

***Environmental Assessment Registration
Pursuant to Section 49 of
The Environmental Act***

Name of Undertaking:

The *Eastern Trailriders* snowmobile club objective is to develop a primary snowmobile trail from St. John's to Holyrood, to allow access in this region for snowmobiles during winter months.

Proponent

**Eastern Trailriders
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The Undertaking

Nature of Undertaking:

To construct a primary snowmobile trail.

Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking:

Construction of a 42 km snowmobile trail from the City of St. John's to the Town of Holyrood, then connecting to existing Rail-bed in Holyrood and continuing west to Goobies via Rail-bed. This trail will be maintained by the *Eastern Trailriders* during the snowmobile season.

Description of the Undertaking:

See attached maps exhibit a, and attached coordinate list exhibit b.

(I) Geographical Location

The *Eastern Trailriders* snowmobile club boundaries are from St. John's to Goobies, inclusive. The objective of the club is to develop and maintain a 5-meter wide snowmobile trail system that is currently undeveloped from St. John's to Holyrood. This trail will be constructed following national standards, and once completed will have proper snowmobile signage to mark the trail for safe public snowmobile travel.

The distance required to link the two sites is approximately 42 kms. The City of St. John's Engineering Department and the Department of Agriculture have approved access for the trail in the buffer zone around the Thomas Pond Watershed area. Due to the careful routing of the trail however, and using existing roads where possible, there will be minimal cutting required allowing for the lowest possible impact on the environment to construct the

(II) Physical Features

All trail construction will follow the strict national standards in place for snowmobile trail construction and all appropriate government applications will be followed. The proposed snowmobile trail will be 5 meters wide to allow for safe operation of snowmobiles and groomers. All bridges will be constructed with appropriate government applications and following national snowmobile bridge building specifications. The trail will be clearly marked to offer proper and clear direction along the trail route with marked distances to give safe direction for snowmobilers.

(III) Construction

The 5-meter trail will be cut the full length, to ensure that the trail is usable from the beginning of winter to the end of the season. Road crossings at intersections will be clearly marked for safety with no visibility obstructions. Bridging material for water crossings will be slung by helicopter to its location for construction on site or by ground when frozen and snow covered. Any construction of bridges that can be done off-site of water crossings, will be completed and installed as one unit. Construction will begin as soon as approval is granted. Proper trail signage will be installed to meet national safety standards of snowmobile trails.

(IV) Operation

This proposed snowmobile trail will connect to the rail-bed, which is considered part of the primary snowmobile trail for the Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation. Other towns and communities along the route will be able to access the primary trail and take advantage of increased snowmobile traffic in their towns. Groomer operations will be provided by certified volunteers or, when the club is able, by a paid operator employed by

the *Eastern Trailriders*. These trails, once developed, will improve business and economical growth for the city and surrounding communities/towns.

(V) **Occupations**

During the construction phase it is estimated that 20 workers will be required for a 15-week period. The categories of workers are as follows:

- 2 Supervisors to ensure proper work completion
- 6 Chainsaw Operators
- 6 Labourers
- 2 Brush-cutters
- 4 Carpenters for bridge building

All workers will be required to have completed relevant safety training. First Aid certificates will be a requirement. All safety and fire regulations will also be strictly enforced.

(VI) **Project Related Documents**

Copies of maps showing route of trail will be provided upon request and any work permits required will be obtained before construction of trail begins.

Schedule

Once approval has been received for the snowmobile trail and environmental requirements have been met, it is anticipated that work will begin in Spring 2007. Funding partners will be from ACOA, HRDC and funds belonging to *Eastern Trailriders*, for trail development in eastern Newfoundland.