

February 24, 2010

Dear Sugarbush Trail Cross-Country Skiers:

I hope you have all had a chance to ski the trails recently. They have been great!

There are many of us who ski the Sugarbush Trail system and we all likely understand that this trail system is one to be cherished. Many of you know that these trails are maintained by the Sugarbush Trail Association (STA), a non-profit entity with a hard-working volunteer board. Few folks understand the amount of work and significant funding required to maintain the Sugarbush Trail System. The goal of this letter is to encourage you to lend a helping hand to our efforts, either through financial support and/or through volunteerism.

The average annual cost of operating the Sugarbush Trail system is about \$50,000. This includes funds to brush and prep the trails in the Fall, plow and sand the Onion River Road, purchase and maintain equipment, purchase insurance and pay for the trail grooming..

Many people assume that the funds granted through the sale of Minnesota Ski Trail Passes are adequate to fund the trails. However, Ski Trail Pass funds underwrite only 25% of the cost of maintaining the trails. The Lutsen Tofte Tourism Association, through funds contributed directly by member resorts, underwrites about one-half of the STA budget each year. We depend on STA memberships, individual and business donors, as well as the STA sponsored Tofte Trek for the remainder of the funds.

We are including a simple graph with this letter that explains where our trail funds come from as well as the gap which remains to be filled each year by donors. The graph does not include the significant additional "in-kind" support provided by the USFS (appx. \$12,000), North Star Ski Club volunteers, board members and summer work crews provided through federal funds.

We encourage each of you to make a financial contribution to the STA in support of the trail system you enjoy so much. This is a very special trail system and we need your help to keep it so! We also welcome those who wish to become active volunteers with STA!

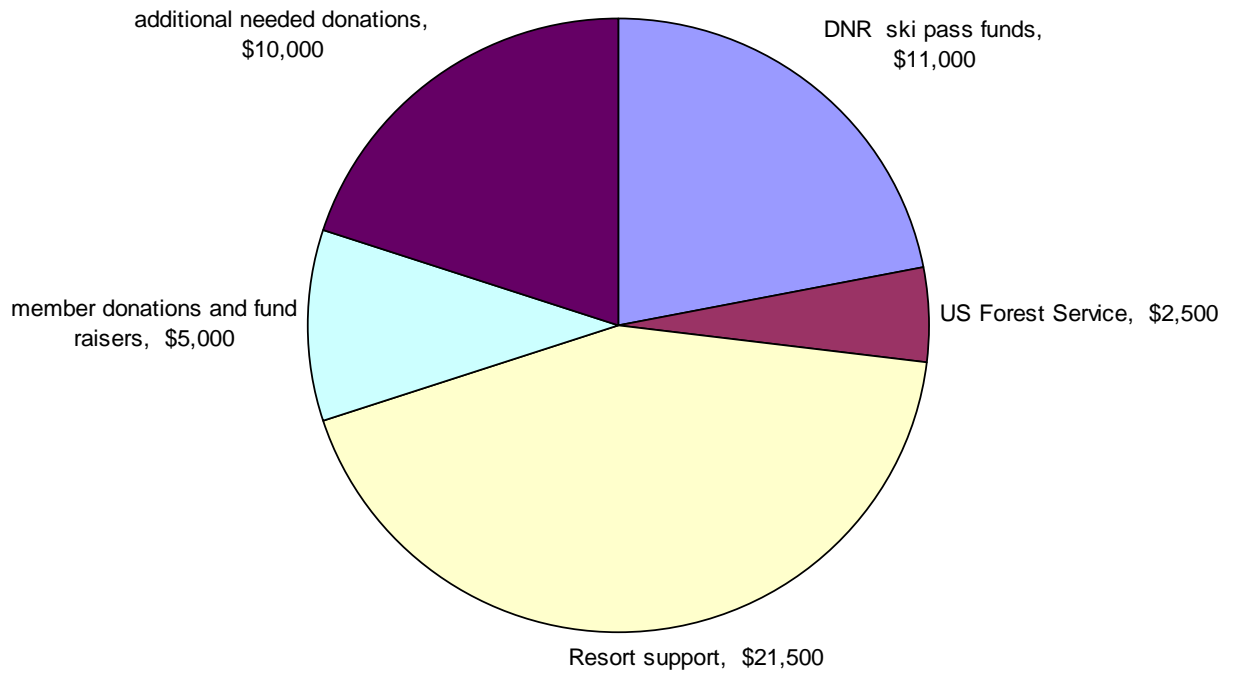
If you could help us fund this effort, could send a check to:

Sugarbush Trail Association
P.O. Box 2112
Tofte, MN 55615

Sincerely,

Nancy Burns, President
Sugarbush Trail Association

Sugarbush Trial Association Annual Source of funds



■ DNR ski pass funds ■ US Forest Service □ Resort support □ member donations and fund raisers ■ additional needed donations