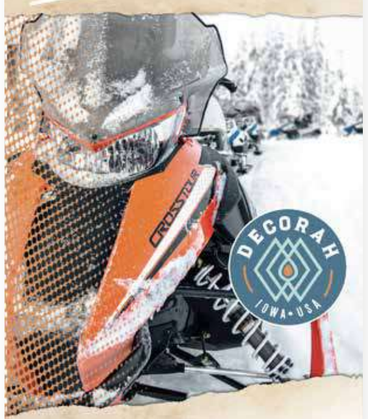
Driftless. VISIT MORE. SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GUIDE



Welcome TO WINNESHIEK COUNTY

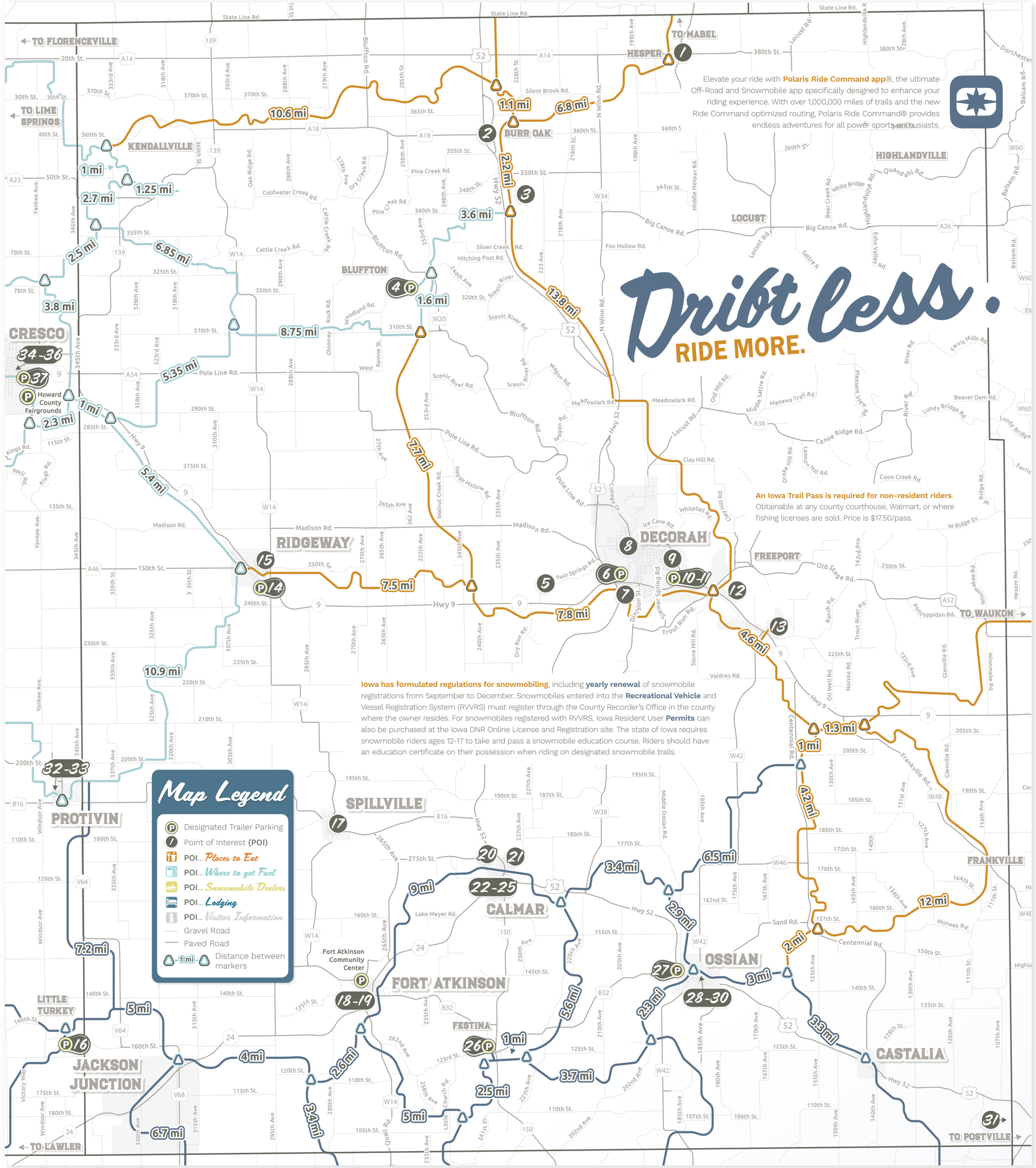
Winneshiek County is known for its outdoor recreation and snowmobiling is an exciting addition to the activities in the area! Winneshiek County averages around 37.9 inches of snow each winter, which makes it the perfect location to visit on your next winter vacation. This guide has all of the information you will need to explore the county while enjoying your snowmobile ride from the best places to eat, the most snowmobile friendly lodging, and a few local favorite routes you won't want to miss.

Snowmobile CLUBS & TRAILS

Driftrunners. Trails wind around trees, across streams, & through rolling fields creating some of the most beautiful and scenic rides throughout Iowa. For more information and up-to-date conditions, please visit, visitwww.facebook.com/DriftrunnersSnowmobileClub.

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc. The Decorah area is a great place to snowmobile, with almost 170 miles of trail available in northern Winneshiek County. Bring your friends and family on a ride they will never forget. For more information call 563-380-6747, or check out www.facebook.com/winneshiek.twisters.

Trails Unlimited. Located in the heart of Northeast Iowa, Trails Unlimited Snowmobile Club serves Northern Fayette and Southern Winneshiek counties. With 140+ miles a trail across the heartland, timber and river bottoms, we take pride in offering safe trails for local riders and all passer-bys. Visit: www.trailsunlimited.net.



Elevate your ride with **Polaris Ride Command app**®, the ultimate Off-Road and Snowmobile app specifically designed to enhance your riding experience. With over 1,000,000 miles of trails and the new Ride Command optimized routing, Polaris Ride Command® provides endless adventures for all power sports enthusiasts.

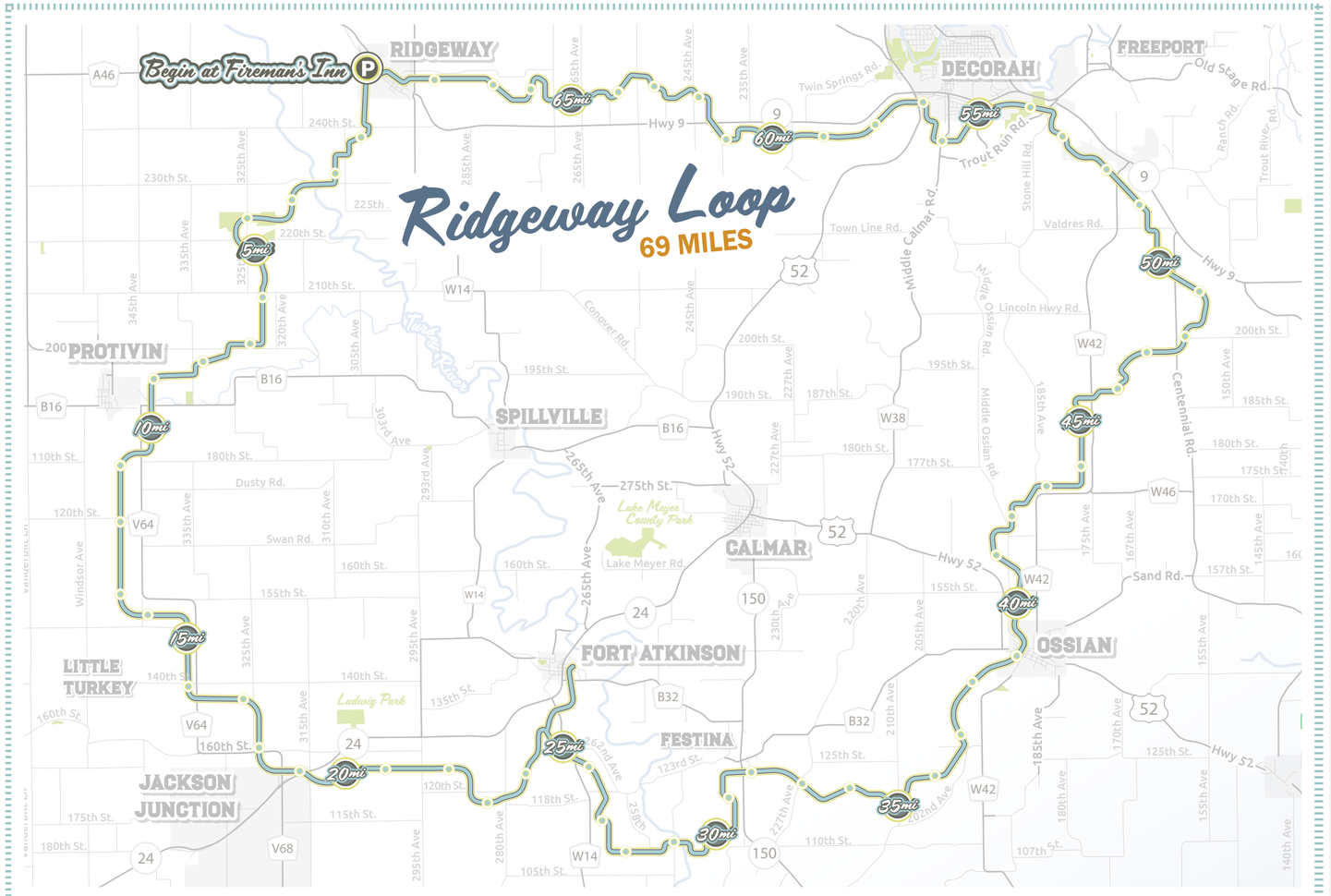
Driftless. RIDE MORE.

An Iowa Trail Pass is required for non-resident riders. Obtainable at any county courthouse, Walmart, or where fishing licenses are sold. Price is $17.50/pass.

Iowa has formulated regulations for snowmobiling, including **yearly renewal** of snowmobile registrations from September to December. Snowmobiles entered into the **Recreational Vehicle** and Vessel Registration System (RVVRS) must register through the County Recorder's Office in the county where the owner resides. For snowmobiles registered with RVVRS, Iowa Resident User **Permits** can also be purchased at the Iowa DNR Online License and Registration site. The state of Iowa requires snowmobile riders ages 12-17 to take and pass a snowmobile education course. Riders should have an education certificate on their possession when riding on designated snowmobile trails.

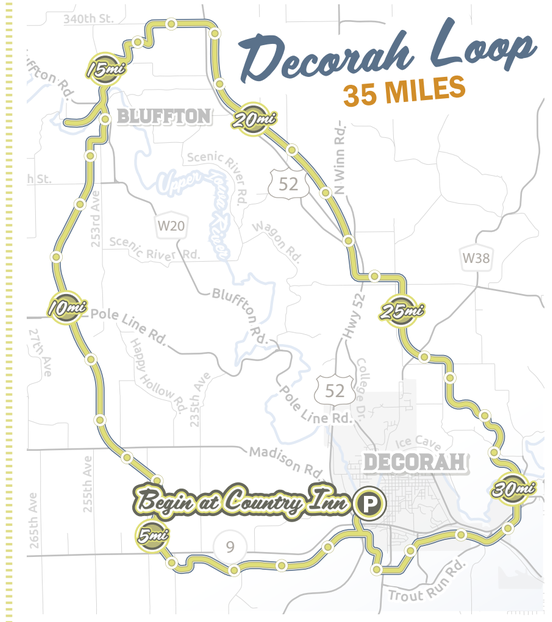
Best Places TO EAT AND WARM UP

1. **BAJA Bar & Grill |** Food & sports. Deals all week long. 2408 Bryant Dr, Hesper. (601) 235-8795
2. **Barney's Bar & Grill |** Good people, great food & cold beer. 3607 236th Ave, Burr Oak. (563) 735-5900
3. **Cenex |** Convenience store w/ quality fuel & snacks. 3480 US-52, Decorah. (563) 735-5427
4. **Randy's Bluffton Store |** Bar & Grill w/ parking for trailers. 2619 W Ravine Rd, Decorah. (563) 735-5738
5. **Twin Springs Supper Club |** Steaks & Seafood. 2149 Twin Springs Rd, Decorah. (563) 382-4096
6. **Country Inn & Suites |** Single & double rooms. 2042 IA-9, Decorah. (563) 387-9011
7. **Fairfield Inn & Suites |** Single & double rooms. 2041 IA-9, Decorah. (563) 382-8800
8. **Decorah Chamber AND Winneshiek County Development & Tourism |** Business & tourism information. 507 W Water St. (563) 382-3990
9. **Kwik Star |** Convenience store w/ fuel & snacks. 1101 Montgomery St, Decorah. (563) 382-4469
10. **Quality Inn & Suites |** Rooms & suites. 705 Commerce Dr, Decorah. (563) 382-2269
11. **Super 8 |** Rooms & suites. 810 IA-9 East, Decorah. (563) 382-8771
12. **Casey's General Store |** Fuel, drinks & food. 1807 Old Stage Rd, Decorah. (563) 387-3707
13. **Toppling Goliath Brewing Co. |** #1 craft brewery in IA w/ full food menu. 1600 Prosperity Rd, Decorah. 563-387-6700
14. **The Fireman's Inn |** Delicious pizza, drinks, & more. 660 County St, Ridgeway. (563) 737-2221
15. **Engen Express |** Fuel, drinks & food. 610 North St, Ridgeway. (563) 737-2661
16. **The Balk Tank Bar & Grill |** Great atmosphere & fantastic food. 3306 160th St, Lawler. (641) 229-0941
17. **Farr Side |** Full food menu & collection of good beer. 102 Church St, Spillville. (563) 562-3114
18. **The Fort |** Home of the original Flashburger and drinks. 100 Oak St, Fort Atkinson. (563) 358-9006
19. **Lickety Split Gas Station |** Convenient store. 105 1st St SE, Fort Atkinson. (563) 534-7272
20. **PIVO Brewery |** 40 taps of beer and cider. 101 Huber Dr, Calmar. (563) 562-1053
21. **Drillings All Season Sports |** Authorized Arctic Cat and Polaris Off-Road dealership. 2355 175th St, Calmar. (563) 562-3601
22. **Lavender Fields Inn |** 6-room Victorian bed & breakfast. 103 W North St, Calmar. (507) 458-5667
23. **The Horseshoe |** Pizza, wings, drinks, & more. 106 N Maryville St, Calmar. (563) 562-3777
24. **Whiskey Grove |** Food, drinks, pool tables, & more. 102 Main St, Calmar. (563) 562-3638
25. **Kwik Star |** Convenience store w/ fuel & snacks. 205 Maryville St, Calmar. (563) 562-3945
26. **The Zipper |** "Open when legal." Bar & grill. 1225 IA-150, Calmar. (563) 534-7181
27. **Casey's General Store |** Trailer parking across street. 200 W Main St, Ossian. (563) 532-9496
28. **Bambino's |** Home of the "Iowa 2021 Best Burger." 102 N Lydia St, Ossian. (563) 532-9555
29. **Shooters Bar & Grill |** Bar food & great drinks. 108 W Main St, Ossian. (563) 532-9812
30. **Two Trees Pizza |** Great pizza & a family-friendly environment. 115 E Main St, Ossian. (563) 532-8978
31. **Northeast Iowa RC&D |** Visitor center w/ tourism publications. 101 E Greene St, Postville. (563) 864-7112
32. **The Place in Protivin |** Great sports bar w/food & drink. 116 S Main St Protivin. (563) 569-8395
33. **Fast Mart |** Gas, food, & beverages. 336 S Main St, Protivin. (563) 569-8408
34. **Casey's General Store |** Fuel, drinks & food. 601 2nd Ave SW, Cresco. (563) 547-2255
35. **Kwik Star |** Convenience store w/ fuel & snacks. 330 2nd Ave SE, Cresco. (563) 547-5507
36. **Cresco Welcome Center |** Tourism information. 101 2nd Ave SW, Cresco. (563) 547-3434
37. **Super 8 |** Rooms & suites. 511 2nd Ave SE, Cresco. (563) 387-9233



The Winneshiek County is known for its cold winters and beautiful landscapes, perfect for exploring with your snowmobile. With gently rolling hills and broad flat plains, there are plenty of trails to ride. January is the coldest month in Iowa, and snow may start to fall in November. Winters in Iowa can be harsh, but there are many fun snowmobile trails to enjoy. The 69-mile Ridgeway Loop is the perfect route for those riders looking for a full day tour that is complete with food and drink stops along the way. This is a local favorite route, and the longest recommended loop in Winneshiek County. Through the rolling hills of Northeast Iowa, riders pass through scenic vistas on well groomed trail that is groomed adn maintained by the Trails Unlimited Snowmobile Club. While riding this loop, snowmobilers will be treated to classic Iowa farmland, rolling hills, forested vistas, and even a few wetland areas. Check out the Trails Unlimited Facebook page for more information and updated trail conditions at www.trailsunlimited.net.

Winneshiek County's frigid air and cornflower blue sky are not the only things that will take your breath away. The 54-mile Bluffton Loop takes riders through wide-open spaces, forests, valleys, historical landmarks, and iconic farmlands. From the starting point at the Randy's Bluffton Store parking lot, riders can follow trail signs that will take them northwesterly toward Burr Oak. If in need of a burger, Barny's Bar & Grill is a great place to stop and warm up. Once back on the trail heading northwest, the route turns hillier and takes riders through some big valleys and past some iconic bluffs that you can't see from the road. The route from Kendalville to Cresco is a very curvey and scenic segment that provides snowmobilers with an opportunity to ride up on hills, down in valleys, or spot wildlife. For additional information or to get the most up-to-date trail conditions, please visit the Winneshiek Trail Twisters Facebook page at www.facebook.com/winneshiek.



Winneshiek County offers many opportunities to enjoy beautiful vistas along fantastic snowmobile trails. The 35-mile Decorah Loop features flat runs that bisect farm country and eventually turn into steeper climbs as you near Bluffton. Riders will be treated to many hills and valleys to try out, while making the ride from Bluffton back to the starting point in Decorah. For trail conditions, visit Winneshiek Trail Twister's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/winneshiek.twisters.

When the snow begins to fall across Winneshiek County, embrace the chilly temperatures with a brisk snowmobile ride. Some snowmobile enthusiasts are adrenaline pumping thrill seekers, while others prefer a serene trail to contemplate or just clear the mind. The 39-mile Festina Loop begins at the ever popular watering hole, known as the Zipper. This route is a great mixture of forests and farmland, while also limiting the need for riders to sled through too many ditches. Being located in the south central region of the county, this loop provides riders with some of the most scenic and hilly trail found anywhere within Northeast Iowa. For additional information and trail conditions, please visit the Trails Unlimited Facebook page at www.trailsunlimited.net.

Iowa Snowmobile
TRAIL ETIQUETTE & SIGNS

Trail Signs

- **Trail Marker** - Trails or areas where snowmobiles are allowed.
- **Restricted Area** - Trails or areas where snowmobiles are not allowed.
- **Stay on Trail Sign** - reminds riders of the importance of staying on the trail.
- **Trail Blazer** - informs riders that they are on a trail.
- **Turn Ahead** - additional guidance to the rider in a sharp turn.
- **Intersection ahead** - warns riders of an approaching an intersection.
- **Bridge ahead** - warn riders that there is a bridge ahead.
- **Directional Arrow** - indicates trail direction.
- **Stop Sign** - instructs riders to stop before proceeding with caution.
- **Trail Difficulty** Signs

Trail Etiquette

- Respect all trail restrictions
- Be considerate of other riders on the trail.
- Ride on the right side of the trail.
- Slow down when passing.
- Slow down when sight lines are poor.
- Keep speeds low around other riders.
- Keep noise down.
- Keep your ears open – no ear buds. Listening to headphones or ear buds can make it hard to hear and communicate with riders & recreationists.
- Yield the right-of-way to those passing you
- Report all illegal riding.
- Carry out what you carry in.
- Never harass or chase wildlife with your snowmobile.
- Hand signals can be a very reliable way to communicate. When riding with a group, raise a number of spread fingers to indicate how many sleds are following & a clenched fist if your are the last sled in your group

Thank You!
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

This Winneshiek County Snowmobile Trail Guide was sponsored in part by a grant from Iowa Tourism Grant Program with support from Winneshiek County Development & Tourism and Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce. Design of the guide was completed by Northeast Iowa RC&D, with input from Winneshiek County Conservation, Driftless Area Scenic Byway Board, Northeast Iowa Tourism Association, Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau, Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau, Driftrunners, Trails Unlimited, Winneshiek Trail Twisters, and the Decorah Park & Recreation Department. Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this publication. Northeast Iowa RC&D and its partners assume no responsibility in the use, or misuse of the map.

travel IOWA
DECORAH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WINNESHIEK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
NORTHEAST IOWA RC&D