

Division of Sport Fish Access Improvement and Conservation Program

FY2005 Request: \$2,928,447
Reference No: 38985

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

Contact: Kelly Hepler

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)267-2195

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This program works cooperatively with private landowners to develop conservation strategies to protect key fish and wildlife habitats, including habitats for species of special concern or species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Working with willing sellers, this voluntary, non-regulatory program emphasizes conservation easements and fee title acquisitions to achieve long-term habitat protection or population goals. Additional benefits include increased economic opportunities for participating landowners, local and regional communities; broader public access; and maintenance of traditional uses of protected lands.

Funding:	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$2,928,447						\$2,928,447
Total:	\$2,928,447	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,928,447

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
25% = Minimum State Match % Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill		

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

In FY04 this project was funded with federal funds under SLA 2003 / Chapter 82 / Page 27 line 9 Landowner Incentive Program - Bristol Bay/North Aleutians Project \$1,642,500 and line 13 Mental Health Trust Land in the vicinity of Gustavus \$1,000,000.

Project Description/Justification:

This program has been funded completely with federal dollars and private non-federal match since May, 2000. Grant sources include: National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Act Grants, USFWS Recovery Land Grants, and Landowner Incentive Program Grants.

NATIONAL COASTAL WETLAND CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM: GUSTAVUS LAND ACCESS PROJECT (\$1,000,000):

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has submitted a grant proposal on behalf of the Nature Conservancy and Community of Gustavus requesting \$1million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetland Conservation Act Grant Program. The intent of the grant is to acquire fee title to high quality fish and wildlife habitat and wetlands in Gustavus, Alaska. This is Phase II of a proposed three-phase project to acquire lands currently owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

Gustavus Land Access Project Match: Non-federal match provided by the Nature Conservancy, Gustavus Land Access Project, and Ducks Unlimited.

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LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM: SOUTHWEST ALASKA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (\$1,500,000):

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has submitted a grant proposal in the amount of \$1.5 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) to acquire conservation easements to protect species at risk in the Southwest region of Alaska. Eight legislatively designated state refuges, critical habitat areas and wildlife sanctuaries are located in this region and provide key habitat for Steller's eiders, a species that has suffered substantial declines and whose breeding population is currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Landowner Incentive Program Match - Southwest Alaska Conservation Program: Private acquisitions and salaries of the Conservation Fund provide in-kind, non-federal match.

BRISTOL BAY SPECIAL AREAS HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECT (\$250,000):

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has received a grant of \$250.0 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program (RLAG) to acquire conservation easements or fee title to high quality Steller's eider habitat within or adjacent to designated critical habitat areas on the Alaska Peninsula.

Bristol Bay Special Areas Habitat Protection Project Match (Recovery Land Grant - Steller's eiders): Private acquisitions by the Conservation Fund and Southwest Alaska Conservation Coalition provide in-kind, non-federal match.

SPECTACLED EIDER NESTING HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECT (\$178,447):

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has received a grant of \$178,447 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program (RLAG) to acquire conservation easements or fee title to high quality spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*) nesting habitat within designated critical habitat area on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, in western Alaska.

Spectacled Eider Nesting Habitat Protection Project Match (Recovery Land Grant - Spectacled eiders): Private acquisitions by the Conservation Fund and Southwest Alaska Conservation Coalition provide in-kind, non-federal match.