



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

ATV Fund

Expenditures: \$400,000 FY 2012 / \$400,000 FY 2013

(Natural Resources Fund – ATV Account)

It is needed because

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) recreation is a popular past-time in the state. There are approximately 260,000 registered all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the state, with ATV recreation generating approximately \$140 million in total spending annually. This initiative will provide additional funding from the ATV account in the natural resources fund to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to continue to expand efforts to manage ATV use on state lands and public trails, supporting education and outreach efforts to ensure riders understand and adhere to acceptable riding behaviors.

This request will allow DNR to continue its commitment to working with riders, clubs, sponsors and businesses to provide high-quality ATV trail riding experiences. High-quality trails help retain current riders, recruit new riders, and get people outdoors to experience natural settings and participate in physical activity.

Being a key player in providing ATV opportunities in the state allows DNR to influence the sport in ways that protect the natural environment, create opportunity for the recruitment of new riders, and promote economic development.

Major program elements

This initiative will allow DNR to operate, maintain, and monitor designated state forest trails for ATV use. This funding also will allow DNR to produce digital and downloadable maps for the statewide system of ATV trails, increasing public access to trail information and allowing maps to be updated efficiently. In addition, this initiative will provide for additional oversight and training for ATV clubs and sponsors and monitoring of the ATV Grant-in-Aid trail system.

Priority-setting

Priorities are set in statute and in program policy. Priorities are also established by working cooperatively with the organized ATV community, local units of government, and businesses.

Project locations

The statewide system of ATV trails, including state administered trails and trails in the Grant-in-Aid program.

Key measures and outcomes

This program seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increase DNR's level of trail monitoring;
- Conduct field audits with Grant-in-Aid clubs and sponsors;
- Provide sustainable trail development training and support for Grant-in-aid clubs and sponsors;
- Increase DNR's level of maintenance for newly designated forest trails;
- Provide digital mapping for the trail system available to view or download on-line; and
- Improved safety for the system of trails.

Financial Implications

The FY 2011 budget for this activity is approximately \$2 million. The requested annual appropriation increase of \$300,000 is a 15 percent increase. A one-time request of \$100,000 is for the FY 2012-13 biennium to provide digital mapping for the trail system.

For further information contact:

Ron Potter, Policy and Program Manager
Division of Parks and Trails
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5632

ronald.potter@state.mn.us