Riding Opportunities and Restrictions

All trail systems in this brochure have been developed exclusively for snowmobile use. All other motor vehicle operation is prohibited on these trail networks. No person may operate a snowmobile on a state snowmobile trail or area established pursuant to SDCL 47-19 unless the snowmobile has a curb weight of less than 1,400 pounds, is an engine-driven vehicle of a type that uses skis, snow tracks, or skis with an endless belt or similar means of contact with the surface upon which it is operated and the vehicle does not exceed forty-eight inches in width.

Tracks are open for snowmobile use December 15-March 31. Trails are groomed between these dates subject to adequate snow conditions.

Trespassing

Operators of snowmobiles are subject to trespass laws under SDCL 59-4B-31 as they enter or refuse to leave property after notice. Any person who, knowing that he or she is not privileged to do so, enters or remains in any place where notice against trespass is given by -

1. Actual communication to the person who subsequently commits the trespass
2. Posting in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of trespassers and/or
3. Placing or other endorsements that a reasonable person would recognize as being designed to exclude trespassers

In the State of South Dakota, all snowmobiles must be licensed on a yearly basis.

Non-resident snowmobiles validly licensed in another state may be legally operated in South Dakota. Non-resident user fees from other states are not valid. Unlicensed snowmobiles must have a special $45 free-trip temporary permit. In the Black Hills these permits are available at the county treasurer’s office in Lawrence County or from the following license agents: Deadwood Outlet, Deadwood; Recreational Springs Resort, Lead; Hwy 65 S., Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Spearfish; Canyon, Snow Wheel Trading Post, Hwy 300, Trailhead Lodge, O’Neil Pass.

Snowmobile registration receipts are deposited into a designated State Snowmobile Trails Fund, which helps finance snowmobile trail development and maintenance costs throughout South Dakota. Public input for the development of the program is provided by the South Dakota Snowmobile Association, and the Governor’s Snowmobile Advisory Council.

Operating Under the Influence

In South Dakota, snowmobiles are classified as motor vehicles. Therefore the operator of a snowmobile who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or otherwise, may be prosecuted under the same provisions of the state’s OUI laws. The legal limit in the State of South Dakota is 0.08 percent.

PLOWED ROADS

No person may operate a snowmobile on a roadway that has been plowed where snow removal has taken place, except to cross the road only after stopping and yielding to any oncoming traffic, or, when operation in a road ditch is not possible, to the extreme right-hand side of the road until such time as the operator can again use a road ditch or an unplowed area.

Speeding and Reckless Operation

No person may operate a snowmobile in a speed limit greater than is reasonable and prudent under the circumstances, or in a reckless way so as to endanger the person or property of another.

Wildlife

No person may, while operating a snowmobile, chase, harass, kill or attempt to kill any game animal or game bird.

Accidents

The operator of a snowmobile involved in an accident on public roads, is required to public waters or any private lands leased for public snowmobile use which results in damage to a snowmobile or other property in excess of $1,000 to the person or property of another.

Licensing Requirements

In South Dakota, all snowmobiles must be licensed on a yearly basis.

A resident snowmobile license costs $15 per year. Non-resident user fees from other states are not valid.

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Licensing Requirements

In South Dakota, all snowmobiles must be licensed on a yearly basis.

A resident snowmobile license costs $15 per year. Snowmobiles are registered under a staggered registration system, just like motor vehicles. Non-resident snowmobile license costs $10 per year. Non-resident user fees from other states are not valid. Unlicensed snowmobiles must have a special $45 free-trip temporary permit. In the Black Hills these permits are available at the county treasurer’s office in Lawrence County or from the following license agents: Deadwood Outlet, Deadwood; Recreational Springs Resort, Lead; Hwy 65 S., Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Spearfish; Canyon, Snow Wheel Trading Post, Hwy 300, Trailhead Lodge, O’Neil Pass.

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