



YOUR TRAIL DOLLARS MATTER

Purchasing a membership or trail pass is MORE than just a 'ticket to ride'. You are choosing to support organized snowmobiling, small businesses, and rural BC communities. Thank you for choosing to ride here!



WHO AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTION OF TRAIL FEES?

The Provincial Government. Trail fees are charged under authorization Part 5 of the Forest Recreation Regulation under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). According to the regulation, fees are collected on a cost-recovery basis by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) partnership agreement holders. Fees are not collected by the government and are solely managed by partner snowmobile clubs in order to provide public recreation services. The fees are not for accessing crown lands but are used to recover costs associated with operating the trail network and services used by sledders and other trail users.

WHAT IS THE MONEY USED FOR?

Snowmobile Clubs must invest every dollar they collect back into the trail network. They do this primarily through the grooming of trails. But grooming the snow is not the only expense a club has. They have to purchase and maintain the grooming equipment, wages for operators and gate staff, insurance, maintenance and expansion of trail networks, mitigating water, maintaining bridges and culverts, clearing parking lots, signage, firewood, and repairs to shelters.

ARE TRAIL FEES THE SAME PRICE EVERYWHERE?

No. Trail fees are collected on a cost-recovery basis. All trail fees collected and expenses related to the operation of a trail network are reported by the partner snowmobile club each season to RSTBC. Based on those reports the trail fee rates may be adjusted up or down by RSTBC to maintain the balance of cost recovery.

DOES EVERY CLUB CHARGE TRAIL FEES?

No. Partnership agreements are a lot of work and can require years to put in place. Clubs need to have the needed equipment, volunteers, and ridership to maintain a trail network before they work towards a partnership agreement. Therefore, some clubs choose to cover the costs of maintaining their trails by a voluntary donation or through club membership.

DO I HAVE TO PAY THE FEE?

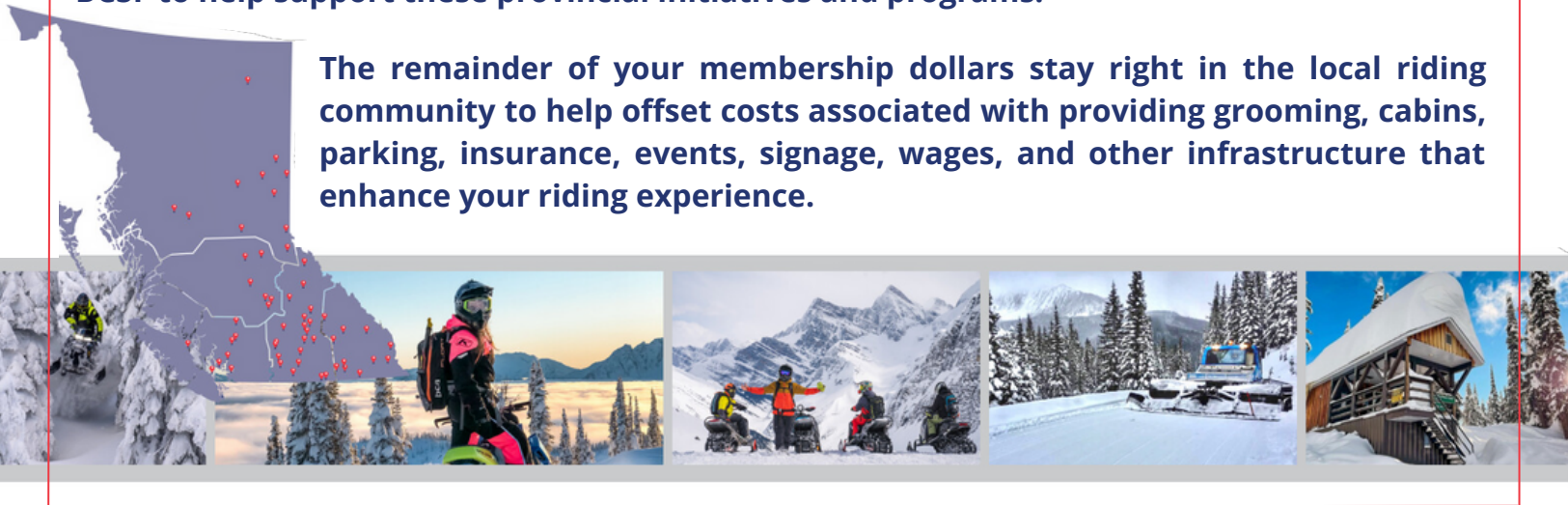
Yes. Non-payment of the fees is a contravention under FRPA and is enforceable by Natural Resource Officers, Conservation Officers, and RCMP. Infractions should be reported HERE and this information should also be passed on by the club to their District Recreation Officer. More importantly, non-payment of the fees is robbing a volunteer snowmobile club of operating funds to provide services that benefit your riding experience.



YOUR TRAIL DOLLARS AT WORK

When you join a local snowmobile club, you automatically become a member of the **BC SNOWMOBILE FEDERATION**. This province-wide organization is dedicated to snowmobile safety, the growth of the sport, the protection of the environment, and securing access to public lands for all users. A portion of each annual membership sold is forwarded to the BCSF to help support these provincial initiatives and programs.

The remainder of your membership dollars stay right in the local riding community to help offset costs associated with providing grooming, cabins, parking, insurance, events, signage, wages, and other infrastructure that enhance your riding experience.



HOW ARE YOUR FSA TRAIL DOLLARS SPENT?

The following represents average annual expenses at the Fernie Snowmobile Association. To delve deeper into the distribution of trail dollars, consider attending a local club meeting to learn more.

- 35% Grooming (15% fuel, 20% maintenance)
- 32% Wages and Compensation
- 18% Infrastructure & Other Trail Maintenance
- 8% Insurance & Registration
- 4% Accounting, Fees, & Professional Services
- 2% Events
- 1% Office (phone, website, postage, supplies)

