

**National Recreational Trails Federal Grant Program**

**FY2017 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:** Fabienne Peter-Contesse

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2021

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

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence and transportation. 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, maintenance, and education programs for safe and responsible trail use. Grants are awarded to organizations, agencies, and local governments, resulting in trails that are safe, high-quality, have year-round access, and include motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails.

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000
1003 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 Ch38 SLA2015 P5 L28 26 \$1,700,000
- 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:**

The project leverages \$200,000 in general funds to match \$1.5 million in federal funds for grants to government and community organizations for trail development and improvement projects statewide. The National Recreational Trails Program (RTP) requires the split of the funding to be 30%

non-motorized, 30% motorized, and 40% diversified trail projects. 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 being lost as property is sold, subdivided, or developed without reserving trail easements.

This program is effectively identifying, maintaining and expanding the Alaska trail system for both summer and winter trails. Legal, safe, well-maintained, and easy to use trails are reducing trespass situations, search and rescue occurrences, and public safety concerns. Because these are matching grant programs, grantees provide cash, labor, and equipment to match between 9 and 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, stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies, and improving the mental and physical well being of the work force. This program ensures that:

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

In FY2015 the RTP awarded 31 projects statewide totaling \$1,145,682. These are broken out into areas and listed below. The 32<sup>nd</sup> grant was 106,955 for the Administrative Allowance grant used by Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) for personal services, travel and supplies necessary to manage the RTP.

### **Anchorage Area**

#### **DPOR, Chugach State Park: Bird Valley Motorized Trail Maintenance: \$26,082**

During the summer of 2015 trail crew members rehabilitated and improved access to the existing motorized trail, fixing potholes, and repairing the trail with geoblock and French drains.

#### **DPOR, Chugach State Park: Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail Improvement: \$33,092**

Twenty feet of boardwalk was installed to cross a chronically wet and soft area, 340 feet of existing trail was repaired, 1,100 feet of eroding fall-line trail was rerouted, 310 feet of old board walk was replaced, and 30 feet of broken small stream crossing was replaced.

#### **Anchorage Ski Club: South Fork Overlook Trail Improvement: \$23,112**

Trail improvement work will take place on the South Fork Overlook Trail, a 4,200 linear foot trail starting at the Chair 2 Gully Trail in Arctic Valley Ski Area and traversing southeasterly to, and ending at a pass between Rendezvous Peak and Mt. Gordon Lyon, overlooking the South Fork of Eagle

River valley. The project is proposed to improve drainage, limit ongoing erosion, and route trail users around downhill ski area facilities.

### **Matanuska-Susitna Valley**

#### **Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers Association, Palmer: Government Peak Singletrack Phase 2: \$39,563**

Two and a half miles of new single-track bike trail will be built as Phase II of a project in the Government Peak Recreation Area.

#### **Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Palmer: Jim Creek Motorized Recreation Trails: \$99,729**

The Mat-Su Borough will construct three miles of motorized trail in the Jim Creek Recreation Area to encourage trail-riding. The technical, controlled-speed trails will enhance and expand the existing trail network.

#### **Mid Valley Trail Club: Mid-Valley Motorized Trail Improvement (MVTC): \$17,200**

The snowmobile and groomer purchased for this project will improve the effectiveness of Mid-Valley Trail Club's efforts to improve and repair recreational winter trails in the mid-Susitna Valley. MVTC has three specific projects for 2015-2016 that will be provided safer travel routes.

#### **Iditarod Trail Committee, Skwentna area: Bonfire Lake to Happy River Trail Maintenance: \$49,990**

This grant purchases four snow machines for trail work on the Historic Iditarod Trail. In the late fall of 2015 the Iditarod Trail Committee will brush overgrowth and deadfall from the Historic Iditarod Trail. Work will begin at the Bonfire Lake (west of Shell Lake) and continue 29.3 miles to the confluence of the Skwentna and Happy Rivers.

#### **Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District: ATV Salmon Stream Crossing Training and Education: \$6,500**

This Safety and Education project will provide land managers, agency personnel, commercial recreation operators, volunteers, riders, trail users, students, and the public with appropriate training and education regarding crossing salmon streams. Stream and salmon resources, etiquette, regulations, permits trail and stream crossing construction alternatives methods, and a report of an assessment project that offers current conditions of prioritized, impacted crossings will be presented. Various sessions will be created to accommodate different target audiences.

#### **Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District: Matanuska Valley Moose Range Trail Bridges Upgrade: \$49,760**

This project will construct three new timber bridges that accommodate side-by-side off highway vehicle traffic adjacent to existing crossings that have severely degraded the stream banks along the Wasilla Creek head waters. It will repair three existing all terrain vehicle (ATV) bridges, and remediate and upgrade tread surfaces on the associated approaches.

### **Interior Alaska**

#### **Delta Junction Trails Association: Liewer Community Trail: \$40,122**

The Liewer Community Trail will be a sustainable non-motorized trail with 1.4 miles of stacked loops

on approximately 10 acres of forested land near Delta Junction. It will be designed for classic cross country skiing, yet will attract walkers/runners and birders in the non-snow months. Trail easements are donated from a joint effort of Ronald Liewer and the Delta/Greely School District.

**Fairbanks Northstar Borough: Skyline Ridge Park Trail Restoration: \$50,000**

The project will focus on the use of sustainable trail construction methods to restore approximately 3,500 linear feet of the Skyline Ridge Trail. Improvements to repair damaged sections of trail will focus on trail alignment modifications, surface tread repair, erosion control, and additional drainage features. Restoration will prevent trail braiding and resource degradation thereby allowing patrons to continue safely using the established trail network to travel in the park.

**Friends of Koponen Homestead, Fairbanks: Koponen Homestead Trail: \$35,428**

This project will construct a multi-use, multi-season, non-motorized trail, approximately 1.6 miles in length on the Koponen Homestead in Fairbanks, AK. The trail will be designed for Nordic cross country skiing (U.S. Forrest Service (USFS) Class 3), but will be suitable for mountain biking, pedestrians, snowshoeing, etc. The trail will be naturally surfaced and will adhere to modern sustainability requirements for alignment, grade, integrated water control, and durable tread.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Trail Rehabilitation: \$16,003**

This project rehabilitated 350 feet of braided and discontinued sections of trail by scarifying and reseeding, and an additional 4500 feet of trail on the Angel Creek Hillside and Compeau Trails.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Stiles Creek Trail: \$24,838**

This project repaired 200 rolling grade dips to function correctly to provide positive drainage. It hardened a 1000 foot section of the trail, and cleared and repaired 15 miles of damaged and rutted trail.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$17,120**

The State Parks' Northern area trail crew was hired, the training was set up and prepared, and trail projects were prioritized. The training included ATV training, chain saw training, policy and procedures training, and best management practices for trail construction training.

**DPOR, Interpretation and Education Section: Lower Chatanika ATV Trail Map and Brochure: \$50,000**

The existing Off-Road Vehicles and ATV trails at Lower Chatanika River State Recreation Area were mapped. This map will be used to create a safety and orientation brochure for motorized riders. A side benefit of this project is that it will allow for condition assessments of the trails, which will help DPOR make management decisions to enhance public safety and will lay the groundwork for future upgrades.

**DPOR, Chena River State Recreation Area, Fairbanks: Angel Rocks Rehabilitation: \$22,906**

This project hardened and repaired 1000 feet of the Angel Rocks trail. A barrier made of native rock was constructed to increase safety for hikers and new signs were purchased and installed to guide people to the safer trail.

**Southeast Alaska**

**DPOR, Southeast, Haines: Battery Point Trail Hardening: \$47,540**

This project involves continued trail hardening and a new trail alignment along mile 0.4 to 0.9 mile of the Battery Point Trail located in the Chilkat State Park. Trail hardening techniques include causeway and turnpike installation with the use of imported gravel by helicopter support. The gravel will be dispersed along the trail by mechanized wheelbarrows providing a sustainable tread for its intended use.

**Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance: Eaglecrest Mountain Bike Flow Trail: \$50,000**

The Eaglecrest mountain bike flow trail project is creating the first trail in Juneau and Southeast Alaska specifically designed for mountain bikers. The trail has been designed for a broad range of rider skill and experience levels, including those age 8 and older. The trail was designed to the sustainable trail standards adopted by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).

**Sitka Trail Works: Herring Cove, Sitka Storm Damage: \$31,304**

This project repaired storm damage from water erosion and landslides on the Herring Cove - Beaver Lake hiking trail using labor provided by Trail Works and USFS Trail crews. A new 300 foot section of the trail was built and relocated to a more sustainable area. Three rock slide areas were cleared, and trail tread was restored across a small slide area.

**Petersburg Borough Parks and Recreation: Hungry Point Trail Extension: \$41,390**

Petersburg Parks and Recreation, with the partnership of the Petersburg Indian Association, will construct 2,100 linear feet by four foot wide elevated boardwalk trail allowing for ease of use and maintenance. This trail will be built on muskeg, so pilings and sills will be used to build the elevated boardwalk.

**Kenai Peninsula****DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route: \$49,997**

This project will begin a three to five year project of re-aligning the trail, tread, and corridor of the Saddle Trail from its present location; clearing new trail alignment, removing root wads, and new tread to correct drainage and erosion problems, provide improved access, reducing grades, and improving views.

**Homer Wilderness Leaders (HoWL): Trail Days across the Bay!: \$50,000**

HoWL will complete projects in five priority areas of Kachemak Bay State Park in 2015 and 2016 including the Glacier Lake Trail, Emerald Lake Trail, Alpine Ridge Trail, Grace Ridge Trail, and Moose Valley Trail. Trail work will include re-establishing trail corridors that have become impassible due to overgrown vegetation, repairing tread on areas that have degraded due to high use and hydrology, re-establishing the campsite at Emerald Lake, and installing signage and navigational aids along existing trails. All work will be completed by youth volunteers under the direct supervision of professional adult crew leaders.

**Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Homer: Restoring KBay's Interpretive Trails-Phase 2: \$25,020**

This project will restore 450 feet of heavily used trail at the Peterson Bay Field Station (PBFS) by using wood step construction, cut-out stringer construction with landings and picket rails, and plank boardwalk to remove steep grades and protect the trail slope in two main sections of the Lost and

Found Lake Trail. This is a continuation of trail upgrades that began in 2014. It includes some trail brushing for maintenance and removal of trees and stumps of large brush within the corridor. In addition, ten interpretive signs that educate the public about bear and moose safety and natural history features will be installed at the PBFS and at the Wynn Nature Center trails.

**Tsalteshi Trails Association (TTA), Soldotna: Trailhead Improvement Project: \$33,500**

TTA will construct a permanent two seat toilet structure at the Kalifornsky/Wolverine trailhead and parking area. The toilets will meet Kenai Borough and DEC requirements and utilize two Romtec containment vaults. The upper structure will be built on a concrete pad adjacent to the parking area perimeter and be constructed with the help of volunteer labor. TTA will renovate and harden the Moose, Wolf and Bear trails by scraping off the clay surface and mixing it with the sand and gravel subsoils. The trail surface will be raised where required.

**Tsalteshi Trails, Soldotna: Groomer purchase: \$14,000** TTA will purchase a new snow grooming snowmobile to replace a ten year old machine, which will be used to groom the 25 km of ski trails.

**Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers (CHCH), Clam Gulch: Snow Cat: \$100,000**

CHCH will purchase a new Piston Bully 150 or 400, or a Tucker Snow Cat. The price range for a new groomer is from \$200,000 to \$240,000 including shipping, and the club will provide the remaining funds. This new machine will replace a 1991 Piston Bully 200, with well over 10,000 hours. The benefits to the club include reliability, safety, efficiency, and less maintenance.

**Homer Soil and Water Conservation District: Watermelon Trail Remediation: \$37,891**

Improvements to Watermelon Trail need to address both legal and environmental concerns. This project will correct these issues by rerouting the trail onto public lands, and by improving trail conditions near an ATV bridge that crosses Beaver Creek, an anadromous stream and an important tributary to the Anchor River. Trail reroutes will be brushed along surveyed lines without disturbing surface soil using a trail crew with brush cutters. Porous pavement panels will be installed in the bridge approaches following installation.

**Kodiak****DPOR, Kodiak: Reclamation of Miller Point Lower Access Trail: \$36,495**

This project created a trail on an old overgrown WWII-era military road section that has become unrecognizable and totally unusable, even for foot traffic. It now provides public access trail with ADA accessibility to an area previously inaccessible in the Miller Point section of Ft. Abercrombie State Historical Park.

**DPOR, Kodiak: Piedmont Point Historic Bunker Trail Re-Route: \$8,000**

New trail was constructed parallel to an existing trail to re-establish access to an historic WWII bunker. The trail was designed for foot traffic only access, with a gravel tread width of two to three feet and approximately 100 feet in length on relatively level ground.

**Island Trails Network, Kodiak: 17b Easement Trail Tread Repairs: \$19,100**

Island Trails Network will repair trail tread on two public easement trails crossing Ouzinkie Native Corporation lands. Both trails were hardened with geoblock within the last five years, but have

suffered tread failures in some areas. Tread repairs will involve infilling geoblock cells, re-seeding to reduce surface erosion and back-slope failure, and grading of the tread surface to integrate drainage features where surface hydrology has changed.

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
71000 - Personal Services	\$200,000
72000 - Travel	\$0.0
73000 - Contractual	\$0.0
74000 - Commodities	\$0.0
75000 - Capital Outlay	\$0.0
77000 - Grants	\$1,500,000
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</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.