**State Park Deferred Maintenance** **FY2006 Request: $300,000**
**Reference No: 38878**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation **Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance
**Category:** Natural Resources
**Location:** Statewide **Contact:** Gary Morrison
**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)269-8701
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2007

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**
State Parks has identified over $43.0 million in deferred maintenance needs. This project will promote the department's mission of providing outdoor recreational opportunities by funding deferred maintenance repairs to park units to protect visitor health and safety by providing safe, clean, and well maintained units. Projects will upgrade or replace basic facilities at parks including ranger stations, outhouses, drinking water systems, trails, and camping to keep them from becoming an urgent health and safety hazard.

| **Funding:** | FY2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 | FY2009 | FY2010 | FY2011 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bond Funds | $300,000 | | | | | | $300,000 |
| Gen Fund | | $400,000 | $400,000 | $500,000 | $500,000 | $500,000 | $2,300,000 |
| Total: | $300,000 | $400,000 | $400,000 | $500,000 | $500,000 | $500,000 | $2,600,000 |

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☑ On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

| | Amount | Staff |
|---|---|---|
| Project Development: | 0 | 0 |
| Ongoing Operating: | 0 | 0 |
| One-Time Startup: | 0 | |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**
SLA2004/CH159 $50,000
SLA2002/CH1 $283,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

Alaska Statute 41.21.020 states that one of the duties of the Department of Natural Resources is to maintain state parks and recreation areas for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of Alaskans and visitors to the state. While Parks is able to do minor repairs and painting to annually maintain Park facilities, these facilities have been steadily gather a back log of deferred maintenance work. Repairs for deferred maintenance require specific funding through the capital process. CIP funding for deferred maintenance for the past two years has only provided parks with $333.0 to repair deferred health and safety problems on roads, cabins, water systems and toilets. This year's request for $3,000.0 will only repair the most pressing Park deferred maintenance problems. Currently over $43.0 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. Construction contracts for repairs will provide private sector jobs. Many repairs, such as to cabins, volunteer housing, and picnic shelters can and will be done with volunteer labor. One benefit of this project is that it will repair some of the worse deferred maintenance problems and reduce the deferred maintenance repair demand on the proposed operating budget.

Alaska's state park system is the largest in America. It ranks 29th in overnight camping visitation and 40th in overall visitation in spite of our small population. However, it ranks 46th in the number of employees and only one state has a

smaller operating budget. There are only 12 state park maintenance workers. Only two states have fewer. And while Alaska State Parks staff are well versed in the time-old Alaskan tradition of making repairs with little more than duct tape and bailing wire, over a decade's worth of declining maintenance funding has so deteriorated Alaska's parks that duct tape no longer works. In a park system where many water sources and outhouses are 35 years old, the maintenance staff of 6 is thinly spread over many facilities. Many of the state parks are old, broken, and present potential health and safety hazards to visitors. $43.0 million in deferred maintenance needs have been identified. This project will fund deferred maintenance 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. Facilities upgraded or replaced by this project will be easier and less expensive to operate and maintain, thereby allowing operating and maintenance efforts to be shifted to other facilities in need of upgrade and repair. 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, and potential fees for state coffers, 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. 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.

**Why is this Project Needed Now:** Park facilities are getting older, requiring higher levels of annual maintenance and repair. Over the years as the state budget has tightened, projects for the replacement and rehabilitation of park facilities have not been funded, resulting in an ever increasing list of deferred maintenance repairs. Every year, more and more park facilities slide into a state of disrepair that results 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.

**Specific Spending Detail:** This project will begin to address the deferred maintenance needs in Alaska State parks in the following ways:

These items are in order of need for health and safety standards as referenced in the 2001 Deferred Maintenance Needs for Alaska State Parks inventory:

1. Kenai Area Office septic system replacement, page 8-25
2. Nancy Lake Volunteer Housing water and septic systems upgrade, page 7-21
3. Northern Area Hdqtrs VIP Housing sanitation, heat and site upgrade, page 6-23
4. Ketchikan Ranger Station Repairs
5. Lowell Point SRS caretaker cabin water system upgrade
6. Mat-Su Area Office electrical system replacement, page 7-6
7. Hanson Ranger Station heating system replacement, page 7-6
8. Morgans Landing volunteer housing upgrade, page 8-25
9. Eagle River Ranger Station building heating system replacement, page 9-10
10. Kachemak District Hdqtrs heating system replacement, page 8-50
11. Independence Mine Electrical System upgrades
12. Eagle Beach maintenance bldg upgrade, page 3-17
13. Buskin River SRS Beach Pavillion Repairs
14. Big Delta SHP WAMCAT historic building repair and stabilization, page 6-13
15. Wood-tik Chick dock and duplex repairs
16. Potter Section House painting, weather proofing, window repairs, page 9-20
17. Halibut Cove Lagoon Dock Repair

1. Sterling
2. Willow
3. Fairbanks
4. Ketchikan
5. Seward
6. Wasilla
7. Wasilla
8. Sterling
9. Eagle River
10. Homer
11. Hatcher Pass
12. Juneau
13. Kodiak
14. Big Delta
15. Dillingham
16. Anchorage
17. Homer

Park deferred maintenance repairs will be accomplished by force account using State Park maintenance staff and procured materials ($250.0 +/-), and by construction contracting ($1,750.0 +/-). Force account work is typically 50 percent labor and 50 percent materials. Construction contracting is typical 20 percent design, procurement, and contract administration and 80 percent contractual cost.

Line Item Expenditures:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Personal Services | $ 66.0 | State Park maintenance staff performing force account work and State Park development staff performing design and contract administration. |
| Travel | $ 6.0 | State Park staff travel for project sites that require travel. |
| Services | $ 210.0 | Construction contracting using small procurement procedures |
| Commodities | $ 18.0 | Materials for force account work. |
| Capital Outlay | $ 0.0 | None |
| | $ 300.0 | |

**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, 78.7% of the individuals surveyed statewide for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Project Opposition:** None