

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Kenai****Federal Tax ID: 92-6001599****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Kenai - Kenai River South Beach Dip Net Access

State Funding Requested: \$2,100,000
One-Time Need**House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)****Brief Project Description:**

Property acquisition and construction of the Kenai River South Beach Dip Net Access

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$2,100,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**No prior funding has been recieved for this project***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Each year the State of Alaska conducts a personal use fishery (PUF) at the mouth of the Kenai River from July 10 through July 31. In 2013 as many as 15,000 individuals participated in a single day on the north and south beaches. Additionally as many as 600 boats per day participated in the fishery, most were launched from the City of Kenai boat launch.

The Kenai River South Beach Dip Net Fishery is accessed using motor vehicles, generally ATV's or pick-ups, via Cannery Road or Dunes Road to the east side Cook Inlet beach south of the Kenai River mouth. Once on the beach vehicles travel north, sometimes across private lands to the mouth of the river. The owners of the private lands have notified the City of Kenai that they are going to block access accross their lands due to the growing impact the dip net fishery has on their quality of life. The result of this is going to be that for many hours a day during the dip net season, when tides are above 16.1 feet, there will be no access to or from the dip netting area. In addition to creating a large traffic issue while waiting for the tide to subside, people on the north side of the private property will not be able to exit the beach. This could be a life safety issue.

This project is to acquire property and to construct an alternate beach access to avoid the need for dip netters to trespass on private land to access the fishery. The total cost of the project is \$2.1 million.

Significantly, a very high percentage of people utilizing this fishery are not from the Kenai Peninsula. The fishery is a State of Alaska fishery which is conducted on land owned by the City of Kenai. The City charges a fee for parking and boat launching and uses the money to pay for the cost of managing the fishery. There is no money collected to fund a new access road.

\$1,900,000
Approved

Project Timeline:

Design and construction would start in 2014 and be complete prior to July 1, 2015.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Kenai

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No