

(2) **APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this section are applicable to all counties participating in the snowmobile aids program.

(3) **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.** The distribution of funds according to priority ranked purposes is specified in s. 23.09 (26) (c), Stats. Should funds not be sufficient to satisfy the total request for either maintenance or acquisition, the funds remaining to satisfy that priority ranked purpose shall be distributed on a proportional basis.

(4) **GENERAL PROVISIONS.** (a) *Planning requirements.* 1. Counties not previously participating in the snowmobile aids program and desiring to sponsor public snowmobile trails are required to have a comprehensive snowmobile plan approved by the county board of supervisors and the department.

2. Counties that have previously met the comprehensive snowmobile plan requirement are required to maintain a current trail system map that describes trail locations, trail classifications and existing trail mileage by classification.

(b) *Acquisition of snowmobile trail rights-of-way.* 1. Value of short-term easement, lease or permit may be based on a rental rate of land. The fee value may be one percent per month of equalized or assessed valuation.

2. A minimum term of 4 months between December 1 and the following March 31 is required and the easement, lease or permit must be irrevocable during the term of the easement, lease or permit.

3. An annual fee of 10 cents per rod may be paid if the assessed valuation procedure is not used. When payment is made, the minimum payment for any one landowner shall be \$5.00.

4. The width of snowmobile rights-of-way shall not exceed one rod unless approved by the department. The easement or lease should contain as a minimum the right to sign, right of limited construction, right to maintain, and right of use by snowmobiles and grooming equipment only. Cost sharing is limited to the minimum land area necessary for the snowmobile trail.

5. The county shall submit a certification that all easements, leases or permits secured grant public access and use of the land for snowmobiling. The county shall maintain a current file of all easements, leases or permits which shall include the name of the property owner, description of the property, duration of the lease, easement or permit, date owner was contacted, amount to be paid for the easement, lease or permit, and name of the county or snowmobile club representative who obtained the lease, easement or permit.

(c) *Development of snowmobile trail.* 1. Development shall begin the same year land is acquired.

2. Snowmobile trail design and construction specifications. a. Minimum graded width for one-way trails is 6 feet and maximum 8 feet.

b. Minimum graded width for 2-way trails is 10 feet and maximum 12 feet.

c. Minimum turning radius is 25 feet.

d. A height of 10 feet above the trail will be cleared.

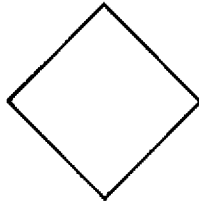
e. Sustained grades and slopes will be a maximum of 25%.

f. Snowmobile trails may not be routed over bodies of water. If stream crossings make bridging necessary, bridging shall be at least 8 feet wide free from obstruction. If the bridge is located on an abandoned railroad grade, the bridge shall be a minimum of 10 feet wide free from obstruction. The department shall determine the need for bridging or if ice crossings may be used.

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

3. Snowmobile highway and trail sign specifications. a. Snowmobile highway signs shall conform with sign reflectorization, colors and legend listed in the Wisconsin manual of traffic control devices.

b. Signs for use on snowmobile trails to regulate snowmobile traffic or warn snowmobile drivers shall be totally reflectorized. Guide signs which assist the snowmobile driver to reach a destination shall have the letters and legend reflectorized. Informational signs do not need to be reflectorized. Trail signs shall also conform with the following specifications and illustrations:



TRAIL BLAZER

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

Size: 6" x 6"

Color: Reflective orange



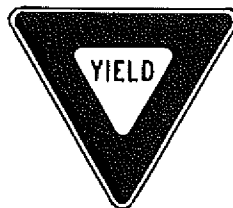
STOP SIGN

Purpose: Halt users on a snowmobile trail at a road crossing, railroad crossing or trail intersection.

Minimum size: 12" × 12"

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

Legend: 12" × 12" size—4" upper case letter.

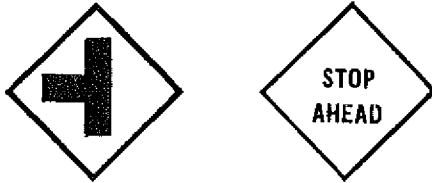


YIELD SIGN

Purpose: To notify the snowmobile driver that right of way should be given to other vehicles, snowmobiles or other trail users at trail intersections and limited vehicle crossings.

Minimum size: 12" × 12" × 12"

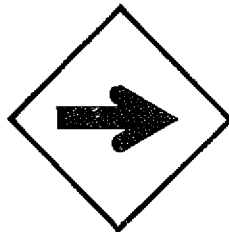
Color: Reflective red background and letters. Reflective white border and center.

**CAUTION SIGNS**

Purpose: To warn the snowmobile driver of a specific trail hazard or advise the driver to proceed with caution at a reduced speed.

Minimum size: 12" × 12"

Color: Reflective yellow background and black letters or legend.

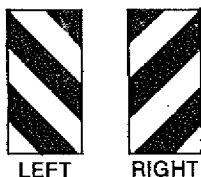
**DIRECTIONAL ARROW**

Purpose: Indicates a change in trail direction.

Size: 9" × 9"

Color: Reflective orange background with black arrow and border.

Legend: 5" directional arrow.

**HAZARD MARKERS**

Purpose: Used in pairs, hazard markers indicate the trail opening through which a snowmobile driver may pass over a bridge or a culvert. The stripes of each sign face inward and show the bridge opening. Used singly, a hazard marker indicates a trail obstruction. The stripes of the sign point down toward the path around the obstruction.

Minimum size: 6" × 12"

Color: Alternate reflectorized black and white 45° diagonal stripes.

**REGULATORY SIGN**

Purpose: To inform snowmobile driver of regulations.

Minimum size: 12" × 18"

Color: Reflective white background and black letters and border.



PERMISSIVE

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

Minimum size: 12" × 12"

Background color: Reflective white.

Legend: Reflective green circle with reflective black snowmobile symbol.



RESTRICTIVE

Purpose: To indicate areas where snowmobiling is not permitted.

Minimum size: 12" × 12"

Background color: Reflective white.

Legend: Reflective red circle and slash. Reflective black snowmobile symbol.



DO NOT ENTER SIGN

Purpose: To indicate one-way trail or restricted area.

Minimum size: 12" × 12" with 2" letters.

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



GUIDE SIGN

Purpose: Directs snowmobile driver to a destination.

Color: Brown background with reflective white letters and legend.

Legend: 2" upper case letters.



LEFT



RIGHT

BARRIER MARKERS

Purpose: Barrier markers are used in pairs to indicate a barrier or gate that restricts entry to a trail or road for snowmobiling. The stripes of each sign face inward toward the center of the trail or road.

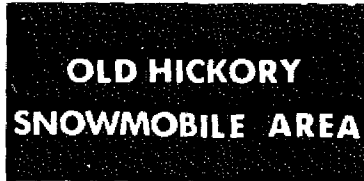
Minimum Size: 6" × 36"

Color: Alternate reflectorized red and white 45° diagonal stripes.

**HIGHWAY GUIDE SIGN**

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

Color: Reflective brown background with reflective white letters and legend.



INFORMATIONAL SIGN

Purpose: Furnish information about trails or facilities.

Color: Brown background with white letters.

Legend: 2" upper case letters.



CORRIDOR TRAIL MARKER

Purpose: To indicate that the trail is part of the designated corridor trail system.

Minimum size: 6" x 6"

Color: Reflective blue background with reflective white border, cross bar and letters.

c. Federal forest service sign specifications may be used on federal forest service lands.

(d) *Maintenance of snowmobile trail.* 1. Counties shall be required to groom and maintain snowmobile trails developed on lands receiving aids for acquisition and/or development.

2. Trails shall be groomed to a minimum width of 4 feet for one-way and 8 feet for 2-way trails. Maximum width for a 2-way trail to be groomed shall be 12 feet.

(e) *Major bridge rehabilitation.* 1. For bridge rehabilitation projects that involve total deck replacement, the deck shall be reconstructed to a width of at least 8 feet, free from obstruction.

2. When a bridge rehabilitation project is located on an abandoned railroad grade and involves total deck construction or replacement, the width of the bridge, free from obstruction, shall be at least 10 feet.

(f) *Supplementary grooming payment.* 1. If sufficient funds are available under s. 350.12 (4) (b) 1m., Stats., counties are eligible for supplementary grooming payments if all of the following conditions are met:

a. The county applies for a supplementary grooming payment for the grooming expenses of the previous fiscal year by October 1 of the current fiscal year.

b. The reimbursement claim for the previous fiscal year maintenance expenses is submitted to the appropriate DNR district office prior to October 1 of the current fiscal year.

c. The county has expended the entire amount of \$165 per mile on eligible maintenance cost items in the previous fiscal year.

d. The county has spent at least \$110 per mile for eligible grooming expenses during the previous fiscal year.

2. Counties requesting supplemental grooming payments shall submit full financial documentation prescribed by the department to the appropriate DNR district office for audit purposes.

3. Should the amount of funds approved for supplementary grooming payments under s. 350.12 (4) (b) 1m., Stats., not be sufficient to satisfy the total audited requests received under subd. 1, the funds shall be distributed on a proportional basis.

(5) **ALLOWABLE COSTS, BILLING AND AUDITS.** (a) County acquisition of right-of-way may be up to 100% of eligible acquisition expenses.

(b) **Development 1.** County development of snowmobile trails shall be on a 100% grant basis, 75% at the time of approval, but no later than January 1 and 25% upon completion of the project.

2. Development work cannot be started or project costs incurred until an agreement has been approved by the department and the sponsor.

(c) County maintenance of snowmobile trails shall be 100% of approved eligible project costs of maintaining the trail up to \$165 per mile per year maximum. Counties may request advance payments of up to 50% of the signed contract amount for maintenance. To be eligible for maintenance advance payments a county must have settled all maintenance claims from previous years.

(d) County liability insurance payments for approved trails shall be reimbursed at 100% of eligible costs. Liability insurance is an eligible cost under the category of maintenance.

(e) Aids for development of trail shelters or sanitary facilities shall not exceed \$5,000. Aids for a combination building including shelter and sanitary facilities shall not exceed \$10,000.

(f) Claims will be on a reimbursement basis except for development and maintenance project advances.

(g) The project period will not exceed one year. All maintenance agreements will terminate on June 30 of each year.

(h) Trail grooming rates, including operator, power unit and drag, shall be established by the department.

(i) Equipment rates for other maintenance activities and trail development performed by force account, snowmobile clubs or snowmobile club associations may not exceed the county machinery agreement rate established annually by the department of transportation.

(j) Labor rates for other maintenance activities and trail development performed by snowmobile clubs or snowmobile club associations shall be established by the department.

(k) Labor rates for other maintenance activities and trail development by county employes or others included in a labor contract shall be as established by the contract.

(l) Claims for payment of maintenance, acquisition, development and bridge rehabilitation projects shall be submitted within 6 months after the project termination date for the costs to be eligible for reimbursement.

(m) Reductions in grant payments for failure to comply with the requirements of maintenance, development or bridge rehabilitation project agreements may be made on a case-by-case basis. A partial or total reduction in funds shall be preceded by specific written notification of conditions which were not met and shall include a timetable for improvement in performance. Continued failure to comply with the grant agreement within the prescribed timetable may result in a reduction of grant funds. The reduction shall be calculated based on a percentage of poor performance in relation to the total trail system specified in the grant agreement.

(n) For counties which do not request supplemental grooming payments under sub. (4) (f), financial audit of claims shall take place as part of each county's year-end single audit. Counties not requesting supplemental grooming payments are not required to submit financial documentation with their payment request. After the single audit is completed, the department may perform additional financial audits of these claims to supplement work done in a single audit.

(6) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS. In addition to conditions listed in sub. (5), the general provisions of s. NR 50.05 also apply.

(7) PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR GRANT. Contact appropriate department district office for prescribed application forms and instructions. Submit completed application to the district office by April 15.

(8) USEFUL LIFE. A table of maximum useful life for project elements is established for the purpose of record management and record disposition. The listing of the maximum useful life figures for snowmobile maintenance, acquisition, development and bridge rehabilitation projects is as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Maximum Useful Life in Years</u>
Maintenance	Includes brushing, signing, grooming, minor structural repairs	0
Acquisition	Annual easements and leases. Fee simple	0 Perpetuity
Insurance	Purchase of county liability coverage	0
Development	General trail construction, signing, brushing, grading	0
	Bridge structures	10
	Culverts	3
	Gates	3
	Multi purpose buildings	20
	Trail shelter	5

History: Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. (1) (d), (2) (a) 2 b and c, (2) (b), (c) and (d), and (3), Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr. Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; renum. (1) (a), (b), (c), (2) and (3) to be (4) (b), (c), (d), (5) and (7), renum. (5) (h) and (i) to be (5) (g) and (h), am. (4) (b) 5., (4) (c) 3.b., (5) (b) and (c), r. and recr. (5) (f) and (h), cr. (1), (2), (3), (4) (a), (5) (i), (j) and (k) and (6), r. (7) (b), Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. (3), (4) (c) 2. f., 3. b., (5) (c), (d) and (f), cr. (4) (e) and (f), (5) (l) to (n) and (3), Register, November, 1989, No. 407, eff. 12-1-89.

NR 50.10 Aids to cities, villages or towns for route signs. (ch. 350, Stats.)
(1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation of an aids program for cities, villages or towns for the initial purchase of the snowmobile route signs and for the purchase of signs briefly explaining the intoxicated snowmobile law along snowmobile routes under ss. 23.09 (26) and 350.12 (4), Stats.

(2) APPLICABILITY. The provisions of this section are applicable to all cities, villages or towns applying for funds under this section. Aids are available to cities, villages or towns for up to 100% for approved eligible project costs of initial signing of snowmobile routes which connect authorized trails or which offer entrance to or exit from trails leading to such municipalities. Aids are also available to cities, villages or towns for up to 100% of the cost to purchase signs explaining the intoxicated snowmobile law along snowmobile routes.

(3) GENERAL PROVISIONS: (a) *Snowmobile route sign standards.* 1. 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 s. 350.04, Stats., are as follows:

a. 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.

b. A directional arrow marker shall have a reflectorized white arrow and margin on a reflectorized green background. The standard and minimum size of a directional arrow marker is 24" x 6", and the arrow shall have a length of 15½" and a stem 1½" wide.

c. 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 necessary to enable snowmobile operators to follow the route.

d. 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 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 interest of efficient and safe operation of the highway.

2. 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 1981.



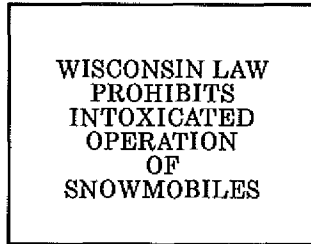
GREEN-REFLECTORIZED BACKGROUND WITH WHITE-REFLECTORIZED LETTERS AND SYMBOLS

SNOWMOBILE ROUTE SIGN

(b) *Intoxicated snowmobile law sign standards.* Signs explaining the intoxicated snowmobile law, to be used on highways or sidewalks designated as snowmobile routes by the governmental agency having jurisdiction, shall meet all of the following standards:

1. The intoxicated snowmobile law sign shall have reflectorized black letters and border on a reflectorized white background.

2. The standard size of this sign shall be 24" × 24".



(4) **ALLOWABLE COSTS AND BILLING** (a) Snowmobile route signs and route arrows, trail crossing warning signs, intoxicated snowmobile law signs, and sign posts are eligible for aid.

(b) Signs and posts may not be purchased until funds are approved for the project by the department.

(c) Labor costs to install signs are not eligible for reimbursement.

(d) Sponsors may submit a claim for payment upon placement of signs.

(5) **APPLICATION PROCEDURE.** Application forms and instructions are available from any department district office. Completed applications shall be submitted to the appropriate district office by April 15.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. (3), Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr., Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; r. and recr. (1), renum. (2), (3) and (4) to be (3), (4) and (5), cr. (2), am. (3) (a) 2., r. (5) (b), Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. (1) and (2), cr. (3) (b), r. and recr. (4) and (5), Register, November, 1989, No. 407, eff. 12-1-89.

NR 50.11 Aids to snowmobile clubs. (ch. 350, Stats.) (1) **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation of the cooperative sign program under to ss. 23.09 (26) and 350.12 (4), Stats.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this section are applicable to all snowmobile clubs participating in the cooperative sign program. Free cardboard signs and reflectorized material are available to snowmobile clubs.

(3) **GENERAL PROVISIONS.** (a) Trails signed must meet standards under s. NR 50.09 (4) (d) 2.

(b) Trails must be open to the public.

(c) Signs will be limited to directional arrows, trail blazers, stop and caution signs.

(4) **PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION.** (a) Submit department application to the proper district office by October 1. Application shall include:

1. Certification that the trail meets standards set out in department guidelines and that landowners on whose property the trail traverses have given their permission for trail use.

Register, November, 1989, No. 407