

Snowmobile Trails and Enforcement Account

Natural Resources Fund

Fiscal Year 2011 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.

FY2011 Financial Summary

Receipts

The principal sources of revenues for the snowmobile account were snowmobile registrations, trail permits and license issuing fees (49 percent). Unrefunded gasoline taxes on snowmobiles (transfers in to the account) made up 50 percent of the available funds. Interest earnings have declined due to the economy. Total revenues for FY2011 were \$13.8 million.

Expenditures

The Division of Parks & Trails made up 84 percent of the expenditures. The Enforcement Division expenditures including grants to local enforcement agencies were 11 percent of the expenditures. FY2011 expenditures total \$14.9 million.

Fund Balance

The fund balance decreased by 20 percent this year and has been decreasing for the last several years. Snowmobile registrations increased by \$200,000 but expenditures also increased.

FY2011 Activities and Accomplishments

The Enforcement Division provided law enforcement and education and safety training activities throughout the state. Because of a long snow season, enforcement activity increased to 22,000 hours. Division employees and volunteer instructors provided snowmobile safety education to approximately 13,000 youth and adults. Grants were made to local units of law enforcement to provide snowmobile law enforcement activities.

The Division of Parks and Trails developed, managed, and maintained snowmobile recreational trails that were open to the public. More than 942 miles of snowmobile trails managed by the department were open for public use. Parks and Trails administered grants-in-aid that were available to local units of government to create and maintain locally initiated trails totaling 21,205 miles, through 180 grants. In addition, 39 grants were awarded for capital improvement projects, including trail rehabilitation, bridge repair and development, and trail reroutes. 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 Office of Legislative Auditor's report. Field staff monitor at least 50% of the GIA system each winter plus follow up with Club and Sponsor on any trail complaints received during the season.

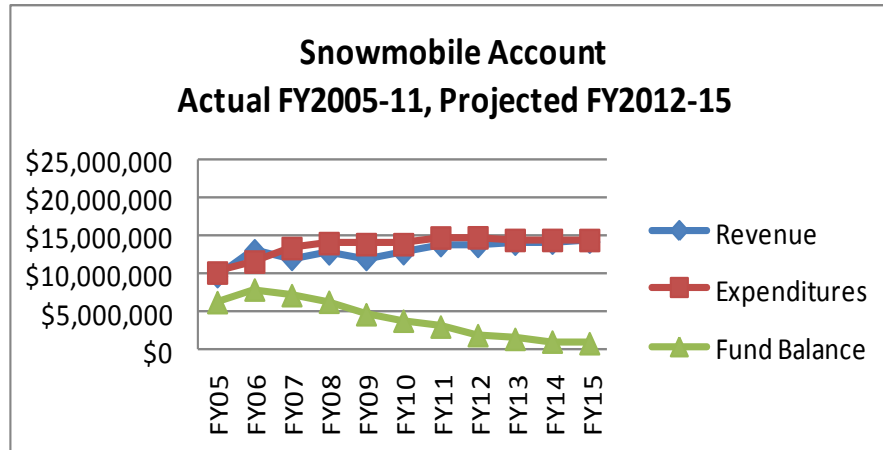
Budget Trends FY2005 to FY2015

Expenditures have exceeded revenues since FY2007 and that trend is expected to continue. The fund balance has been declining since FY2006, and that trend is also projected to continue through FY2015.

Receipts, Expenditures, and Fund Balances	
FY2011 Beginning fund balance	\$3,863,478
Prior year adjustments	\$228,125
Receipts	
Snowmobile registration	\$ 4,060,449
Snowmobile trail permit	2,431,850
License issuing fee	274,781
Snowmobile training	87,612
Interest earnings	37,452
Fines and Citations	40,261
Other receipts ¹	(343)
Transfer in: Unrefunded gas tax revenue	6,867,106
Transfer in: Police State Aid	<u>63,351</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$13,862,519
Expenditures	
Parks and Trails Mgmt	\$4,143,190
Grants in aid to local governments	8,405,242
Enforcement	1,352,148
Enforcement grants	315,000
Fish & Wildlife	514,797
Lands & Minerals	15,000
Conservations Corps Minnesota	115,000
Transfer Out: Debt Service	<u>8,813</u>
Total expenditures and transfers out	\$14,869,190
FY2011 Ending fund balance	<u>\$3,084,932</u>
Net change for FY2011	(\$778,546)

Notes

¹ Other receipts: license credit card service charge, credit agreement rebate and overage/shortage.



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
- 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>

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