

**Agency: Department of Natural Resources****Project Title:****Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

# Chilkoot Corridor Bear Viewing Platform, Parking Lots, and Other Site Improvements

**State Funding Requested: \$1,000,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: 5 / C****Brief Project Description:**

Bear viewing platform will ease the current congestion in the Chilkoot Corridor and provide a safer environment for both bears and people.
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

<p>The Chilkoot River Corridor has some of the highest bear activity in the state. Plentiful salmon spawning channels and wooded surroundings provide an ideal place for bears to eat and sleep. However, the Chilkoot area is also a very popular camping and recreational spot for not only locals but also thousands of tourists each summer. The Corridor is extremely narrow with a narrow single car road running alongside the river. The vehicle and pedestrian congestion is a safety hazard in itself, but also brings people too close to the feeding bears. There have been numerous close calls between bears and people.</p>
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<p>The Department of Natural Resources would like to construct a bear viewing platform and parking lots to help control the traffic in the corridor and keep the people at a safe and respectful distance from the bears. It will also assist park staff in managing the massive crowds that gather in the Corridor. The platform will allow people to enjoy the bears while not encroaching on their feeding habitat, creating a safer more relaxed environment for all.</p>
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**Project Timeline:**

Project will begin in the summer of 2011 and be completed by 2013.
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**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Department of Natural Resources
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**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