



## IASA POSITION STATEMENT

### - *Wheeled Off Road Vehicles on Groomed Snowmobile Trails* -

Approved: June 14, 2014

Growth in the use of wheeled off highway vehicles has driven a desire for more places to operate them recreationally on trails. In some areas, this has led to a growing interest in ORV operation on groomed snowmobile trails during the winter season. This can be a challenge for land and trail managers. Some snowmobilers do not embrace this new use of snowmobile trails which were created and are maintained by their fees, their volunteer construction and maintenance efforts, and their work with landowners who often don't want ORVs on their property during the summer season for a multitude of reasons. It is also a challenge because of a perception that ORVs rut the snowmobile trails and cause safety issues. While there are often strong opinions on both sides of this discussion, there has generally been a lack of good information on the subject.

As the lead organization promoting excellence in the management of organized recreational snowmobiling, the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA), has developed a resource document to help expand trail managers' and local decision makers' knowledge about the effects of ORV use on groomed snowmobile trails during the winter season. The intent of the "*Evaluation of ATV Use on Groomed Snowmobile Trails*" report is not to encourage or discourage concurrent ORV use of groomed snowmobile trails. Rather, it provides landowners, recreationists, trail providers, and political jurisdictions with better information to help them make objective local decisions. It was produced to help expand trail managers' and local decision makers' knowledge about the effects of ORV use on groomed snowmobile trails during the winter season. Other information is also available.

It is explicitly recognized that decisions regarding ORV use on groomed snowmobile trails are clearly reserved for implementation by local jurisdictions and local trail grooming managers consistent with their local priorities, conditions, and resources.