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HB Joint Approps Sub Natural Resources and Transportation

MONTANA STATE PARKS
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Snowmobile Program File

FROM: Tom Reilly
Assistant Administrator
Montana State Parks

DATE: February 11, 2013

RE: Snowmobile Program
Prioritized Groomer/Equipment Needs
2013 Legislative Session Funding Cycle

During the weekend of June 23rd/ 24th, 2012, a Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was held in Helena. Walt Timmerman coordinated and conducted the meeting on behalf of Montana State Parks in his position as Snowmobile Program Manager.

At the meeting the proposed allocation of the annual grooming funds for the 2012/2013 season was discussed. In total, $387,183 was allocated to 27 snowmobile clubs, beginning in September 2011.

A second purpose of the meeting was for the SAC to review, discuss, and make recommendations on the proposed equipment needs for the Program in preparation for the upcoming legislative session.

SAC Priority Recommendations
Prior to the June meeting, equipment needs were requested from the snowmobile clubs and a list was prepared for the SAC meeting.

During the meeting the potential equipment purchases previously submitted was discussed. A total of eight (8) potential equipment purchases were on the list.

The following is the final recommended prioritized list of equipment needs for the upcoming funding cycle, based upon the SAC discussion;

1.	Lincoln Ponderosa Snow Warriors– replacement groomer (2000 Tucker).	$175,000
2.	Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association – new trailer for groomer.	$27,000
3.	Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club – replacement groomer (Prinoth Husky).	$175,000
4.	Troy Snowmobile Club – utility snowmobile (PB 400 or similar).	$9,000
5.	Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club – mogul master attachment.	$30,000
6.	Mining City Trail Riders – utility snowmobile.	$11,000

7. Wise River Jackpine Savages – smoother packer bar attachment. $5,000
8. Sweet Grass Co. Recreation Association – grooming implement. $7,000

Note: Given the priorities in the above list, it is likely that #1 and #3 will be the significant groomer replacements this cycle, with the remainder of the available funding being expended on the smaller value prioritized equipment needs.

Available Funding for Equipment Purchases
It is anticipated that $420,000 will be available for snowmobile equipment purchases during the upcoming biennium (ref. Parks PL – 605).

As we have successfully done in past years, I propose to expend the majority this equipment funding the first year of the biennium, as soon as it is available, to address the significant needs for replacement groomers and related equipment within the snowmobile clubs. The sooner the equipment is in-place in the field the sooner the benefit to the clubs and program for the next snowmobile season.

This memo is written to provide a record of the prioritized equipment needs as the transition to the new Snowmobile Program Manager occurs in the February 2013 timeframe.