



Snowmobile trail permit exemption for anglers, hunters and trappers



Anglers, hunters and trappers represent well over a million Ontarians who take part in sustainable heritage activities throughout the calendar year. The winter season offers opportunities for ice fishing, hunting and trapping of various fur-bearing mammals. During the winter months, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) maintains over 30,000 kilometers of trails that extend to all parts of the province. In some cases, the most direct and/or safest route to fishing, hunting and trapping areas may include travel on OFSC trails. While recreational snowmobile riders must purchase a trail permit to use OFSC trails, the OFAH has fought hard for exemptions for anglers, hunters and trappers. The exemption only applies on **Crown and public** land when travelling directly to and from the fishing, hunting or trapping grounds.

Once you access a portion of the trail that is located on private property, you are legally required to have a trail permit or written landowner permission, regardless if you are attempting to access public land for fishing and hunting activities.

As anglers, hunters and trappers you are exempt from purchasing a trail permit if ALL of the following are true:

- YOU ARE PROPERLY LICENSED FOR FISHING, HUNTING, TRAPPING
- YOU HAVE A VALID OUTDOORS CARD
- YOU ARE TRAVELLING ON CROWN LAND OR OTHER PUBLIC LAND DIRECTLY TO AND FROM DESTINATION
- THE TRAIL IS THE ONLY/SAFEST ACCESS ROUTE TO YOUR DESTINATION
- YOU ARE CARRYING EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR ACTIVITY
- IT IS DURING AN OPEN FISHING, HUNTING, TRAPPING SEASON

Under the [Motorized Snow Vehicles Act](#), there is a list of different classes of people who are exempt from purchasing a trail permit along with the rules they must follow. The following information was taken directly from [Ontario Regulation 185/01, TRAIL PERMITS](#).

Exemptions

4. Subsections 2.1 (1) and (4) of the Act do not apply to a person belonging to a class of persons listed in Column 1 of the Table only in the circumstances set out opposite the class in Column 2 of the Table and only if the person carries with him or her while driving the motorized snow vehicle on the prescribed trail the documents listed opposite the class in Column 3 of the Table. O. Reg. 185/01, s. 4.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
<p>(a) Licensed anglers.</p> <p>(b) Anglers 65 years old or older or under 18 years old.</p>	<p>While engaged in angling activities during open season, as defined in the Ontario Fishery Regulations made under the Fisheries Act (Canada), pursuant to a valid fishing or fishing/hunting outdoors card and a valid sport fishing validation tag, both issued under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, and while travelling on Crown or other public land directly to or from the area open for angling, within the meaning of the Fisheries Act (Canada), if the trail is the only access route from the closest road to the area open for angling or is the only safe access route to the area open for angling.</p>	<p>(a) A valid fishing or fishing/hunting outdoors card and a valid sport fishing validation tag, both issued under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997.</p> <p>(b) A valid fishing or fishing/hunting outdoors card issued under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 or,</p> <p>(i) a driver's licence,</p> <p>(ii) a motorized snow vehicle operator's licence, or</p> <p>(iii) a birth certificate.</p>
<p>Licensed hunters.</p>	<p>While engaged in hunting activities and carrying hunting equipment on land other than the trail, during open season, as defined in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, pursuant to a valid outdoors card and a valid licence to hunt, both issued under that Act, and while travelling on Crown or other public land directly to or from the hunting area and carrying hunting equipment, if the trail is the only access route from the closest road to the hunting area or is the only safe access route to the hunting area.</p>	<p>A valid outdoors card and a valid licence to hunt, both issued under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997.</p>
<p>(a) Licensed trappers.</p> <p>(b) Licensed trappers' helpers.</p>	<p>While engaged in trapping activities within the trapping area, or while travelling directly to or from the trapping area, if the trail is the only access route from the closest road to the trapping area or is the only safe access route to the trapping area.</p>	<p>(a) An original valid trapper's licence and either a registered trapline map issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources or a description of the resident trapline area, including its municipal location, lot number and size.</p> <p>(b) An original valid trapper's licence or a legible copy of it and either a registered trapline map issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources or a description of the resident trapline area, including its municipal location, lot number and size.</p>