

OREGON STATE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

FALL OF 2016

The Oregon State Snowmobile association was formed 20+ years ago to develop, maintain and grow snowmobile trails, parking areas and other access to motorized winter recreation. During the 2015-2016 season, this not for profit organization of over 1200 families cleared and maintained and documented 6,410 miles of trail. Our volunteer groomer operators move those big machines at least 32,500 miles per year. Our members log 28,000 hours of volunteer work in addition to trail work.

Summer maintenance is done and all our snow cats are ready to go on the snow. We have purchased a new Prinoth Bison snow cat this year to be delivered to the Wallowa County Gamblers. It will be delivered sometime in early November and from all indications that just might be around snowtime. Locally, Mt Bachelor is covered white this morning and there is significant snow at the higher elevations at Diamond Lake as well.

The OSSA annual convention will be hosted by the La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers January 11-15, 2017. Planned rides will start Wednesday, January 11th and continue through Sunday, January 15th. The general membership meeting, the OSSA Board meeting and the banquet will be Saturday, January 14th. Vendor displays, meetings, the banquet and Friday night hospitality will all be held in the La Pine Event Center.

Kapka sno- park on Cascade Lakes Highway. As you know, Winter Wildlands, Wild Wilderness and others filed suit to prevent the US Forest Service from building a snow park near Mt Bachelor on Cascade Lakes Highway. The Oregon State Snowmobile Association, The American Council of Snowmobile Associations joined as intervenors on behalf of the Forest Service and we won that lawsuit in April of 2014 when Federal Court Judge Coffin upheld the Deschutes National Forest decision to build the snow park. The snow park was built in October, 2014 and this will be its third year in operation.

Wild Wilderness and others filed an appeal to that decision. We attended the appeals hearing in early October of this year in front of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland. We don't know when the court will make their decision, but we have a positive feeling about the outcome. In the meantime, Kapka Sno-park is up and running and being utilized and enjoyed by all winter recreationists.

(submitted by Executive Secy. Peggy Spieger Oct. 2016)