

National Recreational Trails Federal Program

FY2007 Request: \$695,000
Reference No: 6854

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2008

Project Type: Construction
Contact: Nico Bus
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence, and travel between communities. These trails need maintenance to ensure safe passage and to ensure that they remain open and available for use. Funds are distributed by 80-20 matching grants for recreational trail and trailhead development and maintenance, and for education programs relating to trail safety and environmental protection. Grants are awarded to organizations, agencies and local governments.

Funding:	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$4,170,000
Total:	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$4,170,000

<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:

FSSLA05/CH3 - \$695,000
 SLA03/CH82 - \$695,000
 SSSLA01/CH1 - \$695,000
 SLA01/CH61 - \$710,000
 SLA00/CH135 - \$710,000

The first recreational trails grant funds, originally called Symms Grants, were available in 1993 through the Intermodal Transportation Efficiency Act. Alaska received \$110,000. The program has subsequently been funded in slowly increasing amounts each year from 1996 to the present.

Project Description/Justification:

As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's vast trail system for recreation, subsistence and basic transportation between communities, the need for a more extensive and well-maintained trail system continues to grow. The growing population is also putting development pressure on the existing trail system and many trails are being lost as property is subdivided or sold to private owners. We can assist in slowing the loss of our existing trail system through this granting program and will sustain and improve that system as well.

State funds are saved by the availability of these federal grant funds for development and maintenance of Alaska's public recreational trails. Public safety is improved by having well maintained trails. Trespass is reduced by securing trail easements with grant funds. Search and rescue costs are reduced by having well marked and maintained trails that are easy to follow. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 20 percent of grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by

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providing construction and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, and by stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies. In addition, the Recreational Trails Program ensures that:

- Grantees obtain legal access
- Projects are consistent with Federal, State and local land use plans
- Social and economic impacts are analyzed
- Archeological and Historical resources are protected
- The project is analyzed for any impact on threatened or endangered species
- The project is analyzed for any impact on fish and wildlife
- The project is analyzed for its affect on wetlands, flood plains and bodies of water
- Water quality is maintained
- Hazardous waste is checked for and identified
- Air quality is checked
- The noise resulting from the project is analyzed
- There is public involvement

Why is this Project Needed Now: Alaska’s trails are gradually being lost due to community expansion and development pressure. The grant program provides an opportunity to establish new trails and reserve existing recreational access throughout the state.

The following Recreational Trail Projects have been approved for FFY05. Park & Outdoor Recreation is in the process of completing the remainder of FFY05 projects.

	2005 Funded Recreation Trails Projects	Funding Amount	Area/location
	Alaska Trails Champion Pilot	\$14,900	Statewide
	Granite Tors Trail Fire Rehabilitation	\$9,370	Interior
	Talkeetna Lakes Park Trailhead	\$12,706	Mat-Su
	Equinox Trail Upgrade & Easement Acquisition	\$4,659	Mat-Su
	Kuskokwim 300 Trail System	\$15,600	Interior
	Denali Highway Trail Recreation & Safety Project	\$25,740	Interior
	Kenny Lake School Trail Project	\$19,315	Interior
	A Map & Guide to Homer Beaches, Trails & Wildlife Viewing Opportunities	\$10,250	Kenai
	Purchase of Snowmobile & Utility Trailer	\$9,240	Chugach
	Ft. Abercrombie Trail Equipment	\$7,200	Kodiak
	Indian Valley Trail & Bridge Improvements	\$30,000	Chugach
	Tsalteshi Trails Improvement Project	\$30,000	Kenai
	Bird Creek Valley Trail Renovation	\$20,056	Chugach
	East-West Express	\$16,355	Mat-Su
	Battery Point Trail Rehabilitation Project	\$18,254	Southeast
	Point Bridget Trail Improvements	\$26,500	Southeast
	Eagle River SRA Multipurpose Trail	\$7,276	Southeast

The following recreational trail grants were closed in FY05:

	Recreation Trails Program Grants Closed in 2005	Funding Amount	Area/location
	Ft. Yukon Subsistence/Wood Trail	\$30,000	Interior
	Lake Louise Recreation Trails	\$16,600	Interior
	Angel Rock Trail Improvements	\$25,000	Interior
	Right of Way Project Phase II	\$70,000	Statewide
	Caribou Hills Trail Grooming	\$30,000	Kenai Peninsula
	Channel Island	\$26,244	Southeast
	Ernest Gruening Interpretation SHP	\$9,981	Southeast
	Copper Basin 300 Historical Survey	\$9,474	Interior
	Aleknagik Community Trails	\$7,018	Western - Dillingham
	Beaver Recreation Trails Project	\$23,285	Interior
	Silver Salmon Trail Improvements	\$28,503	Western - Ugashik
	Trail Grooming & Equipment	\$1,397	Interior
	Hatcher Pass Snowmobile Trail Grooming	\$30,000	Mat-Su
	Upper Lunch Creek Falls Loop Trail Improvements	\$29,722	Southeast
	Willow Winter Carnival Race Trail Easement Acquisition Project	\$3,000	Mat-Su
	Avalanche Hazard Recognition & Awareness Education	\$7,750	Mat-Su/Interior
	Eagle Trail State Recreation Site Nature Trail Interpretation Upgrade	\$800	Interior
	Talkeetna Trail Upgrade	\$4,631	Interior
	Winner Creek Trail Drainage Repair	\$19,600	Southcentral/ Kenai Peninsula
	Jacobs Ladder Trail Improvements	\$30,000	Kenai Peninsula
	Hollow Cedar Beach Access Trail At Setters Cove SRA	\$8,720	Southeast
	Path of Hope	\$9,999	Southeast
	Glennallen Trails Project	\$10,600	Interior
	Beaver Springs/Chena Slough Nature Trail Continuation	\$13,600	Interior
	Groomer Purchase	\$30,000	Kenai Peninsula
	Mat-Su Valley Snowmobile Safety Seminars	\$8,450	Mat-Su

Specific Spending Detail:

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One hundred percent of the grant amount will be spent as follows: 7% for program administration; 5% for education; and of the remainder, 30% is available for non-motorized trails project, 30% for motorized trail projects, and 40 % for projects with both motorized and non-motorized trail uses.

Line Item Detail:

Personal Services:	\$30.0
Travel:	\$5.0
Contractual Services:	\$2.0
Grants:	\$658.0

Project Support: Dozens of Alaska communities, agencies and trail user groups have received grants.

Some of the communities that have received grants include: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, City of Wasilla, Native Village of Fort Yukon, City of Kotlik, City of Homer, City of Barrow, City of Galena, City of Cordova, City of Aleknagik and the Circle Village Council.

Some of the user groups include: Boy Scouts, Trail Mix Inc., Fairbanks Snow Travelers, Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers, Fairbanks Nordic Ski Club, Peninsula Sled Dog Racing Association, Sitka Recreational Riders, Norton Sound Sled Dog Club, Alaska Botanical Gardens and the Goldstream Valley Trail Users Assn.

The first recreational trails grant funds, originally called Symms Grants, were available in 1993 through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Alaska received \$110,000. The program has subsequently been funded in slowly increasing amounts each year from 1996 to the present.

Applications for 2005 grants have been evaluated and grants were made in beginning in April 2005 to successful applicants.

Project Opposition: None

State Match Required: No state match. Grantees are required to provide a minimum of 20% match. The actual match often reaches 50%.