

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Special Projects
Component

Component: Habitat Special Projects

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Component Mission

To provide industry, municipalities, and other agencies with scientific expertise on fish, wildlife, and habitat issues to respond to short-term needs for specific projects or developments.

This component contains projects aimed at: developing new technology to meet regulatory requirements; short-term enhancements of field survey efforts; habitat stewardship and restoration; and habitat information management.

Although some projects are multi-year, all projects in this component are temporary with the exception of the Public Access Defense program and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve.

Component Services Provided

- Participates in cooperative projects to protect important fish and wildlife resources while providing for sound economic development.
- Reviews all land conveyances to ensure that reasonable public access is reserved for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities.
- Works cooperatively with permit applicants and technical assistance to major resource development projects in meeting regulatory requirements, including through creation of new technology.
- Identifies economically feasible standards for protecting fish and wildlife habitat during gravel extraction, stream modification, mining, oil and gas exploration and development, and urban development activities.
- Provides effective fish habitat restoration techniques, materials, and technical assistance to industry, local, state, and federal agencies and private land owners.

Component Goals and Strategies

- Obtain federal grants, interagency reimbursable services agreements, or statutorily designated program receipts to resolve major fish or wildlife habitat issues not otherwise addressed through long-term, core funding sources.
- Conduct comprehensive habitat inventory and monitoring projects to improve scientific documentation of fish and wildlife habitat resources and their protection under existing laws.
- Effectively maintain hunting and fishing opportunities when federal and state lands are conveyed.
- Ensure that fish and wildlife populations, habitats, and harvest activities are appropriately addressed in land management plans.
- Identify and conduct specific research projects (e.g., fish passage, gravel mining/rehabilitation) designed to improve our permitting program.
- Restore and protect anadromous and high value resident fish habitat in the Kenai and Copper River drainages.
- Conduct educational public outreach programs by writing technical reports and brochures for the general public, participating in school programs, and collaborating with other agencies and the public on various habitat-related initiatives.

- Conduct short-term special projects that contribute to our scientific understanding of how to avoid or minimize adverse habitat impacts from land and water developments.
- Continue to monitor development projects for compliance with permit terms and conditions and to assess effectiveness of mitigation (e.g., Red Dog, Anarraaq, Pogo, Usibelli).
- Use information gathered from field research to improve our ability to review and process permit applications (e.g., development of criteria, standards, guidelines) and provide such information to the public.
- Obtain baseline stream flow data for assistance in permitting hardrock mining projects.
- Develop education programs to improve agency and public understanding of fish and wildlife habitat needs and management issues.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

Because most of the projects in this component are short term in nature, the key issues will vary considerably from year to year. Generally, they are specific to individual oil and gas or hard rock mining development projects, but may include research activities associated with other habitat-related issues such as road culvert designs, effects of log transfer facilities, or specific forest, watershed, or land use planning projects. Specifics for FY 02 include:

Improving scientific understanding of the effects of in-water log transfer and storage activities at various types of sites and the cost-effectiveness of remediation techniques.

Providing enhanced technical assistance to landowners and other agencies and groups regarding fish and wildlife resource values in areas of proposed development.

Developing criteria and specifications for fish passage through culverts, continuing the inventory of installed culverts to assure they are efficiently passing fish to prevent or correct loss of fish habitat above culverts, and identifying areas where rehabilitation is needed to reestablish fish passage and fish habitat.

Monitoring the effectiveness of approved habitat mitigation projects to improve our technical knowledge for the design of future mitigation.

Reviewing hydroelectric development proposals to avoid or minimize adverse effects on fish and wildlife habitats and human uses of fish and wildlife.

Participating in land use planning for state lands in northern Southeast and for Dude Creek and Mendenhall Wetlands Special Areas.

Converting the Anadromous Waters Catalog for the Southeast Region to a geobased model and linking relevant salmon habitat information to anadromous streams. Improving the accuracy of the catalog through advanced fish habitat identification in areas of Southeast with imminent development.

Collaborating with other agencies, land owners, local communities and stakeholders to prioritize salmon habitat restoration opportunities in the Southeast Region and designing and doing the necessary administration for the initial restoration contracts.

Assessing water quality and fish habitat in streams near potential hardrock mines.

Maintaining long-term data bases on fish resources and water quality in rehabilitated gravel mine sites on the North Slope.

Developing the techniques and materials to restore damaged fish habitat in Alaska.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

The Public Access Defense project reviewed conveyances of land to 23 villages and 7 regional corporations, totalling approximately 1 million acres, to ensure reasonable public access is reserved. They negotiated the number and location of easements with BLM and caught errors in legal descriptions and easement reservations in several conveyances. They worked with the Department of Law on an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and continued participation in Unalaska and Seldovia easement negotiations.

Additionally, this project reviewed almost 600 Native allotment parcels affecting over 24,000 acres, to ensure that public access was protected, navigable waters were excluded during the survey, and that the 160-rod shoreline limit was waived appropriately. They worked with DNR to protect a number of RS2477 easements; and reviewed and objected to proposed reconveyances of state lands that would detrimentally affect public access into important hunting and fishing areas.

This project prepared approximately 15 land status/easement maps for use in educating the public and reducing conflicts. Locations for which informational leaflets and brochures were produced include Afognak and Unalaska Islands, the Alagnak, Kobuk, and Situk Rivers, Delight and Desire Lakes, and Hunter Creek.

As a result of proposed land conveyances, surveys and public inquiries, staff researched the navigability of waterbodies for 3 BLM survey windows and performed research on 7 individual waterways. In addition, over a dozen public inquiries regarding legal public access were received and researched by project staff.

Land Use Planning projects included:

- Worked with DNR to complete the Kenai Area Plan, including identification of land use designations for 5.3 million acres of state land, and completed several amendments to the Bristol Bay Area Plan. Identified important fish and wildlife habitat and public access and use sites to retain in-state ownership prior to conveyance of 46,000 acres of state land to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, 29,677 acres to the Lake and Peninsula Borough, and numerous other land transfers to local governments and private individuals. Reviewed and commented on numerous section-line easement vacation requests to maintain public access.
- Completed the Yakataga State Game Refuge Plan, the Central Southern Southeast Area Plan with DNR for state lands, and the Tongass Road Condition Survey for permanent system roads. Collaborated with the Departments of Community and Economic Development and Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, the tourism industry and stakeholders to develop and conduct a survey of commercial recreation providers in Southeast Alaska. Results will influence state and federal land use plans in this region.
- Represented ADF&G in the planning process for revision of the Chugach National Forest Management Plan which encompasses 5.4 million acres of National forest lands.
- Participated in the Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Conservation Strategy and Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force.
- Provided technical assistance to the Anchor Point Community Rivers Coalition working group to support local watershed planning.

Other special projects:

- The Kenai River Restoration 50/50 Cost Share Project was initiated in 1995. To date, 186 habitat restoration projects were contracted through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Contracting with the FWS was necessary since our department has no authority to enter into grant agreements with private landowners.
- We completed classification of anadromous streams and goat habitat prior to commercial forest operations to implement timber harvest requirements at West Icy Bay near Yakutat.
- The division provided results from fish passage research to other agencies and the public.

- Staff documented results from gravel mining/rehabilitation projects and demonstrated fisheries enhancement at selected sites on the North Slope.
- We used results from USGS stream gaging work to ensure compliance with state and federal wastewater discharge permits at the Red Dog mine, in decision making as Anarraaq and Pogo prospects move forward, and for decision making and permit compliance at the Usibelli Coal mine.
- Core staff was hired to develop preliminary research and education programs for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. They initiated a summary of the biological, physical, and human use information for the Kachemak Bay Watershed and began mapping intertidal habitat and wetlands in Kachemak Bay and its watershed, and developed oceanographic and other monitoring studies.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Statutes and regulations listed below may or may not apply to a given special project.

AS 16.05.840	Fishway Required
AS 16.05.870	Protection of Fish and Game
AS 16.20	Conservation and Protection of Alaskan Wildlife
AS 41.17	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
AS46.40	Alaska Coastal Management Program
5AAC 95.010-990	Protection of Fish and Game Habitat
11AAC 95	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices
6AAC 80.130	Habitats
18AAC 70	Water Quality Standards

Habitat Special Projects
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	1,096.2	1,155.0	1,671.6
72000 Travel	65.9	139.4	152.2
73000 Contractual	211.9	727.7	738.1
74000 Supplies	24.6	61.2	94.5
75000 Equipment	23.9	68.5	45.2
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,422.5	2,151.8	2,701.6
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	407.9	654.8	794.9
1003 General Fund Match	0.0	97.8	99.0
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	348.5	636.5	635.0
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	335.6	285.0	694.5
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	330.5	477.7	478.2
Funding Totals	1,422.5	2,151.8	2,701.6

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	407.9	654.8	654.8	794.9	794.9
Interagency Receipts	51015	348.5	636.5	636.5	635.0	636.5
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	330.5	477.7	477.7	478.2	477.6
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	335.6	285.0	285.0	694.5	856.6
Restricted Total		1,422.5	2,054.0	2,054.0	2,602.6	2,765.6
Total Estimated Revenues		1,422.5	2,054.0	2,054.0	2,602.6	2,765.6

Habitat Special Projects

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

Funding has been released by the federal solicitors office so that Copper River Basin fish habitat restoration projects can be initiated in FY02.

Final planning and permitting of the National Missile Defense System will be initiated. ADF&G staff will participate in planning and will provide technical assistance in site selection for optical cable and other facilities. Permits and approvals will be issued as required.

To meet Pacific Salmon Treaty requirements, Division staff will develop a Southeast Alaska Salmon Information management System (SEASIMS) which will include a Geographic Information System (GIS), linking salmon distribution and life history to associated data bases such as Access through the WEB. The Anadromous Waters Catalog will also be converted to ARC IMS which will allow agency staff and the public to access all of the information databases through the WEB. Advanced Fish Habitat Identification computer programs and protocols for identifying and characterizing anadromous waterbodies will be finalized. The division's permit database will be enhanced to provide an annual report on salmon habitat gains and losses in Southeast Alaska.

A multi-agency ecological assessment program for log transfer facilities will be initiated in FY00/01 to study the effects on the marine environment, determine the most cost effective mitigation measures, and to investigate potential economic uses of bark deposits associated with these facilities.

The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) was staffed during FY00. Interim research and education facilities in Homer will be completed in FY02. Program development will continue, and design of the joint headquarters facility with the FWS/Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge will begin.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	97.8	654.8	1,399.2	2,151.8
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY 2001	1.2	1.0	6.0	8.2
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increment for Kachemak Research Reserve (NERR)	0.0	139.1	0.0	139.1
-Increment for SE Sustainable Salmon Habitat	0.0	0.0	402.5	402.5
FY2002 Governor	99.0	794.9	1,807.7	2,701.6

Habitat Special Projects
Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	16	23	Annual Salaries	1,255,565
Part-time	5	10	COLA	13,042
Nonpermanent	4	4	Premium Pay	2,167
			Annual Benefits	486,902
			<i>Less 4.90% Vacancy Factor</i>	(86,076)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	25	37	Total Personal Services	1,671,600

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Manager I	0	0	1	0	1
Cartographer II	1	0	0	0	1
College Intern I	2	0	0	0	2
F&W Technician III	1	0	2	0	3
Fishery Biologist II	0	0	0	1	1
Fishery Biologist III	0	0	0	1	1
Graduate Intern I	1	0	0	0	1
Habitat Biologist I	1	2	2	1	6
Habitat Biologist II	1	1	0	3	5
Habitat Biologist III	4	0	5	2	11
Habitat Biologist IV	1	0	0	0	1
Librarian II	1	0	0	0	1
Research Analyst II	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	14	3	10	10	37