

State Park Emergency Repairs**FY2004 Request: \$120,000**
Reference No: 6843**AP/AL:** Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2004**Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance
Contact: Nico Bus
Contact Phone: (907)465-2406**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Alaskans comprise 80% of the almost 4 million annual visits to the Alaska State Park system. Many of the state parks are old and broken (\$42 million in identified deferred maintenance needs) and present potential health and safety hazards to visitors. The project will fund emergency repairs to park units to protect visitor health and safety. Projects will upgrade or replace the basic facilities at parks including outhouses, drinking water systems, safe access roads & trails, safe shelter from harsh weather, and safe camping sites.

Funding:	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	Total
Gen Fund	\$120,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,370,000
Total:	\$120,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,370,000

<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
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SSSLA2002/CH1 - \$250,000
 SLA2001/CH61 - \$286,000
 SLA2000/CH135 - \$286,200
 SLA1999/CH2 - \$151,500
 SLA1998/CH139 - \$200,000
 SLA1997/CH100 - \$200,000
 SLA1996/CH123 - \$150,000
 SLA1994/CH4 - \$50,000

Project Description/Justification:

Alaskan's comprise 80% of the almost 4 million annual visits to the Alaska State Park system. Many of the state parks are old and broken (\$42 million in identified deferred maintenance needs) and present potential health and safety hazards to visitors. The State Park infrastructure is broken. The longer we ignore the significant deferred maintenance needs of the state park system, the more expensive it will be to ultimately fix. In the meantime, the park system will lose visitors as they are disgusted with the disrepair in many parks (outhouses and roads receive the most complaints). Also, the state runs the risk of paying for injuries or illness due to unsafe or unhealthy park facilities.

Alaska's State Parks are a source of pride for Alaskans and provide for road accessible fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife viewing, cultural and historic site visitation, and other outdoor recreational pursuits.

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Alaskans and our visitors participate in outdoor activities at a much higher level than the national average. Because most State Park facilities are on the road system, and therefore more accessible than the national park system, enormous demands are placed on the State Park facilities. State Parks receive over three times the visitation of the national park system, with most visitation coming from Alaskans. Poorly maintained park facilities not only reflect poorly on the state and its effort to increase tourism, but they can be a health and safety hazard to park users. Whether park users are from Alaska or Outside, local communities benefit greatly from the economic impact of these people buying groceries, gas, fishing tackle, souvenirs, restaurant meals, showers, guidebooks, fishing guides, and sightseeing tours. To continue attracting these visitors, facilities must be repaired and maintained and meet basic health and safety requirements. In addition, each project provides funding for local suppliers of materials needed for these repairs.

Prior Funding History and Status:

The asset value of State Park facilities is over \$100 million. While Parks is able to do minor repairs and painting to annually maintain these facilities, major repairs require specific funding through the capital process. The last two fiscal years have only provided Parks with \$536.0 to repair health and safety problems on roads, cabins, water systems and toilets. Currently over \$42 million in repairs is needed for deferred maintenance in the park system. There is no alternative to repairing existing park facilities other than closing park units for lack of adequate facilities. Partnering with the private sector to make these repairs is done wherever possible. Many repairs, such as to cabins, volunteer housing, and picnic shelters can and will be done with volunteer labor.

Why is this Project Needed Now:

Addressing Park Emergency Repairs is an annual request. Every year, more and more Park facilities slide into a state of disrepair that result in increased hazards to the health and safety of the visiting public. In truth, much more is needed than is being requested. However, we do our best with whatever funds are provided and address those broken facilities that pose the largest threat to the public. If this project isn't funded, we just fall further behind on keeping our parks safe.

At this time, specific emergency repairs are not identified due to the fact that these funds will be used to remedy the most pressing needs at the time the funds become available. Examples of how they will be used are: replacement of latrines damaged by winter vandalism or natural causes; repair of public use cabins damaged over the winter; and perhaps repair of broken water systems.

Project Support:

State Park visitors, Alaska Travel Industry Alliance, Alaska Wilderness Recreation Tourism Association, State Park Advisory Boards, local Chambers of Commerce, recreational user groups, and highway travelers

Project Opposition: None known.