

# The Economic Impact of Snowmobiling In South Dakota

## South Dakota Snowmobile Industry Provides Substantial Economic Impact

- ⇒ The South Dakota Snowmobile system generates approximately **\$131.6 million** in annual economic impact to South Dakota's Gross Domestic Product, including direct impacts and secondary impacts that filter through the state economy<sup>1</sup>.
- ⇒ Snowmobiling supports approximately **1,449 jobs** (FTE's) in South Dakota via direct and indirect employment through increased economic activity surrounding the snowmobile industry<sup>1</sup>.
- ⇒ Snowmobile's economic impact helps support and keep roughly **2,547 more people** in the state than we would have without the snowmobile industry<sup>1</sup>.
- ⇒ Provides ample winter recreation for residents while simultaneously attracting riders across the nation<sup>1</sup>.
- ⇒ Provides annual gross receipts of **\$15 million** in lodging, restaurants, gaming and other trip related spending<sup>1</sup>.
- ⇒ Over **\$58 million** in revenues to SD snowmobile retailers and distributors<sup>1</sup>.
- ⇒ Residents (76%) and non-residents (84%) both rate snowmobiling in the Black Hills more highly than alternative destinations<sup>1</sup>.

### Economic Impacts of South Dakota's Snowmobiling Industry<sup>1</sup>

Category	Impact
Gross Domestic Product	\$131,570,5000
Output	\$180,328,9000
Employment (FTE)	1,449
Population	2,547

Note: Output, while more analogous to traditional Input-Output impact modeling, includes some double counting based on intermediate goods. GDP is the more meaningful figure.

<sup>1</sup> Allgrunn, M. (2012). *The Economic Impact of the South Dakota Snowmobile Industry*. Beacom School of Business University of South Dakota.

### SD Snowmobile Trails Program

In 2021 there were **14,589 licensed snowmobiles (primarily) and snow-bikes** in South Dakota, legally allowing riders access to the 1,348 miles of groomed trails in the state.

**In the Black Hills there are 350 miles of groomed trails maintained via a cooperative agreement with the USDA Black Hills National Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Barrick Mining Co., and**



**Wharf Resources.** Thirty miles of the trail are accessible through a joint agreement with the Wyoming Division of Parks and Historic Sites. A large portion of the trail is on private property and accessed through Land Use Agreements. Trail signing is completed by GFP and private land owners. Trail maintenance and safety patrol is completed by GFP staff, via full time and seasonal workers.

Eastern South Dakota trails provide the opportunity to ride 998 miles of trails which are groomed, signed, and maintained by local clubs. Clubs are eligible for reimbursement through application to the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) / Grant-In-Aid (GIA) funds for expenses associated with maintaining a safe and enjoyable trail system. Eligible reimbursable expenses include: fuel, maintenance of grooming equipment, grooming, sign installation and removal, landowner leases, liability insurance, and equipment storage. Most of the trails in Eastern South Dakota are located in the right-of-way and accessed through an agreement with the Department of Transportation, others located on private land are accessed through a land use agreement.

Club volunteers donate over 6,200 hours of time and labor to establish and maintain the Eastern South Dakota Trail System for snowmobile riders<sup>1</sup>.