

**National Coastal Wetland Grant**

**FY2012 Request: \$1,000,000**

**Reference No: 39042**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Parks / Recreation

**Category:** Natural Resources

**Location:** Mat-Su Areawide

**House District:** Matsu Areawide (HD 13-16)

**Impact House District:** Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32)

**Contact:** Jean Davis

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2011 - 06/30/2015 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The Coastal Wetlands program focuses on coastal wetlands ecosystems including both wetlands and upland buffers. Wetlands provide essential fish and wildlife habitat, which in Alaska support many commercial and recreational human uses, particularly in and near communities, parks, and refuges. Wetlands provide substantial contributions to water quality, flood and storm water control as well as providing habitat for fish and wildlife. This program provides federal funding to the state for the long-term protection of wetlands, which is matched with private sector donations. The program considers acquisition, restoration, enhancement or management of coastal wetlands.

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

<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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

SLA 2010/CH43	\$ 1,000.0	0% complete
SLA2007/CH30	\$ 1,000.0	10% complete
SLA2006/CH82	\$ 2,422.4	79% complete
SLA2005/CH3	\$ 1,000.0	Complete

The current National Coastal Wetlands grant proposal focuses on securing in-holdings along Spring Creek located within the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and adjacent to Kepler Bradley State Park in the Mat-Su Borough.

**Project Description/Justification:**

A current National Coastal Wetlands grant proposal focuses on securing in-holdings along Spring Creek located within the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and adjacent to Kepler Bradley State Park in the Mat-Su Borough. The area is important spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon, an important sport fish species and also a food source for beluga whales. Ensuring sufficient supporting habitat and food stocks for belugas is a requirement for the health of the population. Additionally protection of habitat in the refuge benefits water birds, moose, furbearers, small game fish and non-game populations. Moose in particular benefit from the protection of this area because necessary winter feeding and spring calving habitat is located within the adjacent Refuge.

**Why is this Project Needed Now?:**

Private in-holdings, threatened wetlands, 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 landowners, local land trusts, and other non-profit organizations to protect wetlands that would otherwise be converted to other 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 the National Coastal Wetlands program 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, wetlands, adjacent uplands and parcels within Legislatively Designated Areas or parcels that provide access to state waters and resources will be converted to other uses resulting in the loss of access to state resources, fishing, hunting, scenic resources, and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION (text)
Personal Services	\$ 20,000	Personnel costs
Services	\$15,000	
Capital Outlay	\$ 965,000	

**State Match Required:**

- NO  
 YES

**Project Support:**

The Great Land Trust  
Audubon Alaska  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
The Conservation Fund

**Project Opposition:**

None identified.