

Anchor Point and Fish Creek Estuary Protection Project**FY2003 Request:****\$960,000****Reference No:****36444****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Planning**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Anchorage Areawide**Contact:** Ellen Fritts**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (HD 10-26) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-4107**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2004**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Act, the Habitat and Restoration Division will work with the Municipality of Anchorage, The Great Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited Inc., Alaska Fly Fishers, Inc., Anchorage Waterways Council, Inc., The Friends of Fish Creek, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to acquire property for the purpose of estuary protection on Fish Creek and the Anchor River.

| Funding: | FY2003 | FY2004 | FY2005 | FY2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 | Total |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Fed Rcpts | \$960,000 | | | | | | \$960,000 |
| Total: | \$960,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$960,000 |

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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

None

Project Description/Justification:

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make matching grants to coastal states for acquisition, restoration, enhancement, management, and preservation of coastal wetlands.

Coastal wetlands provide essential fish and wildlife habitat. Coastal ecosystems comprise less than 10 percent of the Nation's land area, but support a much higher proportion of our living resources. Specifically, coastal areas support a high percentage of our threatened and endangered species, fishery resources, migratory songbirds, and migrating and wintering waterfowl.

In addition to wildlife benefits, wetlands provide substantial flood and storm control values and can reduce the need to construct expensive flood control structures. They make an important contribution to water quality by recharging groundwater, filtering surface runoff, and treating waste, and they provide natural areas important for recreational and aesthetic purposes. Uplands associated with wetlands provide food and cover to wildlife and buffer wetlands from soil erosion and contaminants. In the coterminous United States, more than half of the estimated original 221 million acres of American wetlands have been destroyed since European settlement.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants are available annually on a competitive basis to coastal states. Alaska was recently awarded two grants for habitat protection/land acquisitions: Anchor River (\$310,000) and Fish Creek (\$650,000). The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is requesting federal receipt authority to administer these grants. There is a 25 percent match requirement that will be provided by a variety of non-federal, non-state contributors.

Anchor River

The Department of Fish and Game requests receipt authority of \$310,000 to purchase three parcels of land at the mouth of the Anchor River on the Kenai Peninsula. The funding is derived entirely from federal funds from the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Act. Lands purchased will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game to enhance sport and commercial fisheries on the Southern Kenai Peninsula. The federal funds will be matched with \$105,000 in private funding.

The project will be conducted in two phases. Phase I will involve conducting due diligence and negotiations on the properties. Due diligence includes commissioning and reviewing appraisals, and conducting a title search, property survey, and environmental hazard assessment. Phase II will include purchase of the properties.

Fish Creek

The Department of Fish and Game requests receipt authority of \$650,000 to purchase two parcels of land at the mouth of Fish Creek in Anchorage. The funding is derived entirely from federal funds from the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Act. Lands purchased will be managed to benefit salmon and other fish and as parkland. Conservation of the parcels will further the efforts of the Department of Fish and Game to enhance sport fisheries in Anchorage. The federal funds will be matched with over \$256,000 in private funding.

The project will be conducted in two phases. Phase I will involve conducting due diligence and negotiations on the properties. Due diligence includes commissioning and reviewing appraisals, and conducting a biological assessment, title search, property survey, and environmental hazard assessment. Phase II will include purchase of the properties.