

## **Meeting Minutes**

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council  
Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 ~ Pierre, SD  
State Capitol Building – LRC Room 412  
Zoom Link Provided for this meeting

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Dave Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Dave Kennedy, Gary Ulmer, Al Nagel, Bruce Hintz

Members Present on Zoom: Todd Wilkinson, Scott Erstad

Members Absent: Todd Sprang

GFP Staff Present: Ryan Raynor and Shannon Percy

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Wilkinson to adopt the agenda as amended. **Motion Carried.**

### **Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Hintz to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2022, meeting. **Motion Carried.**

### **Public Comment**

No comments were made during the public comment period.

### **2022 Legislative Session**

Raynor explained that no bills went through legislative session that impacted the snowmobile program.

### **Council Reappointments**

Al Nagel, Dave Kennedy and Todd Sprang were all reappointed for another 3-year term. Raynor thanked the members for their commitment to ensuring snowmobiler's best interests are considered while working with GFP.

### **Black Hills Season Review**

Overall, it was a very poor snow year in the Black Hills stated Percy. Grooming began on January 27<sup>th</sup> and ended on February 27<sup>th</sup>. During that time frame 6,064 miles were groomed in South Dakota and 914 miles were groomed in Wyoming for a total of 6,978.

Percy also shared the following groomer hours which were down compared to last year.

# Black Hills Sno-Cat Use



<u>2021 – 2022</u>			<u>2020 – 2021</u>		
<u>Tucker</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Tucker</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Miles</u>
#1	214	1652	#1	357	2607
#2	38	208	#2	554	2948
#3	135	1137	#3	248	2043
#4	172	1238	#4	470	3532
#5	141	1123	#5	436	3198
#6	159	1327	#6	498	3764
#7	33	293	#7	152	1112
Total	<b>892</b>	<b>6,978</b>	Total	<b>2,715</b>	<b>19,204</b>

## Sno-Cat Downtime

Percy stated we had zero hours of downtime this year. While he did have some groomer related issues and repairs, because of the lack of snow, at no point could they not groom because repair or maintenance concerns.

## Black Hills Trail Counts

Percy stated not much positive news here as traffic counts were down significantly compared to last year. Below are those numbers shared with the council. Hintz asked what a good year looks like? Percy stated 3 or 4 years ago, we had around 110,000 clicks. Percy reminded the council that these numbers are just a snapshot of use on the trails. If one of his members has multiple trips across a counter, that counter will count that many times. Percy also shared what days of the week most traffic was through the graph below.

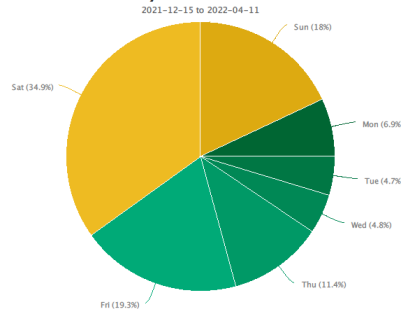
# Black Hills Trail Counts

SITE	2020 – 2021	2021 - 2022	Difference
Black Fox	2,112	822	-1290
Kirk Snow	2,564	1315	-1249
RL Snow	5,929	3461	-2468
Sugarloaf Snow	3,038	1898	-1140
Tr. 1 N (trail 1)	8,234	3585	-4649
Tr. 1 S (S. 1&3)	4,699	2194	-2505
Tr. 12 (FS117)	1,151	571	-580
Tr. 2A (Rapid Creek)	3,591	1828	-1763
Tr. 4 (Trailhead)	5,792	2708	-3084
Tr. 5 ( Hanna)	8,600	4744	-3856
Tr. 9 (BJW)	954	472	-482
Tr. 3	1,978	446	-1532
Tr. 2C	2,301	1216	-1085
Tr. 3 (Lost Canyon)	2,614	1285	-1329
Tr. 7	3,933	1232	-2701
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,490</b>	<b>27,777</b>	<b>-29,713</b>

## Trail Counters



Days of the Week



Site Name	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
18 Kirk	4.8	6.9	5.9	6.2	7.4	22.1	15.8
18 Roughlock Falls	27.9	15.6	10.5	15.4	29.4	66.3	41.9
18 sno-Black Fox	1.7	1.7	2.5	7.2	10.2	19.3	10.1
18 Sno-Tr 1 N (Trail 1)	13	10.5	10.1	22	44.1	75.9	37.4
18 Sno-Tr 1 S (S. 1&3)	7.6	4.8	4.8	14	35.4	64.6	24.3
18 Sno-Tr 12 (FS117)	2.2	1.4	2.1	4.1	7.1	10.6	7.9
18 Sno-Tr 2A (Rapid Creek)	3.8	3.7	5.1	10.4	24.6	47	17.8
18 Sno-Tr 4 (Trailhead)	8.9	8.1	5.1	14.2	31.5	70.9	23.9
18 Sno-Tr 5 (Hanna)	12.7	9	10.4	38.4	57.8	66.3	39.8
18 Sno-Tr 9 (BJW)	1.8	0.7	0.8	3.9	5.4	11.1	5.1
18 Sno-Trail 2C	5.8	1.8	4.5	12.9	9.7	21.3	20.6
18 Sno-Trail 3	1.1	1	0.4	4.7	6.6	18.3	6.3
18 Sno-Trail 3 (Lost Canyon)	4.3	3.2	4.2	12.6	22.7	33.8	11.8
18 Sno-Trail 7-Dumont	3.9	2.5	4.3	11.1	11.5	22.6	16.8
18 Sugarloaf	11.6	7.6	8.5	12	18.2	29.2	20.8

## Black Hills Revenue

Percy stated his Revenue was obviously down compared to last year as well. For the second year in a row, we didn't groom enough miles to full fill the full reimbursement dollars per our contract with the state of WY. The number of permits sold through the Motorcycle license also was down due to lack of snow. A full report of revenue from the Black Hills Trails Office is listed below.

# 2021-2022 Black Hills Revenue

Permit	Quantity	Amount	\$ Compared to 2020-2021
Commercial	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Motorcycle	3	\$60	\$60
5-Day	121	\$4,840	\$13,640
Wyoming Trails	914 miles	\$3,656	\$8,908
Cross Country Ski Trails	0	\$ 0	\$0
Trail Directory	23	\$2,875	\$2,750
Fines	0	\$0	\$540
Donations	0	\$0	\$430.28
TOTAL		\$11,431	\$26,328.28

## **Forest Service Meeting**

Percy reminded the council on the following maps shown due to future reroutes, how the white sections are private property.

First map was 231 and 117 in Bohl's canyon which includes trail 5, 2 and 6. Last year, we moved a section of this trail due to private development. Now, two more landowners have come forward looking to build and keep 117 open. Our current trail is on 117.

Percy stated as the requests to plow roads to access private property continues, the FS has stated they will not deny that ability, which means snowmobile trails that use roads, which were previously closed, will now have to move off those roads, and find another way. Percy stated we'll be looking at a true comprehensive look at how we operate which includes our issues with OHV and private property turning from seasonal access to year-round access.

The next reroute, due to private property owners wanting year-round access, is near Buckhorn. Percy stated the challenge here is that these roads are in Wyoming where we have no jurisdiction. We are on FS roads for most of the time to Buckhorn and this will get a lot of attention from GFP to find how we can move off these roads.

Wilkinson asked who is paying for the plowing of all these roads? Percy stated, the FS is not going to pay for or plow in these situations. Either the developer of the property, private landowner, or county would end up plowing. Wilkinson asked if their would-be areas to parallel the plowed roads. Percy stated in some areas yes, but just depends on the terrain and location. After further discussion, Wilkinson asked if a private landowner plows a road, does that mean snowmobilers must get off that road? Percy reminded the council about the state statute that states snowmobilers are not allowed to be on plowed roads, except to cross at a 90-degree angle. Percy felt the law doesn't

distinguish between who plows the road, such as county or DOT, just that it's a plowed road.

Final reroute we are currently aware of is at the very southern tip of the trail. Custer county used to have a contract to plow to a warming shelter, but they chose not to sign a contract this year. Due to the distance, we are looking at moving that shelter to make it more manageable for GFP to plow to that shelter.

Wilkinson asked another question about the difference between open unless posted closed or closed unless posted open. Percy stated the Black Hills is now closed, unless posted open. This is more OHV related but Over Snow Travel Management Plan has not started yet to see how this will work for Snowmobiles.

Wilkinson then asked Percy to describe the process of cutting trees down to establish new trails now that we are getting kicked off of established roads more and more. Percy stated GFP goes out and scouts a new route and then that's submitted to the FS. Our annual agreement allows us to cut trees but to a limited extent. FS may have to go through the NEPA process to cut completely blaze new trails.

### **Fiscal Year 22 Grant-In-Aid**

A total of \$110,060 is anticipated to come out of the Grant in Aid program. Raynor reminded the council these costs are covering our fixed expenses including, signing costs, private easements, insurance, fuel, grooming, maintenance and repairs and groomer storage. Raynor stated it was a below average grooming season for clubs with the best snow conditions falling in the northeast part of the state like Milbank and Sisseton.

The following is a breakdown of the club's total expenses and grooming hours through the GIA program. Raynor told the council that an additional \$4,000 in expenses came through an increase in the liability insurance the clubs are required to have, and that fixed expense will carry over into future years. Insurance is provided by V&V insurance based out of Iowa.

## Grant In Aid

	<u>Request</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Aberdeen	\$18,123	\$ 6,953
Beresford	\$22,931	\$11,409
Brookings	\$34,718	\$11,536
Clear Lake	\$32,419	\$12,065
De Smet	\$44,770	\$15,594
Huron	\$14,668	\$ 5,065
Milbank	\$19,538	\$10,304
Miller	\$13,279	\$ 2,974
Mitchell	\$ 6,019	\$ 3,376
Poinsett	\$24,670	\$ 4,727
Siouxland	\$16,024	\$ 4,933
Sisseton	\$27,181	\$ 9,385
Watertown	\$15,831	\$ 6,049
Webster	\$19,904	\$ 5,690
Total 2021 - 2022	\$310,075	\$110,060 (FY21 – \$94,352)



# Grooming Hours



Aberdeen	53	Mitchell	0
Beresford	0	Poinsett	29
Brookings	39	Siouxland	9
Clear Lake	88	Sisseton	117
DeSmet	0	Watertown	27
Huron	0	Webster	70
Milbank	128		
Miller	0	<b>Total-</b>	<b>560 hours</b>

• 414 hrs in 20-21



## Fiscal Year 23 Grant-In-Aid Proposals

Raynor discussed the proposals received for next season including the use of 11 state-owned groomers, three privately-owned groomers, 1,005 miles of trail and 1,404 groomed miles. Total Funding request of \$314,211

Most of the G.I.A. proposals are keeping their trail systems the same as the previous season. Raynor did mention the Mitchel club will have the most significant change to there trail system which he'll cover shortly.

The following are the proposed trail changes for the Eastern South Dakota trail system for the 2022-2023 snowmobile seasons:

Aberdeen: Removing a mile of trail into Mina Lake.

Beresford: No reroutes

Brookings: No reroutes

Clear Lake: No reroutes

De Smet: Removing the loop around De Smet

Huron: Discussing reroutes on the southern portion of the trail system due to Mitchel reroutes.

Milbank: No reroutes

Miller: Removing Ree Heights to Highmore on Hwy 14. Adding east of Wessington to Woley

Mitchell: Trail no longer running north. Trail will now start south of Mitchel on Hwy 37 at a GPA area and run south to Tripp. Parkston club will now maintain about half the total trail miles.

Poinsett: No reroutes

Siouxland: No reroutes

Sisseton: No reroutes

Watertown: No reroutes

Webster: No reroutes

The following chart shows the Grant-In-Aid requests for the 2022-2023 snowmobile season broken down by each expense category:

## FY 2023 Grant in Aid Funding Request

Club	Fuel	Maintenance	Grooming	Signing	Lease	Insurance	Rental	Total	Miles	Miles Groomed
Aberdeen	\$6,234	\$3,000	\$4,688	\$1,420	\$0	\$1,310	\$1,500	\$18,152	71	75
Beresford	\$0	\$0	\$20,148	\$1,460	\$400	\$1,360	\$0	\$23,368	73	73
Brookings	\$12,968	\$6,240	\$9,750	\$2,280	\$0	\$2,516	\$1,500	\$35,254	114	195
Clear Lake	\$0	\$0	\$30,084	\$1,360	\$0	\$1,309	\$0	\$32,753	68	109
DeSmet	\$0	\$0	\$39,192	\$1,420	\$0	\$1,438	\$0	\$42,050	71	142
Huron	\$4,988	\$2,400	\$3,750	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$15,038	50	100
Milbank	\$6,983	\$3,360	\$5,250	\$1,320	\$0	\$1,334	\$1,500	\$19,747	66	84
Miller	\$5,320	\$2,560	\$4,000	\$800	\$0	\$1,350	\$600	\$14,630	40	80
Mitchell	\$1,546	\$744	\$558	\$520	\$0	\$1,309	\$1,500	\$6,177	26	31
Poinsett	\$9,726	\$4,680	\$7,313	\$1,540	\$0	\$1,309	\$1,500	\$26,068	77	117
Siouxland	\$5,985	\$2,880	\$4,500	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,309	\$1,460	\$17,934	90	120
Sisseton	\$10,141	\$4,880	\$7,625	\$2,060	\$0	\$1,360	\$1,500	\$27,566	103	122
Watertown	\$5,054	\$2,432	\$3,800	\$1,520	\$600	\$1,309	\$1,500	\$16,215	76	76
Webster	\$7,066	\$3,400	\$5,313	\$1,700	\$0	\$1,309	\$1,500	\$20,288	85	85
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$76,011</b>	<b>\$36,576</b>	<b>\$145,971</b>	<b>\$20,200</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$19,922</b>	<b>\$15,560</b>	<b>\$315,240</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>1,409</b>

After some discussion about diesel fuel prices, Wilkinson made a motion to have Raynor explore some different price point adjustments for diesel fuel prices, to see how that would impact the total GIA budget and be given the authority to adjust diesel prices as necessary. Nagel seconded, **Motion Carried:**

## **Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Review**

Raynor reminded the council that figures he was about to share would be through the end of April.

Raynor shared the slides below which show the Black Hills budget, then a full program summary including the Black Hills, East River GIA Program and any other administrative costs.

FY22 Black Hills			
	FY22 Budget	FY22 Expenses	FY21 Expenses
Personal Services	\$400,833	\$219,277	\$152,539
Travel	\$44,617	\$20,537	\$34,119
Contractual Services	\$109,653	\$69,431	\$33,884
Supplies & Materials	\$167,550	\$97,149	\$109,702
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Assets	\$264,000	\$55,215	\$204,231
Totals	\$986,653	\$461,609	\$534,475

FY22 Program Summary			
	FY22 Budget	FY22 Expenses	FY21 Comparison
Personal Services	\$433,804	\$246,615	\$317,162
Travel	\$61,754	\$28,190	\$42,759
Contractual Services	\$137,643	\$89,966	\$50,050
Supplies & Materials	\$184,750	\$110,039	\$122,551
Grants	\$312,500	\$50,457	\$68,275
Capital Assets	\$264,000	\$77,484	\$204,231
Totals	\$1,394,451	\$602,751	\$805,028



## **FY 22 Revenue**

Raynor shared the following information for revenue generated through the month of April. Raynor stated the surplus of equipment

FY22 Snowmobile Program Revenue			
	FY22	FY21	FY22 Gain/Loss
Gas Tax	\$340,725	\$380,415	-\$39,690
Excise Tax	\$209,155	\$276,077	-\$66,922
License Fees	\$73,738	\$81,134	-\$7,396
Sales & Services	\$8,346	\$48,908	-\$40,562
Interest	\$15,634	\$24,152	-\$8,518
5-Day Temporary Permits	\$4,040	\$13,640	-\$9,600
Other Revenue	\$4,966	\$60	\$4,906
Total	\$656,605	\$824,386	-\$167,781

Wilkinson asked if GFP had a full list of the equipment owned by the snowmobile program. Raynor stated they get an updated list every year and he can provide that list to the council before the next meeting and plan on sharing some of that info during the August meeting.

## **Safety Report**

Raynor gave a brief overview of the past years reported accidents. There were 8 total accidents reported with 2 fatalities. All accidents reported were in the Black Hills. The Sioux Falls club hosted a meeting safety course with 9 participants becoming certified and 9 people took the course online through Kalkomey.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. with the intent of having a face to face meeting and access to a Zoom link.

A motion was made by Erstad and seconded by Wilkinson for this meeting date and time.

**MOTION APPROVED**

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Ulmer to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

**Motion Carried.**