



Memo on Snowmobile GIA Funding and Best Practices

Date: August 10, 2018

To: All GIA Club Administrators and GIA Sponsors

From: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails and
Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association

FY19 Funding Includes One-time Increase

The recent increase in snowmobile registration fees has helped stabilize the snowmobile account and also means there is more funding available for Grant-in-Aid (GIA) trails. In order to best allocate any additional GIA funds, the DNR has gathered input from the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association (MnUSA) and the Minnesota Snowmobile Advisory Committee (MSAC). We have heard that the last few years of funding and benchmark reductions have had an impact.

As a result of this input, FY19 funding levels will include a large **one-time** increase in funding to GIA of \$1.2 million statewide above what had been allocated in the last few years. This means that FY19 funding will be about 16% higher than previous years' base grant levels.

However, since this increase is **one-time** and is more than the snowmobile account can sustain in the long-term, we want to make sure clubs and sponsors are extra prudent with their funding, using FY19's added funds for any backlog in trail projects, equipment needs, or others costs to support the trail system that may have been deferred over the last few years.

We also want to advise clubs and sponsors that longer-term funding in the years following FY19 will be significantly less than this large one-year bump, and they should manage and plan their finances accordingly.

For questions or comments regarding club and trail management, always feel free to contact your local DNR Parks and Trails Area Supervisor or your MnUSA Regional Director network. They are a valuable resource that can help make your club and trails the best they can be. The snowmobile GIA Program webpage below also has more information on the program and funding, including a best practices letter from MnUSA and DNR in 2016.

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/gia_snowmobile.html