

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40\_\_



September 8, 2017

Minnesota County Sheriffs:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites all county sheriff agencies to participate in the 2018-2019 Snowmobile Safety (SSE) Enforcement Grant Program during the current biennium. The 2017 Minnesota Legislature allocated \$315,000 for each fiscal year, 2018 and 2019.

A primary anticipated outcome of Snowmobile Safety funding: to conduct activities which gain voluntary compliance with safety regulations. Those activities include enforcement patrols and education/outreach.

A three year review of fatal snowmobile crash data indicates that the majority of crashes involve striking a fixed object at one of three locations: 1) within road right-of-ways, 2) marked trails, and 3) lakes and streams. Crash data also indicates that at least 77 percent of fatal crashes are drug and alcohol related with speed likely being a contributing factor. Slightly more than half of the fatal crashes occurred between sunset and sunrise. The DNR encourages county sheriff agencies to focus primary enforcement and education efforts to address these priorities.

Based on the number of participating counties, your county will receive the same allocation amount in each fiscal year. The details of receiving reimbursements will be indicated in the contract, and on the DNR website. All expenses over the amount of your grant will be the sole responsibility of your county agency.

#### What you must do to apply:

- Review the Preliminary 2018-2019 Allocation Totals, enclosed and available online.
- Complete the 2018-2019 SSE Grant Application, enclosed and available online.
- Mail back the application to our office **by Friday, October 20, 2017**.

All information and forms regarding the grant program can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/enforcement/index.html>. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Niska, Program Manager. Chuck can be reach at [Chuck.Niska@state.mn.us](mailto:Chuck.Niska@state.mn.us) or (612) 756-4165.

Thanks in advance for your on-going efforts to assist DNR in protecting Minnesota's resources, and providing service to our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodmen Smith".

COL Rodmen Smith, Director  
Division of Enforcement

Enclosures