

Rural Development in the Spotlight

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Rural Development Aids Maine Snowmobile Clubs

Message from the State Director-

The snowmobile industry in Maine plays an important role in Maine's winter economy. Rural Development is pleased to spur the success of these snowmobile clubs by financially assisting them with Rural Business Enterprise Grants.

Bringing in over \$260 million annually and growing, the snowmobile industry supports local businesses, and saves jobs. Since 1998, Rural Development has made 34 grants to snowmobile clubs, resulting in \$858,710 of funding being spread throughout the state of Maine.



Rural Development's Rural Business Service has proved to be an integral part of Maine's winter economy.

Michael W. Grondin, Business Cooperative Services Director, and Emily Farkas, Public Affairs Specialist, traveled to three snowmobile clubs who have received grants to purchase trail grooming equipment.



Gary Johnson, President of Quad Count Snowmobile Club at left, Michael W. Grondin, Business-Cooperative Services Director, at right

Quad County Snowmobile Club, Springfield

A Check-Passing Ceremony was held February 12 to celebrate a \$43,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant that was made to Quad County Snowmobile Club.

The funds were used to purchase the groomer (pictured above) The groomer, referred to by President of the club, Gary Johnson, and his wife, Paula, as "Quadzilla," weighs 15,000 pounds. With approximately 130 miles of trails used by the club, the groomer is truly an essential piece of equipment.

At the ceremony on Wednesday, Gary said "Our trails here rival any trail system in Maine

or in the Nation." He is already contemplating the purchase of another groomer to keep his trails well maintained for the riders who enjoy this popular winter activity.

Jobs Saved: 39

Businesses Supported: 8

Breakneck Mountain Sno Riders, Inc., Alexander

On February 18, a Check-Passing Ceremony was held at Breakneck Mountain Sno Riders Inc., to highlight a Rural Business Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$21,860 that was used to purchase trail grooming equipment. President of the club, Charles White, called

Special Points of Interest

- According to the Maine Snowmobile Association, snowmobiling Accounts for 3,330 Full-time Equivalent Jobs in Maine
- The snowmobile Industry in Maine is Growing Every Year
- Over \$260 Million in Revenue is Generated by the Industry
- The Snowmobile Industry Supports Local Businesses and Jobs

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Rural Development Aids Maine Snowmobile Clubs (cont'd)

Breakneck Mountain Sno Riders, Inc., Alexander (Cont'd)

his club “a gateway to the trails of Downeast Maine.” The club, located in Alexander, is made up of about 75 members.

Marion Pinkham, President of the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA), and Eileen Lafland, Eastern Region Vice President of MSA, accompanied Rural Development staff to the event and spoke about the importance of the snowmobile industry to Maine’s economy.

Eileen Lafland said “Snowmobiling has become more than just an industry in Maine, it has become a business with snowmobilers buying gas, food, clothing, lodging, and more.”

This is especially important to Breakneck Mountain Sno Riders, located in Washington County, which has the highest unemployment rate in the state.

Jobs Saved: 10

Businesses Supported: 5



From left to right: Marion Pinkham, President, Maine Snowmobile Association; Michael W. Grondin, Business Cooperative Services Director, Rural Development; Charles White, Club President, Breakneck Mountain Sno Riders, Inc.; and Eileen Lafland, Eastern Region Vice President, Maine Snowmobile Association

Ridge Riders Trail Club, Inc., Machias

A Check-Passing Ceremony was held at Ridge Riders Trail Club, Inc. on Wednesday, February 18. The club, which has between 55 and 60 members, received a Rural Business Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$22,540 from Rural Development. The funds were used to purchase trail grooming equipment.

The President and Regional Vice President of the Maine Snowmobile Association attended the event. According to information they provided, there are 3,330 full-time jobs statewide that can be attributed to snowmobiling, most of which are small family-owned businesses. The industry is helpful to the Washington County region.

David Whitney expressed his appreciation at the ceremony when he said “If we build it, they will come. This was the voice our club members were hearing. The problem was if they come to enjoy the trail system and it is not groomed, they will not return. With the financial help of Rural Development we now hear the voice say, if you build it and groom, it they will come and come again.”

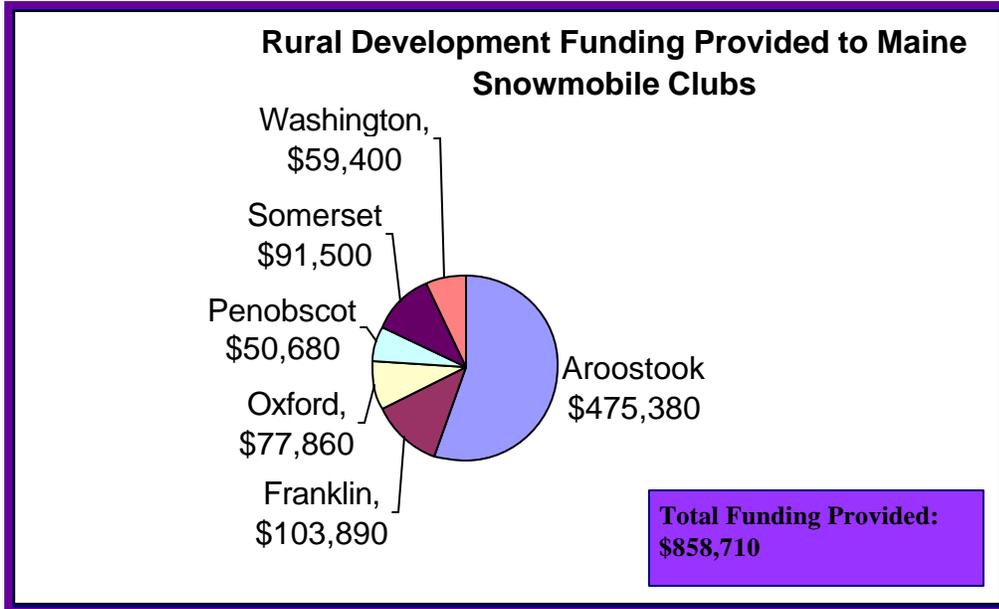
Jobs Saved: 10

Businesses Supported: 5

“If you build it and groom it, they will come and come again.”



Far right is David Whitney, Club President of Ridge Riders Trail Club, Inc., shown with Michael W. Grondin, Business and Cooperative Programs Director second to his right, and members of the snowmobile club



The pie chart at left depicts funding Rural Development has allocated to Maine’s snowmobile industry since 1998. Rural Development has made 34 grants resulting in over \$858 million contributed to the industry, helping rural communities by supporting businesses and saving jobs.

Rural Development: Keeping Mainers Warm

While Maine is famous for its winter sports like snowmobiling and skiing, it is important to remember those who wouldn’t be able to enjoy the season without assistance,

Rural Development was able to help one such Mainer this season. Clement D’Angelo’s home wasn’t very warm. It needed replacement windows, a new roof, and a new furnace. The heating system that was in the house was the original furnace, wrapped in asbestos, and was unsafe to use.

With temperatures reaching record lows and stretches of below zero weather, the adjustments had to be made in a timely manner.

Rural Development joined efforts with Penquis CAP. Rural Development provided \$7,300 in loan funds and \$6,770 in grant funds.

Mr. D’Angelo said “I’m very pleased with all you have done for me, especially the furnace. I was impressed because the people that installed it left a job in Bangor to come to my house two days after I had

the new furnace because I told them it wasn’t running correctly. They found the problem, fixed it, and I haven’t had any problems since.”

The house is now much warmer, and Mr. D’Angelo can now use the upstairs, something he wasn’t able to do before.

“I’m very pleased with all you have done for me, especially the furnace.”
-Clement D’Angelo



Funding from Rural Development made this home much warmer for one Mainer



Clement D’Angelo now resides in a much warmer home, thanks to assistance from Rural Development

