

2010/2011 XC Ski Trail Year End Grooming Report



Four Seasons trail grooming started on November 24, 2010 and concluded on March 28, 2011. Rock skis were needed for the first month of the season and frustrated skiers and snowshoers hoped for snow as Christmas approached, but no significant amount came. It was the driest December and early January that most of us could remember. That being said, several high school races were moved to 4 Seasons due to a lack of snowfall in other areas of the County. The high school team trained and raced on rock skis until the middle of January. Conditions improved as February rolled in with a solid classic track set for the rest of the season. Once again, maximum snow compaction occurred in early March with most areas of the trail measuring a snow base of 13 inches; this however, was for the second year in a row well below normal. Snow depth in the woods maxed out around 3.5 feet at that same time.

	7.0km Main Trail	Other Loops
Number of Ski Days	120+	90 est
Number of Grooming Days (Gil/Gerry)	54	-
Number of Grooming Days (Others)	18	
Grooming Days TOTAL	72	-
Estimated Volunteer Grooming Hours Gil&Gerry (others)	302 (60)	
Snowmobile Mileage Town Polaris (S/F)		
Snowmobile Mileage Ski Trax Skandic (S/F)		
Snowmobile Hours Sherpa 414 start – 484 Finish		

The 4 Season's system was groomed for skate and classic throughout the season with the exception of the first month of the season with only a skate lane due to a lack of snow. Smooth trail conditions allowed for skating with about 6 to 10" of snow. The new Acadia FCU loop was open much of the year with very good conditions for skate and good conditions for classic. Skiers seemed to enjoy the loop although the parts of the trail were a little colder than the woods due to the location and lack of a wooded area in the first ½ km.

New equipment was added to help with operations. A used Alpina Sherpa and 9' Yellowstone Drag was added to the mix of grooming equipment. Automatic track setters aided with setting the classic tracks without getting off of the snowmobile. Performance was very good with the quiet 4 stroke Sherpa; however, problems with the tracks and gearbox surfaced as the year progressed, possibly due to a lack of use by the previous owner over the past few seasons or prior damage. The Ski Trax Skandic was lost for about 30 days to the World Cup in Fort Kent. Fort Kent was able to provide the use of their Ginzu groomer and Skandic for the Marathon as a back up for the Sherpa. The Polaris ran well this winter.

The following **observations** are summarized below for each trail.

Lodge Loop (7.0km) without cross overs:

1. Ski trail use increased and remained high all season long.

2. Considering the low snowfall conditions were very good.
3. The added ½ km in the Meadow Loop was beneficial and easy to groom.
4. Consideration should be given widening the uphill portions of the main trail to allow for a wider skate lane.

1.8k Cross Loop:

1. Groomed 80% of the time.
2. Marathon was held on this new extension and was well received by skiers, although changes to the last climb of the loop need to be made to reduce its length.

Acadia FCU Loop 2 km (Extended SuperTour Loop):

1. Groomed and in excellent condition for most of the season.
2. Was used for Middle and High School races as well.

Snowshoe Trail:

1. Very popular all year long – heavy use. Some walked the trail for most of the winter due to the low snow conditions.

Special thanks goes out to the Madawaska Recreation Department for all of their support and timely assistance throughout the season. Also, Gil Roy and Gerry Roy, our principle groomers must be thanked for all of their hard work. In addition, weekend groomers Colin and Cole Jandreau, Yvon Levesque, and Mark Dionne should be thanked. Doug Cyr (Class of 83) was outstanding in supporting repairs to the Sherpa and we are grateful for all of his expertise replacing bogie wheels and addressing the gearbox issues. He has also agreed to lead the repairs that will be completed over the summer. It was an enjoyable and favorable ski season and with a little rest over the summer we'll be ready for next year!