

Plant Material Center Deferred Maintenance

FY2011 Request: \$330,000
Reference No: 45252

AP/AL: Allocation **Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Palmer (Greater Palmer) **Contact:** Leta Simons
House District: Greater Palmer (HD 13) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-3379
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2012
Appropriation: Deferred Maintenance, Equipment Replacement, and Emergency Repairs

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Buildings, grounds and equipment needed to operate the Plant Material Center (PMC) in Palmer are periodically in need of repair and upgrade. This funding will eliminate flooding near the main building and greenhouses, and replace outdated equipment and machinery that no longer meets modern safety standard. As a production farm, the PMC relies on specialized planting, cultivating and harvesting equipment.

Funding:	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$330,000	\$780,000		\$700,000	\$1,300,000	\$200,000	\$3,310,000
Total:	\$330,000	\$780,000	\$0	\$700,000	\$1,300,000	\$200,000	\$3,310,000

<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>	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA2008 \$150,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Plant Material Center (PMC) in Palmer is a production farm, seed laboratory and research facility that supports the agricultural industry in Alaska. The complex consists of a main office/small laboratory building, greenhouses, storage facility, larger laboratory building, shop and 405 acres of land that support revegetation work, horticultural development, and seed production. Buildings and equipment needed to operate the facility are periodically in need of repair and upgrade. This budget request will address paving and drainage issues that lead to annual flooding at the facility, and replacement of outdated farm machinery.

The main buildings and greenhouses are serviced by interconnecting trails on the property. Only a small portion of the trail system has been improved for traffic and designated as a drive surface. Most areas have no means of ridding the surface of rain or winter run-off, as there are no culverts or grades to dispose of the water effectively. The funds requested will allow drive surfaces to be developed and paved in the core area of the PMC. By directing water away from buildings, flooding will be stopped and maintenance will be reduced. Previous survey work will provide the detail needed to establish grades and ditches. Employees, customers, and the visiting public will also be better able to access buildings without wading through mud puddles.

The primary mission of the PMC is to produce high-quality foundation-class grass and grain seed. The facility also produces clean seed potatoes, develops new native species cultivars and is on the forefront of invasive species control. As a production farm, the PMC relies on specialized planting, cultivating and harvest equipment. The ability to accomplish these practices depends on efficient and safe equipment. There are a number of primary pieces of farm equipment the PMC relies on to meet its mission. The funds requested will replace equipment initially purchased in the 1970's that has been used well beyond its intended life and technological ability. Recent funding has allowed replacement of a large tractor, thresher, combine, brush machine, irrigation pump, trim mower, and a multi-row tiller. This-funding request will replace a spray rig and a medium-sized tractor.

Why is this Project Needed Now?

Parts are often not available to maintain old equipment, and the equipment no longer meets modern safety standards, including rollover protection and hazard shielding. Addressing both the equipment replacement and drainage issues will reduce maintenance needs and prevent further damage to facilities.

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION (text)
Capital Outlay	\$ 330,000	Paving & Drainage by DOT/PF, \$230.0; Shielded spray rig \$40.0; Medium-size tractor \$60.0

Project Support:

This project will be supported by the Alaska Seed Growers Association and other Alaska Based agriculture groups.

Project Opposition:

None expected.