

Forest Legacy Federal Grant Program

FY2012 Request: \$1,000,000

Reference No: 34881

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Parks / Recreation

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Jean Davis

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2011 - 06/30/2016

Contact Phone: (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Forest Legacy Program provides federal funding for acquisition of high-value private forestland threatened with conversion to non-forest use. Legislative intent targets private lands adjacent to, or within, existing conservation units (parks, refuges, etc.) used primarily for forestry, fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and traditional access. These uses would be disrupted, destroyed, or degraded if the private properties were converted to non-forest uses. To ensure that park visitors continue to enjoy quality outdoor recreation experiences, and interaction with Alaska's natural and cultural world, these invaluable state assets must be properly maintained to maximize the use of critical areas.

Funding:	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

<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:

SLA2010/CH43	\$ 1,000.0	0% complete
SLA2008/CH29	\$ 2,516.5	Active/ongoing 50% expended
SLA2007/CH30	\$ 50.0	Complete
SLA2006/CH82	\$ 630.0	Complete
SLA 2005/CH3	\$ 4,500.0	Complete

The Forest Legacy Program provides federal funding for protection of high-value private forestland that is threatened with conversion to non-forest use.

Project Description/Justification:

The Forest Legacy Program provides federal funding for protection of high-value private forestland that is threatened with conversion to non-forest use. Legislative intent targets private in-holdings adjacent to, or within, existing conservation units (parks, refuges, etc.) that are primarily used for fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and traditional access that would be disrupted, destroyed, or degraded if the private properties use were to be converted. This program allows State Parks to conserve the land for outdoor recreation opportunities, habitat values, and secure the use of and access to critical areas for the public benefit. This program provides up to 75% of the total acquisition

cost. Non-federal required match is provided through partnerships with non-profit organizations, donations or in-kind.

Projects proposed by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The American Land Conservancy and The Conservation Fund focus on securing parcels threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. Proposals have been submitted that focus on the northern coastline of Afognak Island and an in-holding within Chugach State Park. Both projects were approved by the State Forest Stewardship Committee.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

Private in-holdings and adjacent parcels are placed on the market every year. To secure priority in-holding and adjacent parcel acquisitions, agencies need to be ready to work with the landowners, local land trusts, and other non-profit organizations to protect land that would otherwise be converted to non-forest uses. Each year, willing sellers come forward and desire to sell either a conservation easement or fee title to their lands. The state has a tremendous opportunity with Forest Legacy to receive federal funds coupled with private sector matching funds for one or two critical purchases each year. If the state is unable to participate in this program, forested in-holdings, adjacent parcels and parcels within the Alaska Forest Legacy Area will be converted to other uses resulting in the loss of forests, fishing, hunting, scenic resources, and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

Specific Spending Detail: These projects will fund the acquisition of working forest in-holdings within and near publicly held forested conservation units from willing sellers. Projects are nominated by willing sellers, non-profit organizations and agencies and are recommended for funding by the Forest Stewardship Committee.

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION (text)
Personal Services	\$ 15,000	Personnel costs for administering grant
Services	\$15,000	Due Diligence
Capital Outlay	\$970,000	Acquisition dollars

State Match Required:

- NO
- YES

Project Support:

The Conservation Fund, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The American Land Conservancy, Great Land Trust, Kodiak Brown Bear Trust,

Project Opposition:

There is no opposition to the Forest Legacy Program.