

Federal and Local Government Funded Forest Resource and Fire Program Projects

FY2009 Request: \$3,000,000
Reference No: 37769

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources

Project Type: Health and Safety

Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Leta Simons
Contact Phone: (907)465-2400

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project provides receipt authority for federal and local government funds including federal National Fire Plan allocations to Alaska. Specific support includes the ability of the State and local government to educate, mitigate, prepare for and respond to threats of wildland fire. This authority will allow state direction to cooperative forestry projects in which state, federal and local governments have mutual interest to participate. Projects also include forest health initiatives, insect and disease examination, internships, and community and urban forest inventories; and, local government funding for hazard fuels reduction, fuels treatment, Firewise education and forest stewardship projects.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$13,200,000
Stat Desig	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$4,800,000
Total:	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$18,000,000

<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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA07/CH30	\$1,500.0 federal / \$1,300.0 SDPR	Planning stage
SLA06/CH82	\$ 2,900.0 federal / \$1,000.0 SDPR	1/3 Complete
SLA05/CH3	\$ 2,900.0 federal / \$1,000.0 SDPR	2/3 Complete
SLA04/CH159	\$ 2,800.0 federal	3/4 Complete
SLA03/CH82	\$ 2,800.0 federal	Projection in Completion

Project Description/Justification:

This project supports the Department's mission to develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans by delivering federally and local funded forest management, development and wildfire preparedness programs. AS 41.17.030 gives management of state forests to the Department of Natural Resources. This project will enable the Division of Forestry (DOF) to meet specific program requirements with federal and local support, including but not limited to the responsibilities of providing wildland fire protection services on state, private and municipal lands as mandated in AS41.15.010 – 170. These federal funds will allow the division to improve and enhance its abilities to support both resources and wildland fire programs that benefit the citizens and resources of Alaska. The threat of catastrophic wildland fires in the urban interface areas in the state is increasing as the citizens of Alaska continue to move into the forested areas of the state and drought conditions persist. Additional federal grant funds may be anticipated to support forest resource management projects that may include:

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- forest resources and management
- insect and disease projects
- urban and community forestry
- forest stewardship
- forest practices
- forest land enhancement
- forest resource inventory
- cooperative forest resource research projects
- improvement of the division’s initial attack and extended attack capabilities.
- improvement of local government and volunteer fire department capabilities to respond to structure and wildland fire incidents in the urban interface and rural areas of the state.
- provide funding for emergency fire fighter (EFF) type I hotshot crew to be utilized in Alaska and the lower 48 to aid in the suppression of wildland fires.
- fuels mapping and community planning for wildland fire.
- hazardous fuels mitigation projects.
- prevention and education emphasizing Firewise concepts.
- forest stewardship planning with private landowners and native corporations
- provide funding for the development of community wildfire protection plans

The Project does not directly raise state revenue. However; it expands the state’s effectiveness in both forest management and wildland fire management.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

This project will provide the division with needed capacity to support increasing program demands in both forest resources and wildland fire management brought about by increasing public need for services in forest resources (e.g., forest health, etc.), and increased risks to public health and safety (e.g., wildland/urban interface education, prevention, and suppression).

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION (text)
Personal Services	\$ 600,000	20 federally funded initial attack positions and extension of seasonal positions to for projects to train and test volunteer fire personnel to fight wildland fires. CIP receipt funding for emergency or seasonal to perform hazard fuel mitigation work in cooperation with boroughs and municipalities. Cooperative resource projects funded by US Forest Service grants.
Travel	\$ 175,000	Travel and per diem for state and local governments to present and receive specialized training. Travel associated with implementation of National Fire Plan and US Dept. of Agriculture grant projects.
Services	\$ 1,960,000	Contractual services funding to facilitate intermediate and advanced Incident Command System (ICS) training and specialized fire training; hazardous fuels mitigation by contractors; and other cooperative USFS grant projects.
Commodities	\$ 175,000	Supplies associated with performance on the federal and local grant projects, including data acquisition and field supplies.

Project Support:

Broad support is anticipated from the general public, local government, volunteer fire departments and numerous state and federal government cooperating agencies.

Project Opposition:

No opposition is anticipated for this CIP.