

Snowmobile Trail Development and Program Grants

FY2008 Request: \$200,000
Reference No: 33690

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Health and Safety

Category: Transportation

Location: Statewide

Contact: Nico Bus

House District: Statewide

Contact Phone: (907)465-2406

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Snowmobiling is one of Alaska's fastest growing outdoor recreation activities. Funds are needed to develop and maintain trails and trailheads to provide for safe riding opportunities and to educate riders about safety concerns. Funds for this program are provided by snowmobile registration fees paid by Alaskans. Funds are distributed in the form of matching grants for trail and trailhead development and maintenance, safety education, and trail identification. Grants are to organizations, businesses, agencies, local governments, and individuals.

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
VehRcpts	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$1,325,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$1,325,000

<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:

- SLA06/CH82 - \$200,000 (Spec Veh Recpts)
- FSSLA05/CH3 - \$200,000 (Spec Veh Recpts)
- SLA03/CH82 - \$200,000 Receipt Supported Services (RSS)
- SSLA02/CH1 - \$200,000
- SLA01/CH61 - \$200,000
- SLA00/CH135 - \$188,800

Project Description/Justification:

The following SnowmobileTrail Projects were approved for FY06. Park & Outdoor Recreation is in the process of awarding the FY 07 projects.



Snowmobile Trails Program		
Statewide	Grooming Pool	\$145,000

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Anchorage Snowmobile Club	2006 Chugach State Park Snowmobile Trail Maintenance	\$8,972
Valley Healthy Communities Program	Mat-Su Snowmobile Helmet & Safety Program	\$14,400
Native Village of Shaktoolik	Shelter Cabin at Igguagnak	\$25,000
Lake Louise Snowmachine Club Inc.	Eureka Trail East to Locate Monuments	\$15,000
Willow Trail Committee	Willow Winter Trails Maintenance Project	\$10,100

In addition to awarding the above grants the following grants were completed during FY2006:

Snowmobile Trails Program		
DPOR	Operation Safe Trail	\$14,286.00
Copper Country Snowmobile Club	Trail Grooming & Signage	\$15,000.00
SNOWMADS	Project Kids Snomads	\$15,000.00
Dillingham Snowmobile Assoc	Rescue Deployment Vehicle	\$7,500.00
North America Outdoor Institute	Be Snow Smart-North America Outdoor	\$15,000.00
Valdez Snow Machine Co	NW Alaska Circumnavigation Expedition	\$15,000.00
Alaska Snow Safaris	Turnagain Snow Safaris	\$15,000.00
Alaska Land & Sea Services	Grooming Pool-Kenai	\$20,000.00
Yukon Quest International	Grooming Pool-Northern	\$25,000.00

Detailed Project Justification: These are funds paid by snowmobile registrations for snowmobile trail and trailhead development and safety education programs. Parks has provided these grants for seven years. This request is for the program's eighth year. Grant decisions are made with the consultation of a Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnowTRAC), a citizen committee appointed by the Park Director, to assist in determining which grants to fund.

Snowmobile users benefit from the registration fees they pay on their snowmobiles by having marked and maintained snowmobile trails. This provides safety benefits to riders. Alaskans die in snowmobile accidents at twice the rate of any other state. This is in part due to the lack of signed and maintained trails. It also has the potential of reducing search and rescue costs by reducing the chances of snowmobilers getting lost. Trespass is also reduced if snowmobilers have marked and maintained trails to stay on. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 25 percent of state provided grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation estimates that snowmobile sales and activity in Alaska results in approximately \$54 million in annual private sector expenditures.

Specific Spending Detail: One hundred percent of the requested funds will be spent as follows: 69% for direct grants to develop and maintain snowmobile trails; 17% for safety and education programs; and 14% for grant administration and support of the statewide Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee.

Project Support: Alaska State Snowmobile Association; Alaska Snowmobile Representatives Alliance; Anchorage Economic Development Corporation; Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau; Alaska Travel Industry Alliance; local snowmobile organizations and dealers; Division of Motor Vehicles.

Project Opposition: None