



2008 Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation Legislation Summary *Roads Not Ruts!*

MRR has two bills this session with many similarities. Both bills repeal gas-tax diversions to motorized recreation and implement user-funded standards for a sustainable motorized recreation program. Bill #1 implements recommendations of a legislative audit. Bill #2 prioritizes funding to implement *Five Standards for Protecting Minnesota* from the unwanted effects of motorized recreation in all its forms.

Ending Gas-Tax Diversions to Motorized Recreation

Every time we buy gasoline in our state, Minnesotans pump gas-tax revenue into DNR accounts for snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, four-wheel drive trucks and motorboats. The Minnesota Constitution dedicates 100% of gas-tax revenue to roads.

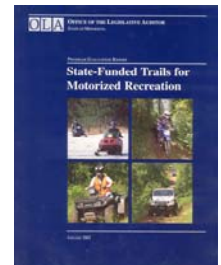


Implementing Standards to Protect Minnesota from the Unwanted Effects of Motorized Recreation Gas-tax funded snowmobile and ATV clubs have a well-documented history of trespassing on public and private property, damaging road right-of-ways, trails, forests and wetlands, disrupting neighborhoods and abusing public funds.
(See *Fact Sheet* reverse side.)

Bill #1 User-funded Implementation of OLA Recommendations: *State-Funded Trails for Motorized Recreation*

Repeals gas-tax diversions to motorized recreation. Registration fee implementation of OLA recommendations:

- **Public & environmental review** of proposed ATV, dirt-bike motorcycle and four-wheel drive truck routes. Completion of a three page, thirty question worksheet.
- **Wetlands delineation before bulldozing.** Above, gas-tax funded Silver Trail Riders bulldozed a road through a wetland, impounding the flow of water and killing an entire forest. MRR's bill requires wetlands delineation before bulldozing.
- **Improved oversight & accountability.** Silver Trail Riders continues to receive public funding. In MRR's legislation, clubs that violate the terms of their grants or local, state or federal laws will experience a reduction in future grants.

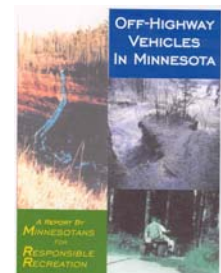


Bill #2 User-funded Implementation of *Five Standards for Protecting Minnesota*

Repeals gas-tax diversions to motorized recreation.

MRR is respected nation-wide for our academic approach to solving motorized recreation problems. This bill prioritizes funding to implement standards first discussed in MRR's landmark report and the culmination of twelve years of study.

1. **Public & environmental review to select routes for off-road vehicles**
2. **Policy requiring off-road vehicles to stay on selected routes only**
3. **Adequate enforcement to keep riders on selected routes**
4. **Repair of accumulating damage**
5. **Oversight and accountability to accomplish these goals**



Learn more about gas-tax funding of motorized recreation, Minnesota's Constitution, MRR's legislation, the OLA audit, MRR's landmark report and more at www.MnResponsibleRec.org.

Gas-Tax Fact Sheet - Reverse



Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation

GAS-TAX FUNDING OF MOTORIZED RECREATION

Fact Sheet

2/22/08

HOW THE GAS-TAX FUNDS MOTORIZED RECREATION

FACT: Over 2.5%, ~\$15 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: In FY 2007 \$6.6 million in public gas-tax funds was distributed to motorized clubs though 100 local units of government to maintain over 22,000 miles of motorized routes, (MnDNR, 2007)

FACT: Gas-tax funding of motorized recreation violates Minnesota's constitution which clearly dedicates 100% of the state's gas-tax revenue to roads.

UNWANTED EFFECTS OF GAS-TAX FUNDED MOTORIZED RECREATION

FACT: 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, 2003; *Citizen Audit: Publicly Funded Snowmobile and ATV Clubs and Routes in St. Louis County*, MRR, 2007.

FACT: GAS-TAX FUNDED TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY



- Violations of land-owner permission have been ... primary., (MnOLA, 2003)
- Few land-owner lists or adequate maps exist for snowmobile routes
- sponsored by St. Louis County, (*Citizen Audit*, MRR, 5/23/2007)
- Nightriders Snowmobile Club submitted inaccurate landowner lists with names of those who never gave permission to cross their property, others who withdrew permission and several deceased individuals. Left - club trespasses on private property with front-end loader. (Hermantown, MRR, 12/2/03)

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 over \$5 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)

END GAS-TAX FUNDING OF MOTORIZED RECREATION & IMPLEMENT STANDARDS TO PROTECT MINNESOTA

Support MRR legislation for user-funded implement of OLA audit & MRR report recommendations

- Public and environmental review to select routes
- Travel on selected routes *only*
- Adequate enforcement to keep riders on routes
- Repair of accumulating damage
- Oversight and accountability to accomplish these objectives

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