

Federal and Local Government Funded Forest Resource and Fire Program Projects

FY2012 Request: \$1,800,000
Reference No: 37769

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
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:

This project provides receipt authority for one-time federal and local government funded projects. These projects include competitive grant awards for hazardous fuels reduction, Firewise education, prevention and education, Community Wildfire Protection Planning, special forest disease surveys and forest restoration projects, biomass inventories, targeted community forestry projects, and agreements for implementation of one-time local government funded field projects including fuels mitigation. This project meets the mission of continued protection, development, and management of the State's natural resources, by enlisting cooperation at the local level throughout Alaska.

Funding:	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000
Stat Desig	\$800,000						\$800,000
Total:	\$1,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,800,000

<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
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA10/CH43 \$1,800.0 5% Complete
 SLA09/CH15 \$ 3,500.0 20% Complete
 SLA08/CH29 \$ 3,000.0 60% Complete
 SLA07/CH30 \$ 2,800.0 85% Complete
 SLA06/CH82 \$ 4,600.0 95% Complete

This project supports the Department's mission to develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans by delivering federally and local funded forest management, development and wildfire programs.

Project Description/Justification:

This project supports the Department's mission to develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans by delivering federally and local funded forest management, development and wildfire programs. AS 41.17.030 gives management of state forests to the Department of Natural Resources. This project will enable the Division to meet specific program deliverables with federal and local support, including but not limited to the responsibilities of providing

**Federal and Local Government Funded Forest Resource
and Fire Program Projects**

**FY2012 Request: \$1,800,000
Reference No: 37769**

wildland fire protection services on state, private and municipal lands as mandated in AS 41.15.010 – 170.

Targeted federal funds are diminishing. However, when funds are available and Alaska is successful through nationwide grant competition, there are still some opportunities, in concert with federal and local governments, to improve and enhance wildland fire mitigation programs that benefit the citizens and resources of Alaska. The threat of catastrophic wildland fires in the urban interface areas in the state is increasing as the citizens of Alaska continue to move into the forested areas of the state and drought conditions persist. Specific projects, for which the state must compete for funding, will support hazard fuels mitigation work such as thinning of hazardous fuels, creating fire breaks, Firewise education, prevention and Community Wildfire Protection Planning throughout the state as well as providing a source of wood fuel from biomass resulting from hazard fuel mitigation. Funding improves forest conditions and creates jobs for vendors, contractors and local governments, supporting local communities and economies.

Forest health projects identify invasive insect species, target high risk sites and monitoring, develop GIS database of location and species, and share project information with organizations and the public. Forest restoration projects include thinning and planting on State forest lands to mitigate damaging effects of forest pests on high value young growth timber stands. Forest stewardship targets forest landowners including native corporations, providing technical assistance in their planning efforts to sustain their healthy forest lands.

As funding become available, biomass inventories (such as those for the Tok and Talkeetna areas) can identify acreage and volume of biomass. Biomass projects are an ideal opportunity for Alaska to start moving away from non-renewable resource dependency, and diversifying into alternative energy sources. Community forestry efforts support enhanced community environments, healthy trees in urban settings, and natural resource inventories at a local level.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

This project will provide the authority to collect revenues from non-general fund sources to meet increasing public need for services in forest resources (i.e., forest health), address increasing risks to public health and safety (via wildland/urban interface education, prevention & fuels mitigation), and invest federal funding into local communities and economies. Benefits are local security from fire losses, strengthening of local communities, improving climate for residential expansion and business opportunities and enhancing local community infrastructure (trees).

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Personal Services	\$ 580,000	Site layout, inventory, project management, administrative support, reporting, fuels mitigation by non perms and extended seasonal employees
Travel	\$ 45,000	Travel to unit locations, site inspections, travel for public education and workshops, project administration
Services	\$ 935,000	Contractual Services for vendors for hazard fuel mitigation, public service announcements and education, equipment rentals
Commodities	\$ 40,000	Office supplies, mapping supplies, postage, vehicle costs, protective field gear, brush cutters, oil, chainsaws, chaps traps, flagging, educational materials
Grants	\$ 200,000	Pass through grants to local volunteer fire departments, communities and native corporations.

State Match Required: (check one)

- NO**
 YES

Project Support:

Broad support is anticipated from the general public, local government, volunteer fire departments and numerous state and federal government cooperating agencies.

Project Opposition:

No opposition is anticipated for this project.