

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

Chugach State Park Public-Use Cabins Construction and Maintenance

State Funding Requested: \$400,000
One-Time Need**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**Brief Project Description:**

Construction and maintenance of public use cabins in Chugach State Park

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$400,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$400,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Public use cabins in Chugach State Park are widely used and often at maximum capacity throughout the year. This has resulted in expanded and dispersed use of the park for a variety of user groups, including a few instances of emergency use when individuals are caught in severe weather.

As reported in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2009-2014, 70.9% of Alaska residents who were surveyed in 2009 supported expanding the state's public use cabin system.

The cabins built for this project will be similar in design to existing state parks cabins -- a 16'X16' structure with a small porch, two windows, wood stove, two built in bunks and shelves. The estimated cost for each cabin, including an outdoor pit latrine is \$65,000. Costs could decrease depending on volunteer labor to construct cabins and other factors. Up to twenty-five percent of funding may be used for deferred maintenance of current cabins.

The area has great potential as a year-round facility with accommodations for higher use volume and a valuable service to residents of the area. State park staff will provide year-round maintenance. Revenue from reserved use of the cabins will provide income to the state park system and, therefore, help off set the operations and maintenance costs.

A preliminary review by the Alaska State Park management, as well as the draft Chugach State Park Management Plan, noted several potential sites for the construction of public use cabins including, but is not limited to, the south end and/or west side of Eklutna Lake, near the Eagle River Nature Center and in the soon to be refurbished Bird Creek Campground.

Project Timeline:

If funds are approved for FY 2013, efforts will be made to start ordering materials this summer and start on-site construction of one or more of the public use cabins the following spring.

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

Alaska State 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