

Iowa Snowmobile Trail Program Groomer Selection Matrix

- **Number of miles of primary trails-** Primary trails are defined as the trails a club marks every year and grooms on the regular rotation and can reflect upon the groomer selection process.
- **Current grooming equipment-** The age of applicant's current groomer, how long they have had it and how well it has been maintained can be reflected in the groomer selection process.
- **Historical miles of grooming and fuel usage/ 5 year/last year/10 year-** Selection of a groomer could be reflected by the number of grooming miles the applicant logged through the 5 year average/last year/10 year average. The committee also keeps in mind there is always variables that affect these numbers like when did an applicant receive a reliable groomer, 1 year snowfalls or lack thereof, consistency of log paperwork. The five year average will carry more weight because of current consistency averaging but last year and 10 year are also viewed.
- **Number of registered sleds/non-resident permits sold in the area covered by the grant applicant-** The number of registered sleds in the grooming area covered by the applicant and/or regionally, can be reflected through the groomer selection process. If an applicant's area has 1 or 2 major special events that draw visitors in large numbers to the area and/or the area is a consistent tourism area for visitors to come and ride then that is usually reflected through consistency in the grooming log and could reflect on selection. The number of sleds/non-resident permits is determined through the state ELSI records. ***It would be to the long term benefit for an applicant to help provide vendors to sell non-resident permits and promote these sales. In the same respect it would be to the long term benefit to help educate their local snowmobilers to the benefits/rules of registering their sled. There are some areas of the state that still having a higher percentage of non-registered sleds as this reflects on their local registered numbers.
- **Number of club members/volunteer pool-** The number of club members within the applicant's area creates trail pressure and the number of volunteers that actually help with marking, grooming, maintenance and log records reflects on consistency. A larger number of club members and volunteers shows the club would have the ability to maintain and utilize new equipment and can be reflected in the selection process.
- **Geographic area for snowfall-** The northern tier of counties have more consistent snowfall and less melting. There are pockets in the state that have trails in areas that collect and hold snow better. This is determined by a combination of geographic location, historical snow data and the grooming log records.
- **Volunteer hours spent on maintenance and development-** If an applicant is applying for a groomer, the amount of hours historically recorded in the groomer logs and the hours that are provided on their groomer and trails can reflect upon their ability to maintain a new groomer. If an applicant is taking their groomer to the repair shop to be maintained and repaired, then this is usually but not always a reflection of the abilities of the applicant's maintenance abilities and volunteerism. This is sometimes a variable because of the type of equipment the applicant has to maintain and scope of repair.
- **Historical grooming and maintenance log records-** The ability and effort an applicant shows through their grooming log records submitted the DNR can reflect on the applicants eligibility for selection.
- **Historical trail marking-** If an applicant is not consistent with their ability to mark and keep a trail marked throughout the snow season, this will indirectly reflect through membership, tourism and consistency and could reflect on the groomer selection process.
- **Connectivity-** If an applicant's area connects to all surrounding areas including other state's trails, this would be reflected through tourism, non-resident permit sales and consistency of grooming and becomes a higher valued trail system and could reflect on the groomer selection process.
- **Number of miles of secondary trails-** Secondary trails are trails that are not groomed consistently but are marked. If a trail is not marked it should not be on a map or groomed. Secondary trails can also be defined as marked and maintained by mowing. Secondary trails have a minor reflection on the groomer selection process.
- **Trail development plan, sustainable future and 5 years-** If an applicant currently has trails on rail beds and in state parks or is going through the process of moving trails away from road right of ways to make trails safer or is involved in developing trails on rail trails and state parks. All of these could reflect upon the groomer selection process.
- **Cost share-** The ability of the applicant to provide cost share toward a new groomer can reflect upon the groomer selection process.