

Habitat Enhancement for Wildlife

FY2015 Request: \$1,000,000

Reference No: 58647

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Doug Vincent-Lang

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2014 - 06/30/2019

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Habitat manipulation can be an effective means to maintain or increase wildlife populations. By treating vegetation to enhance winter browse, specifically birch, aspen and willow, moose populations may increase over time to again support hunter interests and viewing opportunities at a viable level. In addition to the benefits of this program to local users, tourism and other businesses are likely to realize benefits as well. This capital improvement project (CIP) provides for a variety of habitat enhancement projects across the state.

Funding:	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$750,000						\$750,000
Gen Fund	\$250,000						\$250,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input 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:

Project Description/Justification:

One project to be funded is an interagency effort to enhance moose habitat on the Kenai Peninsula. Due to the declining moose populations, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Wildlife Conservation (division), seeks to improve habitat quality, with a focus on Game Management Unit 15A. Through collaboration with the Kenai Peninsula Borough, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Forestry and others, we can integrate management of wildland fire, mechanical manipulations and prescribed fire into a strategic approach to improve moose habitat.

ADF&G is requesting \$1,000,000 to facilitate habitat enhancement projects by partnering with other agencies to integrate mechanical treatments and fire onto the landscape in a strategic manner. Funding would be directed toward private contractors operating on public and private land along with wild land firefighters to support interagency burn operations. This time frame offers agency personnel the time to plan and coordinate implementation across ownership boundaries. ADF&G anticipates that over 80% of these funds would be directed at project implementation - acres treated on the ground. Remaining funds would support seedlings, cooperative assistance and other supplies.

Funding for this work will come through federal Pittman-Robertson (PR) Wildlife Restoration funding. The division continues to foresee increasing apportioned amounts of PR funding to Alaska. Habitat enhancement is an eligible activity provided the state meets compliance requirements from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Historic Preservation Act. Gun and ammunition sales have continued to increase since the presidential election of 2012. Recent history would suggest a drop in gun sales after the election, however due to national discussions regarding guns and gun control, gun and ammunition sales continue to climb and as a result revenue to the PR Fund continues to climb. The result is even greater amount of excise tax revenue for Wildlife Restoration made available for wildlife management by all states. This CIP will allow the department to spend these funds while not increasing the base operating budget.