

# Snowmobile Trails and Enforcement Account

Natural Resources Fund

Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report



## Creation and Purpose of the Account

The first legislation for the registration of snowmobiles in Minnesota was enacted in 1967. The Snowmobile Trails and Enforcement Account was established in 1982 to pay for grants to counties and municipalities for construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails; to acquire, develop, and maintain state trails; to provide snowmobile safety programs; and to administer and enforce snowmobile laws (M.S. 84.83).

## Sources and Uses of the Funds

Fees from the registration of snowmobiles, trail pass, and unrefunded gasoline taxes attributable to snowmobile use are the main sources of funding in the Snowmobile Trails and Enforcement Account. The account's funds may be spent only as appropriated by law, for:

- A grant-in-aid program to local units of government for construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails; see [Grant Outcomes website](#)
- Acquisition, development, and maintenance of state recreational snowmobile trails;
- Snowmobile safety programs; and
- Administration and enforcement of the laws concerning snowmobiles in M.S. 84.81 to 84.91, and grants to local law enforcement agencies.

## FY2010 Financial Summary

### Receipts

The principal sources of revenues for the snowmobile account were snowmobile registrations, trail permits and license issuing fees (50 percent), and unrefunded gasoline taxes attributable to snowmobile use (48 percent). FY10 revenues totaled \$12.8 million.

### Expenditures

The Division of Parks & Trails made up 83 percent of the expenditures. Expenditures by the Enforcement Division, including grants to local enforcement agencies, were 12 percent of the expenditures. FY10 expenditures totaled approximately \$14 million.

### Fund Balance

The fund balance declined by approximately 18 percent this year due to less roll-forward balance. However revenue is up slightly due to a good snow season. Snowmobile activity is dependent on weather conditions

## FY2010 Activities and Accomplishments

The Division of Parks & Trails developed, managed, and maintained snowmobile recreational trails that were open to the public. More than 942 miles of snowmobile trails were open for public use. Parks & Trails administered grants-in-aid that were available to counties, cities, and towns to create and maintain locally initiated trails totaling 21,205 miles, through 181 grants. The Division was able to increase its maintenance level of effort to the Field Offices and the ability to provide additional training and monitoring of the Grant-in-Aid program as recommended in the 2003 OLAs report. This increase in effort has resulted in the termination of grants to one county during the past season.

The Enforcement Division provided law enforcement activities and safety and training services for snowmobilers at state parks, forests, and recreational trails. Approximately 15,000 hours of enforcement activities were provided including information, education and training, and law enforcement. Grants were made to local units of law enforcement to enforce state laws and rules for snowmobile use.

The Electronic Licensing System (ELS) operated from the Division of Fish & Wildlife, collected fees for snowmobile related activities in state parks, trails, and use areas. The expenditures from the snowmobile account paid for development and operation of the licensing system attributable to snowmobile activities.

In FY2010, Conservation Corps Minnesota received funds from various Natural Resources Fund accounts to support the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program activities, including constructing, maintaining, and signing state trails including snowmobile trails.

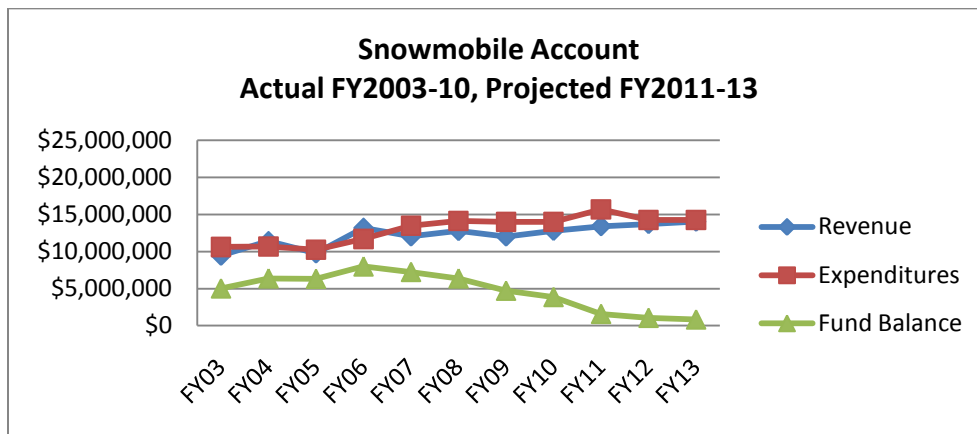
## Budget Trends FY2003 to FY2013

Expenditures have exceeded revenues since FY2007. The fund balance has been declining since FY2006, and the trend is projected to continue through FY2013.

<b>Receipts, Expenditures, and Fund Balances</b>	
<b>FY2010 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$4,714,859</b>
Prior year adjustments	\$345,538
<b>Receipts</b>	
Snowmobile registration	\$3,849,062
Snowmobile trail permit	2,241,261
License issuing fee	257,403
Snowmobile training	75,052
Interest earnings	60,129
Fines and Citations	29,864
Other receipts <sup>1</sup>	5,955
Transfer in: Unrefunded gas tax revenue	6,201,698
Transfer in: Police State Aid	68,933
Total receipts and transfers in	\$12,789,357
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Parks and Trails	\$3,367,842
Grants in aid to local governments	\$8,288,170
Enforcement	1,393,643
Enforcement grants	315,000
Fish & Wildlife	464,434
Lands & Minerals	33,000
Conservations Corps Minnesota	115,000
Transfer Out: Debt Service	9,188
Total expenditures and transfers out	\$13,986,277
<b>FY2010 Ending fund balance</b>	<b>\$3,863,478</b>
Net change for FY2010	(\$851,381)

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Other receipts: license credit card service charge, credit agreement rebate, agency direct and indirect cost, settlements, cash overage/shortage and refunds



## Additional Resources

Snowmobiling home page

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snowmobiling/index.html>

Snowmobile registration procedures and fees

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/snowmobile/index.html>

Online licenses

<https://www4.wildlifelicense.com/mn/>

Snowmobile state trail sticker

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/snowmobile/trailpermit.html>

Snowmobile safety training

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/snowmobile/index.html>

Grants Outcomes

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/outcomes/index.html>

Snowmobile grants – trails assistance program (maintenance and grooming)

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/gia\\_snowmobile.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/gia_snowmobile.html)

Snowmobile trail maps

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snowmobiling/maps.html>

Snow depth and trail conditions

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/current\\_conditions/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/current_conditions/index.html)

MN Snowmobilers Association

<http://www.mnsnowmobiler.org/>

Conservation Corps Minnesota

<http://www.conservationcorps.org/>

## Contacts

Snowmobile program

Contact the local DNR Parks & Trails Area Supervisor

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/contacts\\_trails.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/contacts_trails.html)

DNR Home Page

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

DNR divisions and offices

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/index.html>

E-mail: [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

Telephone:

(651) 296-6157

(888) 646-6367

Website:

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