

State Park Sanitation and Safety Projects

FY2009 Request: \$850,000
Reference No: 43321

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Health and Safety
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Leta Simons
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2400
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project is intended to replace the worst of the toilets in the state park system as well as addressing the most pressing public safety needs by ensuring proper transportation for volunteers and staff in Resurrection Bay, Prince William Sound and Kachemak Bay State Park and by bear-proofing the trash cans in Chugach State Park.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$850,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,850,000
Total:	\$850,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,850,000

<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:

New Project - No Prior Funding History

Project Description/Justification:

This project will replace the worst 16 of the 156 toilets already identified as being a health hazard to the recreating public. Many of the toilets have cracked tanks and are leaking with the potential to contaminate nearby wells. These toilets are an important aspect of the quality of public recreation and health for the over 4.8 million visitors. These toilets are also closely related to the image of the community where the state park is located.

This project will also replace two 10-year old boat motors that are routinely used to transport staff and volunteers who work in the Resurrection Bay, Prince William Sound and the Kachemak Bay State Park.

This project will bear-proof Chugach State Park dumpsters and trash cans to deter bears from being attracted to the 34 facilities located within the state park.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

Restrooms are at the core of maintenance in park units. One of the biggest turn-offs by the recreating public is smelly, unclean or aged restrooms. This often results in less-than-respectful use and higher than typical maintenance requirements. Replacing these toilets will reduce maintenance costs and present a better image for the state as well as the local communities in which these park units are located.

Resurrection Bay, Prince William Sound and Kachemak Bay State Park contain dozens of park units that have over 46,000 annual visitors. These parks are marine parks; the only way for staff and volunteers to get to them in order to

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provide assistance to visitors and routine maintenance of the park units is by boat. Currently Parks has two landing craft that perform these duties and both require motor replacements as each motor has well over 500 hours on it.

Chugach State Park is located adjacent to the largest city in the state and therefore has 25% of the entire visitation to the park system. Because of this there needs to be a campground bear management program. Chugach already has a program that includes the removal of artificial food sources, information and education, the control of problem bears, and monitoring.

Last year a camper at Eklutna Lake was swatted by a bear, and, in another incident, a tent was destroyed. A tent was also rummaged by a bear at the Bird Creek campground resulting in the campground having to be closed to tent camping for two weeks. As urban growth continues to push up against the park, incidents will continue. Unsecured garbage has been identified as one of the major bear attractants to these areas. Bear-proof garbage cans along with camper education will go a long way toward reducing this problem.

Chugach State Park now needs to join the Municipality of Anchorage in these sanitary measures that include closing of open garbage and the installation of bear-proof dumpsters and trash containers.

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Personal Services	\$ 25,000	Project management and oversight
Services	\$ 825,000	Contracts for toilets, bear proof containers and two boat motors.

Project Support:

Numerous State Park Area Advisory Boards, Eagle River Nature Center, Lifetime Adventures

Project Opposition:

None