

National Recreational Trails Grant Federal Program

FY2013 Request: \$2,600,000

Reference No: 6854

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Parks / Recreation

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:

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence and transportation. These trails need maintenance to ensure safe passage and to ensure that they remain open and available for use. Funds are distributed by 80-20 matching grants for trail and trailhead development and maintenance, and for education programs relating to trail safety and responsible trail use. Grants are awarded to organizations, agencies and local governments. The end result is a variety of safe, high-quality, year-round, motorized and non-motorized, trails.

| Funding: | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | FY2018 | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Fed Rcpts | \$2,600,000 | \$2,600,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$11,200,000 |
| Total: | \$2,600,000 | \$2,600,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$11,200,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <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 \$ 1,500,000 Still in the grant awarding process
 SLA10/CH43 \$ 2,000,000 19% complete
 SLA09/CH15 \$ 900,000 100% complete
 SLA08/CH29 \$ 1,500,000 100% complete
 SLA07/CH30 \$ 850,000 100% complete

Project Description/Justification:

As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's vast trail system for recreation, subsistence and basic transportation between communities, the need for a more extensive and better maintained trail system continues to grow. Many existing trails are being lost as property is sold, subdivided, or developed without reserving trail easements.

This program is effectively identifying, maintaining and expanding the Alaska trail system. Legal, safe, well maintained and easy to use trails are reducing trespass situations, search and rescue occurrences, and public safety concerns. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 20 percent of grant funds, effectively stretching existing funding. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by providing construction

and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, and by stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies. In addition, the Recreational Trails Program ensures that:

- Grantees obtain legal access
- Projects are consistent with Federal, State and local land use plans
- Social and economic impacts are analyzed
- Archeological and Historical resources are protected
- The project is analyzed for any impact on threatened or endangered species
- The project is analyzed for any impact on fish and wildlife
- The project is analyzed for its affect on wetlands, flood plains and bodies of water
- Water quality is maintained
- Hazardous waste is checked for and identified
- Air quality is checked
- The noise resulting from the project is analyzed
- There is public involvement

This program requires the split of the funding to be 30 percent non-motorized, 30 percent motorized, and 40 percent diversified.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

Alaska's trails are gradually being lost due to community expansion and development pressure. The grant program provides an opportunity to maintain what we have, establish new trails, and preserve existing recreational access throughout the state.

The state received \$2,634,000 from the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration in FFY11 to fund the Recreational Trails Program in Alaska.

Specific Spending Detail:

| <u>LINE ITEM</u> | <u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| Personal Services | \$ 200,000 | State Trails staff |
| Travel | \$ 17,000 | Travel costs assoc with state trails office |
| Services | \$ 450,000 | Grants to state agencies |
| Commodities | \$ 10,000 | Business supplies and computers for state trails office |
| Grants | \$ 1,923,000 | Grants to be awarded to municipalities, cities and boroughs throughout Alaska, also awarded to state agencies when appropriate. |

State Match Required:

- NO
- YES

Project Support:

In addition to all the grantees listed above dozens of Alaska communities, agencies and trail user groups have received grants and support this program.

Some of the communities that have received grants include: Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, City of Wasilla, Native Village of Fort Yukon, City of Kotlik, City of Homer, City of Barrow, City of Galena, City of Cordova, City of Aleknagik and the Circle Village Council.

Some of the user groups include: Boy Scouts of America, Trail Mix, Inc., Fairbanks Snow Travelers, Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers, Fairbanks Nordic Ski Club, Peninsula Sled Dog Racing Association, Sitka Recreational Riders, Norton Sound Sled Dog Club, Alaska Botanical Gardens and the Goldstream Valley Trail Users Association.

Project Opposition:

None identified.