

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

South Denali Area Three Phase Power Extension

State Funding Requested: \$5,000,000**House District:** Mat-Su Areawide (13-16)

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

The funding will be used to extend three phase electrical power up the Parks Highway to support the South Denali Visitor Center along with other private and commercial electrical power customers in the area from MP 121 to MP 135

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$6,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$1,000,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$5,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

FY12 Capital budget contained \$3 million for the South Denali Visitor Center project. Total project cost for the project is estimated at \$25 million.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Current electrical services terminate at MP 121 of the Parks Highway. Private and commercial developments are extensive north of this location and are utilizing prohibitively expensive and polluting diesel and gasoline generators. Electrical service would eliminate the need for generators as a prime source of power, provide additional development opportunities, and permit local development of fire and rescue support infrastructure.

Commercial power availability ends at Sunshine, Alaska. The South Denali Visitor Center Complex, the Mt. McKinley Princess, the proposed lodge to be built on the State Park in-holding at MP 135, as well as a possible fire and rescue station near the Complex would all require commercial grade three-stage electrical power. This requires a wiring retrofit from the current single phase line up to a commercial grade three phase line from Sunshine at MP101 to MP 121. From MP121 to MP 135 the new three phase line would be installed. Alaska Division of Parks funded a study by the local power company, Matanuska Electric Association (MEA). This study determined the cost for the grid extension project at an estimate of \$6 million.

The Mt. McKinley Princess lodge has committed \$1 million as a match to the \$5 million requested from the State of Alaska. Permits are anticipated to be issued for this project by March of 2012, so the project will be ready for construction during the summer of 2012.

Project Timeline:

A timeline for the construction of South Denali Visitor Complex

- 2011: finish road design and permitting, start visitor center design
- 2012: construct road, complete visitor center design and permitting
- 2013: visitor center construction
- 2014: finish construction and open visitor center

The electrical extension work is expected to be permitted in March of 2012, so construction work can begin in late summer of 2012.

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

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks

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