

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America****Federal Tax ID: 920016314****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America - Little Lake Louise Development for Alaska Youth and Families

State Funding Requested: \$100,000
One-Time Need**House District: 12 / F****Brief Project Description:**

\$100,000 request for a feasibility study of the 122 acre island on Little Lake Louise. Enlist a local firm to conduct the study and determine the viability of a Boy Scout programs base on the acreage.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$100,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America requests funding in the amount of \$100,000 for a feasibility study of the 122 acre island in Little Lake Louise. This island is owned by the Great Alaska Council. Enlisting a local firm to conduct the study, we will determine the viability of a Boy Scout programs base on the acreage.

Such a base will provide young men and women ages 11 to 21 with a development opportunity supporting positive experiences to help youth mature and prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Youth will experience challenges, learn ethical decision making, and acquire skills in the areas particular to their career interests and high adventure. The base achieves the Boy Scouts objectives for youth to develop character, citizenship, and personal fitness. It further supports current Scouting programs such as Venturing and Exploring, specializing in avocation and work-site based skills respectively.

Justification:

There is extreme value in childhood nature experiences. Dr. Paul Dykema with Holland Pediatric Associates who has practiced general Pediatrics for over 45 years states that, "among the most striking changes I have observed over my career are the rise of obesity, type 2 Diabetes, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, anxiety, and depression. He continues, "there are many factors contributing to the increase of these disorders in children, but it is apparent that the lack of outdoor, unstructured and imaginative play is significant."

**\$100,000
Approved**

Furthermore, developing this base supports the No Child Left Behind Act which the Department of Education and Early Development is leading to develop the state's Environmental Literacy Plan. Along with NCLB, we are helping reconnect children with nature.

In Alaska's Venturing and Exploring, local community organizations match their people and resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result are programs of exciting and meaningful activities that help youth pursue their special interests, develop leadership skills, and receive basic training in a career field. In Venturing, youth focus on the outdoors and high adventure. In Exploring youth focus on career development. Youth have the chance to learn and grow in a supportive, caring, and fun environment.

Scouting raises awareness and trains in public safety. The Great Alaska Council teaches Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles, including safety and conservation for both motorized and non-motorized activities in the outdoors. Based on studies from Louis Harris and Associates in "Strengthening Youth,

Families, and Neighborhoods" and "A Year in the Life of a Scout," the Boy Scouts outdoor program provides opportunities for safe environments, healthy relationships, and positive youth development. The extensive nature of the Boy Scout's program successfully addresses these. With Scouting, 90% of participants become actively involved in their communities and 89% choose to stay away from drugs. Over 97% relate Scouting to their increased respect for the environment.

To continue serving Alaska with successful youth development programs, the Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America needs to determine the viability of its property on Little Lake Louise.

Project Timeline:

April 2011 - July 2012

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

Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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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