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## Report 2024-138

**Report Title:** Snowmobile Association Land Use Agreements

**Committee Name:** Public Works

**Committee Meeting Date:** November 4, 2024

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Public Works

**Reviewed by:** Carol Coleman  
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**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, CAO

**Council Meeting Date:** November 20, 2024

**Strategic Plan Priorities:**  Innovate for Service Excellence  
 Ignite Economic Opportunity  
 Foster a Thriving Community  
 Propel Sustainable Growth  
 Champion a Vibrant Future

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### Recommendation

“That the Public Works Committee, having considered Report 2024-138 ‘Snowmobile Associations Land Use Agreements’, recommend that County Council direct staff to enter into Land Use Agreements with the Great Pine Ridge Snowmobile Association, the Percy Boom River Rats and the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club for the use of County right of ways for snowmobile trail crossing, and hereby authorize the CAO and Treasurer, with the advice of the Municipal Solicitor, to approve and execute such Land Use Agreements and any documents required to give effect to those agreements.”

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to direct staff to proceed with entering into a Land Use Agreement with the Great Pine Ridge Snowmobile Association, The Percy Boom River Rats and the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club for the use of County right of ways for snowmobile trail crossings in locations where snowmobile trails cross County right of ways.

## **Background**

Within Northumberland County there are three local snowmobile associations that are all part of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) District 3. The snowmobile associations are the Great Pine Ridge Snowmobile Association, The Percy Boom River Rats and the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club. Combined, these snowmobile associations are responsible for a large snowmobile trail network throughout the County that allow members to enjoy the use of the groomed trails for recreational snowmobiling.

Many of the snowmobile trails cross County right of ways in various locations throughout the County. The OFSC mandated in 2023 that each snowmobile association under the OFSC must have Land Use Agreements for the use of private and public lands fully executed by the end of 2024/2025 season.

County staff were approached by the local associations requesting that the County enter into Land Use Agreements with them regarding the use of County right of ways for snowmobile trail crossings. This process was implemented in an effort formalize the use of private and public lands and to further detail insurance requirements, indemnity and the activities that may be allowed under the agreements for both the landowner and the snowmobile association.

The Land Use Agreements will allow the snowmobile associations to use County right of ways for trail crossings, grooming activities, installation of signs and members to conduct recreational snowmobiling. The agreements will also include a detailed description and map of each location of the crossings that are within a County right of way. The agreements will be required to be renewed on an annual basis.

## **Consultations**

Staff consulted with 5 member municipalities to gain an understanding of their approach and to aim towards consistency throughout the County with respect to the agreements. It is understood that 3 of the 5 member municipalities that were consulted have entered into a Land Use Agreement with the local snowmobile associations and that others are working toward the execution of an agreement.

## **Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations**

A Land Use Agreement will be developed and reviewed by legal counsel prior to execution. The Land Use Agreement will be in accordance with the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act*, RSO 1990, c. M44 and all other applicable laws.

Land Use Agreements will provide certainty as to the trails permitted in County right of ways and allow the County to ensure it is adequately protected from liability for the activities of the Clubs and adequate insurance is required with respect to any work or other related activities performed on County property.

## **Discussion / Options**

Entering into Land Use Agreements with the local snowmobile associations will formalize the use of County right of ways for snowmobile crossings and will detail liabilities, allowable activities and rights of use.

## **Financial Impact**

The local snowmobile associations will be responsible for maintenance such as grooming and sign installations of the snowmobile trail crossings. Brush, tree clearing, grass trimming and other activities as such will be completed by County Public Works.

## **Member Municipality Impacts**

Member municipalities will enter into separate Land Use Agreements for snowmobile trail crossing on municipal right of ways.

## **Conclusion / Outcomes**

It is recommended that County Council direct staff to proceed with entering into Land Use Agreements with the Great Pine Ridge Snowmobile Association, the Percy Boom River Rats and the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club for the use of County right of ways for snowmobile trail crossings.

## **Attachments**

N/A