

## USDA Rural Development Helps Rural Maine Economy through Funding for Snowmobile Trail Groomer

The long rural road to Jackman in the far north-western corner of Maine, near the border with Canada, takes drivers through beautiful mountainous terrain lined with rivers, lakes, and streams- and in the winter, snow. Lots of snow.

It is fitting that the Border Riders Sportsman Club is located here. The Club, which takes full advantage of the region's great outdoors in all four seasons, including ATV riding, biking, hiking, hunting, dog sledding, and of course, snowmobiling, supports the local economy in many ways.

USDA Rural Development recently provided the Border Riders Sportsman Club with a Rural Business Development Grant in the amount of \$70,000 to assist them in purchasing a Trail Groomer. This essential piece of equipment helps club members smooth and groom over 40 miles of trails for visitors and locals who ride their snowmobiles on them nearly five months of the year.

The economy in this remote region is driven by the thousands of visitors who come to enjoy the snowmobile trails, purchase supplies at local stores, fill their tanks with gas, eat at area restaurants and stay at local lodges. Jackman is one of many rural Maine towns that contribute to the snowmobile industry in Maine. This robust industry generates an estimated \$350 million in revenues annually, and supports the full-time equivalent of 3,200 jobs statewide. Many of these jobs are located in small rural communities that have few other opportunities in the winter months.

The Border Riders is a club run by volunteer members that give back to their community every chance they get, with events that raise money for a scholarship fund, Lifelight of Maine, and many other causes to support their community.



*Pictured from Left to Right in Front of the Trail Groomer: Melissa Newman, Treasurer; Border Riders Sportsman Club; Tim Pottle, Groomer Driver, Border Riders Sportsman Club; Scott Smith, President, Border Riders Sportsman Club; Timothy P. Hobbs, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Ivana Hernandez-Clukey, Technician, USDA Rural Development; Dave Jones Trail Master, Border Riders Sportsman Club; and Alan Dugan, Vice President, Border Riders Sportsman Club.*

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**Obligation Amount:** \$70,000

**Date of Obligation:** July 23, 2018

**Congressional District:** 2nd Congressional, District: Congressman Golden, Senators Collins and King

**Demographics:** Jackman has a population of 862

**Impact:** This funding will support 54 businesses in the region and help retain a total of 15 area jobs