

## SnowTRAC Meeting August 25, 2008

### Attendees:

Bill Luck	Andy Morrison	Eric Morris	Frank Woods
Greg Barclay	Joe Gauna	Mark Wilke	Cindy Hite
Margaret Brodie	Steve Neel	Olga Lotosh	Teri Zell
Wayne Biessel	Neil Shishido	Howard Davis	John Scudder
Ben Barclay	Bill Luth	Linda Byrd (Note taker)	

Luck: 8:30am Opened meeting, introductions made, ask for any additions to agenda

Gauna: The Oxygen & Octane Trade Show-good idea for SnowTRAC and/or DNR have booth over weekend

Hite: Great way to get out information about why requesting higher registration fees, gives the people the opportunity to understand and think about the increase

Wilke: Believe the booth has been done before

Brodie: Yes, will need new maps updated and done

Luck: I will be there to represent State Parks if any of you want to join

Luth: What are the dates?

Hite: Around October 13<sup>th</sup>, I will check and let you know

Luck: Need to elect a Chair and Co-Chair

Gauna: Nominate Mark Wilke for Chair

Luth: Second the motion

Wilke: I like working in the background more, this position needs a firm hand, I can perform this, will require order

Gauna: Concur, share and timer

Woods: All in favor of Mark Wilke

**MARK WILKE ELECTED CHAIR BY UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Wilke; Now for the Co-Chair

Gauna: Greg Barclay has a long history with SnowTRAC, I nominate him

Woods: Second the motion

Barclay: Love to work with Mark, my concern is securing time, I think someone in Anchorage area best to work with DNR

Woods: We need the background you to have, will work together

Hite: Agree with Greg, Anchorage person may be best, nominate Joe Gauna

Luth: Second

Wilke: Agree on Anchorage area, pays off

Morrison: It is a position that I would be interested in the future but Joe will be great now

Barclay: Withdraw nomination

Wilke: Vote now, all in favor of Joe Gauna for Co-Chair

**JOE GAUNA ELECTED CO-CHAIR BY UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Luck: Discuss grooming pool map, will get updated, hope to put on web, I currently have 2 interns mapping the trails

Luth: I have maps of our area if anyone wants one

Luck: Regarding land status I am working with Neil Shishido on this, this had fell through the cracks before

Wilke: Proposal for mapping

Luck: Funded for 2 years

Wilke: Separate appropriation

Luck: No, inventory assessment, locate where trails are and if trespassing will need to be rerouted

Woods: So will have map of all trails

Brodie: For all of DNR, a much wider scope

Morrison: Winter trails change, need to really work on this

Luck: You're right

Luth: Yes, does change anywhere from 3 to 400 feet

Wilke: Question if grant to GPS a trail to go to State mapping, is it part of public record

Shishido: On undesignated State plan or within 50 feet can do with hand held, if close to private land need a surveyor

Wilke: My data where to go

Luck: Question adopt your mapping data as State

Wilke: Yes

Brodie: No, has to be official by State not trail data base, but will put in trails file

Luck: If State adopts our survey Neil gets involved with it

Luth: Hand held done by use and given to Mat-Su, they gave to State and they gave to surveyors, we started and the State finished it

Morrison: Two interns doing could the current mapping could move to snow mobile trails this winter

Luck: Could, people already out there using hand held can give data input

Morrison: Each group in grooming pool

Luck: Yes

Gauna: State minimal mapping standards published to get trail memorialized

Luth: Surveyors need to advise locals so they can go out with them

Gauna: Yes

Shishido: Will find standards and provide to Bill to Email to the board

Gauna: Add to Andy's comment question who in the field, your Rangers

Luck: Interns currently how it is setup, may need to setup a subcommittee for this

Brodie: Grant for State Parks will have a public hearing, make sure you attend

Wilke: Need to get winter trails GPS and understood, need laying for them as well as the summer trails, like to see a list that State Parks is proposing for trails

Luck: I would like to see it done

Morrison: Question if State Trails plan includes snow machine trails

Luck: Not yet, will develop for this

Luth: Wayne Biessel has a plan to connect the trails

Wilke: Juneau has a comprehensive plan

Luck: Right, each area needs to talk to Park Superintendent

Morrison: BLM holds a lot, DNR coordinates with them, big disconnect between mushing and snow machine trails

Wilke: Turn over to Bill Luck for applications

Luck: Gave my assessment to applications with the handout, my recommendations and yours will be given to the Director, we can fund as many as we want but need to save for grooming pool

Wilke: Go through projects, communicate on them, question to Margaret if there is cap on individual grant

Brodie: Caps have been removed because cost has gone up

Wilke: Question where has to go, safety, education, etc; have \$240,000 need to use 5% on safety and education

Brodie: Minimal need to allocate is 5%

Woods: Talk about increase

Wilke: To cover the new people, if project not a fit for SnowTRAC can present to ORTAB to consider

Luck: Yes, that is why the application form mirror each other

Wilke: Can fund, not fund, put to grooming pool or revise to ORTAB

Barclay: Need to add can fund at a different level

Morrison: Diversified falls in having enough grants, for non-motorized ORTAB needs to think more year round

Wilke: Question grooming project put off to ORTAB

Luck & Brodie: No

Morrison: ORTAB frustration same, need more money to do project

Brodie: Part of grooming pool as part of ORTAB

Luck: If all ORTAB funds not used it is put into the grooming pool

Wilke: Agree, marriage of two needs to happen

Barclay: On these applications we are assuming legal land access is ok, in the pass if there was a question about this we threw in the garbage

Luck: I do go through that information, you just do not see it, and if requirements not met you do not get the application. A grey area when waiting on legal status

Gauna: Be very rigid on legal access

Luck: I am communicating with the ones you have, going back and forth on working on legal access

Brodie: We do not sign grant unless 100% proof of legal access

Wilke: So we approve grant contingent on approved legal access

Woods: I have a problem with that

Gauna: I feel like we are extending the deadline

Luck: Showing flexibility, communicating with the applicant, need to be open about this, see the big picture, some projects worthy enough to wait on legal access

Barclay: If not legal come back next year

Hite: If not all legal why not advise to apply the next year

Wilke: Hold till speak to this further doing grants discussion, Ben Barclay is present to answer questions about this grant application

Gauna: Need legal access by deadline

Luck: Applications have been approved before pending providing legal access, we will not give the grant before we receive approved legal access

Wilke: Maybe that is the answer, look at and discuss, let State deal with approval and legal access

**AT THIS POINT GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED, SEE ALL NOTES UNDER SnowTRAC COMMENTS FOR EACH PROJECT SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT I**

**AFTER GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEWS WERE COMPLETED MEETING WAS DIRECTED TO DISCUSSION REGARDING GROOMING POOL, NOTES FOLLOW**

Wilke: Now let's talk about grooming pool

Gauna: Rotation of the trails for grooming

Brodie: Done in all regions, not rotated anymore

Barclay: Need more expansion in grooming pool

Gauna: If reduce will run into problem, need to be consistent for complete season, question looking at the reduction of number of miles this year

Hite: As a new member how does the grooming pool work

Zell: Request are accepted and approved, cost is based on what groomers charge, some cost more than others, do move around funds, some areas get hit with more snow than others

Morrison: Give responsibility to the State, can move monies as needed

Gauna: If money start to run out someone will have to make decision what get done, do we let the State do this

Biessel: Contractual usage may void the great astonishing volunteer base we currently have, they do a great job, signage is needed, consistent marking of trails, like to see dedicated amount of money set aside for signage, the challenge of grants is the legal land access, need consistency of maps, need more of them and updated, like to see people recognized for the work they do perhaps on the signage, State

needs to monitor if trails are being maintained and use of equipment, something we have not enforced but need to start is proof of insurance

- Hite: On the insurance question if can pool through State to get cheaper rates
- Scudder: Requiring insurance will kill the clubs
- Morrison: What level of insurance are we talking about
- Zell: \$300,000 insurance
- Gauna: Five years ago could not locate umbrella insurance to this, may have changed
- Woods: Underwriters stay away from this
- Brodie: Need to research this, question to contract out-less for the dollars
- Morrison: Liability insurance contingent on Workmen Compensation
- Barclay: If we purchase the equipment (State) is this the case
- Brodie: State insures the equipment, not the rider
- Wilke: Need clarification on this, if I am grooming a trail paid out of a grant or riding on a State snow mobile
- Brodie: Equipment covered, rider is not
- Morrison: Propose proof of insurance needed this year
- Biessel: Can't authorize at this time, need to check on this with Risk Management and get back to you
- Luth: Coverage under WACO and rule I have set for my people is if see another person on the trail, they stop and let that person pass then they continue
- Gauna: Question time to make motion to pursue allocation for different area of the state
- Woods: Motion to allocate \$34,000 to general grant projects, \$200,000 to grooming pool, \$6,000 for signage
- Gauna: Second the motion
- Morrison: Grooming and signage standards out there
- Gauna: Based on signage rules setup deadlines to order signs
- Biessel: Yes
- Wilke: Call for vote on motion to allocate \$34,000 to general grant projects, \$200,000 to grooming pool, \$6,000 for signage
- MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE**
- Barclay: Motion to use grooming pool funds and split out to areas that used last year, based on actual use of the fund, with option to move funds, if needed, by the State
- Gauna: Second that motion (to State employees- because you have full flexibility do we need to allocate)
- Wilke: Any areas that did not get funds
- Zell: Homer Snomads
- Wilke: Do we need to add or take any off list
- Gauna: What is current procedure to get grooming
- Biessel: Build increase fuel cost
- Gauna: Not talking about that, how to get information out to clubs
- Luck: I thought we already discussed that
- Gauna: So at point to designate trails, amount of funds, how often, now is the time to do this, money is going to run out, need to do something now
- Wilke: Still a test, have not gelled to that point yet, meeting once a year will not handle this
- Zell: Based on number of users, standard fee-currently different amounts
- Gauna: Will not solve this today but State Parks need to start work on this, who does count of users
- Zell: Host and/or Rangers in park does count and Parks uses highest count of the day
- Morrison: In past based on registration, consider sticking with this
- Biessel: Another variable is if a good job is done, if so will get funded again, if will not get funded again
- Wilke: Call questions, time to vote on the motion to use grooming pool funds and split out to areas that used last year, based on actual use of the fund, with option to move funds, if needed, by the State
- 7 YES, 1 NO, MOTION PASSED**
- Brodie: One to two years left for grooming pool, maybe only one unless gas goes down, you need to

augment with ORTAB or out right ask the State for general funding

Gauna: Who would submit request to ORTAB for this funding to occur

Wilke: Who designates money to ORTAB/SnowTRAC

Brodie: ORTAB is federally funded and must be distributed

Barclay: Can we request money from ORTAB

Brodie: Yes, you can

Wilke: Question raise the registration fee

Morrison: Motion to raise the state registration fee to \$25 every 2 years with option to reduce if legislative does not approve allocation to SnowTRAC

Barclay: Second the motion

Gauna: Current funding = point of sale registration by legislative, DNR goes to DMV to get number of registration and multiplies by \$5.00, this is the amount DNR request for SnowTRAC if legislative approves this, Increase could be done in legislative session if a push such as letter, calls, etc. put in action, has to be legislative that makes the change

Wilke: 12% Admin Fee to State Parks

Woods: Ask for increase and ask for appropriate increase

Gauna: Reason for increase is the intend to respond to DNR request as stated now

Woods: Language would be the same with the increase

Barclay: People in my area can see a need for, best need is for grooming pool not more grants

Hite: Reason to get out to shows to explain this to public

Scudder: Post sure to question, 600 members in my club and I have mentioned it, they were ok with \$10 to \$15 per year but they buckled at \$25 per year, Lower 48 members pay much higher fees

Morrison: Question what is the appropriate amount

Gauna: Go for \$20 a year, this is a first step for the State Groomers Program, good trail connections

Scudder: Fairbanks and Western Alaska do not see where money is going to, got to get out there and show them what it does for them, may even incorporate ATV

Wilke: Discuss safety program out of this, this pool of money has that opportunity

Morrison: Ideas on the \$20.00

Woods: Point of sale and re-registration \$20.00 a year

Wilke: Question 2<sup>nd</sup> part of motion contingent on legislative transferring all money in budget request, question decrease if not allocated to SnowTRAC

Barclay: Can not give a penalty to the people who you are asking for what you want

Morrison: Right, amend motion to increase registration fee to \$40.00 every 2 years contingent that money is allocated to DNR when ask for budget for SnowTRAC and grooming pool projects

Gauna: Second the motion and it will take a lot of work

Wilke: Take a vote on motion to increase registration fee to \$40.00 every 2 years contingent that money is allocated to DNR when ask for budget for SnowTRAC and grooming pool projects

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Barclay: How do we do this

Wilke: Need a copy of document of where we are at now for registration fees

Luck: Will look for original registration resolution

Gauna: I will look on finding information, was during Tony Knowles era

Zell: Can send you some examples from Mat-Su Advisory Board

Luck: Give me a date

Wilke: Next 60 days

Luck: Will get as fast I can

Barclay: Find a Legislator to help us

Gauna: Charlie Huggins will be good, I will try to talk to him but it is up to all of us to get with their legislative members for sponsors

Wilke: I will work on, figure out Char of Senate Finance to contact on this, I would like to do this but work at remote worksite, my time is limited

- Luck: Last conversation with James King he advised needs to be SnowTRAC to carry the torch
- Wilke: Go home and think how well do you know your Legislators, if you just go in to talk to them they will advise you to put it in writing
- Hite: Email is good, more and more is being done this way
- Gauna: Question dates for Oxygen Octane Trail Show
- Hite: October 17<sup>th</sup> in the evening starting at 5 or 6 pm to 8 or 9pm and October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4 or 5 pm, I will get the exact times and let everyone know
- Gauna: ASA will sponsor DNR
- Hite: Need booth with big sign about raising registration fees to get people to stop and get literature and to talk to us about it
- Luck: A bulletin board with pictures of what has been done
- Morrison: That is good and need SnowTRAC Mission, what the funds for – safety programs, grooming trails, etc.
- Wilke: ASA and Anchorage Snowmobile Club will they support
- Gauna: Get ideas and send to Bill to put in process as they come up
- Biessel: Groups work hard on NS quarter (Big Lake & Denali State Lake), bringing trails together by February of 2009 connecting whole section, groups got together with lots of energy to work on this, groups working to identify trails, think big, make statewide system{Passed around examples of signage}, on the safety program recommend throw out some request to groups to get someone to do this, there are lots of groups out there that would grab the chance to do this
- Wilke: Adjourned meeting

## 1. Willow Winter Trail Maintenance Project

- **Willow Trails Committee**
- \$16,850 (requested) / \$22,885 (match) / \$39,735 (total)
- 100 miles of snow machine trail to be maintained and signed
- 80 miles of trail to be groomed (through volunteer labor)
- 5 kiosks to be updated and maintained
- Trails located on Mat-Su Borough and State land; letters of non-objection from private property owners.
  
- **PROS**
  - a. Excellent grant history, strong commitment from applicant.
  - b. Supported by WACO, Mat-Su Borough, Iron Dog, and State Parks.
  - c. Included in local management plan.
  - d. Included letters of non-objection from property owners and some quotes for equipment.
  - e. Many volunteer hours provided through match.
  
- **CONS**
  - a. Project covers 100 miles of trail; difficult to determine land status of entire route through maps that are provided (-2pts)
  - b. Doesn't address ADA (-2pts)
  - c. Could provide better cost breakdown for signs (-1pt)
  - d. Unsure if some of the grooming wages will be covered through grooming pool???. Applicant says that all grooming is volunteer, but includes grooming in project description.

**Project Description:** This two-year project seeks funding to groom, sign and maintain approximately 100 miles of winter trails and trailheads within the West Gateway Trail System. It will require the purchase of a four-stroke snowmachine and grooming equipment, the weekly grooming of trails, posting of directional and safety signs to be placed along the trails, and implementation of safety and educational materials at kiosks.

### SnowTRAC Comments:

Woods: Bring to table  
 Gauna: Second the motion  
 Luth: Not groom on any land, no money involved, use volunteers  
 Barclay: Question dollars for machine in budget  
 Luth: Three quotes, can trade in after 1 year to get a new one for the old one  
 Barclay: For 5 years belong to State, not yours to trade in  
 Wilke: Margaret, do we allow trade in  
 Brodie: If you approve, the Board will need to track the State will not  
 Morris: If trade in do you keep the same tag or get a new one  
 Brodie: Either way-new or present tag  
 Luth: Extended warranty 6 to 6 years  
 Morrison: Question the need to replace each year  
 Luth: Lot of usage, they wear out

Barclay: Question why not use a bigger machine  
 Luth: Eight feet wide on trails, some maybe six  
 Morris: Private donations used for this  
 Luth: Private match funding used for item/project not funded  
 Morris: Understand, grant is for the snow machine  
 Luth: Repairs for equipment; 4,000 miles yearly per unit  
 Woods: Not enough to do project, spending public funds , snow machine only might skate through  
 Luth: Spread money around a little more  
 Woods: Right and conflict of interest, hands over going out to real project, lower bids on other requests, can not negotiation on grant  
 Gauna: Do not finance snow machine, move to ORTAB  
 Hite: Question about land and creek, five year ending this year letter for permission  
 Luck: Winter trail  
 Luth: Yes, going for new letter  
 Hite: Two year grant, timelines does not fit in  
 Luth: Cleaning summer and fall  
 Hite: Dates flex  
 Wilke: The timelines do not always fix perfectly, delays, project extended, etc.  
 Morrison: Can not read into the timelines too much, question move to ORTAB will service SnowTRAC better to fund  
 Wilke: Trade in not a bad idea, used for grooming will suffice, typical SnowTRAC grant, have funded grants for snow machines in the past  
 Morrison: Move to fund at requested rate, worth giving it a try, good test model  
 Gauna: Motion to move to ORTAB  
 Barclay: Only buy so many snow machines, Pros for different equipment lasting longer  
 Gauna: Concur with what Greg is saying, it is not impossible to use the heavier equipment just difficult  
 Davis: Funds from TRAC and SnowTRAC  
 Hite: Question professionals, SnowTRAC into smaller focus of grooming trails  
 Wilke: Inventing as go, discussion closed, vote taken on motion to move project to ORTAB  
**3 YES, 4 NO, 1 ABSTAINED MOTION FAILED**  
 Wilke: Opportunity to change scores (NONE CHANGED)  
 Guana: Do not want to see money spent on snowmobile, motion to fund all but snowmobile  
 Wilke: Open discussion  
 Woods: Snowmobile why applied for grant, best use of funds for where it is at  
 Morrison: Only fund the grooming not purchase of equipment, could put to grooming pool  
 Gauna: That is fine, not approve at all, remove from list to present to Wayne Biessel  
 Luck: Can purchase equipment in grant  
 Morris: Still a need to be able to purchase equipment  
 Brodie: Any machine purchase we get free grooming  
 Wilke: Big grooming, large and small, snowmobiles needed but in some area large grooming appropriate, blanket no snowmobiles, not sure right way to go  
 Gauna: Question how work, I am sure some people use these machines to haul freight and get paid for it, we are paying them  
 Biessel: Can not police all equipment  
 Scudder: Hire contractors, more control  
 Morris: Motion to vote to remove snowmobile purchase from grant  
**2 YES, 2 NO MOTION FAILED**  
 Hite: Make snowmobile \$12,000  
 Morris: Second motion  
 Gauna: Do not buy snowmobile  
 Morrison: Labor rider/volunteer hours-need insurance, if use small contractor could be One man business, do

not need this

Wilke: Vote to motion to approve purchase of snowmobile cap at \$12,000

**5 YES, 1 NO, 2 ABSTAINED, MOTION PASSED**

Woods: Motion to fund \$14,350 for grant

Hite: Second motion

**4 YES, 2 NO, 2 ABSTAINED , MOTION PASSED**

Gauna: Do not like idea of purchasing snowmobiles, need use larger equipment, contractors

Wilke: Let the notes show that Joe Gauna strongly opposes any snowmobile purchases for grooming purposes, feel should be contracted out.

**SnowTRAC Approval (#'s): 6 YES    1 NO    1 ABSTAINED**

## 2. Deception Area Highland Trails/ Lloyds Historic Trapline Trail Surveying Project

- **Willow Trails Committee**
- \$8,250 (requested) / \$3,400 (match) / \$11,650 (total)
- 75 miles of trail to be surveyed
- Land status to be determined; some trails are known to be located on Mat-Su Borough and State land.
  
- **PROS**
  - a. Excellent grant history, strong commitment from applicant.
  - b. Supported by WACO, Mat-Su Borough, ASSA, and Willow Dog Musers.
  - c. Included in local management plan.
  - d. Survey work will help to protect future use of recreational trails.
  
- **CONS**
  - a. Good project but could have been amended to RTP 2008, Haessler Norris trail survey project (-2pts)
  - b. Maps are a bit confusing; hard to discern 75 miles of trail from what is shown (catch-22) (-2pts)
  - c. No competitive quotes for survey (-2pts)
  - d. Can only charge \$19.51 for guide's volunteer service (-2pt)
  - e. Incomplete budget (-1pt)
  - f. No mention ADA benefit (-2pt)
  - g. Does not provide new recreational activity, but will potentially protect (-1pt)

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to have the Deception Area Highland Trails / Lloyds Historic Trapline Trail, which are part of the Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System, referenced in the Willow Area Trail Plan, to be surveyed with the State's Minimum Mapping Standards. This survey will then be used in the near future to determine land status and to start the easement designation/acquisition process for the trail system.

### **SnowTRAC Comments:**

Morrison: Motion to fund  
 Morris: Second motion  
 Wilke: Question land owners  
 Luck: To be determined  
 Wilke: Survey question trespassing on private land  
 Gauna: Question where bids for surveyor work, only one quote  
 Woods: This is backwards, need to go to Borough first to get letter to access  
 Gauna: GPS survey, then research, then surveyors, then easement, provide land status before get a grant  
 Luck: ORTAB did approve  
 Shishido: Addition of trail to ORTAB approval  
 Morrison: Could have been done together  
 Wilke: Question determine land status without surveyor, I have  
 Gauna: I have too  
 Shishido: Can get sticky, beneficial to have surveyors to do it  
 Luck: Question who you recommend to do it

Woods: Anyone beside us, these guys are clueless  
Scudder: Same problem in Chugach State, went to Mining, Land and Water and got information, illegal survey, grant is denied, information is out there, got to have information  
Woods: Need to do their homework  
Scudder: Yes, do the work and compare if private move over, if want to access private go to the PIC and get information  
Wilke: Exactly what we do not have, permission to go on public land  
Morrison: ORTAB was a different conservation, public access limit want to get laid down, if had shut out 100 miles trails lost, surveyor is local and hope will get permission  
Luth: West and South done by ORTAB, this is up by Hatcher Pass area, this North and East  
Brodie: Question one project amend to ORTAB  
Gauna: Motion to move to ORTAB  
Barclay: Second motion  
Hite: I believe in this project, need trails, no guarantee ORTAB will approve  
Gauna: Understand, but ORTAB already approved  
Woods: Piggyback ORTAB  
Morrison: Did not pass over whelming in ORTAB, could be more funding, but may be delayed  
Wilke: Vote to move to ORTAB  
**3 YES, 2 NO, 3 ABSTAINED, MOTION PASSED**

**SnowTRAC Approval (#'s): n/a YES      n/a NO -- (VOTED TO MOVE TO ORTAB)**

### 3. Southfork Montana Creek Trail Grooming

- **Montana Creek Motor Musers**
- \$24,000 (requested) / \$8,000 (match) / \$32,000 (total)
- 10 miles of trail to be maintained and groomed
- 7 miles of trail to be signed
- Private land owner: CIRI Corporation; Public: Mat-Su Borough and State land
  
- **PROS**
  - a. 15 letters of support from local residents; strong support.
  - b. Good map documentation.
  - c. Previously supported by Mat-Su Borough.
  - d. Addresses safety concerns from public.
  - e. Previously performed well with same grant application.
  
- **CONS**
  - a. Could provide more info on grooming and signage (-2pts)
  - b. Could provide better description of budget (-3pts)
  - c. No competitive quotes for equipment purchase (-2pts)
  - d. Does not necessarily create a new recreational opportunity – maintains it (-2pt)
  - e. Acknowledges ADA but does not improve access (-1pt)
  - f. No resolution of support or language supporting use in land management plans (-5pts)
  - g. Sounds as though the applicant already has the equipment they need to complete the work – looking to replace it, or double the grooming capability

**Project Description:** Grant funds will be used to purchase two wide-track snowmachines (brand TBD) to tow groomers on the Southfork Montana Creek Trail system. The applicant organization will be able to pull 4 groomers and maintain the trail in an expeditious manner (one trip up and back). This trail provides access to a vast area of alpine riding between Montana Creek and Sheep Creek.

#### **SnowTRAC Comments:**

- Barclay: Motion to fund  
 Hite: Second motion
- B. Barclay: Legal access, 30 year trail, legal 100 feet right of way CIRI to Montana Creek, no problem with us using trail, not sure want to approve legal access, have been grooming for public use
- Wilke: Right of way on road bed, trail does not follow bed
- B. Barclay: Establish access based on road bed and public always using
- Barclay: State ok legal access
- Luck: No approval of legal access
- Gauna: If want grooming money need to go to grooming pool
- Luth: With snowmobiles out earlier
- B. Barclay: Trail not suitable for larger equipment
- Woods: Large will not work in Juneau, Dillingham, etc.
- Gauna: Question get into legal matter, snow machine to ORTAB
- Brodie: Can not count on ORTAB, snow machine is not there
- Gauna: If no legal access deny

- Morrison: Snowmobile for grooming, may go to backside with ORTAB
- B. Barclay: Right of way along trail
- Wilke: State question that, map does not show  
**AT THIS POINT MAJOR GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT LEGAL ACCESS, EASEMENT WITH BILL AND MARGARGET ASSURING THAT IF ANY GRANT APPROVED PENDING LEGAL ACCESS IT WOULD NOT BE FUNDED UNTIL PROOF OF LEGAL ACCESS RECEIVED**
- Gauna: Question bids for hardware, requirements call for it
- Luth: 10 miles of trail, question why 2 snowmobiles
- B. Barclay: Use 3 and 4 at a time
- Wilke: Question \$1500 Admin fee
- B. Barclay: No Admin person, used to buy gas, repairs, etc.
- Gauna: Perfect example of commercial operator, 8 feet wide trail
- Luth: 10 miles of trail, commercial operator more expensive
- Wilke: Anyone want to change scores (NONE CHANGED)
- Guana: Do not want to see money spent on snowmobile, motion to fund all but snowmobile
- Wilke: Open discussion
- Woods: Snowmobile why applied for grant, best use of funds for where it is at
- Morrison: Only fund the grooming not purchase of equipment, could put to grooming pool
- Gauna: That is fine, not approve at all, remove from list to present to Wayne Biessel
- Luck: Can purchase equipment in grant
- Morris: Still a need to be able to purchase equipment
- Brodie: Any machine purchase we get free grooming
- Morris: Modify to \$12,000 for one machine in place of two
- Morrison: I agree
- Luth: Agree cut in half, only 10 miles of trails
- Hite: Cut to ½ of \$2250, get rid of Admin
- Morris: Amend motion to cut to \$1125 for one snow machine
- Wilke: Take vote  
**6 YES, 1 NO, 1 ABSTAINED, MOTION PASSED**

**SnowTRAC Approval (#'s): 5 YES      3 NO**

**4. Tesoro Iron Dog Safety Expo**

(Safety and Education Project)

- **Iron Dog, Inc.**
- \$11,090 (requested) / \$7,027 (match) / \$18,117 (total)
- Funding to pay for Wasilla Sports Complex rental, equipment, advertisement, and project coordination
  
- **PROS**
  - a. Supported by the ASSA and NAOI, Mayor of Wasilla, Arctic Cat, Polaris and Ski-Doo.
  - b. Directly addresses safety concerns for snowmachiners.
  - c. Previously performed well with same grant application.
  - d. Provides safety equipment to participants who take safety quiz.
  - e. Event has performed well in the past.
  
- **CONS**
  - a. Applicant does not provide much detail on educational programs; minimal effort (-10pts)
  - b. No quotes or bids for contracts or equipment to be purchases (-2pts)
  - c. Thinnest application I have seen. For the value of the EXPO, the applicant could provide more information on events and training programs, schedule of events, etc. (-5pts).
  - d. Line quote from SCORP, but vague (-2pts)

**Project Description:** Project funds will be used to provide a free public EXPO that promotes snowmobile and outdoor education through presentations, public safety seminars, displays for industry vendors and distribution stands for educational brochures. The EXPO will be held January 31, 2009 at the Wasilla Sports Complex from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

**SnowTRAC Comments:**

Wilke: Move to entertain  
 Gauna: Second motion  
 Barclay: Call the question  
 Woods: Alaska Snowmobile Safety Book, question get these for free  
 Hite: Sold to user, part of match  
 Gauna: ASA gives to anyone that wants them  
 Woods: Question funding of the Iron Dog Safety Check, question or job, question State for public funds  
 Morrison: Iron Dog is profit organization  
 Wilke: Admin fee is extraordinary  
 Gauna: Has anyone every been to this event  
 Neel: Went to event in March, I have never written a snow machine, lot of information, lot of machines on display, interesting  
 Luth: It is advertising for every snowmobile seller or anyone that wants to put a booth there  
 Gauna: Iron Dog sled inspecting done there, large turnout, lot of safety information given out, riders give information out, take the time to talk to people, this is a plus

Morris: Amend to cut to \$8306, eliminate all Admin Svc

Woods: Second motion

Wilke: Take vote

**7 YES, 1 ABSTAINED, MOTION PASSED**

**SnowTRAC Approval (#'s): 7 YES    1 NO**

## 5. Be Snow Smart – Hands-on Training (Safety and Education Project)

- **North America Outdoor Institute**
- \$15,000 (requested) / \$15,000 (match) / \$30,000 (total)
- Funding to pay for marketing and media, instructional resources, instructors and support staff.
- Funding will be allocated for “six community and school presentations” (unsure if this means 6 or 12??? assuming 6).
  
- **PROS**
  - a. Provides programs to areas that have been affected by avalanche or snowmachine related deaths.
  - b. Strong public and governmental support.
  - c. Directly addresses safety concerns for snowmachiners.
  - d. Provides samples of learning materials within application and adequately portrays distribution plan.
  - e. Previously performed well with same grant application.
  - f. Event has performed well in the past.
  - g. 2 resolutions of support.
  
- **CONS**
  - a. No quotes or bids for contracts or equipment to be purchases; expenditures are not adequately justified (-6pts)
  - b. Says that project is consistent with land management plans (SCORP) but provides no language – proof (-2pts)

**Project Description:** Project funds will be used to provide hands-on, interactive training by professional outdoor safety educators on avalanche awareness and safe winter travel. This program has been crafted for snowmobile riders. In combination with the helmet safety program, participants will have the opportunity to purchase a Snell/DOT snowmobile helmet at significant discount following the completion of a short comprehension demonstration (quiz).

### SnowTRAC Comments:

- Wilke: Motion to entertain  
 Luth: Second the motion  
 Woods: This group consistently padding Admin account, fishing for more dollars to operate  
 Gauna: I’m with you  
 Barclay: Same, also has other 3 applications wanted to throw them out  
 Luck: Feel they did all 3 to cover bases  
 Wilke: Asking for classes may never have  
 Woods: Letter of support is from 2004  
 Luth: Something for them, people from my area go to these classes and hear good feedback, give it that  
 Hite: Looks like 6 trainings in school, others as expos  
 Luth: Not the way they operate  
 Morrison: No snowmobile safety as of yet such as Boating and Safety, these projects bring in a lot of people, till have a better idea need to give money for safety  
 Brodie: Avalanche safety, troopers give grants also for very same thing, Snow Dynamics got the grant but left the state 6 weeks ago, BART, no more, never did what they said they would do

Wilke: Need good source to do this, nonprofits never work out  
Luth: Question set up more professionally  
Morrison; Been to these classes, people from various organizations attend these classes  
Gauna: Call the question  
Morrison: Motion to fund overall at \$10,000  
**MOTION WAS NOT SECOND, NO DISCUSSION, NO VOTE**

**SnowTRAC Approval (#'s): 3 YES 5 NO**

## 6. Be Snow Smart – Snowmobile Helmets (Safety and Education Project)

- **North America Outdoor Institute**
- \$15,000 (requested) / \$43,500 (match) / \$58,500 (total)
- Funding to pay for snowmachine helmets, instructors and support staff.
  
- **PROS**
  - a. Provides programs to areas that have been affected by avalanche or snowmachine related deaths.
  - b. Strong public and governmental support (Sarah Palin proclamation).
  - c. Directly addresses safety concerns for snowmachiners.
  - d. Previously performed well with same grant application.
  - e. Event has performed well in the past.
  
- **CONS**
  - a. Applicant does not provide samples of learning material within application (-4pts)
  - b. Could have easily added this to the other application – Hands-on Training
  - c. No justifiable breakdown of labor costs; no labor hours listed (-5pts)
  - d. This app. lacks resolution of support (-2pts)
  - e. Says that project is consistent with land management plans (SCORP) but provides no language – proof (-2pts)

**Project Description:** Project funds will be used to provide Snell/DOT helmets to all participants of the Be Snow Smart winter safety awareness program as an incentive for attendance. Participants will be eligible to purchase a new helmet for \$25 following completion of the course and a short comprehension demonstration quiz.

### SnowTRAC Comments:

Wilke: Motion to review  
 Hite: Second the motion  
 Luth: \$25.00 where does it go  
 Brodie: To purchase the helmets  
 Gauna: Not good information  
 Morris: Budget not detailed well  
 Gauna: Look at budget, enough to buy helmets  
 Hite: Helmets and goggles equal what they say on the budget  
 Brodie: Includes shipping  
 Gauna: \$4500 staff equal a lot, multiple donors  
 Wilke: To the State people here, what constitute a quote, screen print in here off the net  
 Guana: I would accept this  
 Wilke: Need quote with 90 days guarantee  
 Brodie: Is an Email with a quote  
 Guana: Has 3 prices on it  
 Morrison: Different types of projects  
 Woods: Not very professional  
 Luck: Modify these grants

Hite: To Margaret, Question any reports on those that are successful, I would like to see a rap sheet for this

Brodie: If not 100% compliance in past you do not see it again

Scudder: We do that, give helmets to people, we get them volunteered and shipping is free from the source, does not cost a dime

Wilke: State fund project taking away money from local dealers

Brodie: State considers non profit as a business, they are buying from dealers and they do ship helmets out to the bush

Shishido: Question 5% to safety and education

Gauna: Isn't that just a guideline

Wilke: Each year looked at differently

**SnowTRAC Approval (#'s): 2 YES 5 NO 1 ABSTAINED**

## 7. Be Snow Smart – Avalanche Transceivers (Safety and Education Project)

- **North America Outdoor Institute**
- \$15,000 (requested) / \$3,776 (match) / \$18,776 (total)
- Funding to pay for two Beacon Basin Stations, 2 signs, a project manager and grant administration.
- **PROS**
  - a. Stations are to be placed in areas that are prone to avalanches and/or have frequent snowmachine related deaths.
  - b. Provides a reminder to snowmachiners the dangers of avalanches and the importance of carrying beacons.
- **CONS**
  - a. Applicant does not give a clear enough description of how the station works (-7pts)
  - b. Budget summary deficient (-4pts)
  - c. Match – don't think that it will take 2 wks to install equipment (-2pts)
  - d. No strong letters of support from snowmachiners (-2pts)
  - e. This app. lacks resolution of support (-2pts)
  - f. Says that project is consistent with land management plans (SCORP) but provides no language – proof (-2pts)
  - g. Significant risk of this being something that snowmachiners will just pass-by or ignore; rather see funding go toward something more interactive.

**Project Description:** Project funds will be used to purchase and install Avalanche Transceiver practice stations to be located in Hatcher Pass (Matanuska Susitna Borough) and Turnagain Arm (Kenai Peninsula Borough) for avalanche safety education purposes. The goal of this project is to provide a training station in high-risk avalanche areas with appropriate signage that professionals believe will serve as a reminder and encourage practice of avalanche safety equipment, thus helping to reduce the risk of preventable accidents caused by human-triggered avalanches.

### **SnowTRAC Comments:**

- Wilke: Statistics not correct, I have checked this out (At this point discussion of how many actual snowmobile rider deaths occurred in Alaska due to avalanche)
- Luth: Only one ideal on how to put together, only one quote, I have real problem with set up place, no 24 hours monitoring, they could go and your money is lost
- Morrison: Question public access, set up this, has not ask for people to set up
- Biessel: Question inquiry to support station at Hatcher Pass, target for vandalism, rather see signs, I have not seen anything in writing to do this
- Scudder: We teach these type of classes, do not need check stations, your buddy is check station
- Wilke: Beacons do not work, bury in snow can not see or signal out
- Gauna: Ready to move on
- Wilke: Do not rely on beacons, doing training for them is giving a false sense of security, a danger
- Barclay: Take this off the table completely

**SnowTRAC Approval (#'s): 1 YES    6 NO    1 ABSTAINED**