

**Snowmobile Trail Development Program and Grants**

**FY2015 Request: \$226,800**  
**Reference No: 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.

| <b>Funding:</b> | <u>FY2015</u> | <u>FY2016</u> | <u>FY2017</u> | <u>FY2018</u> | <u>FY2019</u> | <u>FY2020</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| VehRcpts        | \$226,800     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$1,726,800  |
| <b>Total:</b>   | \$226,800     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$300,000     | \$1,726,800  |

|                                               |                                           |                                       |                                             |                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <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            |
| <b>Totals:</b>       | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>     |

**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  
 Enacted FY14 & FY15

Department of Natural Resources  
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 Released May 28, 2014

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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 |
| <b>Project Total</b> | <b>\$250,000</b> |                             |

**Personal Services Detail:**

Number of new position(s) :  Type of Position(s): PFT   IP  IP  
 Number of existing position(s):  3 Type of Position(s): PFT  3  IP  IP

10% time for following existing PCNs:  
 (10-5021) NRSIII, Anchorage  
 (10-5215) Grant Administrator II, Anchorage  
 (10-5244) Accounting Tech II, Anchorage