



PRESS RELEASE – Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Media contact:
Paula Gilbeck (608) 577-7829

SNOWMOBILE CLUBS SHOW SUPPORT FOR RE-OPENING TRAILS

Snowmobile trails discussed, hundreds attend DNR open house

(MADISON) – Hundreds of snowmobile club supporters from throughout Wisconsin made their way to Mount Horeb on Tuesday, March 12, to show their support for re-opening snowmobile trails in Blue Mound State Park.

“We’re very interested in this issue,” stated Sam Landes (LANN-diss), executive director of the AWSC (Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs). “We’ve had multiple interactions with the DNR regarding the re-opening of the trail for snowmobilers for the past several years and we believe the trail should be re-opened.

“We attended a similar master plan open house regarding this same issue back in July of 2015,” added Landes. “We provided documentation and worked with the DNR on all their requests regarding this issue. We’re here again tonight to make sure everyone knows we’re still just as passionate tonight as we were when this issue started: We need that trail re-opened.”

Lori Heideman, vice president, AWSC, agreed.

“The AWSC has 40,000 members in 615 clubs,” she said. “We have volunteers that groom 25,000 miles of trails here in Wisconsin, and those trails are used by all sorts of winter sports enthusiasts, not just snowmobilers. This is a huge sport and we believe the right thing to do is to re-open that portion of the trail.

“Our members, visitors from other states, all sorts of people use the snowmobile trail system,” added Heideman. “By re-opening the trail in Blue Mound State Park it enables the trail to be connected at both ends of the system, making it a much more user-friendly and safe for all users.”

The AWSC is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The state’s 25,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails are the most in North America. Snowmobiling in Wisconsin is an extremely popular sport with an incredibly large, positive economic impact on tourism, according to Heideman.

--CONTINUED--



PRESS RELEASE – Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Media contact:

Paula Gilbeck (608) 577-7829

PAGE 2-2-2-2-SNOWMOBILE SUPPORT AT DNR OPEN HOUSE

“I would like to see the trail opened up, too, because when the families and groups are out on their sleds, my business benefits big time,” said Dave Boyer, general manager of Rookies Food & Spirits in Mazomanie. “It’s really incredible how busy our location can get on a good weekend with lots of the snowmobilers stopping in. It can make or break your season.”

More than 40 snowmobile clubs are located in the southwestern Wisconsin region near Blue Mound State Park. Dozens of those local club members were in attendance at tonight’s open house event including members of the “Ashton Ridge Runners”, the “County Line Sno-Busters” of Black Earth-Mazomanie and the “Viking Snowdrifters” of Stoughton.

According to the Wisconsin DNR, public comment regarding tonight’s open house event is welcomed until March 26.

--END--

The Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) is dedicated to the preservation of snowmobiling throughout the state by monitoring regulations and proposed legislation that could affect the sport. The AWSC is the legislative voice for Wisconsin’s snowmobilers and snowmobile clubs. Wisconsin is home to more than 25,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails thanks to the efforts of local snowmobile clubs with their tireless volunteers and the support of State and Federal organizations. www.awsc.org

“United We Trail...Divided We Fail”