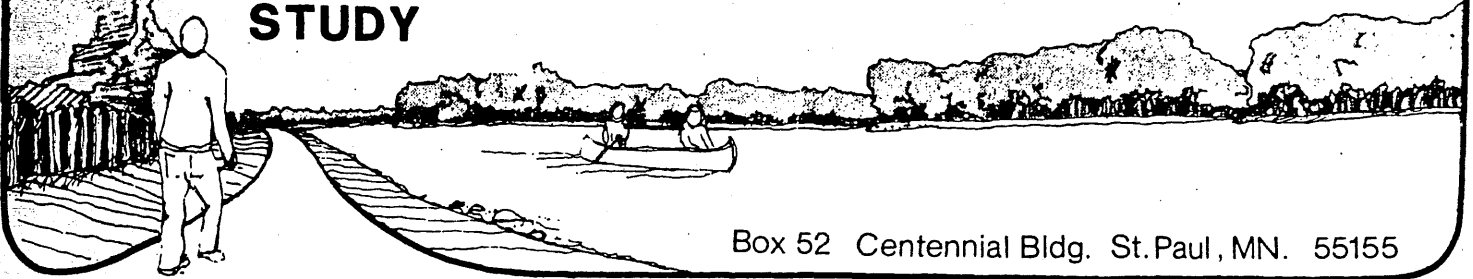


MN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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MINNESOTA DNR Trails and Waterways STUDY



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Minnesota Cross-Country Skiing: Mail Survey of Licensed Cross-Country Skiers

Dept of Natural Resources
500 Lakeside Drive
St. Paul, MN 55155-4001

AUGUST 1984

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1984

MINNESOTA CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:

MAIL SURVEY OF
LICENSED CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS

PREPARED BY:

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TRAILS & WATERWAYS UNIT
TRAIL PLANNING SECTION

Principal Researcher:

Rebecca W. Schomaker
Use Monitoring Specialist

August, 1984

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INTRODUCTION

It is estimated that more than 500,000 cross-country skiers live in Minnesota.* The needs of these recreationists have changed during the 10 to 15 years since cross-country skiing gained popularity. While once satisfied with breaking trails and just "getting out skiing," cross-country skiers increasingly demand more trails with more sophisticated development and maintenance.

To help pay for better facilities, a ski licensing program was mandated by the legislature, with generated funds to be used for ski trail development and maintenance. The Trails & Waterways Unit of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been charged with equitably distributing the generated funds through a system that reflects license sales, distribution of use, and licensed skier preferences. In May, 1984, a mail survey of licensed skiers was conducted to evaluate these factors and to obtain skiers' opinions on the license program and Minnesota ski trails in general.

OBJECTIVES AND TECHNIQUES

The objectives of the study:

1. To determine the geographic distribution of skiers purchasing licenses.
2. To determine distribution of license sales (by agency, type of agent, location, etc.).
3. To determine the geographic distribution of licensed ski trail use during the 83-84 season.

(*) State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 1978.

4. To determine the relative use of specific types of ski trails (e.g., Grants-In-Aid (GIA), State Parks, State Forests, county trails, etc.), during the 83-84 season.
5. To determine distances travelled to ski and distances skied on Minnesota trails by licensed skiers during the 83-84 season.
6. To determine where licensed skiers prefer to have generated monies spent.

A 10 percent systematic random sample was drawn from the license bureau records of purchased annual combination and individual ski licenses (12,988 and 12,513 sold, respectively). The 9,025 daily permits sold could not be sampled because skier names and addresses are not provided on them.

Beginning May 1, a mail-back questionnaire and post card follow-up one week later were sent to the sample. Of the 2,150 questionnaires delivered, 1,168 (54 percent) were returned by the cut-off date, June 8.* Additional follow-ups by telephone were used to evaluate non-response bias and to determine the extent to which co-owners of combination licenses skied independently.

RESULTS

License Purchase and Use Patterns

The majority of licensed cross-country skiers live in the seven-county metro area, and Hennepin County in particular.

The Hennepin County Park Reserve District (HCPRD) sold 30 percent of the annual licenses, second only to all state parks combined in sales.

Statewide, the other significant contributor to license sales and skier numbers was the Duluth area.

(*) An additional 47 questionnaires were received after June 8, 1984, but are not included in this analysis.

Respondents averaged 14.3 ski trips a year, with 11.7 trips (84 percent) on groomed trails. Eighty-four percent of ski trips by licensed skiers took place on designated trails and 71 percent took place in the county where respondents purchased their licenses. Not surprisingly, the seven-county metro area received most of the state's licensed trail use.

The Hennepin County Park Reserve District trails received 29 percent of the licensed use reported statewide. The trails receiving the most licensed use statewide are in Hyland-Bush Park Reserve (7.7 percent of licensed trail use). State Parks received 26 percent of statewide licensed use with the most-used park trails in William O'Brien State Park (4.0 percent of licensed trail use).

Fifty percent of licensed skiing was concentrated on 16 high-use trails (Appendix A). An additional 34 percent of use was received by 78 medium-use trails. The remaining 16 percent of licensed use was distributed across 197 low-use trails. Licensed skiers travelled an average of 23 miles to reach ski trails, but travelled further to reach outstate trails (Brainerd and Duluth, 35 miles) than metro area trails (13 miles).

The average distance skied by licensed skiers was 7.3 miles per trip. For all skiers, the average distance skied is less than 6 miles (SCORP, 1978). It may be that licensed skiers are more "avid" and thus ski longer distances than non-licensed skiers. In addition, the distances skied by licensed skiers may reflect the facilities they use. It is easier to ski farther on groomed trails, and by definition of the license program licensed skiers are more likely to use trails than non-licensed skiers. The longer distances reported in the survey may also reflect the general trend toward increased physical fitness and may represent both licensed and non-licensed skiers.

Individual versus Combination License Holders

Skiers who purchased Individual and Combination licenses were tested for differences in use patterns. Combination license holders reported less use than skiers with Individual licenses (\bar{x} =13.8 and 14.9 trips, respectively). They also reported fewer trips on trails (\bar{x} =11.1 and 12.4 trips) although the percent of total trips taken on trails was the same for both groups (83-84 percent).

It was originally assumed that the ski trips reported by the person who purchased the Combination license represented all ski activity by the licensed couple. However, a telephone follow-up of twenty such households found that the spouses of license purchasers took an additional 25 percent more trips independent of those reported on the returned questionnaires. Thus, while the respondent may have reported 12 trips, the Combination license actually accompanied 15 trips. Consequently, the mean number of trips represented by the Combination license is actually higher than the mean for Individual licenses.

Estimation of Total Occasions

Estimation of total occasions by licensed skiers was not originally an objective of the study. Consequently, two questions required for this estimation were not included on the questionnaire:

1. usual party size on ski outings; and,
2. the extent to which the second person on a combination license skied independent of the license purchaser.

Both questions were addressed in the previously mentioned telephone follow-up of households owning Combination licenses.

Using the data from this follow-up, plus information from the HCPRD on party size, the following estimates were made:*

- Licensed skiers** took 410,000 trips during the 83-84 winter, of which approximately 335,000 took place on groomed trails.
- The average party size for each trip was 3.5 skiers.
- Occasions by parties including at least one licensed skier** are estimated at 1.4 million total and 1.2 million on groomed trails. (The 95 percent confidence interval error estimate is ± 10 percent.)

Funding Preferences

Preferences for funding differ according to the county of residence and license purchase of the respondent. Because 90 percent of licenses were purchased in the respondents' county of residence, "county of purchase" can be used interchangeably with "county of residence" in many statistical tests when describing distribution of skiers.***

Eighty percent of non-metro licensed skiers preferred that the generated revenues be returned to the county of license purchase. Metro area skiers were more evenly divided in their funding preferences with 56 percent preferring that funds be returned to the metro area and 44 percent preferring that funds be spent elsewhere.

While the metro area is most preferred for funding by metro area licensed skiers, the Duluth/North Shore area is most often preferred by non-metro skiers (21 percent of non-metro skiers preferred to have funds spent in this area).

Statewide, the most preferred trails for funding are in the Hyland-Bush Park Reserve. These trails are also most preferred by metro residents. The

(*) Refer to section on non-response bias in evaluating these estimates.

(**) Does not include daily permits.

(***) This is important for future estimates of use and funding preference because the number of licenses sold per county is more easily obtained from license bureau records than the county of residence of each licensee.

most preferred trails for funding by non-metro licensed skiers are in Sibley State Park, with "any Duluth trail" second.

When asked whether funds should be spent to increase mileage or improve grooming, respondents generally preferred better grooming of existing trails. This was the case for both metro and non-metro licensed skiers.

The majority of comments regarding the license program and Minnesota ski trails were either positive or neutral. This is not surprising because only licensed skiers were surveyed and it was expected that skiers supportive of the license program were more likely to purchase permits during its first, penalty-free year. The most often-reported concern was that generated revenues be dedicated for trail development and maintenance, rather than combined with general funds.

Non-Response Bias

Five percent (n=46) of non-respondents were contacted by phone to ascertain whether their activities and opinions would differ from those of respondents.

The geographic distribution, license purchase patterns and percentage of total trips taken on trails are approximately the same for both groups. However, non-respondents skied substantially less ($\bar{x}=6$ times) than respondents ($\bar{x}=14.5$ times) during the 83-84 season. It may be that individuals who skied less were more likely to think their activities "didn't matter" and not return the questionnaires. Thus estimates of total use based only on survey respondents may be as much as 30 percent above actual use.

When asked for comments on the licensing program and Minnesota ski trails, the non-respondents contacted were much more positive than respondents, with 75 percent of comments "positive" (versus 39 percent positive for respondents).

Possible reasons for this may include a positive response to the interviewer,

reluctance to voice complaints directly, or the amount of time between mailing the questionnaires and the non-respondent follow-up (approximately two months) during which they may have forgotten specific complaints.

Licensed versus Non-Licensed Skiers

1979 SCORP data indicate that 71 percent (355,000) of Minnesota's cross-country skiers are over 15 years of age. It was also estimated in SCORP that only half of these skiers (178,000) use groomed and marked trails and would thus be required to buy licenses. With approximately 47,000 adults represented by combination, individual and daily license sales, it appears that the compliance rate was approximately 26 percent.

It is expected that compliance with the licensing program in monitored areas such as state parks and the Hennepin County Park Reserves was very high. Thus a sample of licensed skiers only will be biased toward users of well-monitored areas. Although 84 percent of skiing by licensed skiers takes place on designated trails, non-licensed skiers may be more likely to participate in "off-trail" skiing. In addition, when using trails, non-licensed skiers may tend to use only lightly-monitored trails (e.g., state forests and municipal parks). These three factors are likely to cause underestimation of use in areas where the licensing program was not enforced.

SUMMARY

The majority of licensed skiers live, purchased licenses and skied in the metro area. The Duluth-North Shore area is second in number of licensed skiers and amount of licensed use.

Minnesota State Parks and the HCPRD have the trails most used by licensed skiers. Licensed use was concentrated on 16 high-use trails in state parks, the metro area and Duluth.

Skiers usually do not drive more than 35 miles to ski and the majority of all trips are taken in the county where skiers purchased their permits.

Respondents generally prefer to have license revenues returned to their home counties. This is especially true for skiers living outside the metro area.

Trail use estimates reflect only the first year of the licensing program, during which there were no penalties for non-compliance. Ski areas that enforced licensing are best represented by this study. Better promotion and enforcement of the licensing program in areas now showing low use will be key factors in accurately estimating use and preferences in the future.

APPENDIX A: TABULAR SUMMARY OF RESULTS

TABULAR SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1. Where Licensed Skiers Live

| <u>A. County of Residence</u> | <u>% of Respondents</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Hennepin | 46 |
| Ramsey | 14 |
| St. Louis | 5 |
| Other | 35 |
| | 100 |
| <u>B. General Area of Residence</u> | <u>% of Respondents</u> |
| Seven-County Metro | 71 |
| Duluth/Carlton and North Shore Counties | 7 |
| Brainerd/Lakes Area | 2 |
| One hour from metro area* | 4 |
| Other | 16 |
| | 100 |

2. Distribution of License Sales

| <u>A. By Agency</u> | <u>% of Statewide Sales</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hennepin County Park Reserve District | 30 |
| Minnesota State Parks | 32 |
| Sporting Goods Stores | 20 |
| County Auditors | 13 |
| Other DNR | 4 |
| Other | 1 |
| | 100 |
| <u>B. By County of Purchase**</u> | <u>% of Statewide Sales</u> |
| Hennepin | 50 |
| Ramsey | 10 |
| Washington | 8 |
| St. Louis | 4 |
| Other | 28 |
| | 100 |
| <u>C. By General Area</u> | <u>% of Statewide Sales</u> |
| Seven-County Metro | 70 |
| Duluth/North Shore Area | 7 |
| Brainerd/Lakes Area | 2 |
| One hour from metro area* | 7 |
| Other | 14 |
| | 100 |

NOTE: 90% of permits were purchased in the skier's county or "area" of residence.

| <u>D. By Type of License</u> | <u>Number Sold</u> | <u>% of Sales</u> | <u>% of Sample</u> | <u>% of Respondents</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Combination | 12,513 | 49 | 50 | 55 (n=637) |
| Individual | 12,988 | 51 | 50 | 45 (n=531) |
| Daily*** | 9,025 | | | |

(*) Includes Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, Wright, Mille Lacs, Goodhue, Rice and LeSueur counties.

(**) Only counties that had 4 percent or more of statewide sales are itemized.

(***) Daily permits could not be sampled because they do not provide names or addresses.

3. Where Respondents Skied

A. General Statistics

1,168 respondents reported 13,441 trail use occasions on 304 trails during the 83-84 season, distributed as follows:

| | <u>Mean</u> | <u>Standard Error</u> |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| Times skied, 83-84: | 14.3 | .47 |
| Times skied on trails, 83-84: | 11.7 | .41 |
| % of trips on trails: | 83.7 | .01 |
| % of trips in county of permit purchase: | <u>70.8</u> | .01 |
| | 100.0 | |

| <u>B. Area of Use</u> | <u>% of Statewide Use</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Seven-County Metro | 63 |
| Duluth/North Shore Area | 10 |
| Brainerd/Lakes Area | 3 |
| Elsewhere in Minnesota | <u>24</u> |
| | 100 |

C. Individual Trails Receiving More than 1.5% of Statewide Use

| <u>Trail Name</u> | <u>% of Statewide Use</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hyland-Bush Park Reserve | 7.7 |
| Theodore Wirth Park | 4.8 |
| Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve | 4.5 |
| William O'Brien State Park | 4.0 |
| Carver Park Reserve | 3.3 |
| Elm Creek Park Reserve | 3.1 |
| Morris Baker Park Reserve | 3.0 |
| Fort Snelling State Park | 2.7 |
| Afton State Park | 2.7 |
| Cleary Lake Regional Park | 2.5 |
| Crow-Hassan Park Reserve | 2.5 |
| Sibley State Park | 2.3 |
| Lake Phalen | 1.9 |
| Bunker Hills Regional Park | 1.8 |
| Hidden Hills/Crosby Farm | 1.7 |
| Hartley City Park (Duluth) | 1.5 |
| Other Trails | <u>50.0</u> |
| | 100.0 |

4. Relative Ski Trail Use by Administrative Type

A. Statewide Trail Use Broken Down by Administration

| <u>Trail Administration</u> | <u>% of Statewide Use</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hennepin County Park Reserve District | 29 |
| Minnesota State Parks | 26 |
| Minnesota State Forests | 1 |
| Minnesota State Trails | 1 |
| County Parks | 13 |
| City Parks | 18 |
| U.S. Government | 2 |
| Other | 10 |
| | 100 |

B. Metro Area Use Broken Down by Administration

| <u>Trail Administration</u> | <u>% of Metro Use</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hennepin County Park Reserve District | 47 |
| Minnesota State Parks | 16 |
| Minnesota State Trails | 1 |
| County Parks | 14 |
| City Parks | 19 |
| Other | 3 |
| | 100 |

5. Estimated Ski Use*

A. Total Trips Taken by:

| | <u>Mean**</u> | <u>Standard Error</u> | <u>Estimated Total Trips</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Individual Licences ^a | 14.9 | .7 | 194,000 ± 18,000 |
| Combination Licences ^a | 13.8 | .6 | 216,000 ± 19,000 |

B. Trips on Trails by:

| | <u>Mean**</u> | <u>Standard Error</u> | <u>Estimated Total Trips</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Individual Licences ^a | 12.4 | .7 | 161,000 ± 18,000 |
| Combination Licences ^a | 11.1 | .5 | 174,000 ± 16,000 |

C. Average Number of Skiers Per Trip: 3.5^b

D. Estimated Total Occasions^c: 1.4 million ± 10%

E. Estimated Trail Occasions^c: 1.2 million ± 10%

F. Estimated DNR Trail Occasions^c: 336,000 ± 10%

(*) Estimates are not adjusted for non-response bias.

(**) Means are different at .05 significance level.

(a) Each combination permit accompanied approximately 25 percent more trips than were listed on the returned questionnaires. The mean reflects only skiing reported by the purchaser of the combination permit. Total occasions reflect all trips accompanied by the combination permit.

(b) From Hennepin County Park Reserve data.

(c) By parties including at least one skier who purchased an annual permit.

6. Distances Travelled to Ski and Distances Skied on Trails

A. Distance Travelled to Ski Trails, broken down by Trail Location (miles)

| <u>Trail Location</u> | <u>Mean</u> | <u>Standard Error</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| All trails statewide | 23 | .4 | 450 |
| Seven-County Metro Trails | 13 | .2 | 300 |
| Brainerd Area Trails | 34 | 3.1 | 240 |
| Chisago Area Trails | 35 | 1.9 | 200 |
| Duluth/North Shore Trails | 32 | 1.9 | 300 |

B. Distance Travelled to Ski Trails, broken down by Trail Administration Type (miles)

| <u>Administration</u> | <u>Mean</u> | <u>Standard Error</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Hennepin County Park Reserve District | 14 | .2 | 300 |
| State Trails | 33 | 6.4 | 275 |
| State Parks | 33 | .9 | 375 |
| State Forests | 77 | 7.1 | 285 |

C. Length of Trail Trips, broken down by Trail Administration Type (in miles skied).

| <u>Administration</u> | <u>Mean</u> | <u>Standard Error</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| All trails statewide | 7.32 | .04 |
| Hennepin County Park Reserve District | 7.84 | .07 |
| State Parks | 7.98 | .07 |
| State Trails | 6.48 | .32 |
| State Forests | 8.95 | .43 |

7. Where Respondents Wanted Permit Monies Spent

A. County of Permit Purchase versus County Preferred for Funding*

| <u>Funding Preference</u> | <u>% (By Skier's County of Purchase)</u> | | |
|---|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | <u>ALL</u> | <u>Metro Area</u> | <u>Non-Metro</u> |
| Preferred County of Purchase | 63 | 56 | 80 |
| Preferred County Other Than County of Purchase | <u>37</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>20</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

B. Specific Areas Preferred for Funding broken down by Metro versus Non-Metro Skiers

| <u>Area Preferred for Funding</u> | <u>% (By Residence of Skiers)</u> | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | <u>ALL</u> | <u>Metro Area</u> | <u>Non-Metro</u> |
| Seven-County Metro | 41 | 57 | 6 |
| Duluth/North Shore | 9 | 4 | 21 |
| Brainerd/Lakes | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| One hour from metro** | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| St. Cloud Area | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Other Outstate | <u>39</u> | <u>33</u> | <u>52</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

(*) For this comparison, all metro counties were grouped together.

(**) This includes responses such as "within an hour of the metro area" and thus is not exclusive of the seven-county metro area.

C. Preferences for Funding broken down by Areas of the State Where Permits Were Purchased

| Area Preferred for Funding (% of Skiers) | Where Permit was Purchased (% of Skiers) | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | Metro | One Hour From Metro** | Duluth/ North Shore | Brainerd/ Lakes | St. Cloud | Other Outstate |
| Metro | 58 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 5 |
| One Hour From Metro | 5 | 49 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 |
| Duluth/North Shore | 3 | 5 | 78 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Brainerd/Lakes | 1 | 1 | 0 | 78 | 0 | 1 |
| St. Cloud | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 0 |
| Other Outstate | 33 | 31 | 17 | 22 | 29 | 90 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

D. Counties Preferred Most Often for Funding (compared by metro versus non-metro residents)

| Specific Counties | ALL | % of Respondents | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------|-----------|
| | | Metro | Non-Metro |
| Carlton | 2.0 | .7 | 4.8 |
| Carver | 3.2 | 4.3 | .7 |
| Dakota | 2.6 | 3.6 | .4 |
| Hennepin | 21.8 | 31.0 | 1.1 |
| Kandiyohi | 2.1 | .0 | 6.7 |
| Lake | 1.3 | .3 | 3.3 |
| Morrison | .6 | .0 | 3.0 |
| Brainerd Specifically | .6 | .3 | 1.1 |
| Ramsey | 2.8 | 5.5 | .0 |
| St. Louis General | 3.5 | .5 | 10.0 |
| Duluth Specifically | 1.4 | .0 | 4.4 |
| North Shore Area | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| Scott | 4.8 | 6.9 | .4 |
| Stearns | .9 | .0 | 3.0 |
| Steele | .9 | .0 | 3.0 |
| Washington | 7.9 | 10.1 | 3.0 |
| General Metro Area | 10.2 | 15.0 | .0 |
| Other Counties | 30.9 | 19.2 | 52.9 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

E. Specific Trails Preferred Most Often for Funding (compared by metro versus non-metro residents)*

| Specific Trail | ALL | % of Respondents | |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------|-----------|
| | | Metro | Non-Metro |
| Jay Cooke State Park | 1.8 | .7 | 4.1 |
| Sibley State Park | 2.1 | .0 | 6.7 |
| William O'Brien State Park | 3.5 | 4.0 | 2.6 |
| Afton State Park | 2.7 | 3.8 | .4 |
| Any Duluth Trail | 1.5 | .0 | 4.5 |
| Carver Park Reserve | 2.7 | 3.8 | .4 |
| Any Hennepin County Trail | 3.1 | 4.5 | .0 |
| Hyland-Bush Park Reserve | 3.4 | 5.0 | .0 |
| Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve | 2.6 | 3.8 | .0 |
| Any Metro Trail | 10.4 | 15.0 | 1.1 |
| BWCA | .5 | .7 | .0 |
| Other Trails | 65.7 | 58.7 | 80.2 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(*) Only trails preferred by greater than .5% of respondents are itemized, a complete list of trails preferred for funding is available.

(**) This includes responses such as "within an hour of the metro area" and thus is not exclusive of the seven-county metro area.

8. Additional Results

A. Preferences for Grooming/Development Trade-Offs

| Trade-Offs | % of Respondents | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------|-----------|
| | ALL | Metro | Non-Metro |
| Same Mileage/More Grooming | 48 | 47 | 50 |
| More Mileage/Less Grooming | 21 | 21 | 22 |
| More Mileage/More Volunteer Grooming | 19 | 20 | 16 |
| Other Suggestions | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

B. Comments Regarding the License Program and Ski Trails

| Nature of Comments | % of Respondents | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------|-----------|
| | ALL | Metro | Non-Metro |
| Positive | 39 | 36 | 46 |
| Neutral | 38 | 38 | 40 |
| Negative | 23 | 26 | 14 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

C. Specific Suggestions Made in Comments

| Suggestion | % of Respondents | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------|-----------|
| | ALL | Metro | Non-Metro |
| Change the design of permit | 12 | 14 | 8 |
| Dedicate funds for ski trails | 22 | 24 | 19 |
| Improve enforcement | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Abolish licensing | 11 | 13 | 5 |
| Continue licensing | 19 | 17 | 24 |
| Other | 29 | 25 | 38 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

APPENDIX B: COVER LETTER, FOLLOW-UP POST CARD AND QUESTIONNAIRE



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BOX , CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA • 55155

DNR INFORMATION
(612) 296-6157

May 11, 1984

FILE NO. _____

Dear Licensed Cross-Country Skier:

Spring concludes the premiere season for Minnesota's new cross-country ski licensing system. Through license sales, over \$150,000.00 has been collected for future development and maintenance of cross-country ski trails.

In order to recommend how these and additional funds should be distributed, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must evaluate both cross-country ski use patterns across the state, and the preferences of licensed skiers.

You have been selected in a random sample of Minnesotans having purchased ski licenses to participate in a survey being conducted by the DNR's Trails & Waterways Unit. Because your response will help represent over 20,000 other licensed cross-country skiers throughout the state, it is important that the enclosed questionnaire be completed and returned as quickly as possible. Your answers will remain confidential.

The results of this research will be made available to officials and representatives in our state government and all interested citizens. You may receive a summary of results by writing "Copy of Results Requested" on the back of the questionnaire.

If questionnaires are returned promptly, study results should be available in mid-June.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Please write or call.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

REBECCA W. SCHOMAKER
Use Monitoring Specialist
Trail Planning Section
Trails & Waterways Unit
Box 52 - Centennial Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1679
(612)/296-6690

RWS/jls

Enclosure

REBIBUOTTE

REBIBUOTTE

SURVEY OF LICENSED CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS

Please answer the following questions carefully. Your cooperation is needed to make the survey results comprehensive, accurate and useful in planning additional cross-country skiing opportunities in Minnesota. Thank you!

1. How many times did you go cross-country skiing in Minnesota during the 1983-84 season? _____ times.
2. How many of these trips were on trails signed for skiing? _____
3. For each of the signed trails you used, please tell us the name of the trail, the county or town the trail is in, who administers the trail, if known (e.g., State Park, County, U.S. Forest Service, etc.), how many times you used the trail during the 83-84 season, how far the trail is from your home, and the number of miles you usually ski on this trail.

| | TIMES USED WINTER 83-84 | MILES FROM HOME | MILES USUALLY SKIED |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <u>TRAIL 1</u> | | | |
| Name of trail: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| County or town: _____ | | | |
| Administered by: _____ | | | |
| <u>TRAIL 2</u> | | | |
| Name of trail: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| County or town: _____ | | | |
| Administered by: _____ | | | |
| <u>TRAIL 3</u> | | | |
| Name of trail: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| County or town: _____ | | | |
| Administered by: _____ | | | |
| <u>TRAIL 4</u> | | | |
| Name of trail: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| County or town: _____ | | | |
| Administered by: _____ | | | |
| <u>TRAIL 5</u> | | | |
| Name of trail: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| County or town: _____ | | | |
| Administered by: _____ | | | |

(If you used more than five different trails this season, please list on back of questionnaire.)

4. At what trail or general location would you like to see your license fees spent for further trail development and maintenance? _____

5. In allocating limited funds, would you like to see: (pick one)

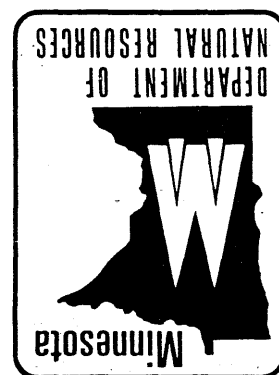
- ☐ more trails, even if it means less grooming
- ☐ current trail length, but better grooming
- ☐ more trails, but with more volunteer grooming
- ☐ other, please explain _____

6. Do you have any additional comments about the ski license program or ski trails in Minnesota? _____

Please fold the questionnaire so that our address is showing, staple or tape shut and mail. No postage is required. Thank you for your help and thanks for supporting your Minnesota ski trails!

Trails & Waterways Unit
Department of Natural Resources
State of Minnesota
Box 52 - Centennial Bldg
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1679

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FOLLOW-UP POSTCARD

May 21, 1984

Last week a questionnaire seeking a description of your cross-country skiing activities and your opinions on Minnesota's ski trails was mailed to you. Your name was drawn in a random sample of licensed cross-country skiers.

If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please do so today. Because it has been sent to only a small, but representative, sample of Minnesota's licensed cross-country skiers, it is extremely important that yours be included in the study if the results are to accurately represent all licensed skiers.

If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or it got misplaced, please call me (612-296-6690) and I will get another one in the mail to you today.

Sincerely,

Rebecca W. Schomaker
Use Monitoring Specialist
DNR - Trails & Waterways
Box 52, Centennial Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1679

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Minnesota cross-country
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