

Stephen Dudley
Rangeley PLT

Submitted by Stephen Dudley a resident of Rangeley PLT
229 Stephens Road

I am Steve Dudley, a current member of the Snowmobile Advisory Counsel and former President of the Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club. I cannot stress how important snowmobiling is to the towns in Western Maine and most certainly to the Rangeley Region. Volunteers run the snowmobile opportunities for users at the local levels. Still, the costs are considerable. For snowmobile clubs in the snowbelt regions of Maine, where the season is a long one and snowmobile visitor levels high, costs despite huge contributions by volunteers are high. The Rangeley club incurs about \$165,000 in costs to maintain 160 miles of trails. Another \$100,000 is received in fair valued volunteered labor and donated services and equipment. Currently, we receive about \$100,000 from the State each year. Making up the deficit is not easy. Rangeley is fortunate to have many generous businesses, municipal donations through tax payers and a large membership. Most clubs are not so fortunate and struggle to keep their trails open and groomed for users. We all need more funding to keep the wonderful snowmobile trail system in Maine open, groomed and attractive to snowmobile visitors. A registration increase is needed. Even if the proposed increase is approved, Maine will still be the most inexpensive snowmobile registration in New England for both residents and for the non-residents we hope to attract. Snowmobilers are very generous people who spend freely as they enjoy the scenic, well maintained trails we offer here in Maine. Let's do our parts to keep people on our trails. Please support this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.