

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Kenai Peninsula Borough****Federal Tax ID: 92-0030894****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Kenai Peninsula Borough - Bear Creek Search and Rescue Equipment

State Funding Requested: \$29,700**House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Search and Rescue Response Gear and Equipment for Bear Creek Fire Service

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$33,009
Funding Already Secured:	(\$3,309)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$29,700)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

n/a

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Bear Creek Fire Service area stretches from Mile 3.5 to Mile 8 of Seward Highway and is in the middle of several outstanding recreational areas used by tourists and residents. Exits Glacier, Harding Ice Field, and Lost Lake are the most popular. We provide emergency services, through mutual aid agreements, to the Alaska Railroad, National Park Service, State Parks, and the US Forest Service. Bear Creek provides search and rescue services to these areas year round. The Alaska State Troopers are responsible for search and rescue in Alaska however they rely on volunteer protection agencies, such as Bear Creek, to do much of the actual field work.

This year search and rescue efforts included hiking up the Harding Ice Field trail which is an 8 mile round trip. The trail is a steady 4 miles ascent, gaining 1,000 feet per mile. As you leave the world you know, you enter the frigid realm of the Pleistocene Epoch. The Ice Field, especially if it is windy, is like winter even if the temperature is warm at the terminus. We have had search and rescue calls that have us out on this trail for 10+ hours, exposed to the elements, with changing weather, in need of additional outerwear for our safety.

We are requesting funds to purchase 10 sets of outerwear, such as a Gortex jackets and pants, for rescues in areas described above. Total cost for 10 sets of outerwear gear is \$6009.00.

Winter rescues include the Lost Lake snow machine recreational area. There are two access areas for this recreational location: 5.5 mile, Seward Highway, south end, and 18 mile, Seward Highway, Primrose Trail, north end. The access trail at the south end can be iced over due to overflow from natural springs creating hazardous trail conditions. The 2.2 miles of the trail leading to Clemens Cabin can be icy and is steep at lower sections. Beyond the cabin, multiple routes through open

areas lead to the expansive Lost Lake area where the snow can be extremely deep causing most short track snow machines problems. Accessing the trail at the north end, involves Bear Creek utilizing personal snow machine trailers to transport snow machines and gear. Occasionally, a response is delayed because a snow machine trailer is not available.

We are requesting funds to replace 2 snow machines which will give us the ability to travel to these remote areas of the district quickly, safely and effectively and a snow machine trailer to transport the snow machines. Total cost for 2 snow machines and snow machine trailer is \$27,000.

Project Timeline:

this project is on a short term goal for the service area. Expenditures will occur as soon as funds have been secured.

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

Kenai Peninsula Borough / Bear Creek Fire Service Area

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