

**National Recreational Trails Federal Grant Program**

**FY2016 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:** 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2020

**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

**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.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	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
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$10,200,000</b>

- |   |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <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 Ch18 SLA2014 P58 L23 119 \$1,700,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P72 L12 18 \$2,600,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P125 L11 160 \$2,600,000
- Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P93 L6 46 \$1,500,000
- Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P31 L23 230 \$2,000,000
- Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P18 L7 75 \$900,000
- Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P153 L25 221 \$1,500,000
- Sec1 Ch30 SLA2007 P99 L11 53 \$850,000
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P78 L26 231 \$695,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's trails 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 (RTP) is effectively identifying, maintaining and expanding the

number of sustainable and maintained trails in Alaska. Legal, safe, well-maintained, and accessible trails reduce trespass situations, search and rescue occurrences, and public safety concerns. Because this is a reimbursable and 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 RTP 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 projects are analyzed for impacts on threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife, and their effects 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.
- The public is involved.

This program guidance requires the funding split to be 30 percent non-motorized, 30 percent motorized, and 40 percent diversified, to ensure trails for all users are being funded.

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence, and transportation but many trails are in need of repair. This federal grant program gives Alaskan communities an opportunity to be reimbursed for development and improvement of local trails. The program however, allows only seven percent of each state's RTP allowance to cover administrative costs; the seven percent covers less than one-third of what is needed to administer the program.

Grants are scored on a competitive basis and recommended for funding by the Outdoor Recreation Trail Advisory Board (ORTAB). Once those recommendations are discussed with the Director of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, those projects that the Director chooses are tentatively approved until the Federal Highways Administration has finally approved their applications for funding. 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.

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.

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 their visitors.

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.

The appropriated amount will be fully expended and/or encumbered in the first fiscal year. Any amount still encumbered by the end of the first fiscal year of the appropriation will be expended by the grantee(s), on average, over the next two years.

### 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 grants awarded, FFY14 grant cycle 47 grants.

<b>FY2012:</b>	
Skater's Lake Modification	Metlakatla, Alaska
Girdwood Modification	Girdwood Nordic Ski Club
Mastodon Modification	State Parks
Stiles Creek Modification	State Parks
Treadwell Ditch Modification	Trail Mix, Inc.
2012 Admin Allowance	State Parks
Statewide grooming pool for 2012-2013	State Parks
Statewide Trail Crew - Chugach	State Parks
Statewide Trail Crew - Southeast	State Parks
Statewide Trail Crew - Northern	State Parks
Statewide Trail Crew - Kenai	State Parks
Statewide Trail Crew - Mat-Su	State Parks
<b>FY2013:</b>	
Alaska Trails, Inc. Tool Trailer	Alaska Trails Inc.
Alaska Trails, Inc. 2014 Trails Conference	Alaska Trails Inc.
Cabin Hoppers: Maxey Groom Purchase	Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers
Cross Park Trail - Nancy Lake	State Parks: Mat-Su
Eska West ATV Trail	Mat-Su Trails Council
Fairbanks Bridge Replacement	State Parks: Northern
Government Peak Singletrack Phase I	Alaska Trails, Inc.
Greenbelt Central Singletrack	Mat-Su Borough
HoWL Trails Days	Homer Wilderness Leaders: HoWL
Isberg Recreation Trailhead	Fairbanks North Star Borough
Lookout Mountain Maintenance Building	Kachemak Nordic Ski Club
Lucky Shot Bridge	Willow Area Community Organization
Maclaren Summit Trail Extension	DNR, MLW, Southcentral Region
Mile 16 Bike Trail phase II	State Parks: Mat-Su
City of Palmer: Wilson Park Pump	City of Palmer

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Track/Trail	
Pullen Creek Streamwalk Trail	Taiya Inlet Watershed Council
Trail Dozer Acquisition	State Parks: Northern
Tsalteshi Trails Improvement Project II	Tsalteshi Trails Association, Inc.
YCC Talkeetna Lakes Park	Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District
Chugach State Park Trail Crews	State Parks
Kenai Trail Crews	State Parks
Mat-Su Trail Crews	State Parks
Northern Area Trail Crews	State Parks
Southeast Trail Crews	State Parks
<b>FY2014 Project Name</b>	<b>Grantee</b>
Historic Iditarod Trail Project	Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc.
Girdwood Bridge Repair	Girdwood Nordic Ski Club
Eagle River Nature Center Trails	Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc.
Ruth Arcand Trail Improvement Project	Anchorage Horse Council
Fixing Mount Baldy Layout and Construction	Student Conservation Association Alaska
Middle Fork Campbell Creek Trail	State Parks: Chugach
Eklutna Lakeside Trail	State Parks: Chugach
South Fork Eagle River	State Parks: Chugach
Crow Pass Trail	State Parks: Chugach
Glen Alps / Flattop Trail Reroute	State Parks: Chugach
Point Bridget Trail Restoration Project	State Parks: Southeast
Point Bridget Trail: Trail Crew	State Parks: Southeast
Battery Point Trail	State Parks: Southeast
Mosquito Cove Trail	State Parks: Southeast
Settlers Cove SRS Trail System	State Parks: Southeast
Forest Muskeg Trail	State Parks: Southeast
Methodist Camp Trail	State Parks: Southeast
Black Sands Beach State Marine Park Trail	State Parks: Southeast
Granite Basin Trail	State Parks: Southeast
Upper Dewey Lake Trail Restoration Phase IV	The Municipality of Skagway
Restoring Kachemak Bay's Interpretive Trails	Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
Lookout Mountain Maintenance Bldg., Phase II	Kachemak Nordic Ski Club
Tsalteshi Trails Equipment Upgrade	Tsalteshi Trails Association Inc.
Waterhole & Straight-In Trail Repair	Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers
North Peninsula Trail Maintenance	Youth Restoration Corps
Emerald Trail Repair	State Parks: Kenai

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Kachemak Bay Trail Crew	State Parks: Kenai
Caines Head State Recreation Area Trails	State Parks: Kenai
Resurrection Bay Public-Use Cabins	State Parks: Kenai
Lagoon Trail Repair	State Parks: Kenai
Halibut Cove and China Poot Area Trails	State Parks: Kenai
Grace Ridge / Moose Valley / Estuary Area Trails	State Parks: Kenai
Eyak Mountain Trail	Copper River Watershed Project
Kodiak Island Trail Signage Demonstration Project	Island Trails Network, Inc.
The Fox Trails	Mat-Su Borough
Purchase Wide-track (Snowmobile) for Grooming	Montana Creek Motor Musers
Palmer Bike Park	Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers
Fixing the Trails: Denali State Park	Student Conservation Association, AK
Grooming Equipment Acquisition	Willow Area Community Organization
Kesugi Ridge Trail System, Denali State Park	State Parks: Mat-Su
Reed Lakes Trail, Hatcher Pass East	State Parks: Mat-Su
South Dog Park Loop Trail	Fairbanks Dog Park, Inc.
Tanana Lakes Non-Motorized Trail Phase III	Fairbanks North Star Borough, Parks & Recreation
Trail Gate Purchase and Installation	State Parks: Northern
Chena Dome Trail	State Parks: Northern
Stiles Creek Improvements	State Parks: Northern
Northern Area Trail Crew	State Parks: Northern
Granite Tors Trail, Northern Region	State Parks: Northern
Napaimute Winter Trail System	The Native Village of Napaimute
Trail Information and Public Outreach Phase 2	State Parks: Statewide

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
71000 - Personal Services	\$200.0
72000 - Travel	0.0
73000 - Contractual	0.0
74000 - Commodities	0.0
75000 - Capital Outlay	0.0
77000 - Grants	\$1,500.0
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$1,700.0</b>

Position Detail:

All are existing positions in Anchorage  
(10-5021) PFT, Natural Resource Specialist III  
(10-5215) PFT, Grant Administrator II  
(10-5244) PFT, Accounting Tech II

If the federal grant funds were not accepted the state would lose the opportunity to provide this grant program to Alaska communities to build, maintain and enhance trails.