

Forest Legacy Federal Grant Program in Wood-Tikchik State Park

FY2005 Request: \$4,500,000
Reference No: 34881

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Planning

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

Contact: Gary Morrison

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)269-8701

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Forest Legacy Program provides Federal funding for acquisition of high-value private forestland that is threatened with conversion to non-forest use. Legislative intent targets private in-holdings adjacent to, or within, existing conservation units (parks, refuges, etc.) that are primarily used for fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and traditional access that would be disrupted, destroyed, or degraded if the private property were to be converted to a non-forest use. This allows the conservation unit manager, such as State Parks, to conserve the land for outdoor recreation opportunities and maximize the use of critical areas for all members of the public.

Funding:	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$4,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$7,500,000
Total:	\$4,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$7,500,000

<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"/> 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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA03/FY04 RPL ADN#10-4-5002 \$450,000 Diamond Creek Parcel
 SLA02/CH1 - \$500,000
 SLA01/CH61 - \$500,000 (Language Section 84)

Project Description/Justification:

Our forested parks and refuges cover millions of acres. There are private inholdings in and near each of these units whose potential use threatens to convert forestland to non-forest use. Such a conversion would impact important fish and wildlife habitat with resulting impacts on hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, subsistence and traditional lifestyles. To protect this important habitat and perpetuate traditional access to important public recreation lands, Parks needs the ability to purchase inholdings and adjacent parcels from willing sellers. This program allows willing sellers to sell their inholdings and adjacent parcels to the state. Often times a property owner is anxious to sell their property for inclusion in the park or refuge. It is a win-win for the private landowner and the public. This program will provide 75% of the total acquisition cost. The non-federal portion may be from private donations thru a non-profit organizations, or in-kind.

Why is this Project Needed Now:

Private inholdings and adjacent parcels are placed on the market every year. To secure priority inholding and adjacent parcel acquisitions, agencies need to be ready to work with both the land owners and local Land Trusts to protect land that would otherwise be converted to a non-forest use. Each year, willing sellers come forward and desire to sell either a conservation easement or fee title to their inholding lands. The state has a tremendous opportunity with Forest Legacy to

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provide federal funds for one or two critical purchases each year. If the state is unable to participate in this program, then forested inholdings and adjacent parcels will be converted to non-forest use with resulting loss of fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

Specific Spending Detail:

This project will fund the acquisition of forested inholdings and adjacent parcels within and near publicly held forested conservation units from willing sellers. Projects are nominated by willing sellers, non-profit organizations and agencies.

\$3,000.0 is for a conservation easement on over 20,000 acres of Aleknagik Natives Limited land. The native corporation will retain ownership of the land.

\$1,500.0 for conservation easements or fee simple purchase on 12 individual native allotments totaling 1,153 acres. The parcels are listed below by location and the last name of the owner with acreage.

Agulowak River Area - Yako, 120 acres; Conquest, 38 acres; Johansen, 50 acres; Gorman, 80 acres.

Lake Nerka Area - Schroeder, 160 acres; Creek, 80 acres; Andrew, 160 acres.

Agulukpak River Area - Sullivan, 110 acres; Chaney, 80 acres; Etuckmelra, 40 acres; Nicholson, 155 acres.

Grant Lake Area - Nicholson, 80 acres.

All of the corporation lands and individual allotments are within Wood-Tikchik State Park. There will be no additional cost to the state to oversee these additional lands or easements.

Project Support:

DNR Division of Forestry, the Nature Conservancy of Alaska, The Conservation Fund, local land trusts, private landowners, fishermen, hunters, guides, other local tourism businesses, the Southwest Alaska Conservation Coalition, the Nushagak-Mulchatna Wood-Tikchik Land Trust.

Project Opposition:

Those who are opposed to seeing lands removed from the private property tax base.

State Match Required:

Match would primarily be provided by a non-profit organization and the private sector.