

Economic Contribution of Wildlife to Alaska**FY2011 Request: \$500,000****Reference No: 48917****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Tom Lawson**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-5999**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2015**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The economic significance of hunting and wildlife-associated recreation in Alaska is an important consideration for natural resource managers and public officials. A study will be designed to gather detailed information to provide managers, regulators, and policy-makers with up-to-date information on the economic contributions of hunting and wildlife-related recreation and associated businesses to the Alaska economy. This project contributes to the department's mission by conducting a study to assess whether the wildlife resources of Alaska are being put to their greatest use, consistent with the sustained yield principle, and resulting in positive benefits to the economy of Alaska and to individual Alaskans.

Funding:	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$375,000						\$375,000
Fish/Game	\$125,000						\$125,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

<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
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

No prior funding

Project Description/Justification:

The Division of Wildlife Conservation is responsible for the management of Alaska's wildlife resources. The primary goals of the division are to protect, maintain, and enhance the wildlife resources of Alaska; and provide for their greatest use by the people, consistent with the sustained yield principle, for the well being of the people and the economy of the state.

The economic significance of hunting and wildlife-associated recreation in Alaska (in terms of direct, indirect and induced expenditures, sales, jobs and associated financial activity including government revenue) is an important consideration for natural resource managers, regulatory or policy decision-makers, and public officials. Although statewide estimates of wildlife-related expenditures are available for Alaska every five to seven years as part of the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR), the FHWAR economic estimates are based upon a relatively small sample of households. This does not provide the level of precision desired by the Division nor the ability to develop estimates of the economic contribution of hunting and wildlife-

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associated recreation at the region or sub-region level as often desired by managers and regulatory or policy decision-makers. Thus, the Division has decided to periodically obtain its own estimates of economic contribution of wildlife at the statewide and regional level via contract with a reputable survey firm or research institution.

Assuming that economic significance of wildlife does not change significantly from year to year, but may over a period of a few years, the Division is looking to establish a consistent methodology for obtaining economic information every three to five years to provide meaningful updates on the economic contribution of wildlife to the economy of the state.

This project will provide updated information on the economic contribution of wildlife to the economy of Alaska on a statewide, regional, and sub-regional level, which is not currently available from another source. This information can be used to help evaluate the relative merits of alternative resource management decisions in Alaska.

Federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funding and matching funds from the Fish and Game Fund will provide the necessary funds.