

**Proposal:** For the Town of Grand Lake to provide some financial support for the purchase and building of a Buck and Rail fence along the Grand Lake snowmobile trail.

**Problem:** Due to the East Troublesome fire, some snowmobilers are riding on nontrail properties, trespassing, and at times placing themselves in danger from stumps and foundations. (I can provide pictures).

**Solution:** Build a Buck and Rail fence to keep snowmobilers on the road and trail system.

**Authority to provide funds:** Aspen Pine Estates falls within the Three Mile Area Plan, so the fence is a concern for the Town of Grand Lake.

Secondly, The Grand Lake Board of Trustees has the authority to obligate money to support the town. Specifically, the Grand Lake Comprehensive Plan of 2020 identifies the need to “Develop a multi-use trail from Grand Lake to the Arapaho National Forest.”

In an Overview it states “As the principal authority and champion for the comprehensive plan, the Town has the capacity to update land use regulations, PROVIDE FUNDING ASSISTANCE, and leverage staff resources.

**Discussion:** Due to the fire, the trees and houses that lined the road (CR492) and trail system were burnt down; as a result, snowmobilers are riding across private properties that have foundations and stumps. This exposes the snowmobilers to a preventable risk.

Because this is a known risk and is mostly preventable by erecting a fence; it is believed to be a legal liability to both the land owners and the Town of Grand Lake since Grand Lake represents this as their trail system.

Some residents who do not support snowmobiling and have been seeking to close the trail system, this will be another point for them to argue their side; stating the personal safety of the unaware tourist. A fence will avoid this argument.

There are also cars that cannot discern the road edge and will drive into the ditch, getting stuck. They have to wait 1 -2 hours for a tow truck or until someone like me pull them out (which I did 4 times last winter). This creates a poor experience for the family vacation and might result in them not returning to Grand Lake for vacation in subsequent years

Cost of the fence is about \$24,000.00 (3,200 LF X \$7.5 / LF) We are asking for only a small portion of this.

Logic to support our request for the fence: Grand Lake businesses (hotels, restaurants, and shops receive much of their income from snowmobilers during the winter months, which in turn provides tax revenue to the town. Some of these same tourists then are exposed to the beauty of Grand Lake and come back in the summer or fall, further adding to the revenues...it compounds.

Some people do not support erecting a fence due to the cost and say it is simply a problem of trespassing; that we should call the sheriff. I believe this is short sighted. The sheriff will come, will cite/ticket the individual for each property the snowmobiler has crossed (trespassed). Think of the BAD publicity this would create for the town...spreading on social media...leading to a poor reputation and

decrease in winter tourism. Affecting the revenues of hotels, restaurants, and shops...affecting Grand Lake's tax revenues!

Most residents of Aspen Pine Estate, although not technically part of the town, consider themselves as being part of the town. We bring our families and guests to the area; we eat at the restaurants and shop at the stores. We are proud of Grand Lake.

I am in the military, during snowmobile season I personally bring military members and disabled vets to Grand Lake every 2 weeks to snowmobile...eating every meal in Grand Lake. Three years ago, I introduced the Buckley AF base recreation department to Grand Lake. Since that time, every winter they bring groups of 6 to 12 people, 3 or 4 times a winter to Grand Lake to snowmobile. Each of these trips, they stay at a local hotel, eat at local restaurants, and shop at the local stores...again...look at the revenues and taxes generated. We do support and add to the Town of Grand Lake.

All my HOA members (except me) lost everything in the fire and are struggling with insurance companies and builders to rebuild. I can tell you, even I had over \$110,000.00 of property destroyed, but I only received \$49,574.62 from my insurance companies... and I am a lucky one. The other community members are overwhelmed emotionally and financially. Some have bought insurance to protect from lawsuits of a snowmobiler riding into their burned-out foundation...adding to their burden for a sport they don't even participate in.

**Conclusion:** The Town of Grand Lake contributing \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 to build a fence along the snowmobile trail system would be a wise investment. This amount is enough to represent a reasonable offer of assistance, creating goodwill, but small enough to not impact the town's budget.

Respectfully submitted,

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Proud member of Grand Lake