



Riksrevisjonen

Office of the Auditor General of Norway

The Office of the Auditor General's investigation of grants for natural diversity and outdoor recreation

Document 3:13 (2012-2013)

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Summary

Background and objectives of the audit

Safeguarding natural diversity is one of the biggest global environmental challenges of our time. Active outdoor recreation is of great significance for health and well-being, and is a precondition for making people fond of nature and gaining an understanding for environmental protection and ecologically sustainable development.

Grants are an important instrument in achieving our national goals regarding natural diversity and outdoor life. Volunteers including individuals, organisations, clubs and associations, are key players in outdoor recreation and preserving natural diversity. Grants to secure outdoor recreation areas and for outdoor recreation measures shall provide people with access to nature and strengthen the general public's interest in outdoor recreation. As regards game and fish resources, grants are used for activities and strengthening nature management expertise. Grants shall ensure stewardship and management of priority species and selected types of natural environments. The grant schemes covered by the audit amounted to NOK 252 million in 2012 and NOK 168 million in 2013, cf. Prop. 1 S (2012–2013) for the Ministry of the Environment.

The purpose of the audit has been to consider to what extent grants for natural diversity and outdoor recreation contribute to goal achievement and are managed in line with the decisions and intentions of the Storting. The audit covers the period 2009–2012.

Findings and recommendations

Weaknesses in reporting and insufficient evaluation result in deficient information on goal attainment

The Office of the Auditor General recommends that the Ministry of the Environment strengthen the grant schemes to provide the Storting with information about goal achievement through evaluation and improved result reporting.

The administration of the grants does not comply with the principles for sound management practices to any great extent

The Office of the Auditor General recommends that the Ministry of the Environment ensure better quality in the processing of the grants, regardless of whether the allocations are granted by the Directorate for Nature management, the county governors or the county authorities.

The grant schemes generate increased activity and added value

Ministry/ministries:

- Ministry of the Environment (>
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