

State Parks Public Use Cabins

FY2020 Request: \$300,000
Reference No: 61853

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

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: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2024

Contact Phone: (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will fund the construction of new public use cabins, satisfying the public demand for cabins and providing the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation with increased revenue from rental fees. This need builds upon an effort to increase revenue generating infrastructure within the park system. This infrastructure will be strategically integrated into existing long trails and potential water trail systems to create destination trail systems, driving visitation and economic development in and around parks. The division will leverage this funding for federal and private funds for greater statewide impact.

Funding:	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>Total</u>
1005 GF/Prgm	\$300,000						\$300,000
Total:	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000

<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:

Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P8 L22 SB142 \$300,000

Project Description/Justification:

In developing locations for public use cabins, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will work with regional superintendents, local park advisory boards, and park management plans. The public use cabins will be strategically deployed throughout the state in high volume areas to address demand and provide reliable revenue. High recreational use areas and existing facilities will also be included in the evaluation for cabin placement. Additionally, the public and local stakeholders will be given opportunities to provide input to park staff and their advisory boards.

This project will build on funds received in FY2019, and the division will holistically evaluate the strategic placement of cabins. The division will review the potential to introduce water trail systems or cabin to cabin trail systems that will increase safety and accessibility in remote areas for the general public. Such access will encourage longer trail system use within the State Park system, creating destination trail hikes, increasing park usage and generating additional revenues for the division.

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Public Use Cabins (PUCs) are in increasingly high demand by Alaskans and visitors. This critical infrastructure is utilized by traditional park system users and encourages different market segments to utilize the park system. PUCs are considered a low impact entry to camping for those who would not otherwise do so, thus increasing park usership and encouraging different demographics to use the parks.

By private sector standards, PUCs are considered a sound investment. Utilizing a conservative estimate of 45% yearly occupancy, PUCs pay for themselves in just under five years and incur little to no maintenance costs. New cabins would be strategically located for a yearly occupancy goal of above 50%.

This project will be used as match for several federal and private sector funds to maximize the impact of these capital dollars. Potential grant funds include Land, Water and Conservation Fund, Pittman Robertson Fund, Recreation Trail Grant Program, and the Historical Preservation Fund. With this leveraged funding, it is estimated that the division could build 10 to 15 PUCs with this appropriation.

This funding will build on the FY2019 request for \$300,000 to develop Public Use Cabins around the state. Land, Water and Conservation Fund and Pittman-Robertson grants are being secured as match funds to develop cabins in Eagle River Campground at Chugach State Park, K'esugi Ken Campground in Denali State Park, and Angel Rocks Trailhead in Chena River State Recreation Area along with several other strategic locations. Construction will begin in 2019.

Making this investment will provide services to the public that are in high demand and a revenue source to the division that would continue to make state park operations more self sustainable.

The FY2019 project is scheduled to be in the design phase through winter 2018/2019 planning for construction to begin spring 2019.

Line Item	Amount
1000-Personal Services	\$70,000
2000 – Travel	\$10,000
5000 – Capital Outlay	\$220,000
Total Request	\$300,000

Project will fund existing positions:
(10-5019) PFT Maint Gen Journeyman
(10-5179) PFT Maint Gen Journeyman
(10-5095) PFT Maint Gen Journeyman
(10-5263) PFT Engineer Asst I/II