
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

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. Moneys in the Fund do 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, including legal riding areas and landowner permission requirements. The Program emphasizes environmental stewardship, energy conservation, and snowmobile maintenance.

The Snowmobile Education Program is instructor-led, home-study, or Web-based. Students are required to pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80.0% to receive a certificate.

Trail Maintenance and Cost-Share

Other major Fund expenditures are 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. 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.

Funding

The DNR receives an annual appropriation of \$100,000 from the Snowmobile Registration Fund for administration.

More Information

Snowmobiles, DNR: www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Snowmobiles/Snowmobile-Registration
LSA Staff Contact: Austin Brinks (515.725.2200) austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [321G](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [571—5](#), [571—28](#), [571—47](#), [571—50](#)

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