

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Corey Rossi
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017 **Contact Phone:** (907)267-2147

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This capital project will provide funds to conduct baseline science to inform listing decisions (status reviews) for species currently under consideration for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): Pacific walrus, Alexander Archipelago wolves, and flying squirrels in Southeast Alaska, or to inform biological opinions or other required ESA consultations on Steller sea lions and beluga whales in Cook Inlet.

Funding:	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$1,550,000						\$1,550,000
Total:	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,550,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" 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
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$600,000 FY2011; \$473,000 FY2008

Project Description/Justification:

1. Assessment of Pacific walrus haul-outs in the face of ice retreat, \$250,000.
2. Assessment of wolves in Southeast Alaska, \$250,000.
3. Assessment of flying squirrels in Southeast Alaska, \$200,000.
4. Assessment of Steller sea lions in the western Aleutians, \$400,000.
5. Population structure of Steller sea lions, \$150,000.
6. Assess movement of and habitat use by beluga whales in Cook Inlet, \$300,000.

Research toward specific candidate species contributes to the mission of the department to protect, maintain, and improve fish and game resources and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people. Listing of the noted species under the federal ESA has potential impacts to the local harvest of fish, predator and prey species, and/or development activities on adjacent land and waterways. This action will assist the Division of Wildlife Conservation to achieve its performance target of no increase in the number of state-listed threatened or endangered species.

The project would fund existing department staff to complete field work as well as contracting some of the work.

