Snowmobile Trail Development Program and Gra	nts FY2015 Request: \$ Reference No:	5226,800 33690
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: 07/01/2014 - 06/30/2019	Contact Phone: (907)465-2422	

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Snowmobiling is one of Alaska's fastest growing outdoor activities and a very important transportation resource for rural communities. There is a growing demand to develop and maintain trails and trailheads to provide for safe riding opportunities and transportation routes, and to educate riders about safe riding practices. Funds for this program are provided by snowmobile registration fees paid by Alaskans. Funds are distributed in the form of matching grants for trail development and maintenance, trail marking and signing, safety education, and to establish legal trail easements.

Funding:	FY2015	FY2016	<u> </u>	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	Total
VehRcpts	\$226,800	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$1,726,800
Total:	\$226,800	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$1,726,800
State Match Required One-Time Project Phased - new Phased - underway On-Going 0% = Minimum State Match % Required Amendment Mental Health Bill						-Going	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P72 L24 SB 18 \$250,000 Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P125 L29 SB 160 \$250,000 Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P93 L18 SB 46 \$250,000 Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P31 L29 SB 230 \$250,000 Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P18 L10 SB 75 \$250,000 Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P72 L31 SB 221 \$250,000

Project Description/Justification:

What is the issue or problem to be solved?

There is a growing demand to develop and maintain trails and trailheads to provide for safe riding opportunities and transportation routes, and to educate riders about safe riding practices.

These are funds paid by snowmobile registrations for snowmobile trail and trailhead development, grooming, and safety education programs. Grant decisions are made with the consultation of a Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnowTRAC), a citizen committee representing all regions of the state.

Snowmobile users benefit from the registration fees they pay on their snowmobiles by having marked State of Alaska Capital Project Summary Department of Natural Resources Enacted FY14 & FY15 Reference No: 33690 Released May 28, 2014 and maintained snowmobile trails. This provides safety benefits to riders. Alaskans die in snowmobile accidents at least twice the rate of any other state. This is in part due to the lack of signed and maintained trails. Improvements have the potential to reduce search and rescue costs by reducing the chances of snowmobilers getting lost. Trespassing is also reduced if snowmobilers have marked and maintained trails. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor, and equipment to match at least 25 percent of state provided grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation estimates that snowmobile sales and activity in Alaska results in approximately \$54 million in annual private sector expenditures.

What is the scope of the project to be performed?

These funds are used for snowmobile trail marking and signing, safety and education programs, establishing legal trail easements, building shelter cabins, and trail grooming.

What results will be achieved or products produced?

The safety of the snowmobiling community, including those users in Western and rural Alaska where snowmobile transportation is essential for travel and hunting, will be greatly increased through effectively marked routes and trails, and educational programs and outreach.

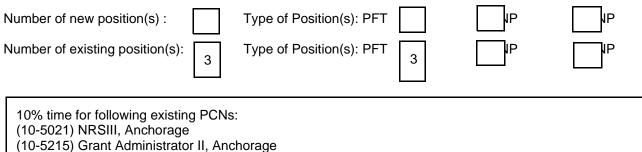
Why is this project needed now – What is the impact of remaining status quo?

This popular grant program provides funding for a variety of snow mobile related projects. If the program is not continued safety, education and grooming projects would lose funding from a source that snowmobile riders themselves pay for through registration fees.

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	(text)DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 26,000	Program Administration
Services	\$ 224,000	Grooming & Safety/Ed
		Grants
Project Total	\$250,000	

Personal Services Detail:



(10-5244) Accounting Tech II, Anchorage