

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Snowmobile Registration Fee Fund

Background

The Snowmobile Registration Fee Fund is administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with Administrative Rules approved by the Natural Resource Commission (NRC). The Fund consists of revenue from snowmobile registration fees, federal funds, and other various sources related to the regulation of snowmobiles. The Fund is dedicated to safety education and grants to private snowmobile groups. Snowmobile groups use grant money for trail operations, maintenance, and development. Money in the Fund does not revert to the General Fund.

Safety Education

Safety education is a major expenditure for the Fund. The DNR Snowmobile Education Program provides an education course dedicated to reducing accidents, injuries, property damage, and fatalities. All riders between the ages of 12 and 17 must complete the Program. Students learn where to ride; specifically, legal riding areas and landowner permission requirements. The Program emphasizes environmental stewardship, energy conservation, and snowmobile maintenance. The Snowmobile Education is instructor-led, home-study, or web-based. Students are required to complete a written exam with a minimum score of 80.0% to receive a certificate.

Trail Maintenance and Cost-Share

A second major Fund expenditure is trail maintenance and the Snowmobile Cost-Share Program. Trail projects are conducted by the Department, local governments, and private organizations. Snowmobile trails on state-owned land are developed and maintained by the DNR. However, the majority of trails are maintained by private groups and local governments. The Department offers grants to political subdivisions or private organizations through the Snowmobile Cost-Share Program to support snowmobile use on these trails. At least 50.0% of the Fund must be granted to these groups. The grants may be used for the development of snowmobile trails, safety programs, and other approved costs. Cost-Share grants are approved by a committee of five consisting of two individuals appointed by the President of the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and three appointed by the NRC.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [321G](#)
[571](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapters [5](#), [28](#), [47](#), and [50](#)

Revised August 31, 2016

More Information

Snowmobiles, DNR: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Snowmobiles/Snowmobile-Registration>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

LSA Staff Contact: Deb Kozel (515-281-6767) deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov