a snowmobile should be responsible and old enough to exercise mature judgment as well as being able to handle the physical operations of the vehicle.

Model Kits Available

Snowmobile fans who despair if no snow is available on winter weekends can dispense their time assembling a new model snowmobile kit.

The unique model is a large 1/12 scale detailing all the working parts of a Nordic snowmobile and sleigh.

Made by Model Products Corp., Mt. Clemens, the kit is available in hobby shops, department stores, discount centers, and at Ski-Doo snowmobile dealers.

May Damage Rayon

Fabrics containing rayon can be bleached; some rayon finishes, however, are sensitive to chlorine bleach.