



WRIGHT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Recreational Enforcement Grant Information
Data Statements

- **2010 State Boat & Water Safety Grant: \$27,043.00**

This year the Wright County Sheriff's Office received five grants from the Department of Natural Resources. The first grant of **\$27,043.00** is awarded to Wright County to assist the Sheriff's Office in carrying out the provisions of Chapter 86B and the Minnesota Rules promulgated by the Commissioner of Natural Resources. This grant is utilized to defer the expense incurred by the county in providing recreational enforcement for the area lakes and rivers, and for the purchase of equipment, maintenance and supplies. In relation to the 2010 Regular B&W Safety Grant, chart #1 below shows the total number of boating contacts and the recorded activity during these shifts.

Chart #1
2010 STATE B&W SAFETY GRANT ACTIVITY

Boats Observed:	2435	PWC's Observed:	283
Boats Checked:	499	PWC's Checked:	66
Verbal warnings:	90	Verbal warnings:	24
Citations issued:	0	Citations issued:	0

2011 STATE B&W SAFETY GRANT VIOLATION SUMMARY				
Violation observed:	Traditional Boats		Personal Watercraft / PWC's	
	CITATIONS	VERBAL WARNINGS	CITATIONS	VERBAL WARNINGS
Registration	0	33	0	7
Wearable PFD	2	26	0	1
Class IV - Throwable Device	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Child PFD – Wear	2	10	0	0
Navigation Lights	0	4	N/A	N/A
Fire Extinguisher	0	3	0	0
Horn /Whistle	0	0	N/A	N/A
Slow-no-wake - Rules of the road	1	4	3	8
Careless operation	0	0	0	0
Age Permit Violation	0	1	0	2
BWI	0	0	0	0
Other*	0	9	0	6
TOTALS:	5	90	3	24

• **2011 Supplemental Federal Boating Enforcement Grant: \$8,875.00**

This summer the Wright County Sheriff’s Office received an \$8,875.00 Supplemental Federal Grant through the Department of Natural Resources. This grant allowed the Recreational Enforcement Division the ability to schedule an estimated 199 additional afternoon and evening patrol hours on many of our Wright County area lakes and rivers. The team members focused this added time towards the enforcement of all boating laws with our continued emphasis in educating the public on the many aspects of boating safety. Due to the reduction of allocated grant money, many of the shifts were single person patrols. On completion of the Federal Grant, Sheriff’s deputies worked over 210 paid hours along with an additional 109.25 volunteer hours by members of the Sheriff’s Reserves.

The following lakes and rivers received the additional hours of patrol during the Federal Grant Program: Augusta, Beebe, Birch, Cedar, Clearwater, Charlotte, Cokato, Collinwood, Francis, Granite, Grass, Howard, Ida, Indian, John, Lock, Maple, Mink, Martha, Nixon, Pleasant, Pulaski, Sommers, Sugar, Sylvia, Twin Lakes along with portions of the Crow & Mississippi Rivers.

2011 B&W FEDERAL GRANT ACTIVITY

Boats Observed:	1341	PWC’s Observed:	153
Boats Checked:	679	PWC’s Checked:	70
Verbal warnings:	191	Verbal warnings:	20
Citations issued:	20	Citations issued:	0*

2011 FEDERAL GRANT VIOLATION SUMMARY				
Violation observed:	Traditional Boats		Personal Watercraft / PWC’s	
	CITATIONS	VERBAL WARNINGS	CITATIONS	VERBAL WARNINGS
Registration		12		05
Wearable PFD	02	08		
Class IV - PFD		01		
Child PFD – Wear		05		
Navigation Lights		11		
Fire Extinguisher				
Horn /Whistle				
Slow-no-wake - Rules of the road	01	24	01	07
Careless operation				
Age Permit Violation				02
BWI / Alcohol violation				
Other*		03		01
TOTALS:	03	64	01	15

This summer was the year of high water issues which was followed with slow-no-wake restrictions on seventeen of the local lakes. Boating traffic on these restricted lakes appeared to have been slower in relation to past years but our calls for service were up in relation to high water complaints. Life jacket violations were again the main infraction observed by our enforcement teams. All the vessels that were checked usually had an adequate supply of PFD’s onboard, but the issue of “accessibility” was again the main violation. We found that many of the boat operators had enough life jackets onboard, but that they either had them in the plastic wrapper that they were purchased in, or the PFD’s were stowed away under seats or in a storage compartment.

The mandated PFD use in relation to youth under the age of ten appeared to have been openly accepted by the boating public. We found that a majority of the kids onboard were wearing a life jacket. The majority of youth operating personal watercraft were found to be in compliance in relation to having their DNR operator's permit.

Overall, the Federal Grant Program was a success and a great asset to our division and to the Citizens of Wright County. This Grant provided us the additional funding for more patrol hours to be used toward the enforcement of watercraft laws and to the teaching the citizens about the fundamentals on boating safety. Our team members are committed to educating the boating public on the laws pertaining to boating safety and the safe operation of equipment. The combination of education and enforcement helps to ensure a safe lake environment for all people to enjoy. We also would like you to consider increasing the 2011 Federal Grant for Wright County as the additional funds would allow us to again schedule two-person shifts to run throughout the summer boating enforcement season.

- **2011 Federal - Boating Safety/Equipment Grant: \$ 1,698.00**
(Grant amount based on a pre-approved purchase request).

The third grant received by the Division was a Federal - Boating Safety Grant administered by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant provided additional federal funding to enforcement agencies throughout the state by providing funds to purchase additional and needed equipment that is used to promote boating safety.

This federal grant has been awarded to our office for purchasing new equipment in the promotion of boating safety. This federal grant allowed the Sheriff's Office to purchase a new MarCum VS825SD color underwater Camera System along with four new navigational buoys and related supplies.

- **State Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant: 2010 – 2011 (2-year) \$13,462.00**

The fourth grant received by the Division was a **\$13,462.00** - State Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant from the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is a two-year grant that covers the 2009-2010, 2010-2011 snowmobile seasons.

The Wright County Sheriff's Office is a unique department in that it provides law enforcement services for thirteen of the sixteen cities within the county. Out of these thirteen cities, three currently contract for full time law enforcement coverage with the Sheriff's Office, with a minimum of twenty-four hour coverage. All of these cities in Wright County continue to allow snowmobiling within the city limits and continues to support the current county/state snowmobile trail system that runs within the city.

The additional patrol shifts are to be focused toward afternoon and evening hours, beyond normal scheduled shifts, with an emphasis during weekends and holidays. These additional patrol shifts are focused on all of our heavily used recreational lakes, seventeen municipalities and 255-mile snowmobile trail system.

Due to our limited staff and resources, it has been difficult in the past to provide this additional patrol during the evening and nighttime hours. This grant helped our Enforcement Division in scheduling the additional patrol hours during these times without having to worry about the additional overtime pay.

For the 2009-2010 seasons, the grant allocated \$6,731.00 to cover overtime shifts for snowmobile enforcement. This grant allowed the Recreational Enforcement Division the ability to schedule an estimated 155 additional afternoon and evening patrol hours on many of our Wright County area lakes and on the 255-mile snowmobile trail system. The division exceeded this scheduling goal by logging **163.5** patrol hours at \$6745.32 in wages for the season. In addition to the paid hours, the Sheriff's Reserves also logged **32.5** volunteer patrol hours in assisting the full-time members. The total grant of \$6,731.00 was used for the period.

For the 2010-2011 seasons, the grant again allocated \$6,731.00 to cover overtime shifts for snowmobile enforcement. This grant allowed the Recreational Enforcement Division the ability to schedule an estimated 155

additional afternoon and evening patrol hours on many of our Wright County area lakes and on the 255-mile snowmobile trail system. The division worked **147.5** patrol hours at \$6,333.87 in wages for the season. In addition to the paid hours, the Sheriff's Reserves also logged **42.0** volunteer patrol hours in assisting the full-time members. The remaining balance of \$397.13 was applied to equipment purchases and repairs. The total grant of \$6,731.00 was used for the period. Chart# 4 summarizes the activity and calls-for-service during both reporting periods.

Chart #4
Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant - Completion Report

Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant - Completion Report 2009 - 2011	2009 – 2010	2010 - 2011
Visual Contacts:	640	810
Snowmobiles Checked:	295	419
Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Hours worked by Division Members	163.5	147.5
Public Complaints - Snowmobile Related	84	111
Arrests / Summons - Snowmobile Related	18	12
Warnings written / oral - Snowmobile Related	52	60
Alcohol Related Arrests (SWI, Reckless & Careless)	01	2
Illegal Operation Arrests (Speed & Operate on Roadway)	03	1
Non - Fatal Snowmobile Accidents Reported	01	11
Fatal Snowmobile Accidents	01	0

Overall, the state Snowmobile Enforcement Grant Program was again a huge success and a great asset to our division and to the citizens of Wright County. This grant provided additional funding that allowed us the ability to schedule more patrol hours towards snowmobile enforcement and to educating the citizens about the fundamentals of snowmobile safety.

- **State Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Grant: 2009 – 2011 (2-year) \$20,418.00**

The fifth and final grant received by the Division was a **\$20,418.00** - State Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Grant from the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is a two-year grant that covers the 2009-2010, 2010-2011 seasons. This new grant allows the Recreational Enforcement Division the ability to schedule additional afternoon and evening patrol hours throughout the Wright County area, focusing their patrol efforts towards curbing the increasing complaints that relate to off highway vehicles.

With this additional grant, division members are able to focus additional time towards problem areas that received numerous citizen complaints. Team members devote time towards the enforcement of all recreational laws with a continued emphasis on educating the public on the many aspects of proper recreational vehicle use and safety.

For the 2009-2010 seasons, the grant allocated \$10,209.00 to cover overtime shifts for OHV enforcement. This grant allowed the Recreational Enforcement Division the ability to schedule an estimated 236 additional afternoon and evening patrol hours. The division actually logged **242.25** patrol hours at **\$10,323.86** in wages for the season. The total grant of \$10,209.00 was used for the period.

For the 2010-2011 seasons, the grant again allocated \$10,209.00 to cover overtime shifts for OHV enforcement. This grant allowed the Recreational Enforcement Division the ability to schedule an estimated 240 additional afternoon and evening patrol hours. The division logged **223.25** patrol hours at **\$9,608.41** in wages for the season. The remaining balance of \$533.71 was applied to OHV related purchases and repairs. The total grant expended for this period is **\$10,142.12**. Chart # 5 summarizes the activity and calls-for-service during each of the reporting periods.

Chart #5
Off Highway Vehicle Safety Enforcement Grant - Completion Report

Off - Highway Vehicle (OHV) Safety Enforcement Grant Report 2009 - 2011	2009-2010	2010-2011
OHV - Safety Enforcement Hours worked by Division Members	242.25	223.25
Public Complaints – OHV Related	144	136
Arrests / Summons – OHV Related	19	11
Warnings written / Oral - OHV Related	16	45
Alcohol Related Arrests - OHV (DWI, Reckless & Careless)	1	0
Illegal Operation Arrests (Speed & Operate on Roadway)	3	5
Non - Fatal OHV Accidents Reported	6	6
Fatal OHV Accidents	0	0