

Community Wildfire Defense Grants

FY2025 Request: \$10,000,000

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: Theresa Cross

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Federal receipt authority allows the division to accept grant awards such as hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire and prevention education, special forest disease surveys, forest restoration projects, biomass inventories, towns and cities selected for community forestry projects, and tree plantings and forest stewardship plans.

Funding:	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000		\$50,000,000
Total:	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$50,000,000

<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:

- Sec14 Ch1 SLA2023 P91 L8 HB39 \$10,000,000
- Sec8 Ch1 SLA2021 P75 L3 HB69 \$7,000,000
- Sec1 Ch1 SLA2020 P5 L27 SB19 \$1,400,000
- 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:

The federal and local government funded Forest Resource and Fire Program 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. This cooperation is especially important given the short field season in Alaska. Projects focus on forest stewardship and restoration, fire prevention education outreach, 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.
- 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. Some of these activities are listed below:

- Educational outreach throughout the state with the Firewise and Wildland Fire Prevention message 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 bases 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 the public.
- Mitigated hazardous fuels in Kenai, Fairbanks, Mentasta, and the 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.
- Continue to improve the Integrated Fire Management (IFM) computer dispatching systems used

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for dispatching resources to wildland fires.

- Training provided to local government, local emergency firefighters, and rural village crews. Approximately 700 trained annually.
- Continued development of 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.
- Conducted a second Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sale in the Tongass National Forest in conjunction with a State sale. Over 30 million board feet of timber were 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 Alaska to work on forest inventory, stream surveys, and restoration and related forest wide resource management projects.

Personal Services	925,000
Travel	500,000
Services	2,550,000
Commodities	125,000
Capital Outlay	900,000
Grants	500,000
Total	5,500,000