

BLM Year 2009 Accelerated Land Transfers**FY2004 Request: \$1,268,000****Reference No: 39300****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Planning**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Bob Loeffler**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8625**Estimated Project Dates:** 01/15/2004 - 06/30/2006**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This request is to receive federal funds from the BLM that will provide additional resources to the State of Alaska Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Fish and Game (ADFG) to deal with the significantly increased rate of federal land transfers to individual Native Allottees, the ANCSA Corporations, and the state.

| Funding: | <u>FY2004</u> | <u>FY2005</u> | <u>FY2006</u> | <u>FY2007</u> | <u>FY2008</u> | <u>FY2009</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Fed Rcpts | \$1,268,000 | | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$5,268,000 |
| Total: | \$1,268,000 | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$5,268,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input checked="" 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 |

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is a new project request. Additional capital budget requests are anticipated for FY06 through FY09 at approximately \$1,000,000 per year to complete the project under the proposed BLM plan. The request is for an FY04 supplemental capital project of \$1,268,000. DNR anticipates spending \$183,000 in FY04 to start the project, and the remainder in FY05. These are estimates only as we do not yet have a final, exact figure from the federal government regarding the amount that will be available.

Project Description/Justification:

The US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to increase the rate of land transfers to the state starting in 2004, with an ambitious goal of largely fulfilling land transfers to ANCSA Corporations, Native Allottees and the state by 2009. This will significantly increase the workload of DNR. The state will need to expand its title defense functions by responding to significantly increased numbers of BLM conveyance decisions, decisions on easements and navigable waters, and requests for reconveyance of state lands found to have been conveyed in error in the adjudication of individual Native Allotment applications. The state will also receive significantly more decisions to transfer land to the state under remaining statehood entitlements and will need to process many more title documents, etc.

During the past five years, BLM has transferred to DNR an average of 50,000 acres per year. BLM intends to increase this to as much as 2 to 3 million acres per year, representing a 40-fold increase. Continuing the current method and rate of processing conveyances, it will take more than 60 years to finish the state's remaining entitlements. BLM intends to increase land transfers by increasing its budget, changing its methods of doing business, and through federal legislation. BLM has received additional funding for this effort in its FFY 04 budget and has requested additional money in the FFY 05

budget. Federal legislation (S. 1466) has been introduced to resolve some of the procedural obstacles and to streamline other aspects of the land transfer process.

Funding for the state to participate in this effort is critical to the success of this ambitious conveyance acceleration project. The federal government recognizes this need and has included funding for the state as part of their budgets for FFY04 and FFY05 so that the state can increase staff to respond to the anticipated workload of this conveyance acceleration proposal.

Reason this was not in the original FY 04 or 05 Budgets: This money was not yet available to the state at the time the FY04 budget was approved or when the FY05 budget was drafted. The accelerated land transfer process was proposed by U.S. Senators Stevens and Murkowski working with BLM. The project was added to the budget for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY04) late in the federal budget process, and Congress did not approve the appropriation until October 2003. BLM is only now determining how to structure the accelerated land transfer program and how much money may be available to fund the state's participation in this effort. The state expects to receive as much as \$551,000 in FFY04 (the current federal fiscal year that runs through September 30, 2004) and approximately \$1 million in FFY05. The expected expenditures in State Fiscal Years 04 and 05 total \$1,268,000 (the amount of this capital project request). The federal government's accelerated land transfer project is targeted for completion in 2009 (FFY2010).

FY04 Anticipated Expenditures: \$183,000.

The FY04 anticipated expenditures are relatively small compared to what we anticipate in future years because: 1) we are already in the seventh month of FY04 and only recently learned how much money may be available for FFY04; 2) it will take several months to establish, recruit and hire new positions; and 3) BLM is also still getting up to full staffing and revamping its procedures.

FFY 04 Tasks and Budget

Task 1: Project Management/Coordination – overall project coordination within DNR and between DNR and BLM.

Positions: Natural Resource Manager (NRM) II (range 20) and Admin Clerk II (both 3 months)

Location: DNR, DMLW, Realty Services Section

FY 04 Cost: \$28,000

Task 2: State Land Selection Prioritization – reevaluate and revise priorities for State General Grant lands (approx. 30 million acres), includes preparing maps and reports using GIS and data bases.

FY 04 cost: none. This task will start in FY05.

Task 3: Native Allotments Reconveyances – state staff to accelerate re-conveyance of state lands back to BLM for Native Allotments

Positions: NRM I, Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) III, NRS II, NRTech I/II – 2 months

Contractual to Fish & Game \$8,500

Location: DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW), Realty Services Section and Department of Fish and Game

Total FY04 cost: \$30,000

Task 4: State Conveyances – deal with the significantly increased amount of land being conveyed to the state. Under the BLM 2009 program, land transfers to the state will increase from the current rate of about 200,000 acres/year to over 2 million acres/year. This includes review of incoming title documents and keeping state land records.

FY04 cost: none. This task will start in FY05.

Task 5: ANCSA Conveyances Review – review ANCSA conveyances to ensure they adequately protect state interests (i.e. navigability) and public interests (i.e. reserve 17(b) easements)

Positions: NRM 1 (coordinator), NRS III (17(b)), NRS II (Nav waters) (additional positions may be requested in FFY 05 - 2 months.

Contractual to Fish & Game \$9,700

Location: DNR, DMLW, Realty Services Section and Department of Fish and Game

Total FY04 Cost: \$25,000

Task 6: Survey of state Tentative Approval (TA) land – coordinate priorities with BLM, review draft survey plats
FY 04 Cost: none. This task will start in FY05.

Miscellaneous:

Total \$100,000 (includes many one-time costs for office set-up and equipment), breakdown:

Travel: \$2,000

Office Space rental: \$15,000 (\$60,000/year)

Office space set-up (one-time set-up costs): \$60,000

Phones/access lines: \$2,000

Office supplies: \$1,000

Office equipment (primarily one-time costs for computers, furniture, etc.): \$20,000

FY05 Tasks and Budget: \$1,085,000

Task 1: Project Management/Coordination – overall project coordination within DNR and between DNR and BLM.

Positions: Natural Resource Manager (NRM) II (range 20) and Admin Clerk II

Location: DNR, DMLW, Realty Services Section

FY05 Cost: \$113,000

Task 2: State Land Selection Prioritization – reevaluate and revise priorities for State General Grant lands (approx. 30 million acres), includes preparing maps and reports using GIS and data bases.

Position: Analyst Programmer (GIS) III

Contract: review mineral land priorities (estimated \$120,000)

FY05 cost: \$185,000

Task 3: Native Allotments Reconveyances – state staff to accelerate re-conveyance of state lands back to BLM for Native Allotments

Positions: NRM I, Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) II, NRTech I/II

Contract to Fish & Game \$51,000

Location: DNR, DMLW, Realty Services Section and Department of Fish and Game

Total FY05 cost: \$221,000

Task 4: State Conveyances – deal with the significantly increased amount of land being conveyed to the state. Under the BLM 2009 program, land transfers to the state will increase from the current rate of about 200,000 acres/year to over 2 million acres/year. This includes review of incoming title documents and keeping state land records.

Position: NRS III, NRS I (additional positions may be requested in FY 06)

Location: DNR, DMLW, Realty Services

FY05 cost: \$116,000

Task 5: ANCSA Conveyances Review – review ANCSA conveyances to ensure they adequately protect state interests (i.e. navigability) and public interests (i.e. reserve 17(b) easements)

Positions: NRM 1 (coordinator), NRS III (17(b)), NRS II (Nav waters) (additional positions may be requested in FY06)

Contract to Fish & Game \$58,000

Location: DNR, DMLW, Realty Services Section and Department of Fish and Game

Total FY05 cost: \$247,000

Task 6: Survey of state Tentative Approval land – coordinate priorities with BLM, review draft survey plats

Positions: Land Surveyor I (additional position may be requested in FY06)

Location: DNR, DMLW, Realty Services Section

FY05 Cost: \$70,000

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Miscellaneous

FY05: \$133,000 - includes many one-time costs for office set-up and equipment:

Travel: \$15,000

Office Space rental: \$60,000

Office space set-up (one-time set-up costs): \$10,000

Phones/access lines: \$8,000

Office supplies: \$5,000

Office equipment (primarily one-time costs for computers, furniture, etc.): \$35,000