

Unlocking Alaska Parks: Construction of New Public Use Cabins **FY2024 Request:** **\$2,400,000**
Reference No: **61853**

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:** Theresa Cross
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)269-6398

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Department of Natural Resources will construct up to 16 new Public Use Cabins (PUCs) (FY2024 scope) and repair or replace approximately 50 public use cabins (FY2025 scope) at various state park units to address user demands and needs. These cabins 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. The 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.

Funding:	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>Total</u>
1004 Gen Fund	\$2,400,000	\$2,800,000					\$5,200,000
Total:	\$2,400,000	\$2,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,200,000

<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"/> 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 P6 L16 SB19 \$300,000
 Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P8 L22 SB142 \$300,000

Project Description/Justification:

Pursuant to Alaska Statute (AS) 41.21.010 and 41.21.020, the division has developed a network of public use cabins (PUCs) at various park units throughout the state. These cabins offer long-term accommodations that are safe, warm, dry, and comfortable in support of outdoor recreation. They are affordable alternatives to recreational vehicles for Alaskans and visitors who may not have access to those accommodations. The PUCs are used by traditional park users and encourage different market segments to use the park system. They are 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.

The PUCs are increasingly in high demand from Alaskans and visitors, especially those on the road system, close to major population centers, and offer ADA accessibility. The division manages a total of 83 cabins across the state which has become a reliable source of revenue for the division.

Unlocking Alaska Parks: Construction of New Public Use Cabins

FY2024 Request: \$2,400,000
Reference No: 61853

Revenue from FY2019 through FY2021 reveal an increasing trend: 7 percent increase from FY2019 to FY2020 and 23 percent increase from FY2020 to FY2021. In FY2022, the top five park units in terms of PUC occupancy were Eagle Beach State Recreation Area, K'esugi Ken Campground and Byers Lake in Denali State Park, and Eklutna Lake and Bird Creek Campground in Chugach State Park. Collectively, those park units had a very high average PUC occupancy rate of approximately 73 percent.

This project will prioritize new cabins (Tier 1) along the road system.

The following is tiered list of potential cabin locations:

Tier 1 – New Cabins Along the Road System

- Chugach State Park
- Denali State Park
- Chena River State Recreation Area
- Eagle Beach State Recreation Area
- Johnson Lake State Recreation Area
- Nancy Lake State Recreation Area
- Halibut Point State Recreation Site
- Pasagshak River State Recreation Site
- Settlers Cove State Recreation Site

Funding from this project may be used to leverage federal-aid funds from various grant programs to maximize the number of PUCs that can be constructed.

This project is needed to meet current needs and demands and alignment with AS 41.21.010 and 41.21.020.

Line Item	Amount
1000 Personal Services	\$375,000
2000 Travel	\$75,000
3000 Services	\$25,000
4000 Commodities	\$5,000
5000 Capital Outlay	\$1,920,000
7000 Grants	
Total	\$2,400,000