



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

### Snowmobile Fund

**Expenditures: \$200,000 FY 2012 / \$200,000 FY 2013**

**(Natural Resources Fund – Snowmobile Account)**

#### **It is needed because**

This initiative will provide funding from the snowmobile account in the natural resources fund to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to increase monitoring of the Grant-in-Aid program, training for snowmobile clubs and sponsors, and continue maintenance of state trails for snowmobile use.

With 255,000 registered snowmobiles in the state, and snowmobile recreation generating \$200 million in direct spending annually, snowmobiling contributes significantly to the state's economy. DNR aims to foster public-private partnerships that support a safe and sustainable sport of snowmobiling, including a quality trails system that balances Minnesota's environmental, social, and economic needs.

DNR is committed to working with riders, clubs, sponsors, and businesses to provide high-quality snowmobile trail riding experiences throughout the state. High-quality trails retain current riders, recruit new riders, and get people outdoors to experience natural settings and participate in physical activity.

#### **Major program elements**

- Increase the level of effort with the Grant-in-Aid snowmobile program.
- State Trail maintenance and operations for snowmobile use will continue to be managed at current levels.

#### **Priority-setting**

Priorities are set in statute (M.S. 84.83) and in program policy. Priorities can also be established by working cooperatively with the snowmobile community, which includes the Minnesota United Snowmobile Association (MnUSA), Minnesota Snowmobilers Advisory Committee (MSAC), local

units of government, and businesses. With the snowmobile season officially set from December 1 – March 31, riders expect and demand high quality, safe snowmobile experiences.

#### **Project locations**

Project locations are statewide, within the system of snowmobile 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 levels of trail monitoring;
- Conduct program fiscal reviews with Grant-in-Aid clubs and sponsors;
- Provide program training and support for Grant-in-Aid clubs and sponsors;
- Continue operations and maintenance on state trails; and
- Improve safety for the system of trails

#### **Financial Implications**

The FY 2011 budget for this activity is \$3,749,000 including an annual \$400,000 one-time appropriation received in the FY2010-11 biennium. The requested annual appropriation increase of \$200,000 would result in a \$200,000 reduction to the FY 12-13 budget as compared to the FY 10-11 budget.

#### **For further information contact:**

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