

Federal and Local Government Funded Forest Resource and Fire Program

FY2021 Request: \$7,000,000
Reference No: 37769

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Raquel Solomon-Gross

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025

Contact Phone: (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project provides receipt authority for federal and local government funded projects including competitive grant awards for hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire and prevention education, special forest disease surveys, forest restoration projects, biomass inventories, towns and cities targeted for community forestry projects, and tree plantings and forest stewardship plans. Other program areas complete work as part of the forest inventory and analysis (FIA) program, Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects with the USFS on federal lands in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, Challenge Cost Share projects with the Tongass National Forest and agreements for one-time local government funded field projects.

Funding:	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000		\$35,000,000
Total:	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$35,000,000

<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"/> Ongoing
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 Ch3 SLA2019 P5 L27 SB19 \$1,400,000
- Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P7 L33 SB142 \$1,400,000
- Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P6 L9 SB23 \$1,400,000
- Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P5 L24 SB138 \$1,800,000
- Sec1 Ch38 SLA2015 P5 L23 SB26 \$1,800,000
- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P57 L32 SB119 \$1,800,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P71 L29 SB18 \$1,500,000

Project Description/Justification:

This project provides federal receipts to meet Alaska's vast forest and fire-related needs. The project enlists cooperation at the local level throughout Alaska, using a combination of federal resources and other funding provided by municipalities. Towns and cities across the state benefit from these projects. This cooperation is especially important given the short field season in Alaska. Projects focus on forest stewardship and restoration, fire prevention education outreach and training, wildfire risk reduction via fuel mitigation, defensible space work near communities and

individual properties, and equipping rural village fire crews. Typical awarded projects include:

- A competitive grant award for Community Wildfire Protection Plan development in the Copper River Basin.
- Development of forest stewardship plans to assist private landowners and native corporations with forest management, including fuel mitigation.
- Plan and conduct annual field work by a 20-person crew to collect forest and other resource data for the national Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) program.

Federal funds are expended in accordance with program and project requirements as approved by the granting agency.

- Educational outreach throughout the state with the Firewise (residents reducing wildfire risks program) and wildland fire prevention messages delivered to schools and civic groups, and at home shows, fairs and parades.
- New public service announcements and print media development, reinforcing the Firewise and fire prevention messages.
- Training of local emergency firefighters, local government and rural village firefighting crews, and grants to organize, train and equip rural volunteer fire departments for fire response.
- Surveying Alaska's forested landscapes for forest disease and invasive insects - forest restoration projects include ongoing bark beetle mitigation in the Susitna Valley, Tok, Haines and Kenai.
- Development of forest stewardship plans to assist private landowners and native corporations.

What was accomplished with prior funding?

Federally supported State Fire Assistance, Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry, and Stewardship programs were successfully implemented, leveraging the state's resources in the continued protection, development and management of the state's natural resources by enlisting cooperation at the local level throughout Alaska. Accomplishments include:

- Aerial and ground based forest pest surveys.
- Technical assistance to the public regarding forest health and invasive species. Ongoing forest pest prevention, suppression, restoration and eradication projects in the Northern Interior, South Central and Southeast Alaska.
- Continued to implement the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA, Tree Line USA and Tree Campus USA programs.
- Implementation of the competitive Landscape Scale Restoration Grant "Fish Need a Forest." Provided technical assistance and training to state and local agency employees, arborists,

landscape architects and general public.

- Mitigated hazardous fuels in Kenai, Fairbanks, Mentasta, Anchorage/Eagle River communities.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan development for the communities of Gulkana, Gakona and Chistochina.
- Developed print media and public service announcements and outreach material for Firewise and Wildland Fire Prevention efforts on a statewide level.
- Passed through grants to rural fire departments for training, equipment, supplies and prevention materials.
- Continued to improve the Integrated Fire Management (IFM) computer dispatching systems used for the dispatching of resources to wildland fires.
- Training and recurrence training provided to local government, local emergency firefighters and rural village crews; approximately 700 trained annually.
- Continued to develop Stewardship Plans with native corporations and private landowners.
- Completed installation of 300 permanent forest inventory plots as part of the FIA program in the Glennallen and Mat-Su regions.
- Sold a second GNA timber sale on the Tongass National Forest in conjunction with a state sale, over 30 million feet sold in the last two years on federal lands.
- Working with the Tongass National Forest, completed a three-year young growth forest inventory project and are currently working on a Southeast State Forest inventory project.
- Providing workforce development training to residents of southeast to work on forest inventory, stream surveys and restoration and related forest-wide resource management projects.

Line Item Detail

Line Item	Amount
1000 Personal Services	\$2,000,000
2000 Travel	\$275,000
3000 Services	\$2,975,000
4000 Commodities	\$250,000
5000 Capital Outlay	
7000 Grants	\$1,500,000

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Total Request	\$7,000,000
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Position Detail:

- Full-time Forester II, R-16, located in Palmer
- Full-time Forester IV, R-20, located at Fort Wainwright
- Full-time Forester II, R-16, located in Homer
- Full-time Forester IV, R-20, located in Fairbanks
- Full-time Forester II, R-16, located in Fairbanks
- Full-time Forester III, R-18, located in Anchorage
- Full-time Natural Resource Mgr I, R-18, located in Anchorage
- Full-time Safety Officer, R-18, located in Palmer
- Full-time Forester II, R-16, located in Anchorage
- Seasonal full-time Information Officer III, R-17, located at Ft Wainwright
- Full-time Forester III, R-18, located in Anchorage
- Seasonal Full-time Wildland Forestry Tech III, R-12, located in Palmer
- Seasonal Full-time Forester I/II, R-14/16, located in Fairbanks
- Full-time Forester I/II, R-14/16, located in Fairbanks
- Long-term non-permanent Forester I (2), R-16, located in Fairbanks
- Long-term non-permanent Natural Resource Tech III (6), R-14, located in Fairbanks
- Long-term non-permanent Forester III, R-18, located at Moose Pass
- Long-term non-permanent Natural Resource Tech II (14), R-12, located in Fairbanks
- Seasonal full-time Wildland Fire/Resource Tech III, R-12, located in Fairbanks