

# GUIDE



## Safety Information for the GOLD RUSH SNOWMOBILE TRAIL (GRST)

**The Gold Rush Trail is a pilot project meant to be monitored to review its safety, and to form the way to develop trails throughout the province of British Columbia.**

Let us know your thoughts at the BC Snowmobile Federation at 1-877-537-8716 or email at [info@snowmobilebc.ca](mailto:info@snowmobilebc.ca)

and/or  
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management  
400 640 Borland Road  
Williams Lake, V2G 4T1  
Phone: (250) 398-4800

### **Operator's Guide and Rules for the GRST** **THINGS YOU NEED WHILE TRAVELING the** **GOLD RUSH SNOWMOBILE TRAIL**

- \* A valid BCSF "Snowmobile Permit"
- \* A valid driver's license.
- \* Your snowmobile must be registered, licensed and properly insured to travel across active roads. BC Residents must have ICBC on road coverage. (If you are from out of province, your home insurance coverage must be such that it would cover you crossing roads in the jurisdiction you are from).
- \* You must have a "provincial road crossing permit", available from an RCMP office, to get this you must prove that you have proper on road insurance coverage.

### **SNOWMOBILING IN REMOTE AREAS**

- \* ALWAYS BE PREPARED.
- \* Make a travel plan and let someone know
- \* Prepare as if you would spend a night or two out.
- \* Know how to build a snow or tree shelter.
- \* NEVER travel alone.
- \* CARRY a Map and Compass. A GPS is helpful (learn to operate).
- \* CARRY Spare clothing (gloves, socks, toque)
- \* CARRY Space blanket.
- \* CARRY Means to start a fire (BBQ starter.)
- \* CARRY Matches in a dry container.
- \* CARRY Hatchet / Knife.
- \* IF IT IS IMMANENT that you will spend a night out, gather fuel for a fire early in the day, don't wait until it will be dark. Build a shelter near your snowmobile, as it is a source of things you could use to stay alive. It's also a wind break if there is nothing else.
- \* CARRY First-aid kit.
- \* CARRY signaling devices; Flares, a whistle, a mirror, thin red plastic to lay on snow as a ground sheet and a signal to aircraft.
- \* CARRY Flashlight. - L.E.D.(some last many days)
- \* CARRY Spare gas.
- \* CARRY Spare Drive belt.
- \* CARRY Spark Plugs.
- \* CARRY extra piece of Starter rope.
- \* CARRY Towing rope.

### **THINGS YOU DON'T NEED WHILE** **TRAVELING ON SNOWMOBILES**

- \* Join the majority of snowmobilers who, while riding are saying no to alcohol. With the technological advances in snowmobiles today, there are more and more demands on our skills and reactions. Alcohol, as we all know, slows our reaction time and, if you

look at the majority of fatalities in Canada, you'll find alcohol is related. All provincial, territory and state organizations have agreed to adopt a Zero Tolerance to alcohol. Nobody suggests that you can't socialize at your favorite pub after riding, just not on the snow. Don't jeopardize your personal belongs and risk driving while impaired, it's no different then while driving an automobile, the same laws apply. You could lose your right to drive your automobile.

### **TRAVELING ROADWAYS on the GRST**

- \* When operating on plowed roads within the approved "Gold Rush Trail" all "Highway Laws and Rules" apply. Always ride to the EXTREME RIGHT HAND SIDE IN SINGLE FILE.

\* When the road way is narrow, operate with extreme caution as heavy equipment is operating. KEEP TO EXTREME RIGHT HAND SIDE OF ROAD.

\* Always expect heavy equipment, (ie logging trucks) and use extreme caution on plowed surfaces. REMEMBER: LOGGING TRUCKS ARE HEAVY AND HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY.

\* When encountering an active logging road, it's a good idea to wait a while and see how much traffic is on the road before traveling. take a break. If there is heavier traffic, time your departure to pull in behind a truck headed in the same direction you are traveling. They have radios and communicate with other trucks. If they pull off, they are waiting for on coming traffic (other trucks), DO NOT PASS !!!! PULL IN BEHIND

\* If an un-plowed road edge is present, snowmobilers must use this surface.

\* ALWAYS obey posted speed limits and other signs, GO SLOWER WHEN ROAD IS NARROW.

\* ALWAYS YIELD to motor vehicle traffic in front or behind you.

\* NEVER STOP on a road or trail, ALWAYS pull off the road / travelled surface.

### **WHEN CROSSING A ROAD on the GRST**

- \* APPROACH the Roadway at 90 degrees.
- \* NEVER CROSS AT ANGLES LESS than 90 degrees, this lengthens your exposure to highway traffic.
- \* ALWAYS obey posted signs such as stop signs
- \* Come to a FULL STOP at the STOP SIGN prior to crossing.

\* Check for traffic in both directions.

\* If you are in a group; USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM, have the lead rider dismount to the side of the proposed crossing point. This rider will take a safe van-

tage point and wave riders across the roadway as it is clear and safe to do so. The last rider across will stop on the other side, off the travel-way and assure the roadway is clear.

### **WHEN APPROACHING BC RAIL**

#### **CROSSINGS on the GRST**

- \* APPROACH the Railway at 90 degrees.
- \* NEVER CROSS AT ANGLES LESS than 90 degrees, this lengthens your exposure to highway and train traffic.
- \* ALWAYS obey posted signs such as stop signs.
- \* Come to a FULL STOP at the STOP SIGN prior to crossing.
- \* Check for traffic in both directions. If you are in a group; USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM, have the lead rider dismount.

### **WHEN TRAVELING ON A ROAD**

#### **"RIGHT of WAY" on the GRST**

- \* ALWAYS DRIVE THE OFF ROAD SURFACE AS FAR AWAY as possible from the traveled portion of the roadway.
- \* TRAVEL at a REASONABLE SPEED in accordance to the terrain conditions and never greater than the posted speed for the adjacent roadway.
- \* NEVER DART ON AND OFF the traveled road surface.
- \* ALWAYS BE CONSIDERATE of highway / road traffic, especially at night, dim your lights to on coming traffic. IN BC Snowmobiles on the side of roads are new, so it will be unusual traffic movement to those vehicles driving on the road.

### **When Wildlife is Encountered**

**We all enjoy seeing wildlife,  
these are things you should know.**

- \* ALWAYS OBSERVE AND OBEY WILDLIFE SIGNAGE.
- \* Know that animals are in a low state of sustenance reserves, scaring animals can have negative impacts on the animal's ability to survive the winter.
- \* If an animal is encountered, NEVER approach the animal.
- \* If it is apparent that your paths will cross, stop and let the animal/s pass.
- \* Stay on your machine as you are seen as less of a threat to the animal.
- \* If you must pass near-by, pass slowly and quietly.

**Enjoy your Snowmobile trip on the historic Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail, ride safely and consider others including wildlife.**