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## **A Big Win for Michigan Trail Groomers**

*Legislature passes budget that supports snowmobile and ORV trail maintenance*

The hard work put in by the Michigan Snowmobile & ORV Association (MISORVA) over years by the 67 snowmobile grant sponsor groups, and 41 ORV trail maintenance groups, is being rewarded. MISORVA will receive \$1.15 million to help clubs with trail maintenance throughout Michigan. This legislative grant is a direct result of dedicated members who support and add to the voice of organized motorized recreation.

MISORVA has worked with Michigan Legislators to provide education about the importance of motorized sports in our state. While this passion is hard to put into words, MISORVA has found the best way to educate individuals is by facilitating snowmobile rides to highlight the experience and what it means to Michigan tourism and its economy. Dealers around the state have stepped up as partners in helping to provide vehicles for these important outreach efforts.

While each program (Snowmobile & ORV) has dedicated funding stemming from the sale of trail permits and a small amount from the gas tax, the guidelines for each program often fall short of the funding needed by clubs to complete projects. This often-left volunteers out in the cold – literally - to work on equipment and an ever-growing prematurely aging fleet. There is no provision in the existing Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund to purchase trail repair and maintenance vehicles, leaving volunteers to use their personal vehicles to maintain the trails. Additionally, ORV clubs are using donations of old snow equipment to try and get the job done of maintaining trails.

While each club has a different structural makeup, with some clubs having heavy support from their local communities, Visitors Bureaus and county and townships, others are left to rely on smaller fundraising

efforts, like bake sales.

Finally, after years of requesting help, the motorized voice was heard, and the request was granted! Items like brush cutters to clear trail canopies, chainsaws, and vehicles to carry workers and supplies on the 50-200 miles of trails for maintenance will be able to be purchased. The funds will also be used to build groomer barns to store equipment and perform maintenance. Each club has a unique list of needs, and because of these funds MISORVA will be able to grant the requests of their respective clubs. MISORVA and its members would like to thank Representative Allor for her help in securing these funds to ensure we can get the job done in making sure Michiganders can experience the best of our natural resources and famed outdoor beauty, while supporting the economy in drawing more tourists who wish to travel our trails!

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