

# Snowmobiles in Oregon

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS....Snowmobiles must be registered to operate any place in the state except:

- (a) When owned and operated by any state, federal or local government agency.
- (b) When owned by a resident of some other state with which Oregon has reciprocity. If an out-of-state snowmobile is physically located in Oregon for more than 60 days, however, the exception does not apply.

A non-resident registration permit, valid for 60 days, may be issued to a snowmobile owner from another state where registration is not required. The fee is \$7.

Snowmobiles are registered by the Motor Vehicles Division. Fee is \$10 and the registration is valid for two years. There also is a \$7 title fee.

A snowmobile registration must be transferred within 30 days after acquisition or purchase of an already registered unit. There is a \$7 transfer fee.

Snowmobile owners must pay for a sno-park permit each year to park in designated Winter Recreation areas. The annual fee is \$9.

DEALER LICENSING....Wholesale and retail dealers of snowmobiles, or persons who rent snowmobiles, are licensed by the Motor Vehicles Division. The annual fee is \$34 which includes one dealer plate. Additional dealer plates, which must be displayed, may be purchased at a cost of \$4. No one other than a dealer or his representative may use dealer plates. Licensed dealers must post a \$2,000 surety bond with the Motor Vehicles Division. Dealers must accept applications for titles and registration for units they sell.

Snowmobiles rented on a regular, commercial basis are to be registered separately as otherwise provided by the law.

## SNOWMOBILE OPERATORS

To operate a snowmobile in Oregon you must have a driver's license or be certified as qualified to operate a snowmobile. You must have the certification or license with you any time you are operating a snowmobile. To be certified, you must complete a Snowmobile Safety Education Course covering such items as safety equipment, proper clothing, safe operating practices and snowmobile laws. Instructors are certified by the Motor Vehicles Division after meeting certain basic qualifications and passing a vision test and a written test relating to snowmobile laws and regulations and maintenance and operation of snowmobiles.



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If you need a certificate to operate a snowmobile, get in touch with a dealer or snowmobile club in your local area to find out where and when the Snowmobile Safety Education Course is given.

### Equipment

A lighted headlight and taillight and an adequate braking device, which may be operated by hand or foot, are required when operating a snowmobile. There also must be an adequate and operating muffling device to avoid excessive or unusual noise. On snowmobiles manufactured after January 4, 1973, the muffling device must effectively maintain noise at a level of 82 decibels or below on the "A" scale of 100 feet under testing procedures established by the State Police.

Snowmobiles used in organized racing events in areas designated for that purpose may use a bypass or cutout device.

### SNOWMOBILE FUNDS

The Motor Vehicles Division keeps money each quarter from the amount collected from registrations to cover the cost of administering snowmobile laws. The remainder of the money is transferred to the Highway Division and used for snowmobile facilities and enforcement of snowmobile laws.

### Rules of the Road

Snowmobile operators should not ....

1. Travel at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent under existing conditions. (Class B infraction.)
2. Operate a snowmobile while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled substances. (Class A infraction.)
3. Operate in a negligent manner so as to endanger anyone else or anyone's property, or cause injury or damage to either. (Class B infraction.)
4. Operate on the paved portion or upon the shoulder or inside bank or slope of any highway. (Class B infraction.)
5. Operate on the median of any divided highway or upon any part of a highway right of way under construction. (Class B infraction.)
6. Operate on or across a railroad right of way, except when the snowmobile is being operated by railroad employees, officers or authorized contractors or agents in the course of their employment. (Class B infraction.)

7. Operate in any area or in such a way as to expose the underlying soil or vegetation, or to injure, damage, or destroy trees or growing crops. (Class B infraction.)
8. Operate a snowmobile with a firearm in your possession unless it is unloaded. The same applies to a bow and arrow, unless the bow is unstrung. (Class B infraction.)

Class A infractions carry a maximum fine of \$500. Class B infractions carry a maximum \$250 fine.

SNOWMOBILES AND ANIMALS....Oregon law prohibits using a snowmobile to run down, harass, chase or annoy any game animals, birds, or domestic animals. Hunting from a snowmobile is against the law. Officers of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, people working under contract to the Department in the course of their work, or people who have a permit for purposes of research and study are excepted from the hunting ban. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor.

CROSSING HIGHWAYS....Snowmobiles may cross a two or three lane highway or a railroad right of way at an angle of about 90 degrees, but the snowmobile must be brought to a complete stop before the crossing. Right of way must be yielded to vehicle traffic or any equipment on the tracks.

These crossings must be made only where obstructions do not prevent a quick and safe crossing. The crossing may be made at an established public railroad grade crossing or at a place that is more than 100 feet from any highway intersection. (Violation is a Class C infraction with a maximum fine of \$100.)

SNOWMOBILES ON HIGHWAYS....Oregon law lets a snowmobile travel on highways only under limited conditions -- such as when the highway is completely covered with snow or ice and has been closed to motor vehicles during winter months.

Snowmobiles also may be driven on a highway to load or unload if the loading or unloading is done with safety and without causing a hazard to motor vehicle traffic. Snowmobiles may also be driven on a highway when it is posted to allow their use or when traveling along a designated snowmobile trail. In an emergency, snowmobiles may be driven on highways when and at certain locations where snow has made travel by auto impractical. (Violation is a Class C infraction.)

Operators under 12 years old cannot operate a snowmobile on or across a highway or railroad right of way except when an emergency exists, as noted above, or when the right of way is posted to allow snowmobiles. The law provides for either a fine (up to \$250), a jail sentence, or both.

ENFORCEMENT....All police officers and game wardens as well as other enforcement personnel within their respective jurisdictions may have authority to enforce snowmobile laws.

ACCIDENTS....Snowmobile accidents must be reported -- the same as any other type of accident -- if damage is more than \$200 to any one person's property or if anyone is injured or killed.

Reports of accidents are to be made to the Oregon Motor Vehicles Division.

PROPERTY DAMAGE RESPONSIBILITY....The operator or owner, if a snowmobile is used with an owner's permission, is liable for three times the amount of any damage caused to trees, shrubs, growing crops, or other property injured as a result of travel by snowmobile over the property involved.

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