

Winter Skills Training Academy

State Trails Committee Presentation

April 5 2024



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Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Snowmobile Program

Established in 1977 through legislation

- Directed Colorado State Parks:
 - Set up a snowmobile registration system
 - Establish a stable funding base to provide for quality snowmobile opportunities



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Safe Riders! Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program Test

33-14-108. Training courses.

(1) The division shall establish snowmobile information, safety, education, and training programs, including, but not limited to, the training of snowmobile operators, and shall issue snowmobile safety certificates and insignia to snowmobile operators who successfully complete the snowmobile safety education and training course.

Safe Riders course-Safety education program. Restrictions on youth riders.

Agency needed more advanced training.



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Started in the early 90's @ State Forest State Park. Dave Hause, first snowmobile program manager, helped developed the training.



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Class of 2001

Transitioned to Steamboat Lake SP. Program developed alongside the snowmobile industry and changes to sleds.



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Current Venue - Steamboat Lake SP



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Current Venue - Steamboat Lake SP



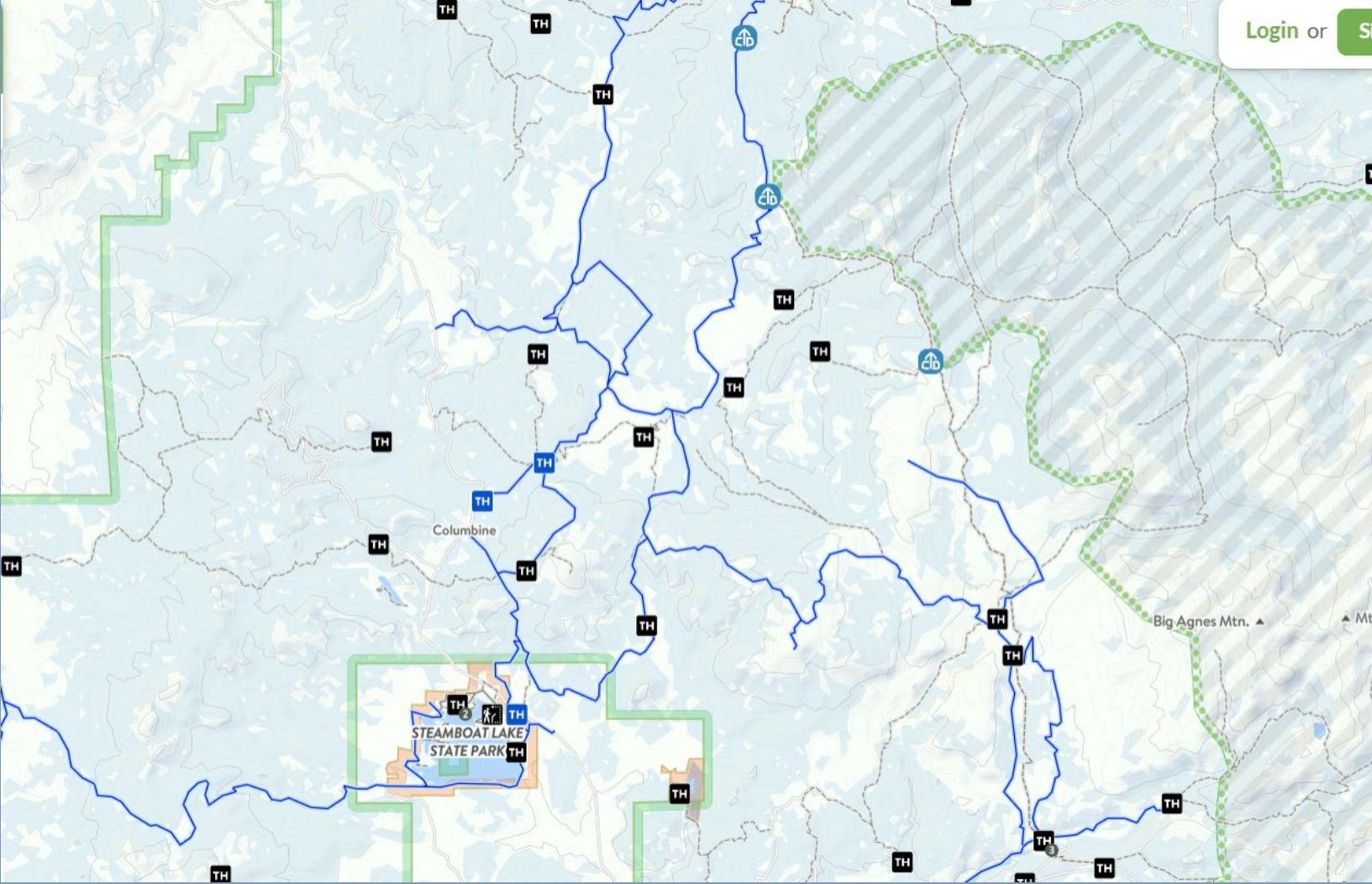
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Current Venue - Steamboat Lake SP



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Topics/Lessons

- **Snowmobile Industry and Program**
 - Snowmobile history, current landscape and applications, Snowmobile safety program, CSA, CPW snowmobile program overview, registrations, budgets, trail grooming, snowmobile clubs, snowmobile grant program
- **Snowmobile Law Enforcement**
 - Trailheads, patrol prep, trail rides, weapons, gear, statues and regulations
- **Operation and Safety (Classroom)**
 - Riding positions/techniques, varying terrain and snow conditions, hand signals, proper clothing, safety tips, potential hazards, wildlife/trail user considerations.



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Topics/Lessons

- **Avalanche Awareness & Beacon Use**
 - Classroom-Know Before You Go; Pre-trip Planning; CAIC; Resources
 - Outdoor Rotations
 - Beacon Basics
 - Shoveling and Probing
 - Beacon Basin



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Topics/Lessons

- Mechanics
 - Basic Maintenance
 - Towing
 - Belt Change
 - Clutch Starting



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Topics/Lessons

- Winter Survival
 - Gear/Equipment
 - Shelters
 - Cold Weather Strategies



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Loading/Unloading



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Riding! Starting with the basics



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Riding in Powder



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Riding in Powder... and getting stuck



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and stuck some more...



Amazing improvement over a few days!



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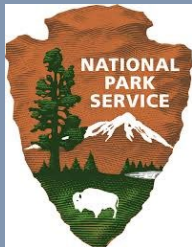
Increased Demand

- Added a second WSTA training
- Increased trainee class size
- Partner agencies needs
- National recognition of training
 - Other agencies modeling training (Utah DNR; US Army Alaska)
- Additional “mini-WSTA’s”
- Regional skills days



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Partners Trained



LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

Not possible without our Instructors!



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QUESTIONS?



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