

Agency: Department of Natural Resources**Project Title:****Project Type:** Equipment and Materials

Eagle Beach Winter Trail Grooming Implement

State Funding Requested: \$6,230
One-Time Need**House District:** Juneau Areawide (31-32)**Brief Project Description:**

Purchase and install a bladed trail grooming implement for Eagle Beach State Park and Recreation Area.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$6,230
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$6,230)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

2011: CIP (14.2) provided for purchase of the snow machine and basic trail grooming equipment currently being used, see description below (purchased in autumn 2011).

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The popularity of wintertime activity at Eagle Beach State Recreation Area has grown enormously. Working closely with the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, a corps of volunteers is now grooming Eagle Beach campground trails and roads several times a week all winter long for hiking and Nordic skiing. The public can now count on well-maintained trails at Eagle Beach, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

This CIP request represents a definitive stage of development for a full-time winter trail grooming program at Eagle Beach.

For many years, winter trail grooming at Eagle Beach occurred only sporadically, and was hindered by inadequate equipment. That changed in 2011 when the Alaska Legislature granted a small CIP request to purchase a snow machine and basic trail grooming equipment. Success was seen almost immediately. Under the supervision of a DNR park ranger, volunteers began to groom the trails and campground roads. Park rangers plow the parking lot and keep the restrooms open. Three public-use cabins are more accessible due to the maintained trails, and the cabins now receive almost continuous use year-round. A sledding hill is now easily accessible. Volunteer work has extended into the off-season, and extensive work has been done to brush the trails and to keep them clear. The goal of turning Eagle Beach into a true 4-season recreation area has been realized.

With this demonstration of popularity, the public is best served by a more effective trail grooming implement, one that can re-condition snow surfaces when the trails become icy, pot-holed, rutted, and at times unsafe. A bladed grooming device is the most efficient piece of equipment for this task.

A bladed implement can be pulled behind a snow machine. It cuts up old snow, then flattens the trail with a roller and sets a track for skiing - all with a single pass-over by the snow machine. Bladed snow grooming equipment is used on virtually all

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heavily used, well-developed winter trails. As evidenced by its high use, Eagle Beach has reached that level after only 3 winters. The equipment will greatly enhance the quality of the trails and will help deliver Eagle Beach to its highest and best potential. The value back to the public, in the form of volunteer trail groomers and increased opportunity, is very high.

The following are estimates of costs for purchasing and installing a bladed trail grooming implement for Eagle Beach. Estimates come directly from vendors. Questions regarding this request may be directed to: Juneau Area State Parks Advisory Board

Contacts: Kurt Iverson (790-6947), Gail Smith (523-0491)

Equipment Cost (includes shipping):

Yellowstone Track Systems 84 Ginzugroomer	\$ 5,630
Installation, including snow machine retro-fitting	\$ 500
Wiring components, misc parts	\$ 100
Total:	\$ 6,230

Project Timeline:

Purchase equipment fall 2014 to be ready for use in November/December, 2014.

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

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, DNR

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Mike Eberhardt
Title: Park Superintendent
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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

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

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