

# **DOT Trail Crossing Application**

(for both ATV and Snowmobile Clubs, and Municipalities)

## **MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **GUIDELINES**

#### **SNOWMOBILE OR RECREATIONAL TRAIL CROSSING SIGNS**

Snowmobile or “Recreational Trail Crossing” signs may be erected on State and State Aid Highways provided the following requirements are met:

**1. Requests:**

Request for signs must be made to the Department of Agriculture Conservation & Forestry through the Bureau of Parks and Lands. The Bureau of Parks and Lands will review all requests and then forward them to the Traffic Engineering Section of the Maine Department of transportation with comments and recommendations for their consideration. The Bureau of Parks and Lands and/or municipal officials shall assure the Department of Transportation that an established trail exists and that the snowmobile or recreational trail crossing is not one that is casually used. It is assumed that the officers of a recognized organization or municipal officers of the municipality in which the signs are to be erected will originate the requests.

**2. Eligible Locations:**

Snowmobile or “Recreational Trail Crossing” (summer/year-round trails) signs shall not be placed indiscriminately on State or State Aid highways and are subject to the approval of the Department of Transportation. It is the Department of Transportation’s belief that crossing sites should not be permitted where it is necessary to depend upon a sign for safety. The traveling public’s reaction to these signs is not sufficiently positive to permit the safety of an individual’s life to depend upon them. Crossing locations should be selected with sufficient sight distance.

The Department’s Traffic Engineering Section, in its review of the requested locations, will suggest the relocation of any sites with restricted sight distance if possible without causing excessive travel distance. It is preferable to have the crossing relocated to a location with adequate sight distance, rather than to jeopardize the lives of the traveling public or the trail users.

In no case shall snowmobiles or recreational trail users cross controlled access lines on highways unless permitted to do so by the Commissioner of Transportation. The Commissioner of Transportation may, following a public hearing, prohibit crossing of individual bridges, culverts, overpasses, and underpasses if the Commissioner determines crossings are hazardous.

**3. Installation of Signs:**

These signs are placed on State and State Aid highways by the Department of Transportation only after a review of the locations by the Traffic Engineering Section indicates the need for such a sign and approval in writing has been given to the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

**4. Local Responsibilities:**

a. The town or recognized organizations shall agree to remove snowmobile signs from the highway during the months when there are no snowmobiling activities and store these signs for re-erection. Failure to comply with any of these provisions shall be sufficient reason for the Maine Department of Transportation to remove the “Snowmobile Crossing” signs. Prior to the removal of any signs by the Department of Transportation the Bureau of Parks and Lands will be notified and given sufficient time to take appropriate steps.

b. The town or recognized snowmobile or trail organization officials shall review the locations of these signs each year and eliminate any that are no longer needed. The Department of Transportation shall be notified of any signs eliminated in order that records may be kept updated.

c. The cost of these signs shall be borne by either the town or recognized snowmobiling or trail organization. The Maine Department of Transportation will make the initial installation of the approved signs and the requesting officials will be billed for the sign and installation charges.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Application Form is on the next page.

Date: _____	NO: _____
(For State Use Only)	

APPLICATION FOR SNOWMOBILE OR RECREATIONAL TRAIL CROSSING SIGNS

1. Name of Requesting Agency or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  

(CLUB/MUNICIPALITY)
2. Name and/or Location of Trail: \_\_\_\_\_  
    Origination or trail: \_\_\_\_\_  
    Termination: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Heavily used  Lightly used  (Check Only One)
4. Estimated number of snowmobiles or recreational vehicles using trail per week: \_\_\_\_\_  
    Approximate:  
    Percentage day: \_\_\_\_\_ Percentage night: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Estimated number of miles of primary trail which crosses highway: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Route number, name or other designation of highway which trail crosses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Point at which trail crosses highway: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Be specific by indicating **town** within which the crossing is located, and using a mileage distance to the location, north, south, etc., from a recognizable mapped feature, such as an **intersection, town line**, etc., as well as the number of the **nearest utility pole**, if any. Attach a legible trail map depicting trail crossing.

We have reviewed the attached sheet which outlines the conditions under which approval and erection will be determined, and are in agreement with the provisions thereof. We, the undersigned, upon approval of this application, agree to pay the Maine Department of Transportation at the rate of \$150.00 per crossing (two signs) after erection and receipt of bill for same. We further assume the responsibility for removal of the signs from the post at the end of each snowmobile season, store signs during the off season, and erect at the beginning of each season. It is understood that failure to comply with the conditions of this agreement may result in the elimination of crossing signs at the above described location.

SEND TO:  
Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04330-0022  
Phone: (207) 287-4957

\_\_\_\_\_  
*REQUESTING AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION*

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
*TITLE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*ADDRESS*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*TEL. NO*