

Snowmobile Trails and Enforcement Account

Natural Resources Fund

Fiscal Year 2009 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;
- 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.

FY2009 Financial Summary

Receipts

The principal sources of revenues for the Snowmobile account were snowmobile registrations, trail permits and license issuing fees (51 percent), and unrefunded gasoline taxes attributable to snowmobile use (45 percent).

Expenditures

The Division of Parks & Trails made up 84 percent of the expenditures. Expenditures by the Enforcement Division, including grants to local enforcement agencies, made up 12 percent of the expenditures.

Grants

Grants in aid to local units of government, through the Division of Parks & Trails, totaled nearly \$8.3 million. Enforcement Division grants to law enforcement agencies totaled approximately \$315,000.

Fund Balance

The fund balance declined by approximately 26 percent this year and has been decreasing due to lack of snow for the last few years. Snowmobile activity is dependent on weather conditions.

FY2009 Activities and Accomplishments

The Division of Parks & Trails developed, managed, and maintained snowmobile recreational trails that were open to the public. More than 1,000 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 21,283 miles, through 183 grants.

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 FY2009, 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.

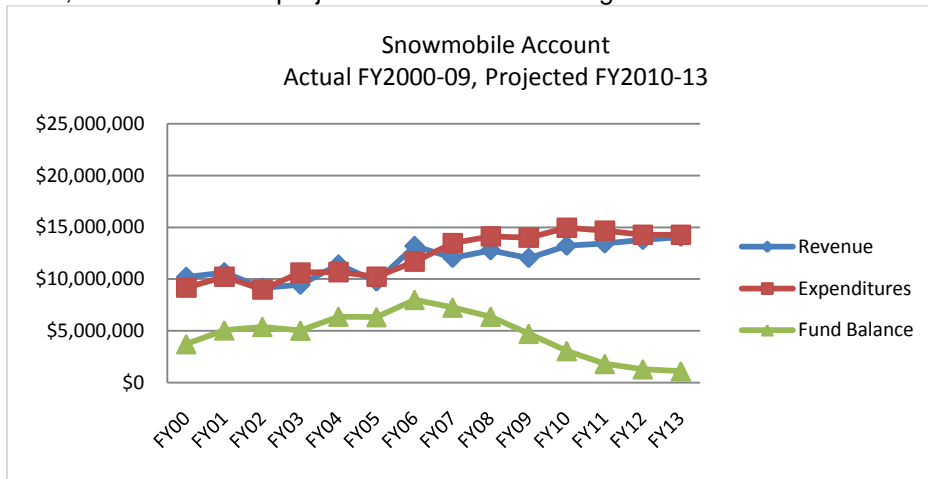
Receipts, Expenditures, and Fund Balances	
FY2009 Beginning fund balance	\$6,367,673
Prior year adjustments	\$311,285
Receipts	
Snowmobile registration	\$3,735,211
Snowmobile trail permit	2,179,659
License issuing fee	249,669
Interest earnings	221,595
Snowmobile training	64,467
Fines and Citations	26,368
Other receipts ¹	9,520
Transfer in: Unrefunded gas tax revenue	5,464,842
Transfer in: Police State Aid	<u>76,673</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$12,028,004
Expenditures	
Parks and Trails	\$3,299,590
Grants in aid to local governments	\$8,298,525
Enforcement	1,398,961
Enforcement grants	314,996
Fish & Wildlife	446,441
Lands & Minerals	22,000
Conservations Corps Minnesota	115,000
Transfer Out: Debt Service	<u>9,563</u>
Total expenditures and transfers out	<u>\$13,992,102</u>
FY2009 Ending fund balance	\$4,714,859
Net change for FY2009	(\$1,652,814)

Notes

¹ Other receipts: license credit card service charge, credit agreement rebate, agency indirect cost, and refunds

Budget Trends FY2000 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.



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>

Snowmobile grants – trails assistance program (maintenance and grooming)

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

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

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

Telephone:

(651) 296-6157

(888) 646-6367

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