



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Before You Can Ride, Volunteers Do This



**American Council
of Snowmobile Associations**



Many thanks to the thousands of volunteers and snowmobile clubs across the country doing trail preparation now.

Their work makes winter riding possible for everyone.

Please consider joining a club where you live - or ride!
[Click here to find a club.](#)



PUBLIC LANDS

Forest Service Intent to Revise Travel Management Rule

The U.S. Forest Service published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement amending the existing Travel Management Rule. Information about the proposal and how to submit comments is available online.

Comments are due September 23.

The proposed access rule would establish a national policy presuming that existing roads, trails, airfields, trailheads and other access routes and points on National Forest System lands are open to appropriate public use unless closure or restriction is:

- 1 required by applicable law, valid existing rights or another governing instrument
- 2 supported by specific, documented and justifiable reasons based on science-based resource conditions
- 3 needed for public safety, conflicts among uses, or maintenance and administrative capacity

The proposal would require annual review of routes and access points that are closed or highly restricted. It would also establish processes and conditions for limited off-route motor-vehicle use for activities such as downed big-game retrieval, firewood collection and dispersed camping, and for designating areas for over-snow and other motorized recreation.

Since 2005, over-snow vehicle use maps have been established on only 25 of approximately 101 National Forest units receiving enough snowfall to warrant over-snow travel management.



ADVOCACY

Grassroots Involvement Counts!

Ducks Unlimited is highlighting the importance of more than 200,000 comments submitted by its members when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested information on drain-tile setbacks around wetland easements.

The overwhelming response sent an unmistakable message: conserving vital waterfowl habitat remains a priority for America’s hunters, conservationists, landowners and outdoor enthusiasts.

The messages were heard, and these critical landscapes will continue receiving protection. The example is a reminder that thoughtful, well-timed public comments can influence agency decisions.

TAKE ACTION

Your Voice Matters

READ THE PROPOSAL	Understand what the agency is considering and how it may affect access.
USE YOUR EXPERIENCE	Explain local conditions, practical consequences and workable alternatives.
BE SPECIFIC	Identify the provision you support or oppose and clearly state why.
MEET THE DEADLINE	Submit comment letters while the official record is open.

Get involved. Submit comment letters!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

International Snowmobile Hall of Fame

As the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame prepares to induct the Class of 2026, ACSA is highlighting those who will be recognized in Eagle River, Wisconsin, September 18-20. Register by September 8.



Mike and Cheryl Clevenger

Minnesota

Mike began snowmobiling at age 14. When he met Cheryl, she first rode double with him and soon had a sled of her own. After marriage, they became active in a local club, organizing meetings and events before moving into leadership.

Under the Clevengers' leadership, their club grew and became more involved in trails. They later joined additional clubs, including groups affiliated with drag racing and the Minnesota Snowmobile Drag Racing Series, where Mike served as race director.

Mike became Region 5 Director for Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association in the late 1990s, then served as vice president and president. Cheryl served as secretary/treasurer and publicity chair.

For 15 years, Mike and Cheryl organized events and fundraisers and kept all 46 clubs in their region informed about legislation and other developments. They attended multiple International Snowmobile Congresses and hosted an ACSA Trails Region Ride and Meeting. Mike will soon become MnUSA's delegate to the ACSA Board, and Cheryl serves on the ACSA Scholarship Committee.

Congratulations, Mike and Cheryl!

Thank you for everything you have done - and continue to do - for snowmobiling.



PERSPECTIVE

What Is an Environmentalist?

Idaho State Senator Darrel Kerby recently offered an opinion about the meaning of “environmentalist” that invites readers to consider their own definition. The following summarizes his perspective.

Kerby describes two kinds of environmentalists. The first lives and works with the land, understands its rhythms and limits, and recognizes that food, timber, minerals, water and energy come from the earth. Farmers, ranchers, loggers, fishermen and rural families manage natural resources as a way of life.

The second, in Kerby’s view, lives farther from the land and sees nature as something to preserve in a pristine, untouched state. He argues that this approach treats the environment as a symbol instead of a working system.

The Selfishness of Preservation

- Nature is best when humans are absent
- Ecosystems can be frozen in time
- Preservation is harmless

Unmanaged forests burn. Unmanaged grasslands collapse. Unmanaged watersheds fail. Unmanaged wildlife populations suffer. Nature is not static; it requires care, disturbance, renewal and management.



PERSPECTIVE CONTINUED

The True Environmentalists



Kerby argues that the people who protect nature most directly are those who work with it every day. Rural Americans live with the land, depend on it and must understand it deeply enough to manage it responsibly.

In this view, responsible stewardship recognizes that:

HEALTHY FORESTS	require thinning
HEALTHY GRASSLANDS	require grazing
HEALTHY WATERS	require managed harvest
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES	require human involvement

Kerby concludes that working environmentalism is practical rather than sentimental, ideological or utopian. The people engaged in the work feed the nation, maintain renewable resources and sustain ecosystems.

Are the people who are most vocal about “protecting nature” sometimes the ones most disconnected from it?

ACSA developed its “ACSA Equals Conservationist” message several years ago after similar discussions.



CLUB BUSINESS

Did You Know?

Every nonprofit corporation is legally required to have a board of directors. The board’s role is governance, not day-to-day management.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES	IMPLEMENTATION
Set direction Oversee finances Adopt policy Ensure legal compliance	Staff members or volunteers carry out the policies and manage day-to-day work.

Nonprofits are the third-largest employer in the United States, with 12.8 million jobs. Approximately 43% of nonprofits operate entirely through volunteers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / NOTE
August 30	Nebraska General Membership Meeting	Norfolk, NE
September 1	POLARIS Trail Grants Deadline	
September 14	ISMA Club Grant Deadline	
September 18-20	International Snowmobile Hall of Fame	Eagle River, WI
September 19	Wyoming Board Meeting	Dubois
September 21	Roadless Rule Comments Due	
September 23	Travel Management Rule Comments Due	
September 23	Michigan Board Meeting	Zoom
October 2-3	Big East Power Show / NYSSA Board Meeting	Syracuse
October 3	Montana Board Meeting	Helena
October 5	ISMA Grant Applications Deadline	
October 23-25	Minnesota Fall Workshop	Alexandria
October 23-25	Wisconsin Fall Workshop	Manitowoc
November 6-8	Illinois Convention / Novi Snow Show	Galena / Novi
November 20-22	Iowa Convention / Nebraska Convention	Clear Lake / Kearney
December 3-5	South Dakota Convention	Aberdeen