

## SNOWMOBILE OWNERS - FAQ

**Q: Who needs what to operate on public lands, ice, or designated areas (like trails or parks) in Iowa?**

A: Snowmobile: Regardless of where the machine is registered, ALL snowmobiles need BOTH a valid registration AND a valid IDNR User Permit affixed to the snowmobile.  
ATV, ORV, ORM: ALL must have valid registration; ONLY those registered in another state need to additionally have a valid IDNR User Permit also affixed to the machine.

**Q: Who needs registration for/on their machine?**

A: The owner of any Snowmobile/OHV used on public lands, ice, or designated areas, other than those exempt as farm implements (unless the owner chooses or it was previously titled & registered). Residents and non-residents can register their machines in Iowa; this must be done through the County Recorder office and IS NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH ANY AGENT VENDORS AT THIS TIME.

**Q: Who needs the new IDNR User Permit?**

A: The following are required to obtain an IDNR User Permit, and display it on their machine, in addition to their valid registration, when riding on public lands, ice, or designated areas:

- 1. All resident and nonresident snowmobilers.**
- 2. OHV riders displaying a non-Iowa registration.**

**Q: Can a customer buy more than one IDNR User Permit?**

A: Yes. IDNR User Permits are privileges that are sold to the customer. Customers may have several machines, so they can buy as many as they'd like.

**Q: So, does every operator need to purchase an IDNR User Permit for their machine (e.g. husband & wife own a machine; husband buys an IDNR User Permit and puts decal on machine. Does wife have to buy one, too?)**

A: Short answer is NO. According to Code and functionality of the electronic systems, the registration (& title & liens if applicable) is issued to the owner for a specific machine; the IDNR User Permit is issued to a person and does not reference any particular machine. For purposes of funding and intent of the code, it shouldn't matter who the IDNR User Permit is issued to. Taking this into consideration (i.e. logic), and as discussed at supervisory staff meetings, **officers should accept a valid IDNR User Permit if it is affixed (i.e. used on only one machine), regardless if the name on the permit matches the registered owner or not.** One machine = one IDNR User Permit affixed to it.

**Q: Are the costs the same for resident and nonresident IDNR User Permits?**

A: Yes. The IDNR User Permits, whether resident or nonresident are no different in cost, look, or function; they are simply sold as two different privileges in ELSI, depending on the customer's status or record (resident or nonresident).

**Q: Are OHV/Snowmobile operators now required to have insurance?**

A: Yes --- Liability insurance and proof are required when operating on a highway (think fence line to fence line; includes many snowmobile trails and those areas designated by counties for operation on/along roadways). There is still an exemption for machines that are considered farm implements.

**Q: What "stickers" do I need to operate my snowmobile?**

A: 1. The current, valid registration properly displayed on the machine. This is only available at the County Recorder.

2. A current, valid IDNR User Permit properly displayed on the machine. This is available to purchase anywhere hunting & fishing licenses are sold.

**Q: Why both?**

A: The Iowa State Snowmobile Association approached the Legislature and requested the additional requirement of the IDNR User Permit to further fund riding in Iowa. The funds generated will be used specifically for development and maintenance of riding opportunities.

**Q: Does the customer need to also carry the "receipt" that prints on the ELSI machine in addition to having the User Permit affixed to their machine?**

A: No.

**Q: What about dealers and 'test drives'?**

A: The new User Permit language\*\* does not reference that a machine has to be registered, it only addresses operation; therefore, the User Permit requirement applies to dealers using machines on the specified areas, just like anyone else.

Since registrations are issued to MACHINES and user permits are issued to PEOPLE, it is acceptable to operate a machine with a valid registration for the machine and a valid User Permit (whether that User Permit is issued to the rider, owner, or whomever such as a spouse or parent or co-owner, etc. doesn't matter). So, if the dealer had a current User Permit on the machine and his dealer tags, he's good to operate temporarily on those lands, snow, ice as listed.

~~\*\*1. A nonresident person wishing to operate a snowmobile, other than a snowmobile registered pursuant to this chapter, snowmobile on public land, or public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this state shall first obtain a user permit from the department. A user permit shall be issued for the use on only one snowmobile specified at the time of application and is not transferable. A user permit shall be valid for the calendar year or time period specified in the permit.~~

Q: Are User Permits “transferrable”?

A: No: Once a User Permit is placed on a machine it cannot be removed and used on another machine. However, if the rider changes on the machine, whatever current User Permit is displayed is still valid (i.e. each rider is NOT required to purchase their own User Permit).