

NR 50

Filed Jan 31, 1973
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STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES) SS

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

I, L. P. Voigt, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, and custodian of the official records of said Department, do hereby certify that the annexed rules and regulations relating to administration of aids for counties for snowmobile trails and areas were duly approved and adopted by this Department on January 18, 1973.

I further certify that said copy has been compared by me with the original on file in this Department and that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.

(SEAL)

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Department at Pyare Square Building in the City of Madison, this 29th day of January, 1973.



L. P. Voigt, Secretary

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
REPEALING AND RECREATING RULES

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IN THE MATTER OF repealing and recreating of NR 50.10, Sections : :
23.09 (11) and (26), of the Wisconsin Administrative Code : :
pertaining to administration of aids for counties for : :
snowmobile trails and areas. : :
-----: :

Board Order M-2-73

Pursuant to authority vested in the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board by Chapter 350, Sections 23.09 (26), 227.01 and 227.014, Wis. Stats., the Natural Resources Board hereby repeals and creates as follows:

NR 50.10 Administration of aids for counties for snowmobile trails and areas. Chapter 350, sections 23.09 (11) and (26) Wis. Stats.

(1) Eligible items:

(a) Purchase of easements or leases over private property for snowmobile trails, facilities and areas, if such easements provide public access to the trail, facility or area. No lands or easements may be acquired under condemnation. Property appraisals shall be based on department standards and property appraisal reports shall be approved by the department.

(b) Enter into agreements with the department to use for snowmobile trails, facilities or areas on lands owned or leased by the department. No lands will be condemned for this purpose.

(c) Develop and maintain snowmobile trails, facilities and areas on public lands designated by the county board or trails or areas under subd. 1 or 2. The amount of aids to be granted to develop leased lands will be commensurate with the duration of lease.

(2) Procedure for applying for grant:

(a) Submit snowmobile plan approved by Regional Planning Commission and compatible with state plans.

(b) Submit resolution adopted by the county board containing the following:

1. Applications for any or all:

- a. Grants for Purchase of easements, leases, or lands.
- b. Grants for cost of developed trails and facilities.
- c. Grants to maintain trails.

2. Name agency of county authorized to sign forms and act in behalf of county.

3. That the county will maintain the trails and facilities.

4. That county crews may do work in excess of \$1,000.

5. Indicate funds budgeted for county share of lease, easement or land purchase and for maintenance of trails.

(c) Submit application forms, maps, data and follow procedures outlined in Outdoor Recreation Aid Program Guide.

(d) Submit an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

(3) Snowmobile trail design and construction specifications:

(a) Required specifications:

1. Permanent trails:

- a. Minimum graded width for one-way trails is 6 feet and maximum about 8 feet.
- b. Minimum graded width for two-way trails is 10 feet and maximum about 12 feet.
- c. Minimum turning radius is 25 feet.
- d. A height of 10 feet above the trail will be cleared.
- e. Sustained grades and slopes will be a maximum of 25%.
- f. Brush will be cleared from an area 2 feet outside the trail edge.

g. Reflectorized signs or nonreflectorized signs.

2. Trails constructed with short term easements:

- a. Minimum graded width of one-way trails is 4 feet and maximum width about 6 feet.
- b. Minimum graded width of two-way trails is 8 feet and maximum about 12 feet.
- c. Reflectorized or nonreflectorized signs.

d. Trail blazers, directional arrows, stop, regulatory, warning signs and highway guide signs may be used.

(b) Desirable specifications:

1. Trail length of 15-30 miles is desirable, 40-50 miles maximum, 5-10 miles minimum.

2. Toilet facilities should be provided at about 15-mile intervals on heavily used trails and recreation areas.

3. Trail vertical and horizontal sight distance should be a minimum of 50 feet. Snowbanks at road crossings should be cut back to provide adequate visibility in both directions on both sides. Snowbanks should be kept low at trail crossing points to permit easy exit from and entrance back on to the trail. Warning signs should be installed on trails at both trail and road crossings.

4. Approaches and exits to grades and slopes should be straight, at least as long as the slope, grades and hill crossings should be wider than the normal trails.

5. Access to trails should be controlled where possible. Caution signs should be used to indicate trail intersections. Trails should be routed away from areas that will attract undesirable traffic or uses. Emergency exits should be provided at about 5-mile intervals and shown by trail signing.

6. Topography and land characteristics should be varied to maintain user interest, and to take advantage of interesting features.

7. Occasional open areas should be provided for frolic and rest.

8. Trail maintenance is extremely important to improve trail usability and enjoyment. Constant dragging of the trail is needed to eliminate moguls (humps). Ideally, heavily used trails should be dragged immediately after each new snowfall. Once-a-week maintenance is recommended.

9. Snowmobile trails should not be routed over lakes, streams or other bodies of water. If stream crossings are necessary, provide bridges at least 6 feet wide. Permits may be required on navigable streams.

10. Trails should cross contours at right angles where possible. Routing trails along side slopes should be avoided.

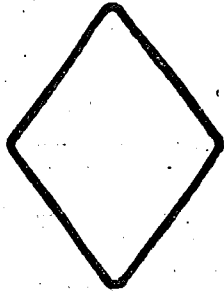
11. Route trails away from areas designated in department wilderness policy, game preserves, winter browse areas, experimental stations, nurseries, plantations and other areas of anticipated conflict, particularly areas which may be damaged by trail development or snowmobile use.

12. Trash barrels and picnic facilities should be provided at all rest and other use areas.

(4). Snowmobile trail sign standards:

(a) Snowmobile trail, regulatory, warning, guide and informational signs.

Signs for use on snowmobile trails to regulate snowmobile traffic, warn snowmobile drivers or assist the snowmobile driver to reach his destination.



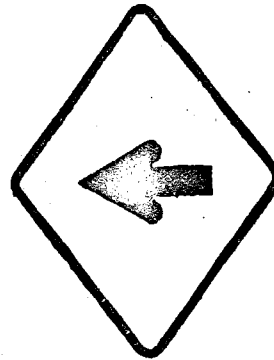
TRAIL BLAZER

Purpose: To delineate the trail and to reassure the user that he is on the trail.

Size: 5" x 7" or 6" x 6"

Color: Reflective orange with black border.

A limited number of 9" x 9" blazers may be used where needed.



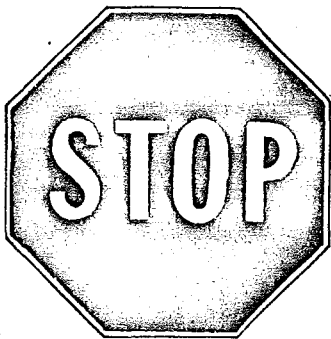
DIRECTIONAL ARROW SIGN

Purpose: Indicates trail direction or changes in trail direction.

Size: 9 1/4" x 12", 9" x 9" or 12" x 12"

Color: Reflective orange background with black arrow and border.

Legend: 5 1/4" directional arrow.



STOP SIGN

Purpose: Use on trail prior to road crossing.

Size: 12" x 12" or 18" x 18"

Color: Reflective red background and reflective white letters and border.

Legend: 12" x 12" size - 4" upper case letters, 18" x 18" size - 6" upper case letters.



REGULATORY SIGN

Purpose: To inform snowmobile driver of regulations.

Size: 12" x 18"

Color: Reflective white background and black letters and border.

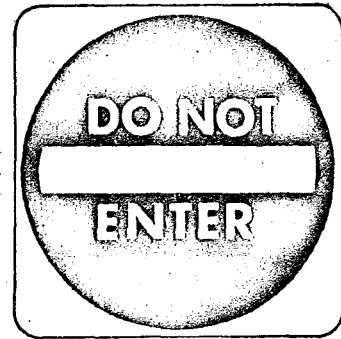


WARNING SIGNS

Purpose: To warn snowmobile driver of hazard.

Size: 12" x 12"

Color: Reflective yellow background and black letters or legend.

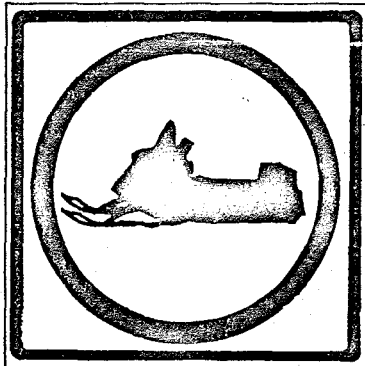


DO NOT ENTER SIGN

Purpose: To indicate one way trail or restricted area.

Size: 12" x 12" with 2 1/2" letters.

Color: Reflective red background with white letters, border and legend.



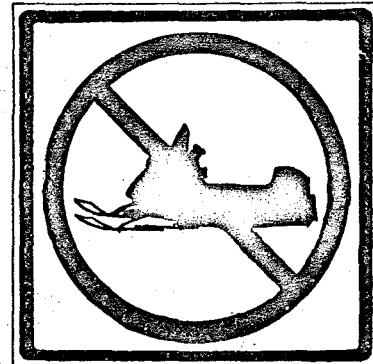
PERMISSIVE

Purpose: To indicate snowmobile trails and other areas where snowmobiling is permitted.

Size: 12" x 12"

Background Color: Reflective white.

Legend: Reflective green circle. Black snowmobile symbol.



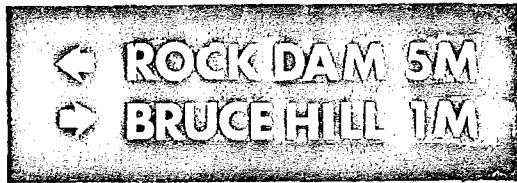
RESTRICTIVE

Purpose: To indicate areas where snowmobiling is not permitted.

Size: 12" x 12"

Background Color: Reflective white.

Legend: Reflective red circle. Black snowmobile symbol.

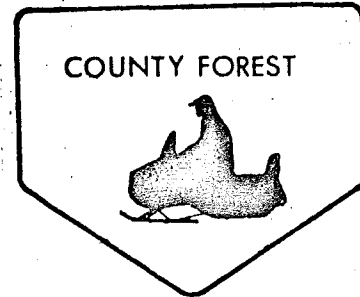


GUIDE SIGN

Purpose: Directs snowmobile driver to his destination.

Color: Brown background with reflective white letters and legend.

Legend: 2 1/2" upper case letters.

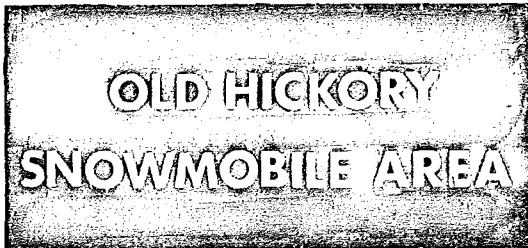


SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYMBOL

Purpose: Indicates snowmobile trail where trail intersects highways.

Size: 13" x 10 1/2"

Color: Reflective orange with black letters and symbol.

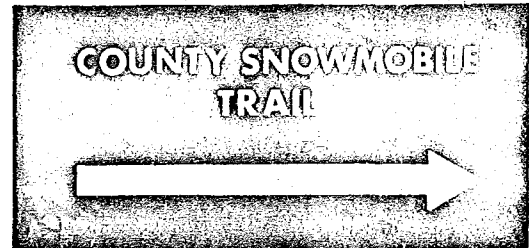


INFORMATIONAL SIGN

Purpose: Furnish information about trails or facilities.

Color: Painted or stained brown background with painted or routed white letters.

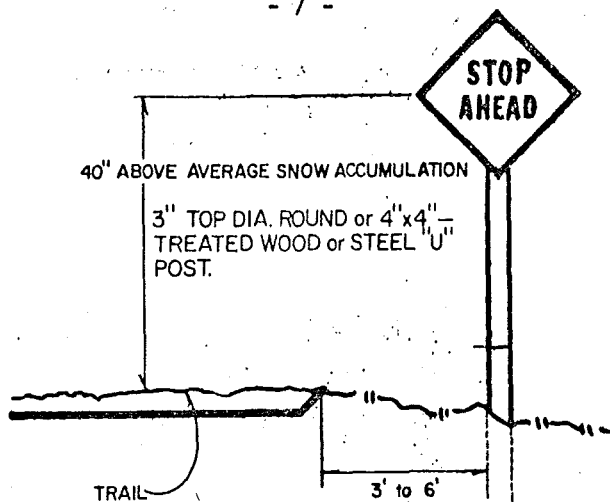
Legend: Maps.



HIGHWAY GUIDE SIGN

Purpose: Inform auto driver of location of snowmobile trail or route.

Color: Brown background with painted reflective white letters and legend.



DIRECTIONAL ARROW SIGNS AND TRAIL BLAZERS MAY BE MOUNTED ON 2" x 2" WOOD OR STEEL "U" POSTS.

SIGN PLACEMENT

(b) Snowmobile trail and highway signs shall conform with sign legends and colors listed in Wisconsin Manual of Traffic Control Devices. Signs used on highways shall be reflectorized and constructed to the minimum specifications of the standard intersection signing listed in the Wisconsin Manual of Traffic Control Devices. The reflective material shall meet the specifications of paragraph 637.2.2.1 on reflective sheeting of Wisconsin Division of Highways standard specifications for road and bridge construction, edition of 1969.

(5) Snowmobile route sign standards:

(a) Snowmobile Route Signs. Signs for use on highways and sidewalks designated for use by snowmobile operators by the governmental agency having jurisdiction or authorized by Chapter 350.04 Wisconsin Statutes, are as follows:

1. The Snowmobile Route (D11-6) sign shall have a reflectorized white symbol, margin and message on a reflectorized green background. The standard and minimum size of this sign is 24" x 18". The design of the stylized snowmobile symbol and the word message "SNOWMOBILE ROUTE" shall essentially conform to the standard design on file in the division of highways, department of transportation. A Cardinal Direction marker (North, South, East or West) and the END marker with reflectorized white letters and margin on reflectorized green background may be used with the Snowmobile Route sign if appropriate. The standard and minimum size of such markers is 24" x 12".

When a Snowmobile Route has a name and it is desirable to use that name on the signs to distinguish one Snowmobile Route from another, not more than two additional lines of message may be added to the Snowmobile Route sign above the symbol. The standard and minimum size of such route signs is 24" x 24".

2. A Directional Arrow marker having a reflectorized white arrow and margin on a reflectorized green background shall be used with the Snowmobile Route marker except when it is used just beyond a turn or a Reassurance marker. The standard and minimum size of the Directional Arrow marker is 24" x 6", and the arrow shall have a length of 15 1/2" and a stem 1 1/2" wide.

When required by special conditions, a supplemental panel of the same width as the Snowmobile Route Sign may be mounted below that sign to post supplementary guidance or regulatory information. This sign shall have white letters and border on a green background if it is a guide sign, and shall have the same background and a message color combination as for the appropriate regulatory sign if of that type. The message and color combination shall have the approval of the authority in charge of the maintenance of the highway.

3. A Snowmobile Route sign with appropriate Directional Arrow shall be placed at the beginning of a Snowmobile Route and at such locations and intervals as are necessary to enable snowmobile operators to follow the route. Excessive signing should be avoided.

4. At intersections where a snowmobile route turns a Snowmobile Route sign with Directional Arrow marker pointing in the appropriate direction shall be placed, at or just in advance of the point of turn. It may be desirable in some cases to place a Snowmobile Route sign without Directional Arrow a hundred feet more or less beyond the intersection or point of turn to reassure snowmobile operators that they are on the Snowmobile Route.

5. White on brown guide signs, as specified under Snowmobile Trail signing, may be used to designate the junction of a Snowmobile Route with a Snowmobile Trail.

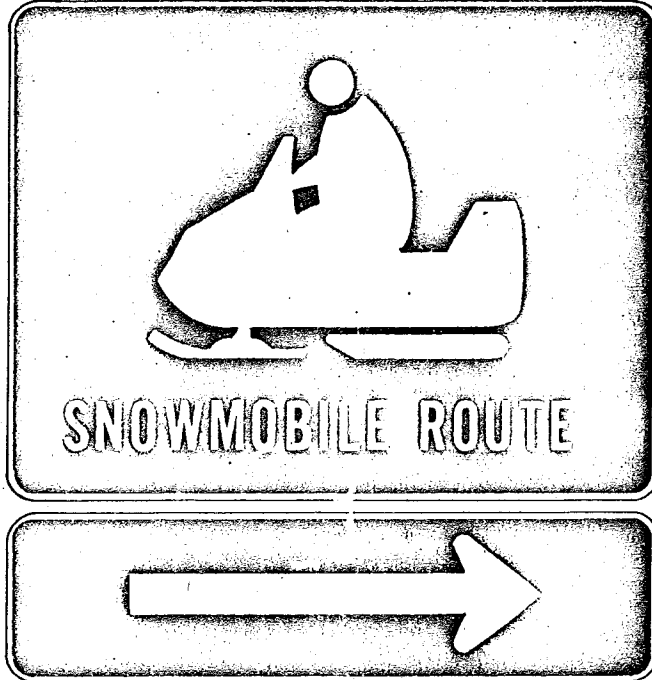
6. Separate STOP signs and other regulatory and warning signs for snowmobile operators are not considered to normally be necessary on a Snowmobile Route since those provided for highway traffic should suffice. However, where such special signing is done for snowmobile operators, the sign specified for Snowmobile Trails shall be used, and they shall be so placed and positioned as to not confuse drivers of vehicles in the highway.

7. All Snowmobile Route signing shall be done by or under the direction of and is the responsibility of the unit of government which designates the Snowmobile Routes. The department of transportation does not participate in Snowmobile Route signing but reserves the right to require such changes in the signing of Snowmobile Routes marked over the State Trunk Highway System as it deems necessary in the safety of highway traffic and the efficient and effective operation of the highway.

8. All Snowmobile Route signing shall insofar as practicable be placed between the path intended for snowmobile use and the edge of the highway right-of-way. In no case shall Snowmobile Route signing be closer than two (2) feet to the outer edge of the highway shoulder. Snowmobile Route signs should be placed on wood or light weight metal supports which will readily break or bend without injuring the occupants if hit by a vehicle or snowmobile.

9. Snowmobile Route signs shall not be erected on highway right-of-way until permission therefore has been received from the authority in charge of the maintenance of the highway.

(b) Reflectorization. The reflective material for all reflectorized signs shall meet the specifications of paragraph 637.2.2.1 on reflective sheeting in the State of Wisconsin division of highways standard specifications for road and bridge construction, edition of 1969.



GREEN-REFLECTORIZED BACKGROUND with WHITE-REFLECTORIZED LETTERS and SYMBOLS

SNOWMOBILE ROUTE SIGN

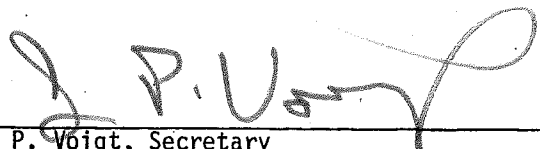
The foregoing rules were approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on January 18, 1973.

The rules contained herein shall take effect upon publication.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 29th day of January, A.D., 1973.

(Department Seal)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
By


L. P. Voigt, Secretary