

**Kenai River Public Use Study**

**FY2009 Request: \$200,000**  
**Reference No: 45282**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation **Project Type:** Planning  
**Category:** Natural Resources  
**Location:** Kenai Areawide **Contact:** Leta Simons  
**House District:** Kenai Areawide (HD 33-35) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2400  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Public use within the Kenai River Special Management Area continues to expand, causing increased conflicts between different recreational user groups and excessive negative impacts on the water quality and health of the river. This study would implement recommendations found in the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan by evaluating the social dynamics of recreational use on the Kenai River, as well as the environmental impacts of human use on the river's water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Additionally, this study fulfills a court ordered review that is required before the Dept. of Natural Resource may consider any restrictions on commercial users.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$200,000						\$200,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input 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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

New Project - No Prior Funding History

**Project Description/Justification:**

This study will combine two elements: a social recreation survey to determine the nature and extent of recreational use conflicts on the river by user type (power boaters, drift boaters, bank anglers, non-fishing recreational users, land owners, guides, etc.), what the tolerances are for different impacts, and acceptance of various management strategies. The project will also organize the numerous studies that have been conducted on the river to date that address everything from water quality (hydrocarbons, turbidity), river bank erosion, power boat wakes, to habitat impacts, as well as any other social recreation studies. The final product of this effort will be to analyze the current level of public use, as it compares to past studies, and to analyze how human use on the river is impacting other recreational users on the river as well as the water quality and habitat environment of the Kenai River. Finally, recommendations on various management options that might be considered is the last part of this project that is expected.

**Why is this Project Needed Now?:**

Public use on the Kenai River continues to grow, with greater crowding attributed to increased numbers of sport fishing guides in some areas of the river, as well as growing levels of non-guided recreational use in other areas of the river. Comments received by the Department indicate a growing frustration within the public sector regarding the slowness of changes in management, particularly related to limiting fishing guide numbers. However, before the Department may consider any action that might result in a limitation on the number of guides, a "Public Use Impact Study" must be completed. This project is designed to fulfill that requirement, as well as tie together social and environmental factors

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relating to human use on the river, so that impacts that are harming the water quality and habitat of the river may be curtailed, and so that recreational use on the Kenai River might be managed for a higher quality experience.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Personal Services	\$ 10,000	Project management and oversight
Travel	\$ 3,000	Travel for meetings, project management
Services	\$ 180,000	Contract with qualified firm to conduct surveys, organize study, summarize results, etc.
Commodities	\$ 7,000	Printing of surveys, draft and final study publishing, postage.

**Project Support:**

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board.

**Project Opposition:**

None identified.