

VAST FUNDING SOURCES

VAST Contracts annually with the Vermont Dept of Forest, Parks and Recreation, a dept of the Vermont Natural Resources Agency, to build, maintain and operate the Vermont Statewide Snowmobile Trail System. We also partner with the US Forest Service.

VAST Operates with three major budgets:

1. VAST General fund/Trails fund Budget

These are funded by our TMA (Trails Maintenance Assessment) aka: Trail Pass money. The TMA price is determined each year by the VAST Board of Directors at the VAST Annual Meeting. The board sets the TMA prices based on the approved budget. Annually VAST applies for a portion of the motorized RTP (Recreational Trails Program) Federal funding, via FP&R. The RTP funds along with some TMA funds are used for grooming the 4500 miles of trails. VAST also receives funds from the US Forest Service to help maintain trails within the National Forests.

VAST has a main checking account and then many restricted designated fund accounts, in addition to several reserve (savings accounts).

2. SSTP Budget (Statewide Snowmobile Trails Program)

This budget is funded by snowmobile registration money. It is approved by the "Governors Snowmobile Advisory Council." This council is made up of designees of several state agencies involved in snowmobiling, representatives of the Vermont House, Senate and VAST. It also has general Governors appointees from geographical areas of the state. (normally VAST members).

Registration money is collected by DVM. A portion (\$5) goes to the State Transportation Fund and the rest goes to FP&R. FP&R then takes a portion to administer the SSTP. The remaining money is then assigned to VAST via an annual agreement. A portion (\$5) is dedicated to Snowmobile Law Enforcement. VAST contracts with multiple law enforcement agencies each year. Each month as VAST spends money on SSTP budget items, a request for reimbursement is sent to FP&R. Vermont Snowmobile registrations are currently \$28 for Vermont registered snowmobiles and \$36 for non-Vermont registered snowmobiles. Estimated registered snowmobiles of FY2020 is 21,827.

A portion of this budget also comes from the Vermont Gas Tax money, ($\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% capped at \$148,000). This money is a portion of the money VAST uses for equipment grants for grooming equipment for the 127 clubs in Vermont.

Any unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year from the SSTP Budget rolls over into next years SSTP Budget.

3. VAST Scholarship Budget

Each year VAST gives two scholarships to members or their dependants who are seeking higher education beyond Secondary level. This budget is funded by 10 cents from every TMA sold.