

Snowmobile Use On the Grave Creek Trail System for the Winter of 1992/93

Counters were placed 1 mile east of Cat Creek, on the Grave Creek Road, and one placed at the Kelly hump on Stahl Creek Road where the proposed wilderness boundary begins. The Grave Creek counter was ripped out twice by the groomer in early December. In February, for a one week period the counter did not work. It can be assumed that by looking at previous use patterns, that probably no more than 200 snowmobiles passed in the time frames the counter was non-functional.

On Stahl Creek, the counter worked well throughout the season. The only problem at this counter, is that it is impossible to know how many folks turned around and came back the same way, versus those who continued over the popular Stahl/Therriault route. Snowmobilers were also utilizing a path through the woods that may have allowed them to bypass the Stahl Creek Road Counter.

Overall, I would say that the figure on Stahl is fairly close to the amount of machines and riders that went this direction. The Grave Creek counter was to be my control in many ways, and with it being down for several weeks, it makes the data collected there very questionable. Three counters have been obtained for next seasons snowmobile program, and plans are to obtain one more infrared counter.

Usage of the Ten Lakes is moderate, with Stahl and Clarence being the favored routes to gain access into the Wigwam Basin. Use in the Wolverine Basin is fairly high, with the average weekend having 50-60 snowmobilers present. Grooming has been concentrated on the Stahl and Clarence Creek Roads, with the Weasel Lake, Therriault Lakes roads getting less grooming. I did not see grooming into Little and Big Therriault Lakes at all, with the furthest grooming going only as far as the Robin Creek Overlook. Grooming may have occurred beyond this point, but if it did happen, it was extremely rare.

The counters were placed the first week of December and removed the last week of April.

Snowmobile use on Grave Creek

717

Snowmobile use on Stahl Creek

1080

David Nesbitt  
Resource Forester

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Snowmobile Use On the Grave Creek Trail System for the Winter of 1994/95

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<u>CAT CREEK</u>	<u>CLARENCE BRIDGE</u>	<u>CLARENCE CORNER</u>
DEC 1 INSTALL	0	220 (COUNTER READING)
DEC 8 80 (40)	70	257
DEC 20 250 (125)	136	369
JAN 1 323 (167)	125	534
JAN 12 153 (77)	75	616
JAN 29 590 (295)	200	719
FEB 10 360 (180)	125	768
<u>887</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>1742</u>

David Nesbitt  
Resource Forester

Counters are so off its not worth keeping  
them up. If you drive over 35 mph it doesnt  
count. If snow covers wire too much  
it doesnt count. Will place counters  
at different site next year.

Please print using a hard point pen on a hard surface—press hard while writing.



# SNOWMOBILE TRAIL & SIGNING REPORT

Date 2/20/94 Time 2 PM

Trail Name GRAVE CREEK - TEN LKS Weather conditions LIGHT SNOW, PARTLY CLOUDY

Nearest Town FORTINE

Counter Reading (when available) \_\_\_\_\_

TRAIL HEAD	Yes	No	Comments
Signing Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	"BIRCH OR REC SITE", MAP & BULLETIN BOARD - USE'S END OF GROOMING MARKED W/ REFLECTORS & PLASTIC BARRICADE
Plowing Needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hazards Present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
TRAIL	Yes	No	
Groomed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6" - 8" FRESH POWDER ON TRAIL
Ungroomed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hazard Signs Present at Assigned Locations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	"COULD USE LARGER SIGNS" AVALANCHE AREA" & "NO STOPPING NEXT 1/4 MI" BETWEEN LEWIS CR AND DIVIDE FOURTEEN CREEK
Trail Condition (Good, Fair, Poor)			

Action Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Action Scheduled for (date): \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken/Date(s): SAW 16 SNOWMOBILERS FROM EUREKA - TWO WITHOUT CURRENT DECALS (MARK LUND, TOM HALL)

Other Comments: WILL TRY TO FUND HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL AND AVALANCHE AREA SIGNS IN COOP. W/ USES IN 1994.

White sheet -- Club files  
Yellow sheet -- Regional Parks Manager  
Pink sheet -- Land Management Agency

Dave Conklin, Regional Mgr.  
Observer

C: LIZ LODMAN - SAFETY  
BOB WALKER - TRAILS



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION

TRAFFIC COUNTER RECORD

AREA Grave Creek/Wigwam MONTH AND YEAR 2/83

LOCATION 9.5 mile marker on Grave Creek trail/road

COUNTER READING CONVERSION COUNT/2 \_\_\_\_\_ COUNT/1 \_\_\_\_\_  
TO VEHICLE READING

DATE	DAY	TIME	A. M. P. M.	COUNTER READING	DIFFERENCE	<i>Adjusted</i>
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17	Thursday			37508		
18	Friday	08:30	am	37590	82	41
19						
20						
21						
22	Tuesday	09:15	am	37656	66	33
23						
24						
25	Friday	09:05	am	37702	46	23
26						
27						
28	Monday	09:30	am	37750	48	24
29						
30						
31						

TOTAL 121

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION

TRAFFIC COUNTER RECORD

AREA Grass Creek / Virginia MONTH AND YEAR 3/83

LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTER READING CONVERSION COUNT/2 \_\_\_\_\_ COUNT/1 \_\_\_\_\_  
TO VEHICLE READING

DATE	DAY	TIME	A. M. P. M.	COUNTER READING	DIFFERENCE	Actual Use
1						
2						
3						
4	Friday	08:30	AM	37798	46	24
5						
6						
7	Monday	10:05	AM	37896	78	37
8						
9						
10						
11	Friday	12:30	AM	37908	37	16
12						
13						
14	Monday	9:00	AM	37976	68	24
15						
16						
17						
18	Friday	11:15	AM	38054	78	37
19						
20						
21	Monday	8:30	AM	38100	46	23
22						
23						
24						
25	Friday	9:00	AM	38175	75	37
26						
27						
28	Monday	10:00	AM	38280	96	48
29						
30						
31	Thursday	11:15	AM	38350	70	35

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ 281

5.65