

## Time to Renew Snowmobiles and ATVs

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the BUTLER County Recorder's Office would like to remind the public that now is the time to begin renewing snowmobile and ATV registrations. Beginning in October 2007, County Recorders will be utilizing the IDNR's Electronic Licensing System of Iowa (ELSI) system to register snowmobiles and ATVs. After completing a process improvement event in January 2007, the IDNR and its stakeholders concluded that moving the snowmobile and ATV registration process from a network of 99 individual County Recorder computer systems to one master database system would improve customer service and increase the ability of the Department to locate and recover stolen machines. "The new registration process utilizes the same system used to sell hunting and fishing licenses, said Dave Cretors, Supervisor of the IDNR's Licensing Section. "It is a reliable system and is one that most snowmobile and ATV owners are already familiar and comfortable with."

Also new this year is the ability to register and title Off-Road Vehicles or "ORVs." An ORV is defined as "a motorized flotation tire vehicle with not less than four and not more than six low pressure tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than 1500 ccs and in total dry weight to not more than 1800 lbs and that has a seat that is of bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel control." ORVs are commonly marketed under brand names such as the "John Deere Gator" or "Kawasaki Mule." ORVs that are not being used strictly for agricultural purposes must be registered if they will be used on public grounds – including for ice fishing. Titling of ORVs is optional.

When renewing your machine, the IDNR requests that you please bring in the following information with you to your County Recorder's Office: the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for the machine and the make of the machine. It will also be helpful if you bring in your IDNR customer number (found on your hunting or fishing license), Driver's license number, and/or Social Security number. This information will be used to help build your customer record in the ELSI system and will assist with reducing customer wait times.

Individuals need to renew their registrations by December 31, 2007 to avoid encumbering an additional \$5 late fee. Registering early will help avoid long lines often seen later in the season when deer tag sales typically peak.

For more information on registering snowmobiles, ATVs and ORVs, please see the IDNR's web site at: <http://www.iowadnr.com/law/atv/index.html> or contact the BUTLER County Recorder at 319-267-2735.