

Waterfowl Conservation and Enhancement Program**FY2004 Request:****\$256,700****Reference No:****35896****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Planning**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Wayne Regelin**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4190**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2008**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Reauthorize and appropriate funds to continue the Waterfowl Conservation and Enhancement Program for 5 years. This program was established through the state duck stamp act (Ch. 71 SLA 1984) and operates in accordance with AS 16.05.826 and AS 16.05.130(b). By legislative intent and specified purposes, it funds conservation projects that provide benefits to waterfowl and public use of waterfowl. This CIP is intended to sustain a long-term program of land acquisition and easements to secure valuable waterfowl habitats and public access, resource enhancement projects and a variety of conservation activities to increase public appreciation of waterfowl and their habitats.

Funding:	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fish/Game	\$256,700						\$256,700
Total:	\$256,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$256,700

<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:

Prior Funding: \$850.0 in FY87, \$420.0 in FY94. Appropriations are based on royalty income from the sale of state duck stamp art prints and other non-license income. Through FY02, over \$1,526.7 from these sales have been deposited into the general fund. The surplus of revenues over prior appropriations (\$256.7) is the basis of this request. Corresponding language in the appropriation bill will deposit this revenue into the fish and game fund for this purpose.

Project Description/Justification:

Statutory Obligations: This CIP helps fulfill the department's general statutory obligation to sustain and enhance the wildlife resources of the state. Although the state duck stamp act does not dedicate funds for particular projects to be accomplished, it does contain legislative intent to provide funds equivalent to the revenue produced for the legislatively defined purposes of the program (AS 16.05.130(b)).

Leveraging Funds: CIP funds have been managed to attract and leverage federal and private-sector funds to accomplish projects. Over the 15 years that the CIP has been funded, an average of \$1.75 of outside funds have been spent for every \$1.00 of CIP funds used on operational projects. Major projects like land acquisitions or habitat construction projects have been accomplished through grants or cooperative agreements that required 25% or less CIP contributions. As an example, over 1,400 acres in five parcels have been acquired for inclusion in Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge through federal and private contributions; costs from the CIP were about \$41/acre.

Specific Projects: The primary value of the CIP is to acquire important waterfowl habitats and public use lands, and to implement habitat improvements through construction projects. Development of project concepts, planning and commitment of funds to these projects are unpredictable. By nature, land acquisitions are opportunistic, depending on availability from a willing seller, availability of grants and other contributions, and completion of the necessary technical and financial evaluations.

Similarly, habitat improvement projects require feasibility studies, development of cooperating partners and financial supporters, and engineering plans before CIP funds are committed. The multi-year CIP allows the department to promptly take advantage of emerging project and funding opportunities as they arise, rather than requesting funds for individual projects that may be time-sensitive. The department continues to identify desirable acquisition and enhancement projects that have potential for development, as well as being receptive to proposals by other agencies, communities and private organizations.

Project History: This request is for a third appropriation to the program. The purpose of this CIP is to apply the accrued revenues from the duck stamp art program to waterfowl enhancement projects on an efficient and opportunistic basis, rather than for a predetermined number of prospective projects. This request remains within the scope of the original CIP.

This CIP is needed in FY 04 because the FY94 CIP is expiring and funds will not be sufficient to implement projects that fulfill the purpose of the program (e.g. land acquisition, habitat improvement projects, matching funds for major grants) and meet public expectations. Current prospects for obtaining grants and partnerships are very good if CIP funds are made available.