Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Grants | **FY2008 Request: $1,250,000**
Reference No: 32552

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2009

Project Type: Construction

Contact: Nico Bus
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant program that provides funding for the development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. More than any other state in the union, Alaskans recreate outdoors. LWCF is consistent with DNR's mission in that, in terms of outdoor recreation, it develops, conserves and maximizes Alaska's natural [outdoor recreation] resources consistent with the public interest.

New or rehabilitated LWCF projects increase the number of park visits, furthering a desired end result. Privatizing the management of a LWCF assisted site is consistent with LWCF policy, addressing a second desired end result. LWCF program staff is responsible for monitoring compliance with LWCF regulation and policy.

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
Fed Rcpts	$1,250,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$8,750,000
Total:	$1,250,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$8,750,000

☐ 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:
SLA06/CH82 - $1,000,000
FSSLA05/CH3 - $1,500,000
SLA04/CH159 - $1,250,000
SLA03/CH82 - $675,000
SLA02/CH1 - $500,000
SLA01/CH61 - $1,600,000

Project Description/Justification:

The need for outdoor recreation facilities continues to grow with Alaska's population. LWCF provides an opportunity for local, regional or state applicants to receive up to 50% of the cost of projects that are important to the people those recreation providers serve.

This federal grant program was established through the LWCF Act in 1965 to provide a nationwide legacy of high quality outdoor recreation. Projects such as downhill ski areas, ADA compliant trails, neighborhood parks, rifle ranges, sports fields, etc. have been funded in Alaska through LWCF. Projects located in Alaska's most urban areas to our most rural have received LWCF assistance.

50% matching grants provide crucial funding that can make the difference between build/no build for important outdoor recreation opportunities. These projects benefit the people of Alaska by providing both facility development and open space. Each development project provides short-term jobs for planning, construction and management during the construction phase as well as continued long term positive economic impact from the ongoing utilization of the park site.

Why is this Project Needed Now:
To meet the growing outdoor recreation and open space needs of Alaskans, existing park facilities must be updated, new facilities developed and in some cases, property acquired to expand existing recreational opportunities. This program will help provide current and future Alaskans continuing opportunities to recreate in safe facilities that meet their needs.

Specific Spending Detail:
Various, dependent on applications. Spending is restricted to costs associated with the development and/or acquisition of outdoor recreation and open space.

Project Support:
LWCF projects are currently located in approximately 60 communities throughout Alaska. These communities all benefit not only by the increased recreational opportunities created, but, by the financial investment associated with actual development at the site, and subsequent positive financial impact many of these facilities create by drawing users to the area. These communities and the multitude of individuals and groups that use the effected facilities support LWCF.

Prior Funding History and Status:
Since it's inception, LWCF has provided over $32 million dollars for 390 acquisition, development and planning projects located in approximately 60 communities across Alaska. Matched with sponsor monies, this translates to over $64 million dollars of improvements throughout the state. These improvements positively impact the health and well being of Alaska's residents and natural resources, and also provide both short-term and long-term employment opportunities.

Alaska was allocated $252,979 in FY'06 approximately half of which will go to local or regional governments and half to State Parks projects. FY'07 allocations have not been announced.

Project Opposition:
None known.

State Match Required:
No. Match provided by grant recipients.