

Federal and Local Government Funded Forest Resource and Fire Program Projects

FY2013 Request: \$1,000,000
Reference No: 37769

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Jean Davis

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project provides receipt authority for federally funded projects which include competitive grant awards for hazardous fuels reduction, Firewise education, prevention and education, Community Wildfire Protection Planning, forest disease surveys and forest restoration projects, biomass inventories, targeted community forestry projects, and 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:	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</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
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA11/CH5 \$ 1,800,000 5% complete
 SLA10/CH43 \$ 1,800,000 50% complete
 SLA09/CH17 \$ 2,500,000 70% complete
 SLA08/CH29 \$ 3,000,000 85% complete
 SLA07/CH30 \$ 2,800,000 95% complete

Project Description/Justification:

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

As programmed federal funding sources decrease, increased opportunities for nationally competitive funding have become available. The Division of Forestry has been successful in receiving funds

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based on the merits of individual proposals in concert with federal and local governments, to improve and enhance wildland fire mitigation programs that benefit the citizens and resources of Alaska.

Specific projects, for which the state must compete for funding, will support wildfire 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 health and creates jobs, supports local communities and economies, and supports Alaskan vendors, contractors and local governments.

Forest health projects identify invasive insect species, provide monitoring, target high risk sites, develop GIS databases 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.

Wood energy facilities (such as the one being constructed in Fort Yukon and other remote communities) are an ideal opportunity for Alaska to start moving away from non-renewable resource dependency, and diversify into alternative energy sources. Forest inventory projects support both biomass energy source migration and timber sales. Providing technical forestry training to local village personnel will provide self determination and have the long term outcome of sustainable rural wood to energy systems and rural community development. Community forestry supports local community efforts to enhance urban environments, plant healthy trees in urban settings, establish green infrastructure, and develop natural resource inventories at a local level.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

This project provides the authority to collect revenue to meet public need for services in forest resources (ie. forest health), address increasing risks to public health and safety (wildland/urban interface education, fire prevention and fuels mitigation), and invest federal funding into local communities and economies. This CIP benefits the public through fire prevention and education, support to local communities to develop and sustain their own programs, and increased employment and resource utilization.

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Personal Services	\$ 350.0	Site layout, inventory, project oversight, reporting, fuels mitigation by non perms for a limited duration and extended seasonal employees
Travel	\$ 25.0	Travel to unit locations, site inspections, travel for public

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		education and workshops, project administration
Services	\$ 350.0	Contractual Services for vendors for hazard fuel mitigation, public service announcements and education, equipment rentals
Commodities	\$ 25.0	Office supplies, mapping supplies, postage, vehicle costs, protective field gear, brush cutters, oil, chainsaws, chaps, traps, flagging, educational materials
Grants	\$ 250.0	Pass through grants to local volunteer fire departments, communities and native corporations.

State Match Required:

- NO
- YES

Project Support:

- Communities that receive grants, technical assistance, and training.
- Villages and utilities developing biomass energy projects.
- Nurseries, growers, arborists, and landscape architects involved in urban forestry projects.
- Private property owners and native corporations involved in forest land planning.
- Educators delivering training and the public who receive information in Firewise principles and tree planting.
- Boroughs, municipalities, schools, and private landowners benefiting from wildland fire mitigation, forest insect and disease information, and biomass energy sources.
- Volunteer fire departments that are recipients of pass-through grant funds.

Project Opposition:

No opposition is anticipated for this CIP.