



HB22-1046

Local Designation of County Roads for Over-Snow Use

Sponsors: Reps. McLachlan & Catlin, Sen. Winter

In many rural parts of Colorado, county roads that do provide access to residential properties are oftentimes not maintained in the winter. Instead, roads that provide access to historic areas and state/federal public lands are usually over the snow access only. While county roads may be maintained for rubber-tire vehicles in the summer, many of these roads are not plowed in the winter and are therefore attractive to use as routes/access for cross country/backcountry skiers, fat bike riders and snowmobilers. This activity has developed to the point where it is not uncommon in some areas for locals to regard these roads as wintertime recreational amenities.

Current statute allows counties to limit vehicle usage on county roads – but only for a period of ninety days. In the mountainous areas of Colorado, these roads are often snow-covered for four to six months.

HB22-1046 would establish explicit authority for counties to designate all or a portion of a county road for the over-snow use only. This would be accomplished by ordinance or resolution and could be for a continuous seasonal period.

HB 1046 will give counties the ability to both enhance their local winter tourism economy and conserve limited road maintenance resources. Having the flexibility within state law to designate certain roads as unplowed and acceptable for winter recreational usage would give a boost to the ski touring/fat biking industry and encourage more Coloradans to get outside.

**Please Support County Authority to Designate
County Roads for Winter Recreational Use**

Contact: Eric Bergman 303.915.2909/ebergman@ccionline.org