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Action Alert- We need your voice to increase cross-country ski trail grooming funds!

Mn Governor Mark Dayton has proposed increasing the price of the **Mn Ski Pass**. Unfortunately, the Minnesota House and Senate, to date, did not include a **Mn Ski Pass** fee increase in their omnibus environment budget bills (HF 888 and SF 723).

The proposed price increases to the **Mn Ski Pass** are:

- Daily Ski Pass: From \$5 to \$7
- 1-year Ski Pass: From \$20 to \$25
- 3-year Ski Pass: From \$55 to \$70

Mn Ski Pass revenues pay for about 1000 miles of DNR Grant-in-Aid ski trail maintenance and grooming at over 90 locations state-wide, including state parks. Lack of funding has already forced cut backs in the number of state parks that groom ski trails. Further cut backs in state park grooming are predicted with no new revenues. Also, limitations on improvements and enhancements to all other trail systems are pending if the **Mn Ski Pass** system does not increase its revenues. This fee increase doesn't include ski trail systems that have elected to require their own ski pass (ie. Three Rivers Park District). Here's a list of ski trails state-wide that depend on **Mn Ski Pass** funds:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/skiing/skipass/list.html>

The Environmental Budget Conference Committee is now negotiating the differences between bills. Skiers are urged to lobby the Conference Committee members to add **Mn Ski Pass** fee increases to the final Conference Committee Report since this budget increase would be funded by skiers—not through general tax dollars.

Here is a sample message to send to the Conference Committee members if you support a fee increase to the **MN Ski Pass** as proposed by Governor Dayton. Skiers are encouraged to personalize their advocacy communications with elected officials via e-mail or phone. Individual e-mails are typically more effective than group e-mails.

*Dear Environment Budget Conferees,
As a Mn cross-country skier, I request that you include a fee increase to the Mn Ski Pass as proposed by Governor Dayton in the Environment Budget Bill Conference Committee Report (HF888). The Mn Ski Pass is a user fee (not a tax) paid by those who want to ski on groomed trails. No one else pays for this service. Therefore, as an avid cross-country skier, I am willing to pay more to receive improved and consistent ski trail grooming, including ski trails in state parks.*

Send your emails and/or calls to all Environmental Budget Conference Committee members listed below:

Rep. Dan Fabian (651-296-9653) rep.dan.fabian@house.mn
Rep. Josh Heintzeman (651-296-4333) rep.josh.heintzeman@house.mn
Rep. Chris Swedzinski (651-296-5374) rep.chris.swedzinski@house.mn
Rep. Mark Uglem (651-296-5513) rep.mark.uglem@house.mn
Rep. Rob Ecklund (651-296-2190) rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen (651-297-8063) sen.bill.ingebrihtsen@senate.mn
Sen. Carrie Ruud (651-296-4913) sen.carrie.ruud@senate.mn
Sen. Torrey Westrom (651-296-3826) sen.torrey.westrom@senate.mn
Sen. Andrew Mathews (651-296-8075) sen.andrew.mathews@senate.mn
Sen. David Tomassoni (651-296-8017) <http://www.senate.mn/senatortomassoniemail>

Also other key leaders to contact include:

Gov. Mark Dayton <https://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/>
Speaker Kurt Daudt (651-296-5364) rep.kurt.daudt@house.mn
Senate Leader Paul Gazelka (651-296-4875) sen.paul.gazelka@senate.mn
To contact your local legislator use the following link: <http://www.gis.leg.mn/imaps/districts/>

The Minnesota Nordic Ski Association (MNSA) is a state-wide cross-country ski advocacy organization that supports an increase in the Mn Ski Pass to enable increased funding for our state's premier public ski trails, including state parks. MNSA also supports the Governor's proposal to increase the Minnesota State Parks and Trails general annual fund budget to \$31M.

Happy Trails!

Thank you for your support.

Minnesota Nordic Ski Association (MNSA): <http://mnnordicski.org/>