

Marble River

Wind Farm

“Rules of Engagement” for local Snowmobilers

Wind power projects are environmentally friendly and are cool to look at when riding around. But they add a few more obstacles to the landscape that you may not notice, especially when your eyes are drawn to the “big stuff”. That’s especially true for snowmobilers when winter snows accumulate and obscure equipment such as electrical junction boxes. These are similar in size or smaller than those green transformer boxes you may have in your neighborhood if it has an underground electrical system.

Wind power projects may have opened up new roads and access to more areas, but riders need to be particularly cautious due to this additional hardware associated with the wind farm. Before hitting the snow, riders need to become familiar with the terrain—so they don’t hit anything else.

To encourage safe and fun winter sledding, Marble River Wind Farm offers the following helpful tips:

- **Avoid above-ground high-voltage electrical junction boxes.** Besides the danger of an impact, riders may be exposed to deadly high-voltage electricity.
- **Look for the elevated flags that mark junction boxes.** They may be hard to see at night or during days with obscured vision from blowing or falling snow, or from a fast-moving snowmobile.
- **Don’t necessarily stick with tradition.** Junction boxes are often placed in county road right-of-ways, or ditches that riders may have used in the past.
- **Avoid standing or riding near wind turbine towers.** Falling ice accumulation from the towers can fall and cause serious injury.
- **Be sure to warn your kids and other young riders in particular.** Inexperienced riders may not understand the danger of a collision, and may be more easily distracted from scouting for hazards.

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- **Stick to marked trails whenever possible.** Observe standard snowmobile protocols as suggested by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations, available at http://www.snowmobilers.org/facts_safety.html.
- **Enjoy the View.** We don't want anyone hurt related to our operations. Enjoy the view, but use caution and have a great ride.