

**State of Alaska  
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Fish and Game  
Habitat Special Projects  
Component Budget Summary**

## **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.

## **Component Services Provided**

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.

The division

- 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 provides 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 landowners.
- provides program development and administration of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve in Homer, including creation and implementation of scientific research and public education programs and projects in the Kachemak Bay area.

## **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, Susitna 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., 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 FY2002 – 2003**

Through the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR), develop long-term research, oceanographic monitoring, education, and interpretive programs to improve information available for sound resource management, resource stewardship, and public understanding of Kachemak Bay/lower Cook Inlet area. Maintain and establish partnerships with academia, agencies, and community groups to most efficiently achieve these goals. Establish a community advisory group for the Reserve and begin community-based research and education programs. Complete construction/outfitting of the Reserve's initial workshop and lab facility. Complete design, and secure contracts for construction, of the joint headquarters, research, and education facility with the USFWS/Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge in Homer.

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 habitat restoration, road culvert designs, effects of log transfer facilities, or specific forest, watershed, or land use planning projects.

Specifics for FY 02-03 include:

Researching land ownership, existing legal access, and permitted structures within all legislatively designated special areas (state critical habitat areas, game refuges, and game sanctuaries).

Developing educational products (i.e. poster, brochure, power point presentation) to promote understanding and appreciation of the need to conserve fish habitat in developing areas.

Training ADF&G staff and other biologists how to restore fish habitat.

With support of DEC non-point source pollution program: conducting physical, chemical, and biological evaluations of, and restoring selected Matanuska-Susitna Borough streams such as Wasilla Creek; providing technical assistance in developing restoration projects in the Borough; and evaluating the effectiveness of fish habitat restoration methods.

Conducting extensive anadromous fish surveys and habitat evaluation within the Middle Susitna River drainage.

Conducting a survey and evaluation of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) stream crossings from Willow north to Talkeetna, within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; working with ORV dealers and users and landowners to reduce impacts of Off Road Vehicle (ORV) trails on fish streams and water quality.

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, and identifying areas where rehabilitation is needed to reestablish fish passage and fish habitat; working with federal agencies with fish passage funding to renovate or replace stream blockages in Alaska.

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 in 2001**

The Public Access Defense project reviewed conveyances of land to 16 villages and 10 regional corporations, totaling over 1 million acres, and reviewed 1500 Native allotment parcels affecting over 120,000 acres, to ensure reasonable public access is reserved. Staff negotiated the number and location of easements with BLM and caught errors in legal descriptions and easement reservations in several conveyances. ADF&G staff worked with DNR to protect a number of RS2477 easements, and with BLM on a strategy to address a December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001 easement termination regulation. Staff participated in initial meetings that addressed BLM's preliminary decision regarding easements on village and regional lands within the Ahtna and Bering Straits regions. Project staff prepared approximately 20 land status/easement maps for use in educating the public and reducing conflicts; locations for which informational leaflets and brochures were produced include Copper and Klutina rivers, Russel Creek, Dall and Little Dall Rivers, Gold Creek and Colorado Road.

Core staff members were hired to begin developing research, stewardship, and education programs for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. Staff completed a summary of the biological, physical, and human use information for the Kachemak Bay Watershed. They began mapping intertidal habitats and wetlands in Kachemak Bay and its watershed, and deployed three long-term oceanographic sensors in the bay to collect data for managers, researchers, and educators. Construction of interim modular office facility was completed, and design and contracting began for eventual construction of a joint headquarters, research, and education facility with the FWS/Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge in Homer.

Other special project accomplishments included the following.

- Developed a collaborative partnership with stakeholders and other agencies to develop potential solutions to non-point source pollution while providing for non-impacting ATV access to public lands on the southern Kenai Peninsula.
- Participated with DNR and other divisions of ADF&G to update the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan. Worked with DNR to develop the Kodiak Area Plan including identification of fish and wildlife habitat values and land use intent.

- 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.
- Identified important fish and wildlife habitat and public access and use sites to retain in-state ownership prior to conveyance of 13,850 acres of state land to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, 3,400 acres to the Matanuska Susitna Borough, and numerous other land transfers to local governments and private individuals. Reviewed and commented on numerous section-line and Right of Way (ROW) easement vacation requests to maintain public access.
- Identified important fish and wildlife resources and habitats to retain in state ownership prior to inclusion in DNR's Remote Recreational Cabin Sites program.
- 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.
- Provided technical assistance to the Anchor Point Community Rivers Coalition working group to support local watershed planning.
- Worked with DNR to revise the Haines State Forest and Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve plans and develop the Northern Southeast Area Plan.
- Worked with the Mental Health Land Trust and University of Alaska to identify anadromous fish habitat and assist in planning timber harvest at Icy Bay.
- Conducted a cooperative project with the Forest Service, Yakutat Tribe and City of Yakutat to identify over 140 miles of previously unmapped anadromous fish habitat in the Situk River watershed and adjacent Yakutat forelands, evaluate areas affected by use of all-terrain vehicles, and develop a public information program for use in the schools and community to help in understanding how to protect fish habitat when operating ATVs. Using Alaska Coastal Management 309 funding, also conducted a complete survey and evaluation of all ATV stream crossings on the Southern Kenai Peninsula.
- Continued to contract through a Cooperative Agreement with USFWS for Kenai River cost-share projects (210 projects to date), under the Kenai River Restoration Cost Share Project initiated in 1995. Contracting with the USFWS has been necessary because ADF&G lacks authority to enter into grant agreements with private landowners.
- Initiated a multi-agency ecological assessment program for log transfer facilities to study the effects on the marine environment and determine the most cost effective mitigation measures.
- Conducted a thorough evaluation of physical, chemical, and biological habitat of Wasilla Creek with the support of DEC nonpoint-source program.
- Initiated the evaluation of restoration methods and practices with the support of DEC non-point-source program.
- Conducted extensive anadromous fish surveys and habitat evaluation within the Middle Susitna River drainage.
- Provided technical assistance in the development of restoration projects within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with funding support from DEC non-point-source program.
- To meet Pacific Salmon Treaty requirements, conducted a Preliminary Habitat Assessment to evaluate salmon habitat condition across Southeast Region, initiated development of a Geographic Information System (GIS), linking salmon distribution and life history to associated data bases such as Access through the Internet, and began collecting on-the-ground information to be included in the system.
- Conducted a culvert inventory and assessment project in three watersheds in the Mat-Su Valley, the goal of which is to use results to identify and prioritize culverts for replacement or repair to improve fish passage.

- Documented results from gravel mining/rehabilitation projects and demonstrated fisheries enhancement at selected sites on the North Slope.
- Using results from USGS stream gaging work, ensured 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.
- Provided technical support to DEC-funded non-point-source restoration projects throughout Southcentral Alaska.
- With EPA support through the State and Tribal Wetlands program, provided restoration technical assistance and outreach throughout the Matanuska-Susitna Valley resulting in nearly 40 restoration projects including three education projects in association with local schools.
- With support from DEC non-point-source program, conducted a thorough evaluation of the physical, chemical and biological condition of Chester Creek within the Municipality of Anchorage.
- Conducted a complete survey of anadromous fish use and habitat within Jakalof Bay, Tyonek, and Crescent River areas of Southcentral Alaska.
- Conducted vegetation surveys on forested and harvested lands on the Southern Kenai Peninsula to evaluate the affects of timber harvest of beetle-killed spruce on moose habitat.
- Participated in and provided technical assistance to the Little Susitna and Cottonwood Creek Watershed Council.

### **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

	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	856.3	1,671.6	2,283.0
72000 Travel	69.3	152.2	152.2
73000 Contractual	183.5	738.1	738.1
74000 Supplies	87.0	94.5	94.5
75000 Equipment	53.0	45.2	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
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>1,249.1</b>	<b>2,701.6</b>	<b>3,313.0</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	310.3	794.9	802.3
1003 General Fund Match	97.8	99.0	99.4
1004 General Fund Receipts	7.9	0.0	0.0
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	402.6	635.0	645.5
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	0.0	694.5	1,285.9
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	430.5	478.2	479.9
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>1,249.1</b>	<b>2,701.6</b>	<b>3,313.0</b>

### Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>						
Federal Receipts	51010	310.3	794.9	794.9	802.3	802.3
Interagency Receipts	51015	402.6	635.0	635.0	645.5	649.6
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	430.5	478.2	478.2	479.9	481.2
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	0.0	694.5	694.5	1,285.9	1,306.8
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>1,143.4</b>	<b>2,602.6</b>	<b>2,602.6</b>	<b>3,213.6</b>	<b>3,239.9</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>1,143.4</b>	<b>2,602.6</b>	<b>2,602.6</b>	<b>3,213.6</b>	<b>3,239.9</b>

## Habitat Special Projects

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

Continue overall development of Kachemak Bay-area research and education programs administered by the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) in Homer. Interim facilities for the Reserve will be completed and the few remaining core administrative and project staff will be hired in FY02 and, using non-GF, in FY03. Design of the joint headquarters facility with USFWS/Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is underway with construction expected to conclude by Spring 2004. The Reserve's small staff will continue to seek sources of non-federal/non GF match that will allow it to focus on program delivery in the Kachemak Bay and southern Cook Inlet areas and on timely completion of non-GF grants that will foster interest in coastal Alaska ecosystems and more active participation by educators and scientists from around the state and the nation.

To meet Pacific Salmon Treaty requirements, continue development of a Geographic Information System (GIS), linking salmon distribution and life history to associated data bases such as Access through the Internet, and collection of on-the-ground information to be included in the system. Work closely with local communities and other agencies to provide technical assistance in prioritizing, evaluating and implementing projects to restore fish passage, stabilize stream banks and conduct other salmon habitat restoration projects in Southeast Alaska.

Continue a multi-agency ecological assessment program for log transfer facilities to study the effects on the marine environment and determine the most cost-effective mitigation measures.

### Summary of Component Budget Changes

#### From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>794.9</b>	<b>1,807.7</b>	<b>2,701.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY 2002	0.4	7.4	26.3	34.1
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Increase CIP Receipts for the Coastal Impact Assessment Program	0.0	0.0	100.4	100.4
-Add New Gas Pipeline Positions	0.0	0.0	445.4	445.4
-Increase CIP Receipt Authority for the Sustainable Salmon Program	0.0	0.0	31.5	31.5
<b>FY2003 Governor</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>802.3</b>	<b>2,411.3</b>	<b>3,313.0</b>



**Habitat Special Projects**  
**Personal Services Information**

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	23	34	Annual Salaries	1,713,089
Part-time	10	10	COLA	38,667
Nonpermanent	4	4	Premium Pay	1,251
			Annual Benefits	669,679
			<i>Less 5.77% Vacancy Factor</i>	(139,686)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>2,283,000</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Tech I	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	1	1
Analyst/Programmer II	1	0	0	0	1
Cartographer II	1	0	0	0	1
College Intern I	2	0	0	0	2
F&W Technician III	1	0	1	0	2
F&W Technician IV	0	0	0	1	1
Fishery Biologist II	0	0	0	2	2
Fishery Biologist III	0	0	0	1	1
Fishery Biologist IV	1	0	0	0	1
Graduate Intern I	1	0	0	0	1
Habitat Biologist I	1	2	2	1	6
Habitat Biologist II	2	1	0	3	6
Habitat Biologist III	7	0	6	2	15
Habitat Biologist IV	2	0	0	0	2
Librarian II	1	0	0	0	1
Pipeline Liaison/Surveill Supv	1	0	0	0	1
Research Analyst II	1	0	0	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>48</b>