

State Park Emergency Repairs

FY2005 Request: \$300,000

Reference No: 6843

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2005

Project Type: Deferred Maintenance
Contact: Pete Panarese
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The project will promote the department's mission of providing outdoor recreational opportunities by funding emergency repairs to park units to protect visitor health and safety by providing safe, clean, and well maintained units. Projects will upgrade or replace basic facilities at parks including ranger stations, outhouses, drinking water systems, trails, and camping sites so that these items will not be added to the existing deferred maintenance backlog.

Funding:	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	Total
Rcpt Svcs	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,550,000
Total:	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,550,000

<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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

- SLA03/CH82 - \$120,000 Receipt Supported Services (RSS)
- SSSLA2002/CH1 - \$250,000
- SLA2001/CH61 - \$286,000
- SLA2000/CH135 - \$286,200
- SLA1999/CH2 - \$151,500
- SLA1998/CH139 - \$200,000
- SLA1997/CH100 - \$200,000
- SLA1996/CH123 - \$150,000
- SLA1994/CH4 - \$50,000

Project Description/Justification:

Detailed Project Justification:

The asset value of State Park facilities is over \$100 million. Alaska Statute 41.21.020 states that one of the duties of the Department of Natural Resources is to maintain state parks and recreation areas for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of Alaskans and visitors to the state. While Parks is able to do minor repairs and painting to annually maintain these facilities, major repairs require specific funding through the capital process. The CIP funding for the past two years has only provided parks with \$370.0 to repair health and safety problems on roads, cabins, water systems and toilets. This year's request for \$300.0 will only repair the most pressing Park maintenance problems. Currently over \$42 million in repairs is needed for deferred maintenance in the park system. There is no alternative to repairing existing park facilities other than closing park units for lack of adequate facilities. Partnering with the private sector to make these repairs is done wherever possible. Construction contracts for repairs will provide private sector

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jobs. Many repairs, such as to cabins, volunteer housing, and picnic shelters can and will be done with volunteer labor. One benefit of this project is that it will repair some of the worse maintenance problems and reduce the emergency repair demand on the proposed operating budget.

Alaskans comprise 80 percent of the almost 4 million annual visits to the Alaska State Park system. Many of the state parks are old, broken, and present potential health and safety hazards to visitors. \$42 million in deferred maintenance needs have been identified. This project will fund emergency repairs to park units to protect visitor health and safety. Projects will upgrade or replace the basic facilities at parks including outhouses, drinking water systems, safe access roads & trails, safe shelter from harsh weather, and safe camping sites. Facilities upgraded or replaced by this project will be easier and less expensive to operate and maintain, thereby allowing operating and maintenance efforts to be shifted to other facilities in need of upgrade and repair. The State Park infrastructure is broken. The longer we ignore the significant deferred maintenance needs of the state park system, the more expensive it will be to ultimately fix. In the meantime, the park system will lose visitors, and potential fees for state coffers, as they are disgusted with the disrepair in many parks (outhouses and roads receive the most complaints). Also, the state runs the risk of paying for injuries or illness due to unsafe or unhealthy park facilities.

Alaska's State Parks are a source of pride for Alaskans and provide for road accessible fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife viewing, cultural and historic site visitation, and other outdoor recreational pursuits. Alaskans and our visitors participate in outdoor activities at a much higher level than the national average. Because most State Park facilities are on the road system, and therefore more accessible than the national park system, enormous demands are placed on the State Park facilities. State Parks receive over three times the visitation of the national park system, with most visitation coming from Alaskans. Poorly maintained park facilities not only reflect poorly on the state and its effort to increase tourism, but they can be a health and safety hazard to park users. Whether park users are from Alaska or Outside, local communities benefit greatly from the economic impact of these people buying groceries, gas, fishing tackle, souvenirs, restaurant meals, showers, guidebooks, fishing guides, and sightseeing tours. To continue attracting these visitors, facilities must be repaired and maintained and meet basic health and safety requirements. In addition, each project provides funding for local suppliers of materials needed for these repairs.

Why is this Project Needed Now:

Addressing Park Emergency Repairs is an annual request. Park facilities are getting older, requiring higher levels of maintenance and repair. Over the years as the state budget has tightened, projects for the replacement and rehabilitation of park facilities have not been funded. Every year, more and more park facilities slide into a state of disrepair that results in increased hazards to the health and safety of the visiting public. In truth, much more is needed than is being requested. However, we do our best with whatever funds are provided and address those broken facilities that pose the largest threat to the public. If this project isn't funded, we just fall further behind on keeping our parks safe.

Specific Spending Detail:

Park repairs will be accomplished using State Park maintenance staff, volunteers and procured materials, and by construction contracting using small procurement procedures.

Line Item Expenditures:

Personal Services	\$ 75.0	State Park maintenance staff performing maintenance/repair work and State Park development staff performing design and small procurement contract administration.
Travel	\$ 5.0	State Park staff travel for project sites that require travel.
Contractual Services	\$ 95.0	Construction contracting using small procurement procedures
Supplies	\$125.0	Materials.
	\$300.0	

Project Support:

State Park visitors, Alaska Travel Industry Alliance, Alaska Wilderness Recreation Tourism Association, State Park Advisory Boards, local Chambers of Commerce, recreational user groups, and highway travelers.

Project Opposition: None