



**RCW 46.10.010 Definitions.**  
 As used in this chapter the words and phrases in this section shall have the designated meanings unless a different meaning is expressly provided or the context otherwise clearly indicated.

(1) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, association, or corporation.  
 (2) "Snowmobile" shall mean any self-propelled vehicle capable of traveling over snow or ice, which utilizes as its means of propulsion an endless belt tread, or cleats, or any combination of these or other similar means of contact with the surface upon which it is operated, and which is steered wholly or in part by skis or sled type runners, and which is not otherwise registered as, or subject to the motor vehicle excise tax in the state of Washington.  
 (3) "Vintage snowmobile" means a snowmobile manufactured at least thirty years ago.  
 (4) "All terrain vehicle" shall mean any self-propelled vehicle other than a snowmobile, capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampyland, and other natural terrain, including, but not limited to, four-wheel vehicles, amphibious vehicles, ground effect or air cushion vehicles, and any other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind; except any vehicle designed primarily for travel on, over, or in the water, farm vehicles, or any military or law enforcement vehicles.  
 (5) "Owner" shall mean the person, other than a lienholder, having the property in or title to a snowmobile or all terrain vehicle, and entitled to the use or possession thereof.  
 (6) "Operator" means each person who operates, or is in physical control of, any snowmobile or all terrain vehicle.  
 (7) "Public roadway" shall mean the entire width of the right of way of any road or street designed and ordinarily used for travel or parking of any snowmobile, which is controlled by a public authority other than the Washington State Department of Transportation, and which is open as a matter of right to the general public for ordinary vehicular traffic. "Highways" shall mean the entire width of the right of way of all primary and secondary state highways, including all portions of the interstate highway system.  
 (9) "Dealer" means a person, partnership, association, or corporation engaged in the business of selling snowmobiles or all terrain vehicles at wholesale or retail in this state.  
 (10) "Department" shall mean the Department of Licensing.  
 (11) "Director" shall mean the director of the Department of Licensing.  
 (12) "Commission" shall mean the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.  
 (13) "Hunt" shall mean any effort to kill, injure, capture, or disturb a wild animal or wild bird.  
 (14) "Committee" means the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Snowmobile Advisory Committee.  
 [2005 c 235 § 1; 1979 exs. c 182 § 1; 1979 exs. c 158 § 131; 1971 exs. c 29 § 1.] NOTES: Application -- 2005 c 235; "This act applies to registrations due or to become due on October 1, 2005, and thereafter." [2005 c 235 § 4.]

**Registration - REQUIRED**  
 RCW 46.10.020 Ownership, transport, or operation of snowmobile without registration prohibited.  
 (1) Except as provided in this chapter, no person shall own, transport, or operate any snowmobile within this state unless such snowmobile has been registered in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. However, a vintage snowmobile only requires registration if operated within this state.  
 (2) A registration number shall be assigned, without payment of a fee, to snowmobiles owned by the state of Washington or its political subdivisions, and the assigned registration number shall be displayed upon each snowmobile in such manner as provided by rules adopted by the department.

**RCW 46.10.030 Ownership or operation of snowmobile without registration prohibited - Exceptions.**  
 No registration shall be required under the provisions of this chapter for the following described snowmobiles:  
 (1) Snowmobiles owned and operated by the United States, another state, or a political subdivision thereof.  
 (2) A snowmobile owned by a resident of another state or Canadian province if that snowmobile is registered in accordance with the laws of the state or province in which its owner resides, but only to the extent that a similar exemption or privilege is granted under the laws of that state or province for snowmobiles registered in this state; PROVIDED, That any snowmobile which is validly registered in another state or province and which is physically located in this state for a period of more than fifteen consecutive days shall be subject to registration under the provisions of this chapter.  
 [1986 c 16 § 1; 1979 exs. c 182 § 4; 1975 1st exs. c 181 § 1; 1971 exs. c 29 § 3.]

**Registration - APPLICATION TRANSFER**  
 RCW 46.10.040 Application for registration - Annual fee - Registration number - Term - Renewal - Transfer - Nonresident permit - Decals.  
 (1) Application for registration shall be made to the department in the name and address of each owner of the snowmobile to be registered, and shall be signed by at least one such owner, and shall be accompanied by an annual registration fee to be established by the department, after consultation with the committee and any statewide snowmobile user groups.  
 (a) The annual registration fee for snowmobiles newer than thirty years is thirty dollars. The annual registration fee for vintage snowmobiles is twelve dollars. The department shall design, in cooperation with the commission, a distinct registration decal which shall be issued to vintage snowmobiles upon payment of the annual registration fee.  
 (b) Upon receipt of the application and the application fee, the snowmobile shall be registered and a registration number assigned, which shall be affixed to the snowmobile in a manner provided in RCW 46.10.070.  
 (2) The registration provided in this section shall be valid for a period of one year. At the end of the period of registration, every owner of a snowmobile in this state shall renew his or her registration in the manner the department prescribes, for an additional period of one year upon payment of the annual registration fee as determined by the commission.  
 (3) Any person acquiring a snowmobile already registered under the provisions of this chapter must, within ten days of the acquisition or purchase of the snowmobile, make application to the department for transfer of the registration, and the application shall be accompanied by a transfer fee of five dollars.  
 (4) A snowmobile owned by a resident of another state or Canadian province where registration is not required by law may be issued a nonresident registration permit valid for not more than sixty days. Application for the permit shall state the name and address of each owner of the snowmobile and shall be signed by at least one owner and shall be accompanied by a registration fee of five dollars. The registration permit shall be carried on the vehicle at all times during its operation in this state.  
 (5) The registration fees provided in this section shall be in lieu of any times during its operation in this state, and no city, county, by this state or any political subdivision thereof, and no snowmobiles personal property or excise tax heretofore imposed on snowmobiles.

**RCW 46.10.050 Snowmobile dealers' registration - Fee - Dealer number plates, use - Sale or demonstration unlawful without registration.**  
 (1) Each dealer of snowmobiles in this state shall register with the department in such manner and upon such forms as the department shall prescribe. Upon receipt of a dealer's application for registration and the registration fee provided for in subsection (2) of this section, such dealer shall be registered and a registration number assigned.  
 (2) The registration fee for dealers shall be twenty-five dollars per year, and such fee shall cover all of the snowmobiles offered by a dealer for sale and not rented on a regular, commercial basis; PROVIDED, That snowmobiles rented on a regular commercial basis by a dealer shall be registered separately under the provisions of RCW 46.10.020, 46.10.040, 46.10.060, and 46.10.070.  
 (3) Upon registration each dealer may purchase, at a cost to be determined by the department, dealer number plates of a size and color to be determined by the department, which shall contain the registration number assigned to that dealer. Each snowmobile operated by a dealer, dealer representative, or prospective customer shall display a dealer number plate for any purpose other than the purposes described in subsection (3) of this section.  
 (3) Dealer registration numbers are nontransferable.  
 (6) It is unlawful for any dealer to sell any snowmobile at wholesale or retail, or to test or demonstrate any snowmobile, within the state, unless registered in accordance with the provisions of this section. [1990 c 250 § 26; 1982 c 17 § 5; 1971 exs. c 29 § 5.] NOTES: Severability - 1990 c 250: See note following RCW 46.16.301 =

**Registration - SNOWMOBILE DEALERS**  
 RCW 46.10.050 Snowmobile dealers' registration - Fee - Dealer number plates, use - Sale or demonstration unlawful without registration.  
 (1) Each dealer of snowmobiles in this state shall register with the department in such manner and upon such forms as the department shall prescribe. Upon receipt of a dealer's application for registration and the registration fee provided for in subsection (2) of this section, such dealer shall be registered and a registration number assigned.  
 (2) The registration fee for dealers shall be twenty-five dollars per year, and such fee shall cover all of the snowmobiles offered by a dealer for sale and not rented on a regular, commercial basis; PROVIDED, That snowmobiles rented on a regular commercial basis by a dealer shall be registered separately under the provisions of RCW 46.10.020, 46.10.040, 46.10.060, and 46.10.070.  
 (3) Upon registration each dealer may purchase, at a cost to be determined by the department, dealer number plates of a size and color to be determined by the department, which shall contain the registration number assigned to that dealer. Each snowmobile operated by a dealer, dealer representative, or prospective customer shall display a dealer number plate for any purpose other than the purposes described in subsection (3) of this section.  
 (3) Dealer registration numbers are nontransferable.  
 (6) It is unlawful for any dealer to sell any snowmobile at wholesale or retail, or to test or demonstrate any snowmobile, within the state, unless registered in accordance with the provisions of this section. [1982 c 17 § 3; 1979 exs. c 182 § 6; 1975 1st exs. c 181 § 4.]

**Washington State Parks**

# Washington State Snowmobile Regulations

## Winter Recreation CODE OF ETHICS

- I will respect all private and public property and the rights of all winter recreationists to enjoy winter's beauty.
- I will park considerably without blocking other vehicles or impeding access to trails.
- I will keep to the right when meeting another winter recreationist and yield to the right-of-way to downhill traffic.
- I will not disturb wildlife, avoiding all areas posted for their protection and feeding.
- I will respect designated areas, trail-use signs and established ski tracks.
- When stopping, I will not block the trail.
- I will slow down and use caution when approaching or overtaking another.
- I will not litter, and I will pack out everything I packed in.
- I realize that my destination and travel speed are determined by my equipment, ability, terrain, weather and traffic on the trail. In case of emergency, I will volunteer assistance.
- I will not interfere with or harass others, recognizing that people judge all snowmobilers and skiers by my actions.

Photos provided by: Ski-Doo Company

## Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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 Olympia, WA 98504-2650  
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**Commission members:**  
 Patricia T. Lantz Joe Taller  
 Fred Olson Cecilia Vogt  
 Rodger Schmitt Lucinda S. Whaley  
 Eliot Scull

**Agency director: Rex Derr**

*All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.*

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. **P&R 45-16100-8 (09/10)**

## Chapter 46.10 RCW: SNOWMOBILES

### SECTIONS

46.10.010 Definitions.  
 46.10.020 Ownership, transport, or operation of snowmobile without registration prohibited.  
 46.10.030 Ownership or operation of snowmobile without registration prohibited - Exceptions.  
 46.10.040 Application for registration - Annual fee - Registration number - Term - Renewal - Transfer - Nonresident permit - Decals.  
 46.10.043 Registration or transfer of registration pursuant to sale by dealer - Temporary registration.  
 46.10.050 Snowmobile dealers' registration - Fee - Dealer number plates, use - Sale or demonstration unlawful without registration.  
 46.10.055 Denial, suspension, or revocation of dealer registration or assessment of monetary civil penalty, when.  
 46.10.060 Registration number permanent - Certificate of registration, date tags.  
 46.10.070 Affixing and displaying registration number.  
 46.10.075 Snowmobile account - Deposits - Appropriations, use.  
 46.10.080 Distribution of snowmobile registration fees, civil penalties, and fuel tax moneys.  
 46.10.090 Operating violations.  
 46.10.100 Crossing public roadways and highways lawful, when.  
 46.10.110 Operating upon public road or highway lawful, when.  
 46.10.120 Restrictions on age of operators - Qualifications.  
 46.10.130 Additional violations - Penalty.  
 46.10.140 Accident reports.  
 46.10.150 Refund of snowmobile fuel tax to snowmobile account.  
 46.10.160 Snowmobile fuel excise tax nonrefundable.  
 46.10.170 Amount of snowmobile fuel tax paid as motor vehicle fuel tax.  
 46.10.180 Regulation by political subdivisions, state agencies.  
 46.10.185 Local authorities may provide for safety and convenience.  
 46.10.190 Violations as traffic infractions - Exceptions - Civil liability.  
 46.10.200 Enforcement.  
 46.10.210 Administration.  
 46.10.220 Snowmobile advisory committee.  
 46.10.900 Severability - 1971 exs. c 29.  
 46.10.910 Short title.

**NOTES:** Rules of court: Monetary penalty schedule - IRLJ 6.2. Emergency medical services fee RCW 46.12.042.