



## **MT. SHASTA SNO-MOBILERS**

P.O. Box 341

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[www.snowcrest.net/mssc](http://www.snowcrest.net/mssc)

501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Corporation # C0635529

March 21, 2013

Carolyn Napper  
District Ranger  
Mt. Shasta Ranger District  
204 E. Alma  
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

RE: OHV Grant Application for Mt. Shasta Avalanche Center Snowmobile Education Project dated 03/07/13 requesting funding for 2013-2016.

To Whom It May Concern,

This season, the Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers, Inc. has over 110 members. These memberships represent Northern California, south to San Mateo, and north to Sun River, OR. We have formed a snowmobile club network, covering Northern California and Southern Oregon snowmobile clubs. We feel between our networking and Club members we are better informed about issues, which may affect our sport and our freedoms. We have found over the years that our relationship with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest has helped both of our groups maintain and support usage of our National Forests.

We have had the opportunity to be consulted by avalanche center representatives of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Mt. Shasta District. They have been in contact with me from early this season, met with Club members, provided us with a draft proposal of their grant request and are now asking for public comment. As the OHV Grant Rules and Regulations continue to require more time and energy from your personnel, we appreciate your time and efforts in complying with these changing standards. Please do not give up on the program; our Winter OSV Program depends on you. We know how much time it requires and we do need your help to keep the snowmobile program up and running in our Tri-Forest area. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all snowmobilers using the area. If Club Members can do anything to help with the Winter Program, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Grant Project Application titled "Mt. Shasta Avalanche Center Snowmobile Education Project" dated 03/07/13 requests a total of \$53,654.00 covering 2013 through 2016. We understand the Mt. Shasta Avalanche Forecast Center (MSAC) is currently issuing avalanche forecasts 3 days a week (Fri-Sun). In addition, forecasters from the MSAC offer a regular series of avalanche education and awareness training courses for the public and this year held an avalanche

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<b><u>President:</u></b>	<b><u>Vice President:</u></b>	<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>
Eileen K. Maier 842-2609	Dion Meadows 926-6924	Larry Braz 938-0108	Kale Riccomini 926-1353

safety class specifically targeted to the needs of snowmobilers. This grant application seeks funds to help expand the MSACs education and awareness program, avalanche forecasting, deliver classroom and field based avalanche education, avalanche transceiver training, avalanche rescue, printed documentation, safety signage, and website updates specifically targeted for snowmobilers. The grant application also requests the funding of two mountain/crossover snowmobiles and a new trailer to haul the sleds. Due to the importance of snowmobile specific avalanche education and awareness courses and training that the MSAC is attempting to expand on, the Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobile Club endorses this grant application for staffing, materials and supplies with the following comments:

We feel that at this time funding would be better spent on the purchase of a weather station installed in an area where frequent snowmobile high-marking occurs, maybe on Ash Creek Butte, instead of snowmobile and trailer purchases. This would help with avalanche forecasting to specific areas used by snowmobilers.

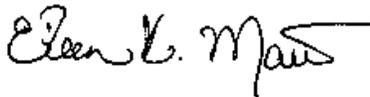
We also feel that if the requested funds are approved, hopefully the MSAC will be able to issue avalanche forecasts after large storms during the week instead of just the weekends. Snowmobilers will find the time to go snowmobiling during the middle of the week a day or two after a large snow storm.

In reference to the request for two mountain snowmobiles at the cost of \$12,500.00 each, we recommend if snowmobile funds are granted, Polaris RMK 600s with 155 inch tracks. These snowmobiles will more than adequately meet the requirement of in the field training and will save several thousand dollars. Also the discount Polaris gives the Forest Service will save more funds. We do not know if Ski Doo has a discount program with the Forest Service.

As for the cost of \$4000 for a 2-place snowmobile trailer, we feel this is high.

In summery the information provide in your Grant Request is adequate. The 2012-2013 snowmobile season was successful partly made possible by the continued help and support of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest personal. And the continuing efforts of the MSAC and its personal help provide safety for area snowmobilers. On behalf of the Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers, I'd like to thank the Shasta-Trinity National Forest for their support and hard work so that we may better enjoy our sport of snowmobiling.

Sincerely,



Eileen K. Maier  
President, Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers, Inc.

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