

## Snowmobile Trail Information

### Important Environmental Considerations

#### **Air Quality**

Reduce fossil-fuel emissions and protect Montana's unique environment.

Reduce idling time of snowmobiles and automobiles. This not only avoids unnecessary adverse impacts to air quality, but saves gas and money too.

Perform pre-trip tune-ups. This maintenance measures will also help ensure trouble free and safe winter travel.

Consider using synthetic biodegradable oils available from snowmobile dealers.

#### **Vegetation**

**Avoid running over the exposed tops of trees.** Stay away from areas of little or shallow snow cover. Mechanical damage to the ground and vegetation can cause spring soil erosion and damage to other valuable resources.

#### **Sound**

Montana law establishes a noise limit of 78 decibels for snowmobiles made after 1975. When riding on public land, please use the manufacturer's muffler system. This not only satisfies Montana law, but also results in reduced impacts to wildlife and other winter recreationists.

## **Wildlife Appreciation**

Follow these guidelines when viewing wildlife or when riding through winter range:

- Give wildlife plenty of space, they have to preserve precious energy to survive the winter. Even a small disturbance, causing them to run, may deplete energy reserves critical for survival. Avoid any action that causes them to move or alter their activity.
- Observe animals from a safe distance. Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto camera lenses.
- Stay seated on your snowmobile and continue moving at a slow steady pace. Stopping or getting off your sled is more likely to disturb wildlife.
- Respect closures and/or restrictions; they help to:
  - Reduce changes in animal use patterns,
  - Decrease energy consumption and stress,
  - Decrease risk of mortality,
  - Protect important browse plants, and
  - Stay on marked trails to help reduce disturbance.