

Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Project Title:

Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition

Eagle Beach Public Use Cabins

State Funding Requested: \$100,000
One-Time Need

House District: Juneau Areawide (3-4)

Brief Project Description:

Funds requested to build two accessible public use cabins at Eagle Beach State Recreation Site/State Park, for year-round use.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$100,000

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds	\$0		\$0		\$0	
State Funds	\$0				\$0	
Denali Commission	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Rasmuson Foundation	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Local Funds	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Other Funds	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Total						

Explanation of Other Funds:

Not applicable. However, additional funds may be solicited if this project is approved to enhance the cabins. Furnishings and fixtures may be improved if additional funds are contributed.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Construction of a public use cabins is proposed, to be somewhat larger than existing State Parks cabins but otherwise similar in design, also with entry, and interior design and arrangements of furnishings taking into account users with mobility limitations. Electricity is expected to be included. The construction will be accomplished primarily with volunteer labor and local (Southeast) timber. State Parks staff from the Juneau Ranger District will oversee the work.

Properly designed accessible public use cabins on the Juneau road system (with parking and other park facilities available) would allow users with limited mobility to enjoy a camping experience which is otherwise unavailable to them. It would provide a unique and rewarding opportunity for many who do not have the ability to physically access a remote cabin to enjoy the beauty and remoteness of their region and the wilderness cabin experience. It is expected to be very popular with families with young children who also find more remote cabins difficult to reach and use.

The State Parks public use cabins in the Juneau area are jewels of the State Park system, they are extremely popular and in continuous use. However none are easily accessible along the road system, nor are they accessible to people with mobility limitations, except for one boat-accessible site. Territorial Sportsmen have supported public use cabin funding and have helped construct them in the more remote areas for hunting and fishing. Four new cabins have been completed in the last several years, all in areas requiring boat access or a hike of several miles.

\$100,000
Approved

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Ten Year strategic Plan identifies as a goal expanding the public use cabin system.

The Juneau area has the opportunity to accomplish this goal with accessible public use cabins at Eagle Beach State Recreation area. The area has great potential as a year round facility with accommodations for higher use volume and more valuable service to the community. Staff are able to provide year-round maintenance. Revenue from these cabin would be expected to be over \$26,000 per year (currently seven more remote cabins -- four accessible only by boat) generate \$40,000 per year) at current rates, thus "breaking even" in four years.

The Eagle Beach State Recreation Area is now the premier handicapped accessible facility in the state, with established road access, underground electricity, paved walkways to handicap accessible latrines, a remote setting, access to paved walkways and vistas, and ample parking. Accessible public use cabins would probably see continuous use. It is an ideal place for year-round activity.

Juneau Area State Parks Advisory Board supports these cabins as its single request for capital improvement funds for FY11. It has been voted the Board's highest priority for the last three years. Funding was approved by the Legislature for FY09; the subsequent veto of funds thus requires re-approval of the request.

Project Timeline:

Construction can be accomplished summer-fall 2010. Expenditures will occur in first or second quarter FY2010 for supplies. Completion expected by June 2011 if not sooner.

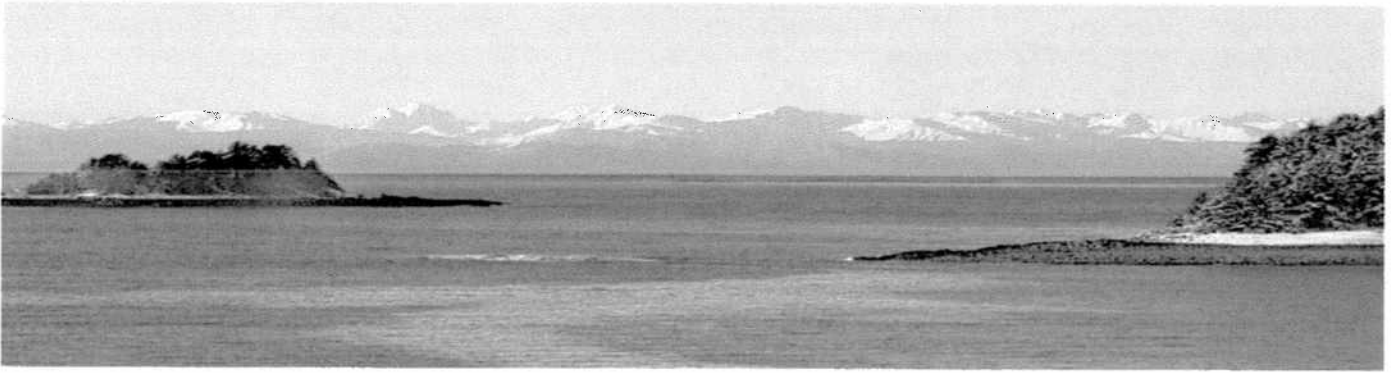
Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Division of State Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Mike Eberhardt
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 Juneau, AK 99801
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Juneau State Parks Advisory Board

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Photo by A. W. Hanger

February 12, 2010

Representative Beth Kerttula
Representative Cathy Munoz
Senator Dennis Egan

The Juneau State Parks Advisory Board is asking you to add \$50,000 to the budget so that State Parks can build a cabin at Eagle Beach for people with physical limitations and families with young children. None of the public use cabins in our area are located near the road system. This cabin would allow these people to enjoy a year round experience that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

We estimate that the cabin will pay for itself in approximately four years. Based on 2009 data for the Point Bridget cabins, a cabin at Eagle Beach would generate \$13,500 per year. It would bring in more revenue that it will cost to maintain, thus it would be a good financial investment.

Thank you.

Juneau State Parks Advisory Board
Gary Miller, Chair

Eagle Beach State Recreation Site (Juneau) Accessible Public Use Cabin and Shelters (58k)

Handicapped Accessible Cabin on the Road System (50k)

The State Parks public use cabins in the Juneau area are jewels of the State Park system, they are extremely popular and in continuous use. However none are easily accessible along the road system, nor are they accessible to people with mobility limitations, except for one boat-accessible site. Territorial Sportsmen have supported public use cabin funding and have helped construct them in the more remote areas for hunting and fishing. Four new cabins have been completed in the last several years, all in areas requiring boat access or a hike of several miles.

A properly designed accessible public use cabin on the Juneau road system would allow users with limited mobility to enjoy a camping experience which is otherwise unavailable to them. It would provide a unique and rewarding opportunity for many who do not have the ability to physically access a remote cabin to enjoy the beauty and remoteness of their region and the wilderness cabin experience.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Ten Year strategic Plan identifies as a goal expanding the public use cabin system.

The Juneau area has the opportunity to accomplish this goal with an accessible public use cabin at Eagle Beach State Recreation area. The area has great potential as a year round facility with accommodations for higher use volume and more valuable service to the community. Staff are able to provide year-round maintenance.

The Eagle Beach State Recreation Area is now the premier handicapped accessible facility in the state, with established road access, underground electricity, paved walkways to handicap accessible latrines, a remote setting, access to paved walkways and vistas, and ample parking. An accessible public use cabin would probably see continuous use. It is an ideal place for year-round activity.

Cost of construction of a facility with the use of volunteers and park staff could be accomplished for \$50,000.

JUNEAU AREA STATE PARKS CABINS, REVENUE AND USE SFY08 AND SFY09

Cabin Name	Location	08 Revenue	09 Revenue	SFY08		SFY09	
				Estimated Nights Used (@ \$35) (July-June)	Estimated Campers	Estimated Nights Used (@ \$35) (July-June)	Estimated Campers
Camping Cove, Blue Mussell, Cowee Creek	Point Bridget State Park trail accessible (34 miles north of Juneau)	\$24,150	\$22,035	690	2,760	630	2,518
Average (cabins on mainland, trail accessible):		\$8,050	\$7,345	230	920	210	839

Hinman Memorial	St. James Bay (boat accessible)	\$4,275	\$5,470	122	489	156	625
Rupe Andrews	Shelter Island (boat accessible)	\$3,650	\$4,405	104	417	126	503
Oliver Inlet	Admiralty Island (boat accessible)	\$3,710	\$4,230	106	424	121	483
Tiger Olson	Taku Inlet (boat accessible)	\$3,435	\$3,810	98	393	109	435
Total for Cabins requiring boat access:		\$15,070	\$17,915	431	1,722	512	2047
Average (cabins requiring boat for access):		\$5,023	\$5,972	108	431	128	512

TOTAL -- Juneau Area Cabins		\$39,220	\$39,950	1,121	4,482	1,141	4,566
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Note re "Estimated Nights:" Some nights reserved are not used, and on the other hand, some users do not reserve or pay, sometimes because they use a cabin for emergency bivouac, sometimes on an unplanned basis for convenience.

Routine maintenance costs: \$8,000/year for gas, materials, staff time for all the cabins together. In addition to routine maintenance, renovations improved Oliver's Inlet cabin in summer 2008. Cabins thus generate revenue over 4 times routine maintenance cost.