



## Douglas Area Trails Association Snowmobile News

February 2025

### DATA Welcomes New Trail Administrator

If you haven't already connected with our new Trail Administrator, please welcome Nick Larson to our team. Nick comes to us with many years of experience in the property maintenance and development field along with equipment repair and leadership. He is a long time member of our community and is enjoying the variety of responsibilities the DATA Trail Administrator position offers.

### Trail Conditions Update

The team at DATA and a group of volunteers cleared the trails and repaired equipment with record speed in December. Thank you to everyone who helped and continue to make the trails safe.

With the recent snow, we've been getting lots of questions regarding grooming the trails. We have four groomers on the trail and most trails are open. There are some areas with open fields that are not being groomed due to the lack of snow. If you come to a gate that is closed, do not open the gate...turn around. The landowners have requested if the trail isn't being groomed to keep the gates closed.

### A Word From The President

Tanner Goeke

The snow has finally arrived! We have received enough snow and cold to get out and open the trails, for the first time in two years! Feel free to get out and ride. Please support our local businesses along the trail who support us snowmobilers.

A huge shout out to our team members on the DATA crew for making these trails possible given the circumstances. Nick and the team knocked out the trail prep, mowing, and signage in December and January. Make sure to introduce yourself when you meet him and welcome him to our team!

We will continue to keep everyone updated on the trails as the winter progresses. Facebook is the best way to keep updated on how the trails are looking. Hopefully we can still have one more month of good riding!

### Groomer Tracker APP

For a small fee of \$9.99 per year, you can track the groomer activity in Douglas County and other clubs who have signed up for the Groomer Tracker app. Visit [groomertracker.com](http://groomertracker.com), download the app. The trackers are active on all DATA groomers. Check it out!

## Grant-In-Aid Funding Update

We've received an update on snowmobile funding at the recent MnUSA Rendezvous. Unfortunately, it is not good news.

As many of you are aware, a large part of the funding to cover the costs associated with grooming and maintaining snowmobile trails in Minnesota comes from Grant-In-Aid funding. With a brown year last year and light snow this year, snowmobile registrations are down, which means funding is limited.

The word received is the first payment of 2025 funding will be sent. We can submit for the second payment but it will be held until further funding review. The remaining payments will most likely be eliminated and 2026 funding will be reduced by at least 40% or not be available at all.

Federal equipment and trail repair grants are being delayed by six months.

The DATA board of directors will be reviewing options to ensure the trail system in Douglas County continues to be funded.

You can help by sponsoring a trail for \$100 per mile of trail, by joining or renewing your membership with DATA and MnUSA, and by visiting the Depot Smokehouse and Tavern in Alexandria and participating in the charitable gambling opportunities offered at this location. The Depot is our charitable gambling site and they offer easy access from the Central Lakes Trail along with many food and beverage options.

## DATA & MnUSA Memberships

DATA needs your help and support. We encourage you to be a member of DATA and MnUSA. DATA builds and maintains 368 miles of trails in Douglas County and maintains relationships with 700 landowners. MnUSA was created 40 years ago so snowmobilers would have a voice at the state level. Do you know someone who would like to become a member of DATA? Visit our website at [douglasareatrails.com](http://douglasareatrails.com) and click on the Membership link.



## A Message from The Depot Smokehouse & Tavern

Support the Douglas Area Trails Association by purchasing charitable gambling pull tabs when you stop at The Depot Smokehouse & Tavern. There is plenty of parking and The Depot is located right on the Central Lakes Trail in beautiful downtown Alexandria.