

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Regarding Snow Cat Replacement



1. **Why do we need a new snow cat?** The existing snow cat is about 40 years old and it is too costly and difficult to maintain and it is unreliable. It has an old alpine tiller which is not well suited for Nordic Skiing and with that it cannot set classic tracks. The new snow cat will be able to push heavy snow whales, spread snow, and frequently till and groom the trails. These last points are important. Some people think that the only thing wrong with our existing snow cat is that it is unreliable, but another very real problem is that it can't groom a ski surface very well and it cannot set tracks for our classic skiers.
2. **Why buy new rather than used?** Our season is short and we don't want down time associated with the repair of a used machine. Some Nordic centers have purchased used snow cats and have incurred significant repair bills in the first few seasons. By buying new, we will have a complete 3 year warranty, which eliminates the risk of initial expenses. Additionally, the industry redesigned their equipment in the last 3-4 years to optimally handle Nordic Ski trails that push and till manmade snow and we want one of these newer models for our challenging application. Also, we want to provide a safe and comfortable operating experience for our volunteer operators, who are often out in the late or pre-dawn hours preparing a nice track. They deserve to be able to do this without dealing with a decrepit, mouse-ridden, obsolete machine that breaks down in the middle of the night.
3. **Why did we have two demo machines this winter?** The two leading manufacturers of Nordic snow grooming equipment are Prinoth and PistenBully. We wished to give them each a fair tryout so that we could be well informed in our purchase of a new snow cat. Our volunteer groomers got to use and evaluate both machines and are considering the pros and cons of each.
4. **Who will own the new snow cat?** The new snow cat will most likely be owned by the Friends of Lapham Peak. We are actively working on the framework that will allow The Friends of Lapham Peak Unit to own the new snow cat for many years.
5. **What are the purchase details?** We hope to place an order this spring for delivery of a new snow cat by Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Your donations make it possible for a down payment on the snow cat and enough to build a storage garage to protect the snow cat and snow guns. We will need a loan for the balance of the snow cat purchase. We are hopeful, based upon our recent fund raising experience, that the loan will be retired quite soon.
6. **Why build a storage building?** We need to protect our investments. Our existing machine has been left outside and has suffered significant damage from rodents, UV exposure, and weather. Also, we wish to have a place indoors to thaw out snow guns and the snow cat and a place to safely work on our snow making equipment. The manufacturers all recommend inside storage.

7. **What are the details of the proposed storage shed?** In order to store the snow cat and the snow guns and provide enough room to work on the equipment, we are hoping to build a roughly 42'x42' storage shed between the "Magic Carpet" trail and the paved road. We are hopeful that with volunteer help we can build the storage shed this fall for \$50,000.
8. **Who will operate the new snow cat while pushing whales and/or grooming?** Beattle and a team of well trained operators will drive the machine . The new snow cat will be an expensive machine, \$250,000 and the people who operate it are to be safe, thoughtful caretakers of the machine.
9. **Which trails will be groomed?** Mostly the manmade loops will be groomed. We will sometimes get off of the manmade trail and groom portions of the Green Loop when the snow base depth is great enough. In order to groom more than that, we would need to make improvements to the trails, including cutting back of branches/trees, grading, and the removal of sharp dips or curves. It's not impossible that we will groom more than the manmade loop but a lot of trail renovation would need to be planned and done.

**10. How do I donate? Make tax-deductible donations**

Send a check payable to:

"Lapham Peak Friends/ Snowmaking" mail to:

W329 N846 Hwy C

Delafield, WI 53018

(Be sure donation is marked with the word "Snowmaking")

Or make a donation online at [laphampeaksnowmaking.org](http://laphampeaksnowmaking.org)

Or hand your donation to the WI-DNR staff at the park entrance window

Or drop your donation into the red donation tube near the Evergreen trailhead



*Friends of Lapham Peak Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest, Inc. is a Wisconsin Non-profit Corporation and a Federal 501(c)(3) Public Charity*