

The Snowmobile Program . . . a dimension of winter recreation

In fiscal 1979, approximately \$180,000.00 were expended on operation, maintenance, development, and the administration of Montana's snowmobile program. Development of snowmobile trail head facilities, clearing and marking of snowmobile trails, and maintaining of trail head facilities were major efforts undertaken and accomplished during the 1978-79 snowmobile season. Included is a list of those projects which took place in 1978-79.

The 1979 legislative session enacted several pieces of legislation which impacted the state's snowmobile program. The most significant of these was an amendment to previous legislation which had earmarked 3/10 of one percent of Montana's distributors gasoline tax for development, operations, and maintenance of public snowmobile facilities and for promoting snowmobile safety and education. As a result of the 1979 session (SB 172), 5/10 of one percent is now earmarked for these purposes. The increased percentage of the distributors gasoline tax will result in approximately \$80,000.00 additional dollars being available annually to the Parks Division.

The following is a listing of projects undertaken last year benefiting directly from the snowmobile fund.

SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM EQUIPMENT ACTIVITY

- Purchased 1 Thiokol 2100 Packmaster
- Purchased 1 Thiokol Imp
- Purchased 1 SkiDoo Alpine Double Track
- Purchased 1 S&W Trail Groomer
- Leased 1 Bombardier SV274
- Contracted for grooming at Cooke City: 60 miles/week

FIGURE 5

| | LOCATION | COST | SCOPE |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| TRAIL GROOMING | West Yellowstone | \$ 52,455 | 150 miles |
| | Cooke City | \$ 7,884 | 60 miles |
| | Seely Lake | \$ 31,702 | 100 miles |
| | Helena | \$ 2,450 | 60 miles |
| | Dillon | \$ 3,960 | 50 miles |
| | Sweet Grass County | \$ 1,000 | 50 miles |
| | Missoula | \$ 3,151 | 50 miles |
| | Flathead County | \$ 15,705 | 100 miles |
| | Bozeman | \$ 1,184 | 50 miles |
| | Garnet | \$ 10,000 | ----- |
| DEVELOPMENT | West Fork Bitterroot | \$ 2,300 | Parking |
| | Superior | \$ 3,700 | Parking and Signs |
| | Townsend | \$ 10,000 | Parking |
| | Darby | \$ 520 | Parking |
| | Mt. Haggin | \$ 19,295 | Parking |
| | Lewis and Clark County | \$ 2,000 | Parking |
| PLOWING | Lewis and Clark County | \$ 1,000 | 4 lots |
| | Dillon | \$ 209 | 1 lot |
| | Cooke City | \$ 2,394 | 1 lot |
| | Waldron Creek | \$ 230 | 1 lot |
| | Darby Area | \$ 322 | 2 lots |
| | Mt. Haggin | \$ 1,000 | 1 lot |

