

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Grants**

**FY2002 Request: \$1,600,000**

**Reference No: 32552**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Construction

**Category:** Development

**Location:** Statewide

**Contact:** Jim Stratton

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8700

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2005

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Outdoor recreation opportunities are very important for Alaskans. More than any other state in the Union, Alaskans recreate outdoors. This provides a wide variety of benefits including improved physical and mental health, activities for children to prevent delinquency, leadership and teamwork development, and economic opportunities for individuals and local communities. LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant program that provides funding to state and local governmental entities for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities such as soccer fields, campgrounds, tennis courts, boat launches, hiking trails, picnic areas, and outdoor hockey rinks.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$1,600,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$26,600,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,600,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$26,600,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = 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	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

SLA00/CH135 - \$900,000

SLA95/CH103 - \$500,000

SLA94/CH4 - \$500,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The need for outdoor recreation facilities in local, regional, and state parks continues to grow with the population. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a tremendous opportunity to provide up to 50% of the cost of a project that is important to the state park system or a local government entity.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

Various, dependent on applications. Spending is restricted to costs associated with the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation areas and open space.

**Project Benefits:**

50% matching grants provide crucial funding that can make the difference between build/no build and acquire/not acquire valuable outdoor recreation sites. These projects benefit the people of the State of Alaska by providing both facility development and open space. Projects range from close-to-home playgrounds to remote and undeveloped wildlife habitat. Each development project provides short term jobs for planning, construction and management during the construction phase of the project as well as long term continued economic impact for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the facility.

**Projected Revenue to the State:**

This is a 50/50 matching grant program. Estimates range as high as \$5 million per year in anticipated federal funding. Federal monies matched with applicant dollars could, therefore, reach \$10 million per year in LWCF associated spending.

**Project Support:**

LWCF projects are currently located in approximately 60 communities throughout the state - all of which benefit from prior LWCF spending. These communities, plus other governmental entities that would like to participate in the program support LWCF.

**Project Opposition:** None**Does this project leverage other funding for the state?**

Yes. LWCF matches the applicant's commitment dollar-for-dollar. The applicants share can be cash, in-kind or donations from agencies, businesses or individuals.

**Project History:**

This 50/50 federal matching grant program was established through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) in 1965 to provide a nationwide legacy of high quality outdoor recreation. Projects ranging from wildlife viewing areas to neighborhood parks; from downhill ski areas to handicapped accessible trails; projects located in Alaska's most urban areas to our most rural have been funded through this program.

Since its inception, LWCF has provided over \$28 million dollars for 371 acquisition, development and planning projects located in approximately 60 communities across Alaska. Matched with sponsor monies, this translates to over \$56 million dollars of improvements throughout the state. These improvements positively impact the health and well being of Alaska's residents and natural resources, and also provide both short term and long-term employment opportunities.

In SFY01 \$355.0 will be approved in Federal Funds which was the first funding of this program since 1995.

**Annual Operating and Maintenance Costs:**

O&M costs are born by the grant recipient. Recipient may charge reasonable user fees at an LWCF assisted facility to offset O&M costs.