

National Recreation Trails Federal Grant Program

FY2015 Request: \$1,700,000

Reference No: 6854

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

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence and transportation. These trails need maintenance to ensure safe passage and that they remain open and available for use. Funds are distributed as 80/20 matching reimbursable grants for trail and trailhead development and maintenance, and for education programs relating to trail safety and responsible trail use. Grants are awarded to organizations, agencies and local governments. The end result is a variety of trails that are safe, high-quality, have year-round access, and include motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails.

Funding:	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000
G/F Match	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,200,000
Total:	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$10,200,000

<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
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P72 L12 SB 18 \$2,600,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P125 L11 SB 160 \$2,600,000
- Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P93 L6 SB 46 \$1,500,000
- Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P31 L23 SB 230 \$2,000,000
- Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P18 L7 SB 75 \$900,000
- Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P153 L25 SB 221 \$1,500,000
- Sec1 Ch30 SLA2007 P99 L11 SB 53 \$850,000
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P78 L26 SB 231 \$695,000

Project Description/Justification:

What is the issue or problem to be solved?

As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's vast trail system for recreation, subsistence and basic transportation between communities, the need for a more extensive and better maintained trail system continues to grow. Many existing trails are lost as property is sold, subdivided, or developed without reserving trail easements.

The Recreational Trails Program is effectively identifying, maintaining and expanding the Alaska trail

system. Legal, safe, well maintained and easy to use trails reduce trespass situations, search and rescue occurrences, and public safety concerns. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 20 percent of grant funds, effectively stretching existing funding. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by providing construction and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, and by stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies. In addition, the Recreational Trails Program ensures that:

- Grantees obtain legal access.
- Projects are consistent with federal, state and local land use plans.
- Social and economic impacts are analyzed.
- Archeological and historical resources are protected.
- The project is analyzed for any impact on threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife, and its effect on wetlands, flood plains and bodies of water.
- Water quality is maintained.
- Hazardous waste is checked for and identified.
- Air quality is checked.
- The noise resulting from the project is analyzed.
- There is public involvement.

This program recommends the funding split to be 30% non-motorized, 30% motorized, and 40% diversified if possible.

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence and transportation but many trails are in poor repair. This federal grant program gives Alaskan communities the financial resources to develop and improve local trails. The program however, allows only seven percent of each state's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) allowance to cover administrative costs; the seven percent covers one-third of what is needed to administer the program.

What is the scope of the project to be performed?

Grants will be awarded by the Outdoor Recreation Trail Advisory Board (ORTAB) on a competitive basis for trail projects throughout the state. In addition, the requested state matching funds of \$200,000 will allow for effective program and grant management as well as provide the required accounting and billing procedures.

What results will be achieved or products produced?

The RTP provides reimbursable, matching funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP program also provides funds for trail related environmental protection, safety and educational projects.

How does this project contribute to the division and/or department mission?

Grants awarded through the RTP for developing, improving and maintaining a variety of trails throughout the state contribute directly to the division's mission to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for Alaskans and its visitors.

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

If this funding is not approved the state will lose the opportunity to provide this grant program to Alaskan communities to build, maintain and enhance trails.

What accomplishments have been achieved with prior year funding?

In FFY2008, 29 grants awarded, in FFY2009, 36 grants awarded, in FFY2010, 39 grants awarded, in FFY2011, 41 grants awarded, in FFY2012, 11 grants awarded. For the FFY2013 grant cycle 34 trails grants totaling \$1,068,000 were awarded.

FY2011:	
Project Name	Grantee
NAOI - Wilderness Survival	North American Outdoor Institute (NAOI)
YEP (Youth Employment in Parks) Curriculum	Municipality of Anchorage
Equipment Purchase	State Parks
Kanatak Trail	Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
Copper Center Trail	Copper Valley Development Association
Training and Outreach - Phase II	State Parks
Skaters Lake Trail	Metlakatla
Southfork Trail Reconstruction Contract	State Parks
Trails Costing - Phase II	AK Trails
Kincaid Single Track Trail	AK Trails
Tanana Lakes Non-Motorized Trail	Fairbanks North Star Borough
Girdwood Nordic Ski Trails	Girdwood Nordic Ski Club
Archangel Trail Brushing	Mat-Su Trails Council
Stiles Creek Extension	State Parks
Mastodon Trail	State Parks
South Fork Trail Rehabilitation Crew	State Parks
South Fork Trail Crew - Modification	State Parks
Campbell Creek Estuary Trail	The Great Land Trust
Peninsula Sled Dog Race Trail	Peninsula Sled Dog and Racing Association
Napaimute Trail System	City of Napaimute
Treadwell Ditch Rehabilitation	Trail Mix
Peterson Lake Trail	Trail Mix
SnowTRAC Supplemental Amend. Revised	State Parks
Chugach State Park Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Kenai Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Mat-Su Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks

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Northern Area Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Southeast Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Kodiak Area Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Mile-16 Mountain Bike Trails	State Parks
Northwest Arctic Borough Trail Staking II	Northwest Arctic Borough
Upper-Dewey Lakes - Phase III	Municipality of Skagway
Archangel Snowmobile Trail	State Parks
Nancy Lake State Recreation Areas - Snowmobile Trail	State Parks
Trail Assessment Project	State Parks
Fairbanks Ski Trail Grooming Equipment	Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks
Goldstream Bike Pump Park	Goldstream Lions Club
Big Lake Trail Groomer	Big Lake Ski Club
Trail Brushing	Mat-Su Trails Council
Rex Trail Condition Assessment	Division of Mining, Land & Water
Juneau Trails Wayfinding Project	Trail Mix
FY2012:	
Metlakatla	Skater's Lake Modification
Girdwood Nordic Ski Club	Girdwood Modification
Parks	Mastodon Modification
Parks	Stiles Creek Modification
Trail Mix	Treadwell Ditch Modification
Parks	2012 Admin Allowance
Parks	Statewide grooming pool for 2012-2013
Parks	Statewide Trail Crew - Chugach
Parks	Statewide Trail Crew - Southeast
Parks	Statewide Trail Crew - Northern
Parks	Statewide Trail Crew - Kenai
Parks	Statewide Trail Crew – Mat-Su
FY2013:	
AK Trails Tool Trailer	AK Trails
AK Trails 2014 Trails Conference	AK Trails
Cabin Hoppers Maxey Groom	Caribou Hills Cabin Hopper
Cross Park Trail - Nancy Lake	State Parks Mat-Su Region
Eska West ATV Trail	Mat-Su Trails Council
Fairbanks Bridge Replacement	State Parks Northern Region
Government Peak Singletrack Phase I	AK Trails
Greenbelt Central Singletrack	Mark Gronewald-Mat-Su
HoWL Trails Days	HoWL

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Isberg Recreation Trailhead	Fairbanks North Star Borough
Lookout Mountain Maintenance Building	Kachemak Nordic Ski Club
Lucky Shot Bridge	Willow Area Community
Maclaren Summit Trail Extension	MLW-SCRO
Mile 16 Bike Trail phase II	State Parks Mat-Su Region
City of Palmer: Wilson Park Pump Track/Trail	City of Palmer
Pullen Creek Streamwalk Trail	Taiya Inlet Watershed Co
Trail Dozer Acquisition	State Parks Northern Region
Tsalteshi Trails Improvement Project II	Tsalteshi Trails
YCC Talkeetna Lakes Park	Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation Dist.
Chugach State Park Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Kenai Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Mat-Su Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Northern Area Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks
Southeast Trail Crews (2012)	State Parks

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 200,000	Program administration
Grants	\$ 1,500,000	Grants awarded for trail projects
Project Total	\$1,700,000	