

# SNOWMOBILE

UPDATE 2014

## DEAR SNOWMOBILER:

Michigan is snowmobile country, pure and simple! With beautiful scenery, exciting terrain, a superior trail network and down home hospitality, Michigan offers a great riding experience.

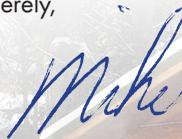
With the season upon us, I want to send along some snowmobile and winter fishing news. You can find more information and updates on rules, regulations, permits, trail maps, safety tips and more at [www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling](http://www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling).

Snowmobiling drives Michigan's winter tourism. This great sport pumps hundreds of millions of dollars into our communities. So take your snow machine out for a winter adventure and help support the many "mom and pop" businesses and local economies across our state.

I hope you and your family have a safe and exciting snowmobile season. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance with any state issue.

## Happy Trails!

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR

**MIKE  
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Michigan  
has more than  
**6,500 miles**  
of groomed,  
interconnected  
snowmobile trails.



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## MICHIGAN'S SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM – BEST IN THE COUNTRY

Michigan's more than 6,500 mile snowmobile trail system has come a long way since the 200 miles of scattered loop trails available in the late 1960's! The state's marked and groomed trail network allows snowmobilers to travel hundreds of miles on inter-connecting trails. The construction and maintenance of this fantastic trail system is largely funded by revenue from sales of the annual snowmobile trail permit.

Trail permits can be purchased:

- online at [www.mdnr-elicence.com](http://www.mdnr-elicence.com);
- from Michigan Snowmobile Association ([www.msasnow.org](http://www.msasnow.org)) trail permit agents; or
- from DNR hunting and fishing license vendors.

Trail maps are available by region and county at [www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling](http://www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling). The maps are updated regularly as new trail additions, re-routes and closures are completed. Or check with local businesses and chambers of commerce.



Get the latest trail report from the folks that maintain and groom snowmobile trails at [www.msasnow.org](http://www.msasnow.org) or subscribe to Snowmobile Trails updates from the DNR at [www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling](http://www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling).

## RIDING TIPS FROM THE DNR

With today's high-powered snow machines, it's important to ride with safety in mind. Last season there were 23 snowmobile-related deaths in Michigan.

Excess speed and alcohol were contributing factors in many accidents – be sure to operate your machine at a safe and reasonable speed and don't drink and drive. Follow these riding tips from the DNR:

- Keep your machine in top mechanical condition.
- Wear insulated boots and clothing, including a helmet and gloves.
- Never ride alone.
- Avoid crossing frozen bodies of water when possible.
- Be alert to avoid fences and low strung wires.
- Look for depressions in the snow.
- Never operate on a street or highway unless specifically allowed.
- Come to a complete stop at an intersection, raise off the seat and look for traffic.
- Check the weather before you go.
- Leave a travel plan with a responsible party.



### MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILING – AN ECONOMIC DRIVER

- Generates \$500 million in trip spending alone
- Supports 6,455 jobs
- Ranks among the top states with 230,000 registered snowmobiles
- Generated \$2 million in the state gasoline tax (2010-2011 season)

*Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan - May 2013*



## GREEN BACKS BILL TO ENSURE CONTINUITY FOR STATE TRAILS GROUP

Legislation before the Senate would provide stability and continuity to the citizen group that advises the DNR director and the governor on the development, operation, and maintenance of state trails, including Michigan's outstanding snowmobile trails.

Under the bill, members of the Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council would serve staggered terms to better balance experience and knowledge with new ideas and fresh perspectives. Currently, all 11 members' terms expire at the same time.

It makes good sense to strengthen the group that sees that the concerns of local trail groups are heard by state policy makers.

## GREEN ALERTS ANGLERS TO FREE WINTER FISHING WEEKEND

For many anglers, winter is a special time to enjoy their favorite outdoor activity. Why not see what the fun is all about during Michigan's annual Winter Free Fishing Weekend?

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 15-16, all fishing license fees are waived for residents and out-of-state visitors on both inland and Great Lakes waters. All fishing regulations still apply. Visit [www.michigan.gov/freefishing](http://www.michigan.gov/freefishing) for more information, including details on special events.



## WINTER FISHING

Winter fishing promises a cool season of outdoor fun on the ice and along the shoreline. Popular winter species include bluegill, pike, smelt, walleye and yellow perch.

Like any outdoor activity during the colder months, winter fishing has its own set of safety concerns. First, check local ice conditions. Remember to use the buddy system and wear a life jacket. When fishing on the ice, the DNR urges anglers to test ice thickness and quality with a spud and avoid ice around docks and pilings, and inlets or outlets.

Take extra care and enjoy Michigan's natural bounty in every season!