

Snowmobile Trails and Enforcement Account

*Natural Resources Fund
Fiscal Year 2013 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.

Financial Review	
FY2013 Beginning fund balance	\$ 31,979
Prior year adjustments	\$584,336
Receipts	
Snowmobile registration	\$6,504,282
Snowmobile trail permit	345,224
License issuing fee	175,263
Snowmobile training	46,663
Interest earnings	16,320
Fines and Citations	36,935
Other receipts ¹	(433)
Transfer in: Unrefunded gas tax revenue	6,983,935
Transfer in: Police State Aid	<u>54,732</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$14,162,921
Expenditures	
Parks and Trails Mgmt	\$3,482,747
Grants in aid to local governments	7,646,331
Enforcement	1,424,105
Enforcement grants	312,238
Fish & Wildlife	390,101
Lands & Minerals	0
Conservations Corps Minnesota	115,000
Transfer Out: Debt Service	<u>8,063</u>
Total expenditures and transfers out	\$13,378,583
FY2013 Ending fund balance	<u>\$1,400,653</u>
Net change for FY2013	\$1,368,674

Notes

¹ Other receipts: license credit card service charge and credit agreement rebate.

FY2013 Accomplishments

The Division of Enforcement provided snowmobile law enforcement, education and safety training activities throughout the state. The division's activities in FY13 increased to 21,073 hours because of a good snow season. Division employees and volunteer instructors around the state trained 8,065 youth and adults through the snowmobile safety education program. 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 21,296 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.

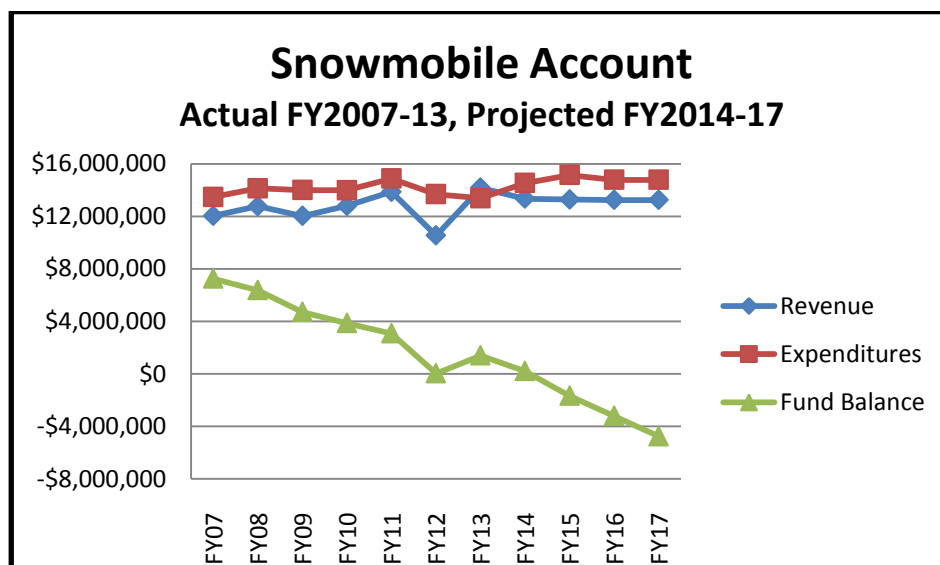
The Division of Parks and Trails continues to provide a high level of program administration and trail monitoring through its field offices as recommended in the 2003 Office of Legislative Auditor's report. Field staff monitored trail quality and program compliance in at least 50% of the Grant-in-Aid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

Financial Summary FY2007 to FY2017

Revenue from registrations and trail permits are correlated with the weather's impact on snowmobiling. Revenue in 2013 was higher than 2012, which appears to be due to the relatively better snowmobiling riding season in 2013. A legislation change allowing nontrail use registration is expected to cause a slight drop in revenues starting with FY14.

Expenditures in 2013 were reduced by about \$1.6 million in a plan to address a projected negative balance at the end of 2012. This reduction was from both the GIA Program and other DNR managed budgets, and enabled the fund to have a positive balance at the end of 2013.

The fund balance increased this year by about \$1.3 million due to the above mentioned reduced spending strategy implemented in 2013. An on-going structural imbalance between spending and receipts is being addressed in 2014.



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](#)

[Email: DNR Information](#)

[DNR Website](#)

Telephone: (651) 296-6157

(888) 646-6367

TTY: (651) 296-5484

TTY: (800) 657-3929