

Snowmobile Trails and Enforcement Account

*Natural Resources Fund
Fiscal Year 2012 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 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 the [GIA Program Webpage](#)
- 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.

FY2012 Financial Summary

Receipts

The principal sources of revenues for the snowmobile account were snowmobile registrations, trail permits and license issuing fees (34 percent). Due to the unusually warm weather and lack of snow in 2012, receipts were considerably low, 53% of 2011 receipts. Unrefunded gasoline taxes on snowmobiles made up 64 percent of the available funds.

Expenditures

Approximately 85% of expenditures in 2012 were from the division of Parks and Trails and 11% from the division of Enforcement. Expenditures remain consistent with historical spending.

Fund Balance

The fund balance decreased by 99 percent this year due almost entirely to the loss of revenue. An on-going structural imbalance between spending and receipts also contributed. Reduced spending of \$1.3 million in 2013 is expecting to bring the account positive in 2013.

FY2012 Activities and Accomplishments

The Enforcement Division provided snowmobile law enforcement, education and safety training activities throughout the state. The divisions activities in FY12 decreased to 9,100 hours compared to previous years because of the lack of snow. Division employees and volunteer instructors around the state trained 6,886 youth and adults through the snowmobile safety education program. This was also a decrease from previous years and is also attributed to the lack of snow in FY12. In addition the division provided grant to local law enforcement agencies to provide snowmobile law enforcement and education activities.

The Division of Parks and Trails developed, managed, and maintained more than 942 miles of recreational snowmobile trails that were open to the public. Parks and Trails

administered grants-in-aid that were available to local units of government to create and maintain locally initiated trails totaling 21,304 miles, through 180 grants. Much of the grant funding is used for equipment related expenses, such as groomers and drags, and other costs associated with establishing the trail, grooming operations, and signage. Many labor hours are donated by local snowmobile club volunteers. In addition, 34 grants were awarded for capital improvement projects, including trail rehabilitation, bridge repair and development, and trail reroutes.

The Division of Parks and Trails continues to provide a high level of program administration and trail monitoring through its field offices as recommended in the 2003 Office of Legislative Auditor's report. Field staff monitored trail quality and program compliance in at least 50% of the Grant-in-Aid system each winter, and follow up with clubs and sponsors with any trail related issues.

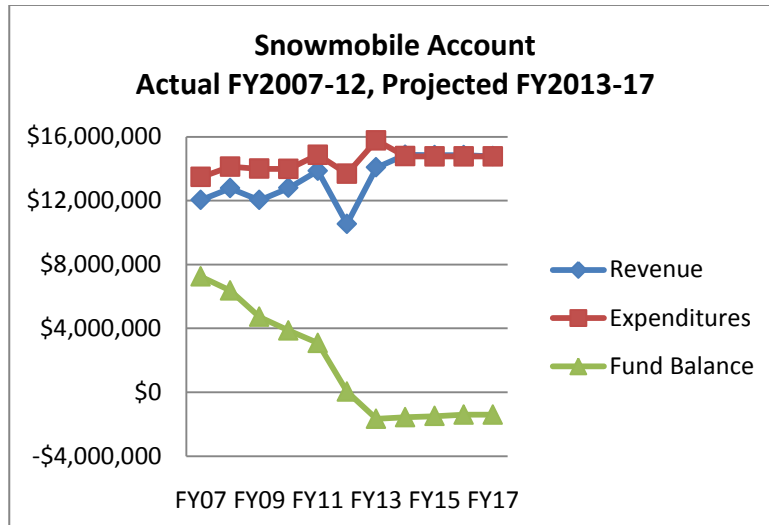
Receipts, Expenditures, and Fund Balances	
FY2012 Beginning fund balance	\$ 3,084,932
Prior year adjustments	\$90,408
Receipts	
Snowmobile registration	\$2,225,954
Snowmobile trail permit	1,210,049
License issuing fee	159,646
Snowmobile training	33,931
Interest earnings	22,903
Fines and Citations	18,766
Other receipts ¹	11,683
Transfer in: Unrefunded gas tax revenue	6,778,644
Transfer in: Police State Aid	<u>75,506</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$10,537,081
Expenditures	
Parks and Trails Mgmt	\$3,344,042
Grants in aid to local governments	8,350,566
Enforcement	1,170,191
Enforcement grants	314,410
Fish & Wildlife	364,796
Lands & Minerals	13,000
Conservations Corps Minnesota	115,000
Transfer Out: Debt Service	<u>8,438</u>
Total expenditures and transfers out	\$13,680,443
FY2012 Ending fund balance	\$31,979
Net change for FY2012	(\$3,052,953)

Notes

¹ Other receipts: Agency Direct Cost Reimb., license credit card service charge and credit agreement rebate.

Budget Trends FY2007 to FY2017

Expenditures have exceeded revenues since FY2007. The fund balance has been declining since FY2006, and is projected to be flat in FY2013 to FY2017.



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2017. The department will manage levels of spending to ensure the account does not go negative as shown above.

Additional Resource Links

[Snowmobiling home page](#)

[Snowmobile registration procedures and fees](#)

[Online licenses](#)

[Snowmobile state trail sticker](#)

[Snowmobile safety training](#)

[Grants Outcomes](#)

[Snowmobile grants – trails assistance program \(maintenance and grooming\)](#)

[Snowmobile trail maps](#)

[Snow depth and trail conditions](#)

[MN Snowmobilers Association](#)

[Conservation Corps Minnesota](#)

Contacts

[Snowmobile program](#)

[Trail Grant Contacts](#)

[DNR Home Page](#)

[DNR Divisions and Offices](#)

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