

**Forest Legacy Federal Grant Program**

**FY2006 Request: \$2,930,963**

**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 of use critical areas for all members of the public.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$2,930,963	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$7,930,963
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,930,963</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$7,930,963</b>

<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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

SLA04/CH159 \$4,500,000 authorization  
 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. No general fund match is required.

**FY06 Forest Legacy Proposals**

Applicant	Location	Federal Funding Requested	25% match	Total cost of project
The Conservation Fund	Dillingham	\$2,378,036.00	\$594,509.00	\$2,930,962.25
City of Seldovia	Seldovia	\$439,728.75	\$146,576.25	\$586,305.00
AK State Parks	Fairbanks	\$113,197.50	\$37,732.50	\$150,930.00
		\$2,930,962.25	\$778,817.75	\$3,709,780.00

**Why is this Project Needed Now:** Private inholdings and adjacent parcels are placed on the market every year. To secure priority in-holding 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 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 and are recommended for funding by the Forestry Board.

**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.