

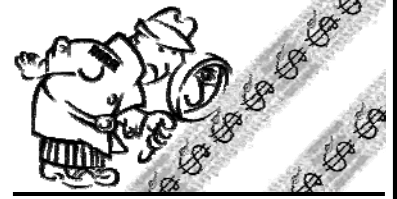


GAS-TAX FUNDING OF MOTORIZED RECREATION

Fact Sheet

Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation

1/20/09



Following the money trail...

HOW THE GAS-TAX FUNDS MOTORIZED RECREATION

FACT: Every time you buy gas in Minnesota you pay into “dedicated DNR accounts” to promote snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, four-wheel drive trucks and motorboats

FACT: ~ 3%, ~\$20 million, of Minnesota’s annually collected gas-tax is diverted to DNR accounts for snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, four-wheel drive trucks and motorboats (Mn Statutes)

FACT: \$188 million in gas tax was diverted to motorized recreation since 1994. (Mn Dept Rev., 2008)

UNWANTED EFFECTS OF GAS-TAX FUNDED MOTORIZED RECREATION

FACT: The unwanted effects of gas-tax funded motorized recreation are well documented: *Program Evaluation Report: State-Funded Trails for Motorized Recreation*, Mn Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA), 2003; *Case Studies of Gas Tax Funded Motorized Recreation Environmental Damage, Trespass and Abuse of Public Funds*, MRR, 2009.

FACT: GAS-TAX FUNDED TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY



- Many snowmobile clubs do not have landowner permission for existing snowmobile routes (MnOLA, 2003; MRR, 2007)
- Pervasive grant violations were found in gas tax funded motorized recreation clubs sponsored by St. Louis County, (*Citizen Audit*, MRR, 5/23/2007)
- Nightriders Snowmobile Club submitted false information on *landowner lists*. In photo, club trespasses on private property with misappropriated City of Hermantown front-end-loader. (MRR, 2003)

FACT: GAS-TAX FUNDED DAMAGE TO WETLANDS AND FORESTS



- \$60,000 needed to restore single snowmobile trail, (MRR/City of Duluth/UMD/Natural Resource Research Institute *Cost of Restoration Study*, 2006)
- St. Louis County violated state environmental rules and grant-in-aid requirements when it approved gas-tax funds for a dirt-bike motorcycle track 20” from the Mesabi Bikeway (EAW Petition, MRR, 6/17/04)
- Left, dead spruce/cedar/tamarack forest from bulldozing the DNR Moosewalk/Mooserun snowmobile/ATV trail. One of thirty unauthorized wetland impacts in the Finland State Forest. (U.S. Corps of Eng., 1/24/03)

FACT: GAS-TAX FUNDED PRIVATE FINANCIAL GAIN



- Snowmobile clubs annually take \$6 - 8 million in gas tax funds (Mn Dept Rev)
- Rep. Dave Dill, received \$40,000 salary and \$440 in monthly Blue Cross/Blue Shield health family insurance coverage as *Trail Administrator* of the gas-tax funded Voyageur Trail Society, Inc. snowmobile club. Dill’s club was making annual \$5000 payments in public funds to the American Legion to settle a turf-war over pull-tab gambling in the region. (Mn State Auditor, MRR, 2004)

TELL YOUR LEGISLATORS TO
END GAS-TAX FUNDING TO OF MOTORIZED RECREATION

www.MnResponsibleRec.org