

# Update: Yellowstone will be Announcing Non-Commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program for this Coming Winter Season 2016-2017!

Jack Welch, Vice President  
BlueRibbon Coalition  
303-489-9477

Here are some highlights of this coming year's Yellowstone Non-Commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program for this winter season (2016-2017).

First, each day during the coming winter season, there will be up to five snowmobiles in each of four Non-commercially Guided Transportation Snowmobile Events/trips, one from each of the four Yellowstone Park Gates.

Second, you will be required to possess a non-commercial snowmobile access permit which would be awarded annually through an online lottery system. The lottery located at the [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) website started on September 1st to determine the trip dates for Non-Commercially Guide Leaders wanting to visit Yellowstone this coming winter season (2016-2017). The lottery will remain open until September 30, 2016.

After the lottery is finished and the initial trips are awarded (only one trip from the lottery) you can still sign up to lead a trip or a second trip at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) on a first-come-first-served basis for the dates still available. Note these remaining dates will be available in mid October.

Finally a total of only two trips allowed per season per non-commercial guide are allowed; the trips can last up to 3 days. Note starting last season ( 2015-2016) you will be charged \$40 for each day of your permit, day permit \$40.00 two day permit \$80.00 three day permit \$120.00.



Third, each snowmobile operator will be required to have successfully completed the Yellowstone Snowmobile Safety Education Certification training course. The training course is available online. This course was developed with the help and sponsorship of the Wyoming State Snowmobile Program. This "No Cost" course is now available at website below:

<http://provalenslearning.com/yellowstone-snowmobile-education-certificate>

Fourth, you will be required to use only current Best Available Technology (BAT) snowmobiles in your group. Note these required machines can be rented at location near the four gates.

For the complete detailed information on the Non-Commercially Guided Access Program, please see the Yellowstone Park Service website at ([www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/ngsap.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/ngsap.htm))

For additional information on the Yellowstone Winter Use issue and snowmobile community's combined fifteen year effort to keep snowmobile access to Yellowstone in winter, visit our dedicated website [www.saveyellowstonepark.com](http://www.saveyellowstonepark.com).

Please remember one of our collective main efforts during the last SEIS Winter Planning process was to have a "Non-commercially Guided access program for entry into Yellowstone. We accomplished that and now is your chance to plan a trip into the Park without a commercial guide. Please consider signing up during the lottery period, which will run from September 1st until September 30, 2016.

After the lottery is finished and the initial trips are awarded you can still sign up to lead a trip at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) on a first-come-first-served basis for the dates still available. A total of only two trips allowed per season. The open signup period will begin in early November 2016 for an opportunity to lead a non-commercially guided trip into the Yellowstone Park this season (2016-2017).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Special Announcement**

**Visit the NEW BlueRibbon website: [www.sharetrails.org](http://www.sharetrails.org)**

September 6, 2016

Yellowstone Winter Use Update  
On December 15th Yellowstone Opens to Snowmobiles  
With Non-commercially Guided Access  
Adaptive Management for Winter Use in Process

Jack Welch  
Vice President  
Sharetrails.org/BRC  
303-489-9477

Update on the 2016-2017 season. On December 15, 2016 the gates will open to another season of snowmobile access to Yellowstone National Park. This access will be regulated by the Final Regulation to implement the Record of Decision (ROD).

According to the Park Service, the ROD provides a frame work for more effectively managed access for snowmobiles and snowcoaches in Yellowstone National Park while minimizing impacts on visitors, air and sound quality, and wildlife. The final regulation will guide management of winter use in the Park and will implement the preferred alternative in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

This 2016/2017 Winter Season the Park would permit up to 110 "transportation events" daily, initially defined as one snowcoach or a group of up to 10 snowmobiles, averaging seven snowmobiles per group per season. Up to 50 transportation events may be groups of snowmobiles. Management by transportation events is an impact-centric approach designed to minimize the impact of oversnow vehicles (OSVs) on air quality, soundscapes, and wildlife rather than focusing solely on the number of vehicles allowed in the Park. Under this approach as many as 500 snowmobiles could be allowed in the Park per day this winter.

In addition, another important part of the Final Regulation is that four transportation events per day (one per gate) would be reserved for non-commercially guided snowmobile access. Please note: A lottery was held in September based on requests entered into the Recreation.gov website during September. This lottery determined initial non-commercially guided access to the Park this winter. Please remember that any dates not allocated by the lottery for non-commercially guided groups will be available in November.

Note, the next phase of the Yellowstone Winter Use Plan is in process, that is the development of the framework for "Adaptive Management of the Winter Use Plan". The final Adaptive Management Plan should be released from the Park Service before the end of 2017.

For additional information on Yellowstone Winter Use Plan, please visit the BlueRibbon dedicated website of [www.saveyellowstonepark.com](http://www.saveyellowstonepark.com)